



The Opposition Groups HLRF of ARCSS

Press Statement for Immediate Release

Stalemate of High-Level Revitalization Forum of the ARCSS

We, the Opposition Group and delegates to the IGAD led High Level Revitalization Forum (HLRF) to revitalisation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) are dismayed by the lack of political will demonstrated by the Republic of South Sudan delegation to address the core issues that bedevilled our beloved country, South Sudan. We came to participate in the HLRF with an open mind and negotiate in good faith to usher peace to our people. Unfortunately, our brothers and sister in the government came to Addis Ababa to maintained the status quo and to accommodate the opposition group into blotted government.

We would like to bring to the attention of the people of South Sudan, and to the World at large that, the hope for peace in the country has once more been delayed for the following reasons:

1. The government South Sudan refused to sign the Declaration of Principle as a guiding roadmap for revitalization of the ARCSS. While the opposition signed the Declaration of Principles in good faith to guide the negotiations.
2. The government has also refused to address the root causes of the conflict that brought the country to its knees. Instead, the government would like to discuss power sharing by expanding the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) to four hundred forty (440); the executive by creating additional twelve (12) ministries totalling forty two (42) ministers and four (4) vice presidents.

We, the Opposition Group requested to address the principles and the root cause of the current crisis as a priority, because our main interest and objective is to address the root causes of the conflict and set up a better system of governance that shall alleviate the suffering of our people.

We, the opposition refused to engage in discussion on IGAD proposed responsibility sharing of 51% IG and 49% because this is NOT our priority at this point of the revitalisation. The Opposition Group are advocating for lean, effective, and functional Transitional Government while the government is interested in power sharing and blotted transitional government.



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On permanent ceasefire and security arrangements, we in the opposition are asking for complete overhaul and establishment of new security sector that is reflective of South Sudan diversity. However, the government insist in maintaining the current composition of South Sudan security sector by integrating opposition forces into the current tribal army.

February 16, 2018

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia