



TWIC EAST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, JUBA SOUTH SUDAN

FINAL COMMUNIQUE
TWIC EAST COMMUNITY GLOBAL CONFERENCE
10TH – 13TH MARCH 2024
PANYANGOOR, JONGLEI STATE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



Preambles:

- **Thankful** to the Executive Committee of the Twic East Community Association in Juba under Amb. Bior Ajang Duot and all Community leaders in South Sudan and the Diaspora for calling the Twic East Community Global Conference between 10th – 13th March 2024 in St. Peter's Pro-Cathedral, Episcopal Diocese of Kongor under theme **building a Strong Community Together**. The conference was attended by 2,678 (2,469 male and 299 females) members of the Twic East Community and graced by the Commissioner of Twic East County, the Paramount Chief of the Twic East County, and the Chairmen of the Twic East Community in different cities in South Sudan and the Diaspora.
- **Appreciative and supportive** of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity's (RTGoNU) pursuit of peace, prosperity, and social cohesion under H.E President Salva Kiir Mayardit, Hon. Governor Denay Jock Chagor of Jonglei State and Hon. Jacob Chol Tor, the Commissioner of the Twic East County.
- **Grateful** to the Twic East Community delegates from Wau, Aweil, Malakal, Renk, Guolyaar, Mongalla, Bor and Juba in South Sudan, Kampala, and Northern Uganda in Uganda, Kakuma and Nairobi in Kenya, Egypt and representatives from Diaspora from Australia, Canada and the United States of America.
- **Committed** to keeping the people of the Twic East, Jonglei State and South Sudan united in deeds and words to prosper.

- **Accordingly**, the Community of the Twic East, the Executive of the Twic East Community Associations all over the world, representatives of Chiefs, Elders, Youth, Women, Members of Parliament (MPs-National and State), Intellectuals, and Members of the Diaspora made the following resolutions in a meeting held in Panyangoor at St. Peter's Pro-Cathedral, Episcopal Diocese of Kongor, the headquarters of the Twic East County between the 10th – 13th March 2024:

1. Flood Management

1.1. Flood management: Twic East Community appreciates United Nations World Food Program (WFP) for rehabilitating the dyke in Bor and Twic East Counties. Twic East Community resolved to reinforce weak sections along the dyke and extend the dyke to Weer-Amuor area of Lith Payam. Furthermore, the Community resolved to contribute resources in her limited capacity and to request the WFP to support the reinforcement of the identified weak areas on the dyke and the extension of the dyke to Weer-Amuor. The proposed specification by the Twic East Engineers will be discussed with the WFP engineering team and the Twic East Community to reach a consensus. Twic East Community resolved to present the construction of permanent dyke as a national project to be funded by the national government and supported by the state, county and traditional authorities. The project will be planned by Twic East Engineers as a dyke-road to safeguard the livelihood of the Community. The proposal will be presented to H.E. the President Salva Kiir Mayardit.

1.2. Administrative management of the dyke: Twic East Community resolved the following for effective management of the dyke:

- Residents on the dyke to refrain from residing on top of the dyke;
- The Community equally proposed to identify and construct both stocks and human crossing points on the dyke;
- Foreign fishermen to respect and adhere to rules and regulations governing fishing activities in the Twic East Areas.

2. Resettlement



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2.1. Resettlement: The remnant current population in Twic East County is 75,000 while IDPs within South Sudan and refugees within East Africa shall be resettled in higher ground in the East. Twic East Community resolved to relocate Eastwards (highlands) from its current settlement due to persistent flooding. Furthermore, the conference resolved to form a Settlement Assessment Committee. This proposed resettlement will be followed up by the following stakeholders:

- County local government,
- Political leaders
- Chiefs,
- Community leaders
- Youth leaders
- Community Resilience and Development Agency (CRADA)
- International and national agencies operating in Twic East.

3. Pull Factors for Return and Resettlement

3.1. Education in the County: The Twic East Community assessed the conditions of forty-one primary schools and three secondary schools of Dr. John Garang School in Twic East County, Taraagok in Bor town and Mongalla. A need for a vocational training center in the county was noted given that the 2020 flood destroyed all physical and institutional capacities of the education system in the county and depopulated the county. The conference resolved that all stakeholders (Twic East Community, the State, and National Governments, Partners, etc) mobilize resources and capacities to rebuild primary schools and renovate, relocate and construct existing three secondary schools in the County for the returnees. Essential educational services immediately needed include sanitation infrastructure, enhanced teachers' capacity, mobility, boreholes, stationeries, girl child's needs, and other educational needs in the County.



