



**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
MINISTRY OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS**

**8<sup>th</sup> GOVERNORS' FORUM**

**RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Preamble,**

We, the Governors of the ten States and Chief Administrators of the three Administrative Areas, Vice Presidents, National Ministers, leaders of legislature, representatives of CSOs, and other delegates who participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Governors' Forum hosted in Juba City from 26<sup>th</sup> November – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024, chaired by H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit and co-chaired by H.E. First Vice President Dr. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, deliberated over issues of critical concern, particularly intergovernmental relations, constitution-making, elections and civic space, and climate change and humanitarian issues, under the theme "Forging Sustainable Peace: Committed Action in the Extended R-ARCSS Transition".

**Appreciating** H.E. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan, for his leadership and commitment to peaceful resolution of conflicts and transition through credible elections, particularly championing the annual hosting of Governors' Forum, which has become a vital platform for dialogue and fostering intergovernmental relations;

**Commending** H.E. First Vice President Dr. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon for effectively chairing the meetings of the 8<sup>th</sup> Governors' Forum so as to achieve intended aims and objectives;

**Recognising** the continued support of the Ministry of Presidential Affairs and the United Nations, especially UNMISS and UNDP for their technical and financial support of the Forum; and

**Therefore,** we adopt these resolutions and recommendations on intergovernmental relations, constitution-making, elections and civic space, and climate change and humanitarian issues:

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## Resolutions

### Intergovernmental Relations

1. Ministry of Finance and Planning to pay salary arrears and monthly salaries of public servants;
2. National Government, in coordination with States/Administrative Areas governments, to remove all illegal check points along national roads and waterways (Nile, Sobat and Naam);
3. National Government to ban illegal tax collections along roads and waterways and other locations to boost commerce;
4. Ensure security along all roads so that movement of people and goods are not impeded;
5. Stop child and women abduction as well as cattle raiding and rustling in Jonglei, Greater Pibor Administrative Area, Central Equatoria State, Eastern Equatoria State and other places, and return abducted children to their families;
6. Set up special courts to prosecute child abductors and cattle rustlers;
7. National Government to relocate all cattle camps from Jonglei State in Greater Equatoria and armed cattle herders back to Jonglei as required by Presidential Order of 2017;
8. National Government to compel Ambororo cattle herders to move to pastoralists' areas in Upper Nile and Bahr el Ghazal;
9. IDPs in Mangalla to be relocated to Jonglei State to end persistent conflicts with local communities and enable return of displaced local people;
10. National Government to resolve land conflicts/issues in Juba City and community land, and return illegally occupied plots of land to their owners;
11. Land registry to be transferred back to States/Administrative Areas;
12. Stop illegal mining for gold and other minerals and associated human rights abuses and environmental pollution problems in Central Equatoria State (Ganji and Wonduruba), Pibor Administrative Area, and other places;
13. States/Administrative Areas to deal with perpetrators of illegal mining;
14. National Government to implement the allocation of resources based on ratio of 40 percent to National Government, 20 percent States/Administrative Areas and 40 percent to counties;
15. Improve transfers of block grants, and other funds to States/Administrative Areas;
16. States/Administrative Areas to ensure that schools, health facilities, churches and mosques, and private homes are not occupied by soldiers and members of other organized forces;
17. States/Administrative Areas to hold regular cabinet meetings and other essential activities to improve governance;
18. Empower legislatures in States/Administrative Areas;
19. The Judiciary to recruit more judges and prosecutors and deploy them to States/Administrative Areas;
20. Expedite trials of reprimands in jails and prisons to reduce overcrowding;
21. National Government to build jails and prisons in States/Administrative Areas to reduce overcrowding in jails and prisons;
22. States/Administrative Areas to collect PIT;

