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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1343RD MEETING

30 APRIL 2026
ADDIS-ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1343 (2026)

COMMUNIQUE



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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 1343rd meeting held on 30 April 2026, through official emails, on Consideration of the Report of the Field Mission of the Peace and Security Council to South Sudan conducted from 23 to 25 April 2026.

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling all its previous decisions and pronouncements on the situation in South Sudan, particularly, Communique [PSC/PR/COMM.1326 (2026)], adopted at its 1326th meeting held on 23 January 2026;

Recalling its previous field visit to South Sudan in August 2025 and its communique [PSC/PR/COMM.1297 (2025)];

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 AU solidarity with the people and Government of the Republic of South Sudan in their legitimate aspirations to restore durable peace, security, stability and prosperity in their country, the horn of Africa as well the entire Continent;

Noting the submission of the Report of the Field Mission of the Peace and Security Council by H.E. Ambassador Hirut Zemene Kassa, the Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the AU in her capacity as the Chairperson of the PSC for the month of April 2026 and Head of the PSC Delegation during the field mission; and

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

1. **Adopts** the Report of the Field Mission conducted by the Council to the Republic of South Sudan together with its recommendations and **requests** the Chairperson of the AU Commission and all those concerned, to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report;
2. **Welcomes** the efforts made in the implementation of the R-ARCSS, in particularly difficult circumstances and, in this regard, **commends** the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU), under the leadership of H.E. President Salva Kirr Mayardit, for the commitment to redouble efforts towards the implementation of all outstanding Transition tasks within the remaining time frame and, in this context, **expresses** the unwavering support of the AU to this end;
3. **Reaffirms** the unwavering commitment of the AU to respect the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of South Sudan, as well as the AU unwavering commitment to continue to support South Sudan to end the conflict and ensure a successful completion of the transition period;
4. **Notes with deep concern** the weakening of security and political situation in the country and mutual trust deficits as well as the growing tension within the leadership of the RTGoNU, which is stalling the implementation of the R-ARCSS and in this respect, **strongly urges** the South Sudanese leadership to set aside their personal and group differences and, place the supreme interests of the

people of South Sudan above all else and to commit to expedite the implementation of the remaining Transition tasks;

5. **Encourages** the RTGoNU to find lasting solutions for the sporadic cases of intercommunal violence, and, in this context, **urges** the responsible authorities in all parts of the country affected by the problem to work earnestly towards an inclusive process of holistically addressing the structural root causes and factors that drive and fuel it, with a view to promoting durable peace, security and stability in the affected communities;

6. **Strongly Urges** the RTGoNU to ensure that any amendments to be undertaken on the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan should follow the due process stipulated in the R-ARCSS; in this regard, **requests** the R-JMEC, in consultation with the R-TGoNU, to coordinate with IGAD Secretariat to facilitate the convening of an extraordinary IGAD ministerial meeting with a view to find a solution on this matter;

7. **Reiterates its deep concern** over the continued house arrest of the First Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan, Dr. Riek Machar and **underlines** the need for sustained and harmonized engagements by IGAD, AU and UN with the RTGoNU to keep the fragile peace process alive by ensuring an amicable resolution of the current political and security impasse, including the release of the First Vice President and all other political detainees in order to facilitate meaningful dialogue and a return to the implementation of the R-ARCSS;

8. **Underscores** the imperative for all stakeholders to embrace dialogue, uphold the spirit and letter of the R-ARCSS, which remains the cornerstone for sustainable peace, stability, and national reconciliation; and in this regard, and while respecting the need for allowing justice to take its full course, **calls** for reconciliation, as a mutual confidence and trust building gesture for the sake of peace, unity and stability of the country and also in adherence to the Declaration of the C5 Plus Summit meeting of 15 February 2026;

9. **Categorically underlines** that there can be no viable and sustainable military solution to any differences that the signatories of the R-ARCSS may have; **calls** for an immediate and unconditional permanent ceasefire across the entire territory of South Sudan; **emphasizes** that only through genuine, inclusive dialogue can a consensual and sustainable solution be found; and in this regard, **strongly urges** the parties to the R-ARCSS to embrace mediation and dialogue in partnership with the AU High Representative, and with the support of the IGAD, AU C5 and all regional and international partners;

