

IGAD

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY
ON DEVELOPMENT



AUTORITÉ INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT

Your Excellency Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, Chairman of IGAD

Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government of IGAD Member States

Your Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini –Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission

Your Excellency Engineer Mahboub Maalim, Executive Secretary of IGAD

Excellencies, representatives of Governments and International Organizations supporting the South Sudan peace process,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Special Envoys of IGAD whom you have entrusted to assist the Parties to peacefully resolve the crisis in South Sudan, I am honored to draw to Your Excellencies' attention the activities in which we have been engaged to implement your decisions in the period since the last Summit meeting held in Addis Ababa on January 31, 2014.

We have been guided by the objective to ensure that the ongoing fighting in the Republic of South Sudan is brought to an end through the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement signed on 23rd January 2014, and that the Parties enter into a political dialogue to resolve the issues between them peacefully.

To this end, since the last Summit, we have conducted a number of missions to South Sudan and held consultations with the Government (GRSS), the SPLM/A in Opposition, the SPLM leaders/former detainees, political parties, civil society representatives and other stakeholders over the past six weeks. We have also been in regular and frequent communication with Friends of South Sudan, the AU, Partners of IGAD the Troika (US, UK, Norway), China, EU, and the UN.

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests,

Despite these efforts, it has not been possible to end the fighting. The Cessation of Hostilities Agreement has not been taken seriously by both sides. As a result, the frontlines between the forces have shifted since the signing of the agreement on 23 January 2014, and fighting continues. In a war that has been ensuing for about three months we cannot have the exact number of lives lost nor have we heard prisoners of war taken by either side. This shows how cruel the war has been and how urgent it is to bring it to an end.

You have noted that the continuing fighting has taken a toll on lives; livelihoods and property have been destroyed; an estimated 900,000 persons have been displaced, 167,000 of whom have crossed into neighboring countries. Over 77,000 persons live in overcrowded conditions in UNMISS facilities. Some 3.7 million people face different levels of food insecurity. This is a very high figure in a country that is as sparsely populated as South Sudan.

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan calls for the concerted action of the international community to forestall the unfolding human tragedy. In addition to the rehabilitation needs of the IDPs and refugees, security and safety is critical for the civilian population to go back to their homes and rebuild their livelihoods especially before the rainy season begins in April.

It was in this setting that a start has been made to put the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVM) into operation. The Joint Technical Committee has been formed and both sides have signed implementation modalities relating to the Agreement.

For monitors to function effectively, they need the support and protection of a force capable of deterring attempts from any quarter to obstruct their work. For this reason, we wish to propose for Your Excellencies' consideration the

deployment of a Protection and Deterrent Force (PDF) from the region to fulfill this key function of peace enforcement. We believe that IGAD needs to decide to deploy the Protection and Deterrent Force from the region as a matter of urgency. In light of the responsibilities entrusted on them to safeguard peace and security, the UN and AU should be strongly called upon to provide the Force with all the necessary support.

To resolve the crisis as well as address the challenges the people of South Sudan face, Summit might wish to come out with a clear message to the Parties to fully implement the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and demonstrate their political will and commitment to end the war.

Mr Chairman, Excellencies,

For a peace that is acceptable and sustainable to take root, the Parties must agree to an inclusive dialogue. This is what Your Excellencies pronounced at your last two meetings on December 27 and January 31, 2014 in Nairobi and Addis Ababa respectively. Inclusiveness is what the Parties themselves agreed to when they signed the Agreement on the Status of Detainees. More than ever before, we stress the need for inclusivity now, as this is the key to reach a settlement that can hold.

Inclusivity is what guided us to include the formerly detained SPLM leaders in the consultations. It is in the interest of inclusivity that we met representatives of other political parties and civil society organizations in Juba, Addis Ababa and Nairobi. We wanted to encourage them to make their own distinct contributions to strengthen the peace process.

These consultations resulted in the development of three documents:

the Declaration of Principles,

the Framework for the process,

and the Modalities for negotiations.

The draft Declaration of Principles comprises a broad set of principles that underpin the peace process and broadly sets out the issues for discussion. The GRSS, the SPLM/A in Opposition and the SPLM leaders/former detainees are in general understanding on the concepts and content of the draft DOP. The

Government delegation, however, declined to accept the participation of the former detainees.

