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PRESS RELEASE

Principals of South Sudanese Parties to meet in Addis Ababa

6 May 2014, Addis Ababa: The IGAD Special Envoys to the South Sudan Mediation Process announce that H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan (RSS) and Dr. Riek Machar, Former Vice President of the RSS are set to meet in Addis Ababa on Friday, May 9th 2014, in accordance with the invitation extended by H.E Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and current Chairperson of the IGAD Assembly.

The Special Envoys expect that this critical meeting will help end the violence and killings in South Sudan and provide the necessary impetus to the ongoing IGAD-led Mediation Process towards an inclusive and lasting political solution to the crisis.

With regard to the ongoing negotiations in Addis Ababa, the Special Envoys note encouraging developments as the Parties have agreed to immediately begin tackling substantive issues that address the root causes of the crisis. These include the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and Permanent Ceasefire; Transitional Governance and Interim Arrangements, and a Permanent Constitution.

This development follows a signing of a “Recommitment on Humanitarian Matters in the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement between the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and SPLM/A (In Opposition)” on 5 May 2014 in Addis Ababa. The agreement includes a commitment to observe 30 ‘days of tranquility’ starting from 7 May 2014, in order to preposition humanitarian supplies and enable the people of South Sudan to plant their food crops, care for their livestock, and move to areas of safety. The Parties have further committed to open all humanitarian corridors within South Sudan (via river, roads, rail and air) and from the neighboring countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda).

While expressing their gratitude to the continuous commitment and support of the international community and friends of South Sudan, the IGAD Special Envoys call on the Parties to build on the current momentum in the moving the peace process forward towards a speedy end to the conflict. ###