

Statement of the Faith Based Organizations Peace Delegation to IGAD Led Peace Process, Republic of South Sudan 18th June 2014

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

“Stop War and Start Talking”

“Even though men's souls are swayed by greed, but if you do good and practice self-restraint, Allah is well-acquainted with all that you do” Quran and “Peace be with you, don't be afraid...” John 20:19-26

We, the representatives of Faith Based Organizations, namely, the South Sudan Council of Churches and the South Sudan Islamic Council Peace delegation to IGAD led peace process, after lengthy observation and experience of the current peace process in AddisAbaba, take note of persistent non-compliance with agreements signed, little implementation and long, unnecessary delays of peace talks. We are disturbed by these delays because our people continue to suffer and die in the ongoing conflict in our beloved country that has brought a hold to nation building. We therefore urgently call on the warring parties to show good will in ending this senseless conflict and pursuing political dialogue for peaceful settlement of the crisis in our country. The longer the peace process stalls and delays the more anxious and disturbed the people become. We are convinced that the peaceful resolution of the conflict is the only way out of the crisis. This is because we believe the military solution is unattainable. Our message to the warring parties since the start of the conflict until now has been and still is: stop the war and start serious and meaningful negotiations. Any further delays for whatever reasons are simply unacceptable to the people of south Sudan who desperately yearn for peace.

It is this regard that we:

WE ARE CONCERNED when the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) and the SPLM/A In Opposition boycotted the multi stakeholders round table negotiation (with the GRSS citing the disrespectful remarks of the IGAD Executive Secretary General and SPLM/A In Opposition citing dissatisfaction and lack of transparency in the stakeholder selection and participation). As weighty as this matters might be, we believe they can be sorted out without stalling the talks unless they are used as scapegoats to prepare for more war and bloodshed. Could these delays be signs of intentions to prolong war and hinder lasting peace in our country?. If this is not the case, then we urge the parties to engage in serious dialogue and in good faith. Let them pursue the path of peace

WE CALL UPON YOU OUR leaders to honor inclusive participation by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, the SPLM/A In Opposition, SPLM leaders (Former Detainees), political parties, civil society, and faith-based leaders as per the 9th May 2014 agreement. This process must start in a transparent manner without any further hindrance in order to speed up the peace process. The stakeholders should have the explicit right to determine the composition of their own representation in consultation with the mediation as agreed.

WE CALL UPON YOU the IGAD Heads of States and Envoys, Troika, the International community, all the people of good will to exert pressure to bear on the parties to resume the negotiation, implement the agreements signed, and to stop any further moves to continue with the war

WE COMMEND YOU IGAD for taking the lead in mediating the political settlement of the conflict in South Sudan and further appreciate AU, EU, Troika, and China for supporting the mediation process. We encourage the IGAD and all their partners and friends to redouble their efforts in facilitating the peace process

WE COMMEND OUR leaders of the Republic of South Sudan and SPLM/A In Opposition for committing themselves to expedite and complete dialogue on the formation of a transitional government of national unity within sixty (60) days. We encourage them to demonstrate their political will in concrete ways so as to move the peace process to new heights.

In view of the frequent and deliberate delays in resumption of peace talks through multi stakeholders, we have become convinced that there is a need to set up a Faith based Forum in which all stakeholders will be invited to participate and produce a result which will be fed into IGAD process.

As faith based organizations, we believe in the power of God to bless our nation with lasting peace and consequently call upon our faithful to continue to pray for peace process in our beloved country. Our hope and faith are in our Great and Mighty God.

SIGNED:

1-Bishop Enoch Tombe Stephen

SSCC

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2 Bishop Eduardo Dr. Hiiboro

SSCC

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3- Bishop Dr. Isaiah Majok Dau

SSCC



4 - Rev. James Par Tap

SSCC



5- Hamdin Shakrin,

SSIC



6- Mohamed Morjan

SSIC



7- Rev. Peter L. Tibi,

Coordinator, Faith Based Organizations, SSCC and SSICC, Peace Delegation to IGAD Led Peace process, RSS



18th June 2014

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