

TROIKA STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR ACCOMMODATION COSTS

During the last two weeks of December 2015, we witnessed the successful return of SPLM-IO to Juba. The United States and Norway, in coordination with the UK and the EU, contributed very substantial financial support for this complex operation, including buses to Gambella, flights to Juba and accommodation for 240 people. The purpose of this support was to secure the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARC), and the full operationalisation of the various committees as proscribed by the Agreement.

This joint support was an exceptional, one-time programme of assistance. As stated very clearly in our dialogue with both the Government of South Sudan and the SPLM-IO, the assistance will terminate 22 January, the date by which the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) is scheduled to be formed. This means that support for all those now being provided accommodation in Juba will end on that date. It does not mean that our support to the peace process will end. It is an opportunity for the parties to demonstrate their commitment and find a solution that allows implementation to continue.

It is with deep regret we take note of the current developments, where the process seems deadlocked. We urge all parties to do their utmost and act in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the peace agreement in order to meet the deadline and establish the TGoNU. The establishment of the TGoNU is the responsibility of the South Sudanese parties, and the financing, facilitation and security must therefore be the responsibility of the Republic of South Sudan.

Please be assured that the Troika and the EU will continue to support the successful implementation of the Peace Agreement, working closely with regional and international partners. We will do so through support to JMEC and the instruments established by the agreement. We will only be able to mobilize additional external support and assistance if a TGoNU is formed and there is a sincere commitment by all parties to implement the agreement.