23. National Ministry of Finance and Planning to transfer Sales Tax adjustment grants to the States/Administrative Areas on monthly basis according to the 30 percent Agreement of 2012;
24. National Government to relinquish the infringed powers of the traffic police and civil defence service (in particular motor vehicle licensing and driver licenses);
25. Abyei Administrative Area Legislature to discuss and pass the results of the community referendum of 2013 and forward the decision to the National Government for adoption or endorsement;
26. States/Administrative Areas to organize Commissioners' Forums and share resolutions and recommendations at Governors' Forums;
27. National Government, States/Administrative Areas governments and relevant agencies of the governments to implement these resolutions and recommendations accordingly, and the National government is to establish a monitoring mechanism in the intergovernmental linkages directorate to monitor implementation of these resolutions and recommendations;
28. National Government to prioritize agriculture;
29. States/Administrative Areas to protect national lands and assets in their respective areas (railways, river ports and airports/airstrips);
30. Ministry of Finance and Planning, in coordination with States/Administrative Areas governments, to expedite investments in agriculture and mining, as outlined in the FY2024-2025 budget, to diversify the economy and reduce reliance on oil;
31. Ministry of Finance and Planning, in coordination with the Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority (PPDAA), to immediately expedite the rollout of the government fleet of vehicles procurement and disposal program;
32. All government institutions to, with immediate effect, comply with the regulations of the PPDAA passed by the TNLA, ensuring adherence to the transparent and cost-efficient procurement processes;
33. The Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority (PPDAA) to enforce procurement regulations across all levels of government to reduce resource wastage and ensure cost-efficient public spending, with an implementation review by mid-2025;
34. The Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority (PPDAA) to expedite the process certifying the registration of companies and vendors to establish a database of eligible entities that can compete for procurement opportunities per its regulations;
35. Ministry of Finance and Planning, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, to develop the regulatory framework, technical requirements, and funding structures for the Public Employees Medical Scheme. This structure to be submitted to the Cabinet and ultimately to the Transitional National Legislative Assembly for enactment by Q2 2025;
36. Ministry of Finance and Planning and Health to, with immediate effect, engage industry experts with support of development partners to constitute a working group to develop a broader National Health Insurance Plan to be implemented in phases;
37. Ministry of Finance and Planning, in collaboration with States/Administrative Areas governments and development partners, to immediately promote initiatives aimed at reducing

- reliance on external assistance through investment in local productive capacities and sustainable development;
38. A review of progress on economic independence initiatives to be presented at the next Governors' Forum;
  39. Ministry of Finance and Planning to address disparities in outlays following the salary increase in the YR2023-2024 Budget in coordination with States/Administrative Areas Ministries of Finance;
  40. South Sudan Revenue Authority (SSRA), in collaboration with States/Administrative Areas revenue bodies, to immediately strengthen tax compliance and enforcement mechanisms to increase public revenues and reduce tax evasion;
  41. Ministry of Finance and Planning, in collaboration with States/Administrative Areas governments, to establish mechanisms for the payment of salaries through the banking system and available digital payment platforms;
  42. The use of banking and digital payment platform for salary payment is critical to enhancing transparency, reducing cash-handing risks, and improving financial inclusion. Implementation of this resolution to commence immediately, with a progress review to be presented by Q2 2025;
  43. The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) to proactively investigate and report illegal pyramid schemes and other financial crimes to relevant law enforcement agencies for urgent action, commencing immediately;
  44. Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs is directed to expeditiously prosecute individuals and entities involved in illegal pyramid schemes, such as the infamous 'Silicon Valley' scheme, to ensure accountability and protect citizens;
  45. Predatory lending practices, such as loans with 100% interest rates, are condemned for their harmful impact on businesses and individuals;
  46. All individuals arrested for failing to repay predatory loans to be released immediately per the legal circular of the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs prohibiting the criminal prosecution of victims of these predatory lending schemes, commencing immediately; and
  47. The Judiciary and Ministry of Interior are strongly urged to direct law enforcement units to comply with the legal circular of the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs on the matter of victims of predatory loans.

### **Constitution-making**

48. Conduct awareness on importance of constitution;
49. Ensure inclusive constitution making process;
50. National Constitution Review Commission (NCRC) to ensure views of South Sudanese on constitutional affairs are heard and respected; and
51. National Government to provide required funds and other resources to the NCRC to effectively carry out its activities.

## **Elections and Civic Space**

52. States/Administrative Areas to guarantee political and civic space and participation;
53. National Government to fund election activities and ensure transparent and accountable use of funds;
54. Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to submit amendments on the National Security Bill to the National Assembly (Sections 13(15), 54, 55 and 57);
55. National Elections Commission (NEC) to train staff in order to effectively manage election activities;
56. NEC to ensure that all counties receive civic education;
57. Encourage eligible South Sudanese to vote in the elections; and
58. RTGoNU to ensure no more extensions and hold elections on time.

