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PRESS RELEASE

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SOUTH SUDAN SIGNED; POSITION OF FORCES TO BE FROZEN WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT

27 August 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: The IGAD Special Envoys for South Sudan welcome the signature by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and the SPLM/A (In Opposition) of the Implementation Matrix of the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) Agreement on 25 August 2014 at the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa.

This long-awaited step operationalizes the CoH Agreement of 23 January 2014, and brings with it the expectations of the people of South Sudan, and of the region and the entire international community, that the guns will be silenced and the senseless conflict in South Sudan will end. As per the terms of the Implementation Matrix, the Parties are required to immediately freeze the position of, and begin to disengage and separate, their forces, with the assistance of and verification by the IGAD Joint Technical Committee and the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVM).

Ending the war is critically important if confidence is to be built between the Parties and for the multi-stakeholder roundtable talks to proceed in an environment conducive to dialogue and negotiation. The IGAD Special Envoys urge the Parties to implement the agreed steps described in the Matrix without delay.

The IGAD Special Envoys call on the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), and the international community, to fully support the implementation of the CoH Agreement and assist the work of the MVM, mandated to monitor the implementation of this Agreement. Effective immediately, CoH violations documented by the MVM will be published at the IGAD Special Envoys' dedicated website: <http://southsudan.igad.int>.

The multi-stakeholder talks will adjourn from 28 August 2014 to allow the stakeholders to engage in consultations. Talks will resume on 13 September 2014.

The Special Envoys renew their thanks to the leaders of IGAD Member States for working to achieve this important breakthrough at the IGAD Assembly and are grateful for their continued and steadfast support of the IGAD-led mediation for South Sudan.

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