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PRESS RELEASE

Phase II of IGAD-led South Sudan talks resume in Addis Ababa

28 April 2014, Addis Ababa: The third session of Phase II of the South Sudan Peace talks that focus on a political dialogue for National Reconciliation and Healing resumed in Addis Ababa today following the arrival of all Parties. The talks were adjourned from 7 April 2014 for consultations.

During the adjournment, the IGAD Special Envoys held a series of consultations with the principals of the warring Parties, H.E Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan and Dr. Riek Machar former Vice President and leader of the SPLM/ A- in Opposition, in an effort to fast-track the negotiation process and avert further escalation of the conflict. During the consultations, the principals shared concern over the recent escalation of the conflict and expressed their renewed commitment to the mediation process.

The Special Envoys also conducted a series of shuttle missions to regional capitals and held consultations with leaders of IGAD countries as well as the African Union, the United Nations and IGAD Partners to mobilize support for the mediation process and the unhindered operations of the IGAD Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVM) as well as to expedite the deployment of the regional Protection Force (PF). ###

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