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3.2. Health Conditions in the County: The conference acknowledges the inadequate health system in the county and notes the following:

- Lack of medical equipment.
- Lack of Hospital, PHCC grants and funds for renovation.
- Lack of reagents for laboratories.
- Delay of salaries for staff.
- Lack of Latrines, incinerators, and placenta pits in all Health Facilities (HFs).
- Lack of funds for refreshment training of Health providers and the increasing number of patients with HIV/AIDS compared to other years.
- Lack of Beds plus mattresses for Hospitals & health centers, all HFs structures were damaged during this flooding.
- Most healthcare providers are not on government payroll.
- Inadequate medical supplies.
- Lack of internal transport to swampy islands, all vehicles are grounded including ambulances for the Hospital, and lack of health Facilities fences (Hospitals, PHCCs, and PHCUs).
- Some health partners do not meet transference and accountability and carry out spoliations.
- Lack of scholarships for medical personnel.
- Lack of follow-up pledges from the government and well wishes.
- Lack of first aid kit for our youth (in response to gunshot).



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From the community conference, Twic East Community resolved the following items to ease health pressures:

- Mobilize for medical equipment & beds, mattresses and improving the delivery services for women.
- Mobilize funds for the reconstruction of all HFs.
- Engage the government to release Grants for Hospitals and PHCCs.
- Mobilize funds for latrines, Incinerators placental pits in all HFs.
- Mobilize funds for laboratory reagents and equipment.
- Lobbying for more funds to support health workers' incentives.
- Wernyol PHCC needs to be reactivated in the government system.
- A need for Wangulei PHCU to be upgraded to PHCC.
- A follow up to confirm upgrading Panyangor PHCC to hospital as promoted by the state but not implemented.
- Mobilize funds for the purchase of extra vehicles and canoes and, finally,
- Engage the government to put all Health workers on the government payroll.

3.3. Road Networks and Communication Towers for Resettlement: From the community conference, Twic East Community resolved the following items to ease transport and communication:

- Advocate for the completion of the Bor-Kadiang-Malakal Road and link it to Pibor.
- Construction of roads that link Bor-Kadiang road to Panyangoor, Dhiam-dhiam and the new location to be identified for settlement in the Eastlands.
- A road that links Ngalapich to Bor-Kadiang road.



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- Construction of the feeder roads linking the five Payam headquarters to the new location in the East.
- The conference agreed that each Payam will acquire three graders and three vehicles to support the resettlement program.
- Erect communication towers in the new location and in all the Payams headquarters. Furthermore, the conference resolved to establish the Twic East FM radio for effective communication of the Community's programs.
- The conference resolved that the new settlement area be located, surveyed, and connected with feeder roads and communication networks.

3.4. Other Essential Services for Resettlement: From the community conference, the Twic East Community noted that the needs for the new town include water, a police center, sanitation services, and humanitarian services. The Community resolved that for the settlement in the East to last and prosper, water reservoirs is essential.

4. Oil Exploration

4.1. Oil Exploration and Possible Drilling in the Twic East County: The conference acknowledges the government's ownership of oil resources in the county. However, the local community is entitled to be consulted and engaged on potential oil deposits in Block B2 as stipulated in the Petroleum Act of 2012 by both the awarded company and the government. The conference is cognizant of the exploration license awarded to the Strategic Fuel Fund (SFF) by the government of South Sudan. In readiness to engage the government, the community resolved to form a committee to negotiate on behalf of the community with the government, Strategic Fuel Fund, or any other stakeholders. Twic East Community resolved to disown and revoke any agreements between oil explorers and unauthorized persons signing on behalf of the Twic East Community. The community resolved to negotiate and sign their agreement with the oil explorer and the government and allocate an operation base camp in the County.

4.2. Formation of the Twic East Community Petroleum Consultative Committee (CPCC):
The proposed committee comprises a Paramount chief, five head chiefs, technical committee



members comprising of a chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary, a representative of diaspora, a petroleum engineer, environmental scientist, an economist, legal expert, woman representative, and a youth representative. The Community Petroleum Consultative Committee speaks, negotiates, and acts on behalf of the community in consultation with the General Assembly during the exploration and production period.

