



**PEACE, PROSPERITY AND  
REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

## **HIGH LEVEL REVITALIZATION FORUM**

### **AGREEMENT ON CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN**

**Addis Ababa**

**21<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

## ABBREVIATIONS

AOGs	Armed Opposition Groups
ARCSS	Agreement on Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
AUPSC	African Union Peace and Security Council
CTSAMM	Ceasefire Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism
CoH	Cessation of Hostilities
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
FDP/SSAF	Federal Democratic Party/South Sudan Armed Forces
HLRF	High Level Revitalization Forum
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority for Development
JMEC	Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission
NAS	National Salvation Front
NDM	National Democratic Movement
OPP	Other Political Parties
PoCs	Protection of Civilian sites
PoWs	Prisoners of War
SPLA-IG	Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army - In Government
SPLM/A-IO	Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army – In Opposition
SPLM/L – FD	Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement Leaders – Former Detainees
SSDF	South Sudan Defence Forces
SSLM/A	South Sudan Liberation Movement/Army
SSNMC	South Sudan National Movement for Change
SSPM/A	South Sudan Patriotic Movement/Army
SSUM/A	South Sudan United Movement/Army
TGoNU	Transitional Government of National Unity
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSC	United Nations Security Council

**WHEREAS**, the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army – In Opposition (SPLM/A-IO – led by Dr Riek Machar); the National Salvation Front (NAS); the National Democratic Movement (NDM); the Federal Democratic Party/South Sudan Armed Forces (FDP/SSAF); the South Sudan National Movement for Change (SSNMC); the South Sudan United Movement/Army (SSUM/A); the South Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SSLM/A); the South Sudan Patriotic Movement/Army (SSPM/A)(hereinafter referred to collectively as the Armed Opposition Groups "AOGs"); joined by Other Political Parties (OPP), SPLM Leaders – Former Detainees (SPLM-FDs), Civil Society, Umbrella Party and Faith Based leaders in the High Level Revitalization Forum ("the Forum" or "HLRF"), and collectively referred to as "the Parties", individually as "a Party";

WELCOMING and reaffirming our support to the decisions of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) Assembly of Heads of State and Government's 31<sup>st</sup> Extra-Ordinary Summit of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which decided: "to urgently convene a High-level Revitalization Forum of the parties to the Agreement on Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) including estranged groups to discuss concrete measures, to restore permanent ceasefire, to fully implement the Peace Agreement and to develop a revised and realistic timeline and implementation schedule towards a democratic election at the end of the Transition Period";

DETERMINED to seize this unique opportunity presented by the Forum to revitalize the ARCSS; and RESOLVED, therefore, to engage constructively and diligently in the process, in order to achieve the peaceful resolution of all conflicts and the complete silencing of the guns in South Sudan;

MINDFUL of the profound pain and suffering caused to our people by the war that has engulfed the country; obstructing livelihoods, impeding humanitarian access, and causing millions to abandon their homes, with over two million South Sudanese refugees hosted in neighbouring countries and beyond with support from UNHCR;

AWARE of the deep yearning of the South Sudanese people for the return of stability to their country, and for the chance to live in peace and dignity in an inclusive, democratic and just society, where all human beings can flourish, and girls and women are treated with dignity and respect;

ACKNOWLEDGING that since the signing of the ARCSS, new realities on the ground such as the renewed and changing dynamics of the conflict, and the emergence of other armed and political groups, give particular urgency to the revitalization process;

RECOGNIZING that a credible revitalization process requires a peaceful and an enabling environment which would create the conditions conducive for the provision of humanitarian assistance, and for holding free deliberations;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that a cessation of hostilities is an important foundation for the restoration of the Permanent Ceasefire;

COMMENDING the significant role and efforts of IGAD, the African Union (AU) and all partners to bring sustainable peace and stability to South Sudan;

ALSO COMMENDING the role played by the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in protecting civilians in South Sudan;

ACKNOWLEDGING the vital efforts of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) and the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM) to bring sustainable peace to South Sudan;

DEPLORING the continued violations of ceasefire agreements and declarations in South Sudan, and HAVING IN MIND the lack of genuine will and robust mechanisms to ensure enforcement and compliance with those commitments;

REAFFIRMING the importance of the Parties to this Agreement, to fully respect and observe fundamental human rights, international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles at all times and without any reservations;

AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

## **PART I**

### **CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES**

#### **Article One**

##### **The Declaration**

- 1) With effect from **00:01 hours** (South Sudan local time) on the **24<sup>th</sup> day of December 2017**, a Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) shall come into force, and the Parties shall cease all hostile military actions and operations in furtherance of the armed conflict between and among the Parties.
- 2) All forces shall immediately freeze in their locations, except for movements authorized by CTSAMM for logistical and administrative purposes.

