



**PEACE, PROSPERITY AND  
REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

**CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT**

**HIGH-LEVEL REVITALIZATION FORUM**

**AGREEMENT**

**ON THE**

**CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND HUMANITARIAN MATTERS**

**ON SOUTH SUDAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army, hereinafter referred to as the "SPLA-In Government" (SPLA-IG), and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army – In Opposition (SPLM/A-IO Taban Deng); Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army – In Opposition (SPLM/A-IO Riek Machar); National Salvation Front (NSF); National Democratic Movement (NDM); Federal Democratic Party South Sudan/ Armed Forces (FDP/SSAF); South Sudan National Movement for Change (SSNMC); South Sudan United Movement/Army (SSUM/A), South Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SSLM/A); and South Sudan Patriotic Movement/Army (SSPM/A) (hereinafter referred to collectively as the Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs) referred separately as a "Party", and collectively as the "Parties" agree to this Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA), (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement).

**BEARING:** in mind the desire of the people of South Sudan to live in peace and dignity, and in an all-inclusive democratic society based on justice, equality, respect for human rights and the rule of law;

**REAFFIRMING:** our strong support and firm commitment to the decisions of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government's 31<sup>st</sup> Extra-Ordinary Summit of 12 June 2017, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which among other things; decided "to urgently convene a High-level Revitalization Forum of the parties to the Agreement on Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) including estranged groups to discuss concrete measures, to restore permanent ceasefire, to fully implement the Peace Agreement and to develop a revised and realistic timeline and implementation schedule towards a democratic election at the end of the transition period";

**COMMITTING:** to the pursuit of peaceful resolution of any disputes;

**MINDFUL OF:** the scale of human suffering that has engulfed the country and insecurity that continue to severely affect millions of South Sudanese and impede access to humanitarian assistance;

**CONSIDERING** the new realities on the ground, the changing nature of the conflict and armed groups necessitated the revitalization process;

**NOTING:** the unilateral ceasefire declaration by the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU);

**COMMENDING:** the significant role played by Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), African Union (AU) and all other partners to bring sustainable peace and stability in South Sudan;

**ALSO, COMMENDING:** the role played by the United Nation Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in providing security to the conflict affected communities in South Sudan;

**ACKNOWLEDGING:** the vital role played by the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) and the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM) to bring sustainable peace in South Sudan;

**DETERMINED:** to create a peaceful and enabling environment necessary for the safety and security of all the people of South Sudan, for the revitalization process and the work of humanitarian agencies by committing ourselves to a Cessation of Hostilities agreement;

**HAVING IN MIND:** the continued violation of the previous ceasefire agreements, the spread of conflict throughout the country, and the lack of robust enforcement mechanism to ensure compliance by all parties;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree to a Cessation of Hostilities as follows:

## **ARTICLE 1**

### **DECLARATION OF CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES**

**1. The Parties hereby commit to:**

- a) Agree to an immediate and unconditional Cessation of Hostilities, in all parts of South Sudan, commencing on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 at 00.01 hours South Sudan's local time;
- b) Agree to cease all hostile military actions aimed at one another and that might undermine the revitalization process;

## **ARTICLE 2**

- 1. The Parties, including their affiliates shall immediately disengage all forces and/or armed groups under their influence and/or control;
- 2. The Parties, including their affiliates shall cease all hostile military operations and actions against one another and freeze their forces in their locations;
- 3. Hostile military actions, inter alia, shall include;
  - a. attacks aimed at dislodging, capturing ground or equipment, ambushes, and killing one another;
  - b. reconnaissance operations;
  - c. laying of mines of any nature including anti-tank and anti-personnel mines;
  - d. use of proxy militias to provoke or attack one another;
  - e. jamming of one another's means of communication; and
  - f. any provocative and deceptive actions.

4. The Parties, including their affiliates shall refrain from taking any actions that could lead to military confrontations including unauthorized movement of forces, ammunition resupply, and any other action that could be viewed as confrontational;
5. The Parties, including their affiliates shall cease all recruitment of adults or minors;
6. The Parties, including their affiliates shall cease rearming through purchases or donations of weapons and acquisition of weapons through other means;
7. The Parties, including their affiliates shall cease all hostile media and other propaganda campaigns including any action that might undermine the HLRF process;
8. The Parties, including their affiliates shall refrain from engaging in hostile propaganda, particularly those that fan ethnic hatred, through any form of media; and
9. The Parties, including their affiliates shall cease to engage in any verbal or physical attacks against and impede CTSAMM, JMEC, IGAD, AU, UN or any other institutions of the ARCSS and the revitalization process from their functions.