5. Governance and Structure:

5.1. Twic East Leadership Structure: The community acknowledges different leaders in the County as political (H.E., Vice President, national and state MPs), traditional (chiefs), community, and spiritual leaders. The community acknowledges and appreciates the roles of these leaders. The conference discussed the hierarchy and resolved that all these leaders play distinct roles in the community. The conference resolved any meeting held will be closed by the initiator. However, these leaders must work harmoniously in the interest of the Twic East Community their distinct roles notwithstanding.

5.2. Twic East Community Global Governance Structure: The conference discussed the community's governance structure and agreed that all community associations report to the TECA Chairman in Juba. In the meantime, the conference also resolved that the Chairman of TECA-Juba and the Presidents of Australia, Canada and the United States of America coordinate the affairs of the Twic East Community.

5.3. Twic East Community Position on Greater Bor Community Association (GBCA): The Twic East Community took note of her decision on 29th October 2022 at BMC in Juba in which the Twic East Community exited the GBCA. The community conclusively reiterated and reaffirmed the BMC declaration. However, the community remains committed to a good mutual relationship with her neighbors in deeds and words.

5.4. Unity of the People of Twic East: The Twic East Community resolved to live in harmony with herself to optimize the greater benefit of the Twic East Community. The conference resolved that the commissioner would call a meeting for all community, traditional, political, and spiritual leaders to discuss the unity of the people of Twic East and the implementation framework for the resolutions of the conference. The conference acknowledges and appreciates the peace and reconciliation of Nyuak Community conducted on 25th of February 2024 in



Wanglei, the headquarter of Nyuak Payam. The conference urges the community to address any existing conflicts within the Community.

5.5. Extension of the Mandate of Twic East Community Association in Juba (TECA-Juba):

The conference notes a need to continue to champion the aspirations raised and resolved during the conference. The conference resolved to extend the mandate of the current TECA-Juba leadership for another four (4) years effective from the end of the current term to allow for the implementation of the conference's resolutions.

6. Culture and Social Norms

6.1. Marriage Dowry: The community discussed the challenges related to the use of money and cattle in marriage arrangements. The conference resolved thirty (30) heads of cattle would be the optimal acceptable dowry for the parents of the girl being given in marriage. Aping, thooc, adhukwuiin, biol and wengeer, etc. are included in the maximum 30 heads of cattle. Similarly, the 30 cows can be offered in monetary equivalent. The transfer of cattle takes effect on the completion of marriage negotiation (Lei) and a loss because of delay from the girl's side after "Lei" rests with the girl's family. The girl's family must accept the maximum compensation offered by the man's family (No akum). Each unit cattle head must not be accompanied by cash (athuat).

6.2. Divorce: The conference discussed the jurisdiction of divorce and the problems arising from it. The conference resolved that all divorce cases related to marriages conducted under the Twic East traditional marriages must be initiated under the jurisdiction of the family, sub-chief, chief, head chiefs, and the paramount chief as the final arbitrator of the case (magak – paramount chief). Furthermore, the conference resolved that civil courts and bench courts (magarau) will have no jurisdiction over divorce cases arranged under the Twic East Traditional marriage. Also, it was resolved that all relevant legal apparatuses of the government at the county, state, and national levels be informed of these resolutions. A married woman with three children cannot be divorced. At divorce, however, each child is equivalent to five heads of cattle and adultery is six heads of cattle. A child fathered by a married woman by Twic customary norms belongs to the legitimate husband (Thon e gawic loses). Furthermore,



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the conference resolved when a man impregnates a girl and rejects the girl, the child belongs to the family of the girl.

6.3. Twic Traditional Dance, Attires, and Songs: The conference discussed the dynamics of Twic East cultures, particularly dancing and dressing modes. The conference resolved that traditional Twic East dancing styles (Tiip, Tong arinytungic, akuorjok akol daauetc) and singing must be revived. Dressing attires such dhor, ajieek, ademjok, loth, alameet, arm amlets (tung kulithiik, guenjang and other beats, etc) should be encouraged. Songs composed by Twic East artists must conform to Twic traditional rhythms. Social codes such as songs, and wrestling should be used to promote peace, empowerment, and good relations between Twic and her neighbors. The Twic East cultural day will be held in the first week of November every year.

