



# **Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission**

(JMEC)

## **STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. FESTUS G. MOGAE  
CHAIRPERSON OF JMEC**

**TO THE**

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE**

**IGAD PLUS HEADS OF STATE**

**ON THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
AGREEMENT ON THE RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT IN THE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN**

**5 AUGUST 2016**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**Your Excellency, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, Chairman of IGAD;**

**Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government;**

**Your Excellency Dr. Erasmus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the  
African Union Commission;**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;**

1. We find ourselves at a very critical juncture given the recent course of events unfolding in our sister state, the Republic of South Sudan. Our action, or inaction, will either prevent a potentially devastating looming conflict, or further encourage degeneration into outright civil war. In other words, our collective and immediate remedial actions are needed now, as ever before.
2. Like all of you, I have conducted extensive consultations and engagements over the past several weeks in an attempt to return the parties to implementation of the agreement. It is my assessment that we are at the most critical point since the signing of the peace agreement in August 2015.
3. The events of July 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, and actions of the Parties to the Agreement over the last several weeks continue a pattern contrary to the spirit and letter of the Peace Agreement. These actions take many forms, either political or security in nature. As I have repeatedly stated, the peace agreement is about bringing badly needed peace and stability to a young nation being devastated by a senseless war.

4. I am deeply disturbed by the disappearance of Dr. Riek Machar from Juba. The uncertainty over his whereabouts has created a crisis, which has led to political fallout within the Transitional Government of National Unity. Indeed, our preliminary consideration of the replacement of SPLM-IO officials indicate a potentially serious violation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. It is our understanding that any replacement of SPLM-IO leaders should be governed by the internal rules and regulations of the SPLM-IO itself.
5. The fear of renewed war is very evident, as different nations continue to evacuate their citizens from South Sudan, and more South Sudanese continue to flee to different parts of the country, and into neighboring states. We should expect this flight to continue, if you, as regional guarantors of this Agreement, and the international community, fail to act in earnest to avert this evolving crisis.
6. As Chairman of JMEC, I re-affirm our commitment to support the South Sudanese Stakeholders and Parties to implement the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, to the fullest extent possible, in good faith and with political will to do so.

7. This cannot happen unless the currently reported skirmishes stop, and all the Parties demonstrate full commitment to the letter and spirit of the Agreement. That is why I welcomed the IGAD-PLUS Communiqué issued in Kigali on July 16<sup>th</sup>, and the 27<sup>th</sup> AU Summit decisions calling for, inter-alia, the deployment of a protection force in Juba to guarantee security for all, and enable the return of Dr. Riek Machar.
8. I hope this meeting will agree on immediate, concrete actions and steps, that will be taken by IGAD members to immediately re-establish JMEC safety and ability to operate in Juba, provide enhanced security and protection to all citizens of South Sudan, and guarantee unhindered CTSAMM and humanitarian access, as a pre-condition for the resumption of implementation of the Agreement.
9. I conclude my remarks with recommendations to IGAD-Plus, to initiate an approach to return South Sudan to stability:
  - a. Track one focuses on the political: A path of mediation must be opened between the two parties in order to lessen the chance of another civil war. First and foremost, I recommend that
    - i. A high level delegation from among this body engages both His Excellency President Kiir and Dr. Machar to appeal for a return to immediate implementation of the Peace Agreement. This delegation should assure President Kiir that the region has no interest in regime change, but that it expects that he, as the sole Head of

State of the Republic of South Sudan is responsible for the restoration of peace to the nation. He should also be applauded for saving the life of Dr. Machar on the night of the fighting at the State House.

ii. I repeat my recommendation for an independent inquiry into the events of 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 in Juba, to establish objective facts on the basis of which conclusions regarding culpability can be made.

b. A second track should focus on the security situation. I recommend that the Chiefs of Defence Staff of IGAD persuade both the SPLA Chief of Staff, and the SPLA-IO Chief of Staff to return to implementation of Chapter Two of the Peace Agreement with the objective of unification and integration of the forces.

c. Thirdly, a protection force for Juba, intended to facilitate the return to implementation of the Peace Agreement, by providing protection not only for the Transitional Government of National unity but also for the citizens, the international community and JMEC, be established without delay.

10. Finally, I appeal again to all members here, and the international community, to take all necessary steps to continue to provide humanitarian assistance in this dire situation.

I thank you.