## **Climate Change and Humanitarian Issues**

59. Disseminate the reports on environmental audits conducted in oil areas;
60. Discourage rampant cutting of trees and undertake afforestation in States/Administrative Areas to protect the environment;
61. Governments at all levels to ensure humanitarian access and protection of humanitarian workers; and
62. Ministry of Finance and Planning to immediately release funds to Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management for flood interventions.

## **Recommendations**

### **Intergovernmental Relations**

1. National Government to provide adequate funds to complete training and deployment of Necessary Unified Forces so as to complete implementation of Chapter II Transitional Security Arrangements of the Agreement;
2. National Government, with support of States/Administrative Areas, to conduct comprehensive disarmament across the country;
3. Create conducive environment for investors in States/Administrative Areas;
4. Provide conducive environment for farmers to grow their crops;
5. Make Khadhian (Athony) Airport in Abyei Administrative Area operational;
6. Hold peace conferences between Ngok Dinka and neighbouring communities especially the Twic Dinka of Warrap State;
7. Implement resolution of the Council of States on the conflict between the people of Abyei Administrative Area and communities in Warrap State;
8. Ministry of Interior to deploy police to Abyei Administrative Areas;

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9. Provide humanitarian assistance and basic services in Abyei Administrative Area to reduce suffering of the people, and urgently organize a donor conference;
10. National Government to encourage visits by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and diplomats from AU, IGAD and other regional bodies to acquaint them with the suffering of the people of Abyei Administrative Area;
11. Call upon the UN to expedite appointment of a civilian to head UNISFA;
12. Urge National Government to exert efforts for final settlement of the Abyei status issue;
13. Transition to East Africa Community passport;
14. National Government to engage neighbouring countries to end encroachments into the territory of South Sudan;
15. Council of States and oil-producing States/Administrative Areas to amicably address differences over Community Development Committees (CDCs);
16. National Government to fast track road construction with domestic resources and or loans; and
17. National Government to establish Ramciel Development Commission.

### **Constitution-making**

18. Expedite the constitutional making process;
19. Disseminate information on the R-ARCSS roadmap, especially the recent extension;
20. Provide funds to promote peace in States/Administrative Areas;
21. Urge respect for human rights by the government and others; and
22. Disseminate information on federalism in States/Administrative Areas.

### **Elections and Civic Space**

23. Ensure conducive security and political environment for political activities through peacebuilding and other activities;
24. National, States/Administrative areas and local governments to ensure freedom of expression and association;
25. Necessary Unified Forces and other security organs to secure voting centers and materials;
26. National Government train police and other security organs on elections issues;
27. All parties to be allowed to register and conduct elections activities unhindered;
28. Conduct voter registration and education on time;
29. Urge international partners to support election activities with funds and civic education;
30. Adequately resource the Ministry of Information, Communication, Telecommunication and Postal Services to disseminate election messages to the public; and
31. Inculcate culture of peaceful democratic change of power through free and fair elections.

### **Climate Change and Humanitarian Issues**

32. Put in place robust legal frameworks to address flooding and other natural disasters;

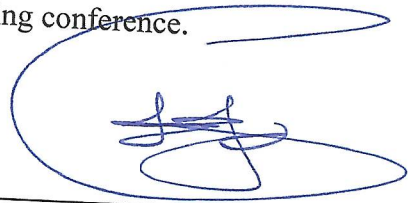
33. Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management to put in place disaster preparedness and early warning systems;
34. Sensitize communities on effective measures to mitigate climate change-related conflicts and other challenges;
35. Identify high grounds to relocate people from lowlands that are frequently flooded during rainy seasons;
36. Resettle IDPs, refugees and returnees on high grounds and other suitable locations and provide them with material and other support;
37. Build/expand dykes in flood-prone locations;
38. Open waterways/channels to improve drainage and flow of water as well as navigation;
39. Urgently adopt measures to mitigate pollution in oil-areas in the context of worsening yearly flooding; and
40. Establish Special Reconstruction Fund and hold pledging conference.



**H.E. Augustino Kamilo Jadalla Wani**

Governor, Central Equatoria State

(On behalf of the ten State Governors and three Chief Administrators)



**Hon. Amb. Chol Mawut Ajongo**

Minister, Presidential Affairs



**H.E. Dr. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon**

First Vice President, Republic of South Sudan

2/12/2024