6.4. Twic East traditional behavioral norms: The conference resolved those illicit drinks (“Royal dry gin” and other liquors) must be banned in Twic East County. This resolution applies to all Twic East members beyond Twic East County. Performance-enhancing drugs like bhang, miraa, etc must be verified before wrestlers engage each other in Twic East County and this applies to all Twic East sons everywhere. Inappropriate dressing style, no skin bleaching alcohol drinking, shisha smoking, khat chewing, and the abuse of hard drugs such as cocaine, morphine, and other refined substances by both boys and girls are discouraged. The conference stressed the need for control of incessant and unproductive gaming activities such as dominoes, cards, etc. particularly by the youth.

7. Economic Governance

7.1. The future of the Twic East economy: The Twic East community discussed the potential of utilizing the East-lands for agriculture, trade, and logistic hubs for fish export to Pibor and Akobo. The East-lands has the potential to benefit from commercial activities from Kenya and Ethiopia with the development of necessary infrastructure such as roads and airports. The conference resolved to pursue expanding the Eastlands as the future of its economic prosperity.

7.2. Revenue for the County: The conference discussed different sources of income from businesses in the Payams, fishing areas along the Nile, auction centers, and possible erection

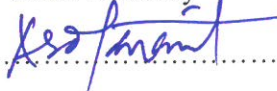


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NGOs, and other stakeholders are encouraged to work within the framework of these resolutions for the benefits of the people of Twic East, Jonglei State, and South Sudan.

9. **Conclusion:** The Twic East Community has resolved to relocate Eastward with immediate effect and opts to engage all the stakeholders to achieve the objectives of the conference to restore the settlement of its population displaced by floods in 2020. The Twic East Community looks forward to a prosperous community, State, and South Sudan.

Yours Sincerely



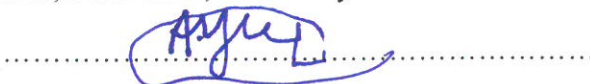
1. **Arok Dut Arok**, Chairman, Twic East Youth Association in Juba



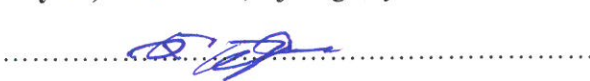
2. **Hon. Athieng Dau Tor**, Chairperson, Twic East Women Association in Juba



3. **Aweeng Deng Chol**, Head Chief, Pakeer Payam



4. **Ayuel Warabek Ayuel**, Head Chief, Ajuong Payam



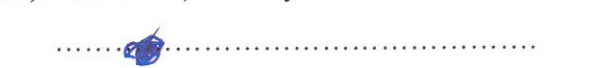
5. **Bol Manyok Duot**, Head Chief, Nyuak Payam




6. **Duot Ajang Duot**, Head Chief, Kongor Payam



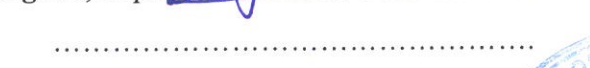
7. **Awai Ajang Awai**, Head Chief, Lith Payam



8. **Manyok Ajak Majok**, Paramount Chief, Twic East County



9. **Chol Kelei Chiengkou**, Representative of the Twic East Community in Canada





10. **Atem Deng Angoh Panyang**, President of Twic East Community Association in the USA



11. **Mamer Yaak Dut**, President, Twic East Community Association in Australia

12. **Gen. Amb. Bior Ajang Duot**, Chairman of Twic East Community Association in South Sudan (Juba).

Cc: H.E President Salva Kiir Mayardit

Cc: Hon. Governor Denay Jock Chagor, Jonglei State.

Cc: Hon. Jacob Chol Tor, Commissioner of Twic East County

Cc: Members of Parliament (MPs) National and State.

Cc: Traditional Head Chiefs

Cc: Payam Community leaders in South Sudan and Diaspora

Cc: Religious Leaders

Cc: Twic East Community Associations in South Sudan and Diaspora

Cc: Twic East Youth Associations in South Sudan and Diaspora

Cc: Women Associations in South Sudan and Diaspora

Cc: Nyiir-Cit-Arialbeek in South Sudan and Diaspora

Cc: All UN agencies, NGOs, NNGOs, the private sector, and all other stakeholders in South Sudan

Cc: File