In light of the earlier decisions made regarding the participation of detainees, the Summit may wish to provide guidance on this matter. The former and present detainees were part of the crisis in the first place and their role in seeking solutions to the political crisis should be welcomed in all appropriate negotiation forums.

The draft Framework for Political Dialogue sets out the seven thematic areas that cover social and humanitarian issues; security and safety, peace-building, national reconciliation and healing; governance, democracy and human rights, economic and development and implementation mechanism of the peace agreement – essentially, the agenda for the dialogue towards national reconciliation and healing.

While the Parties appear to broadly accept the thematic areas as appropriate, there are key differences in approach. The Government has proposed a three phase approach, negotiating humanitarian issues in the context of the Cessation of Hostilities as a first step; negotiating a permanent ceasefire as a second step; and convening a national political conference in Juba to discuss governance, constitutional and institutional reforms as step three.

Those in opposition, on the other hand, have accepted the draft Framework as a working document and have proposed changes and additions which call for a complete overhaul of institutions of governance.

The draft Modalities, organization of Work and Timeframe document provides for two track negotiations:

1. an inclusive political dialogue towards national reconciliation and healing, and
2. a review and self-assessment process by the SPLM leadership.

The Government's position on the 'modalities' reflects its position on the 'framework', namely that the three step approach should be used. Those in opposition are in agreement with the draft modalities proposed by the Envoys.

However, all sides are in agreement with the holding of a separate review and self-assessment process by the SPLM leadership.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

From our consultations with stakeholders in South Sudan we have concluded that it would be difficult to expect the Parties to reach a permanent ceasefire as proposed by the Government without negotiating and reaching agreement on the underlying causes of the crisis.

Secondly, though it would be ideal to hold the national political dialogue within South Sudan, sufficient trust would have to be built between the Parties for that to happen. We have faith that such trust and confidence can be built in the process of political dialogue that can commence now under the auspices of IGAD. In due course, all Parties could feel ready to pursue the peace process in Juba, an outcome that would be a source of joy and pride to IGAD, the African Union and all friends of South Sudan.

Because of these differences between the Parties, the Summit, as IGAD's highest organ, may wish to pronounce itself on the matter stressing the need for the Parties to accept the principle of inclusivity and the need for all to negotiate in good faith, in the spirit of give and take, rejecting the politics of Zero sum game.

We, the Envoys, also respectfully request that the Summit seize the opportunity to call on the GRSS to handle the case of the four remaining detainees in a manner that contributes to national reconciliation and healing, and in accordance with the Agreement on the Status of Detainees.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished guests,

We are convinced that South Sudan, the newest member of IGAD – our sister State, can do better. Its leaders are at a crossroads. Rejection and failure to take opportunities marks the low road to nowhere. But they can take the high road – of inclusiveness, of accommodation and genuine reform; and in so doing they can save their country. In the past they have shown the world that they can come together for a single purpose, to affirm their independence. What

they are called to do now is no less important, and the brothers and sisters from the region, from IGAD, are on hand to offer whatever support they can.

South Sudan commands a unique and huge reservoir of sympathy, goodwill and commitment from the international community. But, this cannot be taken for granted. Summit might wish to call on the leaders of South Sudan to seize this opportunity and to utilize it for building their country.

The Special Envoys would like to extend their tribute to the current Chairperson of the IGAD Assembly, H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, the Prime Minister of the FDRE, for his close follow-up, guidance and support to our mediation and facilitation effort to enable the Parties resolve the crisis in their country.

We would also like to pay tribute to all the leaders of IGAD member states, and the IGAD Secretariat for demonstrating their commitment, support and their relentless efforts to assist our brothers and sisters in South Sudan to end the war through a lasting and durable solution. A Special tribute also goes to the Troop Contributing Countries and to the African Union Commission for their support to realize the full implementation of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, we wish to testify to the support of the international community. We respectfully recommend that the Summit extend special appreciation to the African Union, the IPF, the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Troika (comprising Norway, the United Kingdom and United States of America, the European Union, and the United Nations for their extensive support.

I thank you!