### **ARTICLE 3**

1. The Parties, including their affiliates, shall commit to: ensure that all forces or armed groups under their command, or/and control observe, at all times, this Agreement;
2. The Parties, including their affiliates, shall commit to disseminate this agreement to all field commanders within 48 hours;
3. The Parties, including their affiliates, shall commit to disclose to the IGAD Special Envoy geographic coordinates of location of their forces;
4. The Parties, including their affiliates, shall commit to assist in the development of a forces disposition map for use by CTSAMM and UNMISS;



5. The Parties, including their affiliates, shall commit to freeze forces in place, as well as disengage in areas where opposing forces are in close proximity to avoid any clashes;
6. The Parties, including their affiliates, shall commit to unconditionally allow CTSAMM to verify and monitor the adherence of their forces and affiliates;

#### **ARTICLE 4**

##### **PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS**

1. The Parties at all times and in all circumstances, shall protect civilians from any kind of attack, human rights violation as well as facilitate humanitarian access.
2. The Parties, including their affiliates, shall immediately refrain from attacks on the civilian population;
3. The Parties, including their affiliates, shall immediately refrain from acts of sexual and gender based violence;
4. The Parties, including their affiliates, shall immediately refrain from any acts of violence against children, girls, women, elderly, and persons with disabilities;
5. The Parties, including their affiliates, shall immediately refrain from laying ambushes, killings, kidnappings, abductions, robberies and any other hostile actions against civilian; and
6. The Parties, including their affiliates, shall immediately refrain from recruiting from Protection of Civilian Centers (PoCs), enter or cause any form of violence in and around PoCs, IDP Camps and refugee camps.

#### **ARTICLE 5**

1. Parties, including their affiliates shall commit to support any efforts by IGAD and international organizations on the reunion of families; and

2. Parties, including their affiliates shall commit to assist UNMISS in all its efforts to protect civilians including sharing information that is vital to the protection of civilians.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **HUMANITARIAN MATTERS**

1. The Parties shall respect, ensure respect and protect fundamental human right, international humanitarian rights and make sure humanitarian assistance follow international standards and uphold international humanitarian law at all times;
2. The Parties and their affiliates shall open humanitarian corridors to facilitate and support the distribution of humanitarian assistance, including the creation of enabling conditions that enhance urgent supply of humanitarian aid and access to those in need of assistance as stipulated in the Chapter III of the ARCSS, the Communiqué of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Extra-Ordinary Session of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government of 27<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and the UNSC Resolution 2132 of 24<sup>th</sup> December 2013;
3. The Parties and their affiliates shall assist displaced persons and refugees who wish to return to their original areas of abode within the Republic of South Sudan or elsewhere;
4. Parties, including their affiliates shall not attack humanitarian workers, facilities and equipment;
5. Parties, including their affiliates shall not intimidate, harass, kidnap, or torture humanitarian workers; and
6. Parties, including their affiliates shall not block, deny, or delay the distribution of humanitarian assistance to civilian communities.

## ARTICLE 7

1. Parties, including their affiliates commit to allow unhindered access to United Nations humanitarian agencies, international non-governmental organizations, and local humanitarian NGOs;
2. Parties, including their affiliates commit to create humanitarian corridors to facilitate the distribution of humanitarian assistance to needy communities;
3. Parties, including their affiliates commit to provide an enabling environment to facilitate decent burials of the dead and memorialization, support reunion of families, and any such acts that promote human dignity;
4. Parties, including their affiliates commit to assist displaced persons and refugees who wish to return to their original areas of abode within the Republic of South Sudan or elsewhere;
5. Parties, including their affiliates commit to release all prisoners of war (PoWs), political detainees to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) or any other organ as determined by IGAD Council of Ministers immediately after the signing of the Agreement without undue delay;
6. Parties, including their affiliates commit to submit list of PoWs to the ICRC within 24 hours after signing of the Agreement.
7. Parties, including their affiliates commit to the unconditional release of child soldiers within their ranks to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) immediately upon the signing of this Agreement without undue delay.
8. Parties, including their affiliates commit to allow the free movement of persons and goods within the areas affected by armed conflict; and



9. Parties, including their affiliates commit to assist the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and International Humanitarian agencies operating in the territory of the Republic of South Sudan in accordance with their mandates.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### **MONITORING AND VERIFICATION**

1. The Parties, including their affiliates, shall not deny, delay, or postpone CTSAMM and UNMISS movement and access to areas, or actions that need monitoring, verification and investigations;
2. The Parties, including their affiliates, shall not attack, harass, intimidate, arrest, abduct, or detain CTSAMM and UNMISS personnel; and
3. The Parties, including their affiliates, shall not deny CTSAMM and UNMISS information in their possession that is critical to the execution of their mandates.

