

THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



The Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU)

TGoNU Remarks during the 62nd Extra-Ordinary Session of the IGAD Council of Ministers at the Final Session of the High Level Revitalization Forum (HLRF) for the Parties to the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS)

21st June, 2018.

Dr. Martin Elia Lomuro

**Minister of Cabinet Affairs and , The Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation.**

- **Your Excellency, Dr. Workeneh Gebeyeh,
The Chairperson of the IGAD Council of Ministers,**
- **Fellow members of the IGAD Council of Ministers.**
- **Members of the IGAD Partners Forum**
- **Representatives of AU, UN, EU, China, Japan and the TROIKA**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

Your Excellences, I wish to sincerely congratulate IGAD for its persistence, for just over a year today, to executive the decision of its regional leaders as decided on the 17th June, 2017, that a revitalization process be steered for the Parties to the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) in order to restore permanent Ceasefire, ensure full and inclusive implementation of the ARCSS and determine realistic timeline for the conduct of free, fair and democratic elections at the end of the transition in the Republic of South Sudan.

Honorable Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen, from the time IGAD commenced the process in July, 2017, the TGoNU consistently associated itself with determination and focus as per the set objectives and its position on the issues of contention between the Parties has always been driven by those objectives. Occasionally the TGoNU encountered and expressed frustration over the insistence of the Opposition to indulge on issues of no relevance to the objectives of this very important process. And admittedly, it has occasionally blamed IGAD for having failed to focus the Opposition and direct them to observe the objectives of the HLRF.

But, Honourable Chairperson, today the TGoNU wants to concede that IGAD in its first 'Bridging Proposal' of March, 2018, and the 'Revised Bridging Proposal', presented to the Parties on the 16th

June, 2018, for the final session of the HLRF proved fully in conformity with the decision of the IGAD Heads of State and Government as stated earlier and we sincerely and humbly congratulate the leadership of IGAD, the Office of the Special Envoy and its taskforce, and most importantly the IGAD Mediators as well as many Ambassadors who silently and tirelessly working from behind the scenes for a job well done.

Honorable Chairperson, distinguished representatives of the IGAD Member States and all the valuable Parties of this process, the TGoNU has come to this final session of the HLRF with its full force to return to Juba with Peace for the people of South Sudan. It strongly believes that the outstanding issues identified in both Chapter 1 on Governance and Chapter 2 on Security Arrangements are matters for negotiation and matters upon which this august IGAD Council of Ministers can genuinely finalize. It would be severely disappointing for the people of South Sudan, IGAD, representatives of AU, the UN and the Partners who have paid huge sums of money if this process fail to present to the Summit of the IGAD Heads of State and Government with recommends that would enable the leaders to conclude peace for the people of South Sudan today and not tomorrow.

Honorable Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen, President Salva Kiir Mayardit accepted to have a face-to-face meeting with his brother, the rebel leader Dr. Riek Machar Teny, under the auspices of IGAD Chairperson Dr. Abiye Ahmed, the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, against all odds.

The face-to face meeting which took place yesterday, 20th June, 2018, in the Palace of the government of the People's Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia proved beyond any doubt the urge and the strong desire of President Salva for the return of peace to South Sudan in order to stop the sufferings and destruction this senseless war has imposed on the people of South Sudan. The

decision of President Salva to meet Dr. Riek here in Addis Ababa contradicted the resolution of the IGAD Council of Ministers during its 61st Extra-Ordinary Session on the relocation of Dr. Riek Machar from South Africa.

It is a decision that has disappointed many IGAD and Continental Leaders. But the President took the view that Addis Ababa is the seat of IGAD under whose armpits the HLRF is being conducted. Therefore, it is only logical that the extraordinary face-to-face meeting between the two South Sudanese Leaders happen here and necessarily at the final session of the HLRF. The TGoNU leadership intended to encourage the Opposition to accept peace in favour of war so that all the leaders of South Sudan, in the TGoNU and the Opposition, return to build their nascent country, provide services to their people and build the nation they fought for over 50 years.

Honourable Chairperson, Fellow Ministers and distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of my government I call upon you to see sense and approve the 'Revised Bridging Proposal' with logical and justifiable amendments to help the IGAD Heads of State and Government conclude on a 'Revitalized ARCSS' as they decided in June, 2017.

This august Council has succeeded and it is incumbent on ^{to} to ensure that the HLRF process reaches its logical end; peace, political stability and economic prosperity for the people of South Sudan. The anus is also on IGAD to report correctly on Parties that refuse peace in the hope of using this process for regime change at this successful stage of the HLRF.

Finally, the TGoNU believes that IGAD, AU and the UN must have properly investigated and verifiable information to levy punitive measures against all those who obstruct peace in South Sudan, irrespective of the Party they belong to. The TGoNU further advises IGAD and the AU to evoke and enforce the provisions, in the

instruments of establishment of the two respective organizations, for member states not to allow rebels use their territories to destabilize other member states or to provide military and logistical support to rebels against a member state.

It is the strong believe of the TGoNU that the measures outlined above will enhance the achievement of peace in South Sudan. Otherwise, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Ministers, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen I submit and humble to the leadership of IGAD, with unwavering gratitude for cooperation Your Excellences have accorded us during the process of the HLRF for the Parties to the ARCSS. We value the commitment of your respective countries for peace in South Sudan and commit to work with you even in the hardest of times for mutual peace and prosperity in our Region and Continent.



21/6/2018.

Dr. Martin Elia Lomurö

Minister of Cabinet Affairs, and the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.