

JOINT CIVIL SOCIETY RETREAT IN NIMULE 14TH TO 15TH JUNE 2014

COMMUNIQUE:

Concerned about the ongoing conflict and bloodshed in our Country South Sudan and the ongoing peace process in Addis -Ababa Ethiopia,

Cognisant of the efforts IGAD and other partners have put in the ongoing peace process in Addis-Ababa Ethiopia,

Aware of a lot of stakes and partisan political interests including attempts to divide the Civil Society in the Addis Ababa peace process,

Determined to engage with the negotiating parties to ensure that the Interim Government of National Unity reflects the values and aspirations of the people of South Sudan,

Committed to continue championing the voice of the voiceless and to remain non partisan,

Commending the work so far done by Civil Society coalitions in lobbying and linking Civil Society to the peace talks in Addis Ababa,

Regretting the events that unfolded in Addis Ababa symposium where the 19 who were earmarked to be accredited Civil Society members were replaced,

Re-affirm, our continuous engagement/contribution to the peace process and to bring the peace negotiation from Addis Ababa to Juba.

We the 16 undersigned Civil Society Organisations in South Sudan , having attended a retreat at Fula Tourist hotel in Nimule from 13th to 14th 2014, organised by Institute for Promotion of Civil Society (IPCS) and the South Sudan Civil Society Resource Team on the Constitutional making process (coordinated by the South Sudan Law Society), to evaluate the roles of Civil Society Organisations in the Social transformation and to consolidate the substance for influencing the ongoing peace process, do hereby make the following resolutions and recommendations:

- 1. To continue to engage in the IGAD led peace process in Addis Ababa Ethiopia by presenting our positions to the delegates and the mediation team for consideration.**
- 2. To distance ourselves from partisan and sectarian NGOs and CSOs.**

3. **To continue liaising and coordinating with the existing Civil Society coalitions.**
4. **To establish a CSO information desk in Addis Ababa to influence the ongoing peace process.**
5. **To lobby the delegates to the peace talks to consider restructuring the three arms of Government to ensure a functional separation of powers as part of the arrangements for the Interim government of National Unity.**
6. **To lobby the delegates to the peace talks to consider constitutional amendments that will enable the Interim Government of National Unity to be composed of technocrats who should undergo a thorough civil service process of recruitment, as well as parliamentary scrutiny and vetting in all the 3 arms of the Government. This should include a provision that Judiciary should be independent, professional and Judges shall have security of tenure.**
7. **To lobby the delegates to the peace talks to seriously consider security sector reforms that includes the formation of a new National Security organ that embraces our diversity, competence and qualification.**

SIGNED:

1. South Sudan Youth, Peace and Development Organisation (SSYPADO)
2. Institute for Development of Civil Society (IDCS)
3. Maridi Service Agency (MSA)
4. South Sudan Development Agency (SSDA)
5. Rural Action Against Hunger (RAAH)
6. Community Empowerment for Progress Organisation (CEPO)
7. Generation for Peace South Sudan (GPSS)
8. Organisation for Non Violence and Development (ONAD)
9. South Sudan NGO Forum
10. Peace and Development Collaborative Organisation (PDCO)
11. South Sudan Association for Visual Impaired
12. Human Right Development Organisation
13. Institute for Promotion of Civil Society (IPCS)
14. South Sudan Civil Society Alliance (SSCSA)
15. South Sudan Law Society
16. GADET - Pentagon