## **ARTICLE 9**

1. Parties, including their affiliates commit to facilitate complete freedom of movement to CTSAMM and UNMISS to move from one place to another without any form of hindrance and grant them unhindered access to all areas controlled by the Parties to carry out their tasks;
2. Parties, including their affiliates commit to allow CTSAMM to monitor and verify the Parties' adherence to the provisions of this Cessation of Hostilities Agreement immediately upon signing;
3. Parties, including their affiliates commit to provide CTSAMM with information that include the following;
  - a. geographic coordinates of location of their forces;

- b. location of any military units in close proximity that need an immediate disengagement;
  - c. names and contact information of field commanders relevant to the implementation of this agreement; and
  - d. names and contact information of their liaison officer(s).
4. Parties, including their affiliates commit to provide, in advance, notification to CTSAMM about the movement of their personnel and equipment in all conflict areas, and such activities shall be verified and monitored by the CTSAMM.

#### **ARTICLE 10**

#### **AMENDMENT**

This Agreement may be amended by the consent of all parties or IGAD Council of Ministers unanimous decision.

#### **ARTICLE 11**

#### **DISPUTE SETTLEMENT**

Any dispute that may arise from the implementation and interpretation of this Agreement shall be resolved amicably between the signatories. Failing this, any dispute shall be resolved by the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission.

#### **ARTICLE 12**

#### **ENTRY INTO FORCE**

1. This Agreement shall come into force upon signature by more than fifty plus one (50+1) of the Parties.

In witness of the above, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties have signed this Agreement on this **18<sup>th</sup> day of December 2017**, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

### Signatures

S/No.	Party/Organisation	Leadership	Signature
1.	SPLM/A in Government	President Salva Kiir Mayardit	
2.	SPLM/A in Opposition in TGoNU (Taban faction)	H.E. Gen. Taban Deng Gai	
3.	SPLM-Former Detainees in Government	H.E Deng Alor (+ 2 others)	
4.	Other Political Parties (OPP) under ARCSS (17) categorized under two groups Agenda led by Dr. Martin Lomuro and Alliance group led by Hon. Kornelios)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hon. Dr. Martin Lomuro (Agenda)</li> <li>Hon. Kornelios (Alliance)</li> </ul>	
5.	SPLM/A in Opposition out of TGoNU (Machar faction)	H.E Dr. Riek Machar Teny	
6.	SPLM-Former Detainees out of TGoNU (Pagan Amum + 6 others)	Hon. Pagan Amum	
7.	Other Political Parties (OPP) outside ARCSS in Juba (e.g. Umbrella group of Peter Mayen, Steven Soroba of UDP)	No single leadership or clear number	
8.	Armed Political Opposition Groups (APOG). The six have formed an alliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gen. Thomas Cirilo Swaka (NAS)</li> <li>Dr Lam Akol (NDM), Gabriel Changson (FDP/SSAF),</li> <li>Col. Joseph Bakasoro (SSNMC),</li> <li>Dr Castello Garang (SSPM)</li> <li>Gen. Peter Gadet (SSUM)</li> <li>Gen. Bapiny Montul (SSLM)</li> </ul>	
9.	Unarmed Political Opposition Groups outside ARCSS and Juba	PDM	
10.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faith Based,</li> <li>Eminent persons</li> <li>Women Bloc</li> <li>CSOs</li> <li>Youth</li> </ul>	

S/No.	Party/Organisation	Leadership	Signature
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business community</li> </ul>	
11.	-----	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hon. Amb, Francis Deng</li> <li>• Hon. Rebecca Nyandeng Garang</li> <li>• Prof. Pauline Riak</li> <li>• Mr Biel Boutrous Biel</li> <li>• Mr Edmund Yakani</li> <li>• Mr Rajab Mohandis</li> <li>• Ms Rita Lopidia</li> <li>• Ms Sarah Nyanath Elijah</li> <li>• Mr Sebit Sabasio</li> </ul>	

**Witnessed by IGAD Special Envoy**

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Ambassador Ismail Wais

**Witnessed by the IGAD Council of Ministers**

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H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Ethiopian Foreign Minister and Chairperson of the IGAD Council of Ministers

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H.E. Amina Mohamed, the Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Rapporteur to the IGAD Council of Ministers

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H.E. Sam Kutesa, the Ugandan Foreign Minister

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H.E. Professor Ibrahim Ghandour, the Sudanese Foreign Affairs Minister

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H.E. Mohamoud Ali Yousseuf, the Djibouti Foreign Minister

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H.E. Abdulkadir Ahmedkheyir Abdi, State Minister for the Federal Republic of Somalia .