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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1202ND MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2024
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1202.1 (2024)

COMMUNIQUÉ

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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1202nd meeting held on 27 February 2024 on Briefing on the Situation in South Sudan:

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling its previous decisions and pronouncements on the situation in South Sudan, particularly, Communiqués [PSC/PR/COMM.1186 (2023), adopted at its 1186th meeting held on 16 November 2023; [PSC/PR/COMM.1141 (2023), adopted at its 1141st meeting held on 28 February 2023; and [PSC/PR/COMM.1092 (2022)] adopted at its 1092nd meeting held on 11 July 2022;

Mindful of the impending end of the transition at the end of December 2024;

Reiterating the commitment of the AU as a guarantor of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), signed on 12 September 2018; and determined to ensure its successful implementation;

Reaffirming the solidarity of the AU with the people and the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in their legitimate aspirations to restore durable peace, security, stability and development in their country, and by extension, Africa as a whole;

Noting the introductory remarks by H.E. Ambassador Mohammed Arrouchi, the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the African Union (AU) and Chairperson of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) for February 2024; the Introductory statement by H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for political Affairs, Peace and Security; and the briefing by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission for South Sudan and Head of AU Liaison Office in Juba, H.E. Ambassador Professor Joram Mukama Biswaro; **also noting** the statements by the Charge d'Affairs of the Embassy of the Republic of South Sudan in Addis Ababa, H.E. Ambassador David Dang Kong; by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Smail Wais, the representative of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD); by the Interim Chairperson of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC), Major General (Rtd) Charles Gituai; and by H.E. Mr. Nicholas Haysom, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS);

Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:

1. **Reiterates** that the successful implementation of the Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), in its letter and spirit, is key to ending the current situation in South Sudan;
2. **Takes note** of the steady and commendable progress in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan; the progress achieved to date, the challenges to be urgently addressed and the remaining transitional tasks;
3. **Commends** the R-TGoNU and the people of South Sudan for their commitment to peace, security and stability of the country, and for sustaining the efforts towards the implementation of the R-ARCSS in its letter and spirit;
4. **Also commends** the R-TGoNU for approving the budget for the key institutions for constitution-making and electoral processes, and **calls** on the Government to redouble resource mobilization efforts in favor of the National Elections Commission (NEC), the National Constitutional

Review Commission (NCRC), and the Political Parties Council (PPC) and others to effectively and efficiently implement their mandates within the remaining timeframe before elections;

5. **Commends in particular**, H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit and First Vice President Riek Machar for their leadership role and personal commitment to ensure the full implementation of the R-ARCSS, as well as for the commitment to pursue dialogue as the only viable and sustainable path towards addressing any differences they may have;

6. **Further commends** the Trilateral Mechanism for its efforts as a joint coordination mechanism for mediating between and among the parties to the Revitalized Peace Agreement in South Sudan, and working with the R-TGoNU on constitution-making and electoral processes, as well as on DDR and SSR and other related processes; and **encourages** the Trilateral Mechanism to continue to work closely with the R-TGoNU within the framework of the Joint Task Force;

7. **Requests** the Trilateral Taskforce to work with all South Sudanese stakeholders with a view to reaching consensus on the organization of transparent and credible within the stipulated transitional timelines; and in this respect, **emphasizes the importance** of expediting all remaining transitional tasks;

8. **Urges** the R-TGoNU to expedite the deployment of the Necessary Unified Forces (NUF) for civilian protection, to facilitate the establishment of civic and political spaces for inclusive engagement of the process, and to create a conducive environment for the elections to be organized at the end of the year, in December 2024;

9. **Underlines the importance** of comprehensive, coordinated, inclusive and transparent DDR/SSR programmes, as well as the importance of a consensual process for the collection and disposal of weapons in illegal hands, as a contribution towards silencing the guns and creating conducive conditions for peaceful elections in the country;

10. **Expresses deep concern** over the unfolding humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, **commends** all humanitarian actors for their efforts to address the situation and **encourages** them to remain engaged in South Sudan and to continue to avail the required funding, in this regard;

11. **Urges** the R-TGoNU to establish the Special Reconstruction Fund (SRF) and Board of Special Reconstruction Fund (BSRF), and request the Trilateral to facilitate the convening of the South Sudan Pledging Conference to raise money to resource the Fund and to support the implementation of the peace agreement;

12. **Also encourages** the R-TGoNU to implement the recommendations of the September 2023 Economic Conference, including diversification of the economy and promoting inclusive and sustainable growth and development in the country;

13. **Further encourages** the R-TGoNU to continue to work closely with the AU Commission - Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC), in order to expedite the development of a roadmap for the establishment of the Hybrid Court of South Sudan (HCSS), while awaiting the ratification and implementation of the truth, reconciliation, compensation and reparation processes;

14. **Strongly urges** all holdout groups to join the Nairobi peace process and participate in the transitional arrangements before the envisaged elections;

15. **Commends** partners for their continued support for the effective implementation of the R-ARCSS and **encourages them** to remain committed to the cause as all stakeholders work together to end the transition with the successful organization of inclusive, transparent and credible elections in December 2024;
16. **Also commends** the AU High-Level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan (C5) for its relentless efforts and **encourages** the Committee to revitalize its engagements with South Sudanese authorities in towards ensuring the successful implementation of all remaining transitional tasks;
17. **Further commends** the Panel of the Wise for the Fact Finding Mission to South Sudan, carried out in December 2023 and while looking forward to receiving the Report of the Mission as soon as possible; **encourages** the Panel of the Wise to also support the South Sudanese stakeholders in engaging in genuine and inclusive dialogue towards finding a consensual solution to the differences that they may have;
18. **Requests** the AU Commission to airlift the military equipment from the Continental Logistics Base in Douala, Cameroon, to South Sudan to aid the training and deployment of the NUF;
19. **Encourages** the AU Commission, the Troika, IGAD, International Partners and Friends on South Sudan (IPF), bilateral and multilateral partners to redouble resource mobilization effort in favor of South Sudan to ensure a successful transition;
20. **Underscores the importance** of enhanced coordination of efforts within the framework of the Trilateral Mechanism;
21. **Calls** for the lifting of arms embargo and also for the concerned sections of the international community to lift any punitive measures imposed against South Sudan;
22. **Encourages** the RTGoNU to expedite deployment of Necessary Unified Forces to facilitate the creation of a conducive security environment in the country;
23. **Reiterates** the decision to undertake a solidarity visit to South Sudan, as soon as possible, so as to engage and encourage the parties to the Revitalized Peace Agreement to redouble their efforts through compromises, in order to accomplish the remaining tasks ahead of the general elections; and
24. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.