10. **Also emphasizes** that full implementation of the R-ARCSS remains the key to a viable path towards comprehensively and holistically addressing the plethora of challenges that South Sudan faces and, in this regard, **underscores the importance** of ensuring the full implementation of the Peace Agreement in its letter and spirit;

11. **Underscores the need** to ensure an inclusive, fair and just process in place that includes all signatories of the R-ARCSS in the decision to organize national elections in December 2026 and in the same context, **reiterates the call** for ensuring all necessary preparations and the establishment of conducive conditions for the organization of such elections with a view to conducting a credible election that genuinely reflects the general will of the people of South Sudan; and **commends** the undertaking by the RTGoNU on the financing towards the national elections. In order to contribute towards consolidating the Transition and prevent any relapse; in this regard, **requests**:

- a) The Chairperson of the AU Commission to expedite the deployment of a multidimensional technical needs assessment Team to South Sudan to engage with the transitional authorities

on the needs in the preparations for the elections in December 2026 as well as to support the transition process, and to continue to provide technical support;

- b) The RTGoNU to submit to the AU Commission, after the technical needs assessment, the needs for the organization of the elections in December 2026 in order to garner the required support and ensure free, fair, democratic and inclusive elections; and
- c) Member States in a position to do so, to also contribute technical, material and financial assistance needed to support the National Election Commission and other related bodies for the elections scheduled for 2026; and **requests** the Commission to coordinate resource mobilization efforts to support RTGoNU in preparation for the December 2026 elections;

12. **Also expresses deep concern** over the deteriorating humanitarian crisis resulting from a combination of factors including the worsening insecurity in parts of the country resulting from the ongoing fighting between the South Sudan Defence Forces and the forces loyal to Dr. Riek Machar, which has displaced large numbers of the population both as IDPs and as refugees into the neighbouring countries such as Ethiopia; the influx of refugees from the ongoing conflict in Sudan; intercommunal violence, compounded by economic shocks and negative effects of climate change, particularly floods, pests and crop failure leading to food insecurity; and in this respect, **underlines the need** for further strengthening civilian protection and the need for facilitating humanitarian corridors, including protection of humanitarian agencies and their workers and **appeals** to all partners for continued humanitarian support in South Sudan;

13. **Commends** the efforts being deployed by the AU Ad-Hoc High-Level Committee for South Sudan (C-5) including for the visit conducted to South Sudan in January 2026; and **encourages** the signatories of the R-ARCSS to fully cooperate with the C5;

14. **Welcomes** the appointment of, and **congratulates** H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, as the AU High Representative/Special Envoy for South Sudan; **commends him** for his efforts including his recent visit to Juba, from 8 to 9 April 2026, and **appeals** to the leaders of R-TGoNU and all relevant stakeholders to cooperate with the AU High representative in order to enable the execution of his mandate;

15. **Commends** IGAD, UNMISS, RJMEC, the Troika, the IGAD Partners Forum, all other international partners and Friends of South Sudan for working with the RTGoNU and the people of South Sudan in implementing the R-ARCSS, including in exploring the required consensus regarding the organization of, and mobilization of required resources for the elections scheduled for December 2026;

16. **Expresses** AU support for the renewal of the UNMISS Mission mandate, mindful of the critical role the Mission is playing in facilitating the implementation of the R-ARCSS and in the protection of civilians;

17. **Underscores the important role** of women and youth in the South Sudan peace process, including in reconciliation, economic development and transitional justice efforts;

18. **Commends** the Government and people of the Republic of South Sudan for the warm reception and constructive engagements during the visit; Expresses gratitude to the South Sudanese authorities for their interaction with the PSC Delegation during the field mission, as well as for facilitating the consultations of the PSC with other key stakeholders during the field mission; and also Expresses gratitude to all interlocutors, including IGAD, R-JMEC, UNMISS and the Troika, IPF, as well as the representatives of civil society and faith-based organizations;

19. **Also expresses gratitude** to the AU Mission in South Sudan for effectively representing the AU on the ground and, more specifically, for facilitating the successful conduct of the field mission; **notes with concern** the institutional capacity challenges still facing the Mission and **reiterates its request** for the Chairperson of the Commission to avail the resources that will enable the Mission to more effectively discharge its mandate; and
20. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.