- 3) Where opposing forces are in close proximity they shall immediately disengage.
- 4) Within 72 hours of the signing of this Agreement, each Party shall notify its commanders and affiliates of this Agreement and the obligations to cease all hostilities.

## **Article Two**

### **Commitment to the Agreement**

- 1) Each Party shall implement this Agreement in full and in good faith, and shall ensure that its affiliates and all forces or armed groups under its command and control at all times observe the Agreement, particularly the provisions on prohibited acts.
- 2) The obligations of a Party to respect the cessation of hostilities shall therefore apply to its affiliates and the armed groups that are under the command and control of that Party. Accordingly, each Party shall also disclose to CTSAMM the location of the headquarters of all its military and affiliates.
- 3) The Signatories to this Agreement and the Special Envoy shall continue to engage any other groups not part of this Agreement, and bearing arms to abandon violence, and, where appropriate, to join this Agreement.
- 4) In the implementation of this Agreement, the Parties shall abide by the international human rights and humanitarian law, as well as international best practices and standards on the cessation of hostilities, protection of civilians, and provision of humanitarian access.
- 5) Each Party and any entity with responsibility for any aspect of the Agreement shall take the necessary steps to ensure that women and girls are not excluded or disadvantaged in the implementation of any aspect of this Agreement, and that their special needs and vulnerabilities are fully addressed.
- 6) This Agreement shall apply to all parties of South Sudan without any formal distinction.

## Article Three

### Obligations of the Parties under the CoH

- 1) The Parties shall respect and ensure full compliance with international humanitarian law.
- 2) All hostile military actions, including the following, are prohibited:
  - (a) attacks aimed at dislodging, capturing ground or equipment, ambushes, and killing one another;
  - (b) reconnaissance operations against each other;
  - (c) laying of mines of any nature including anti-tank and anti-personnel mines;
  - (d) use of proxy militias to provoke or attack one another;
  - (e) recruitment and enlistment, including from Protection of Civilian sites (PoCs) and refugee camps;
  - (f) recruitment and enlistment of children;
  - (g) sexual violence;
  - (h) interference and jamming of one another's field military means of communication; and
  - (i) any provocative and deceptive actions.
- 3) The Parties shall not take any actions that could lead to military confrontations including unauthorized movement of forces, ammunition resupply, and any other action that could be viewed as confrontational.
- 4) The CTSAMM shall determine whether any act by a Party or person constitutes a prohibited act or is otherwise a breach of this Agreement, and shall take into account all the circumstances, including any justifications for the act.
- 5) The Parties shall prevent, and ensure accountability for breaches of this Agreement.

## **Article Four**

### **Other Prohibited Acts**

- 1) The Parties shall not engage in any form of hostile propaganda or hate speech, or use any media, including social media to foment ethnic or sectarian hatred.
- 2) The Parties shall not occupy or damage any public or community property and infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, business centres, places of worship and any other vital installations. The Parties shall withdraw from any of the above sites that they have occupied.
- 3) The Parties shall not carry out unwarranted verbal attacks, or any physical attacks against the CTSAMM, JMEC, IGAD, AU, UN or any other entity associated with the implementation of this Agreement.

## **PART II**

### **PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS**

## **Article Five**

### **Obligations of the Parties**

- 1) The Parties shall at all times protect the human rights of civilians, and shall ensure the safety and dignity of individuals and communities.
- 2) The Parties shall take specific measures to:
  - (a) protect vulnerable persons including children, women, girls, the elderly, and persons with disabilities or special needs;
  - (b) support and facilitate the reunion of families and the decent burial and memorialization of the dead; and,
  - (c) facilitate the free movement of persons, including women and girls;
  - (d) ensure protection of media and Civil Society.
- 3) In the implementation of this Agreement, consideration shall be given to the special protection needs of women, girls and those with special needs.

- 4) The Parties shall facilitate the free movement of merchandise and shall not loot property, including businesses, vehicles and goods, but shall protect all persons conducting commercial activities across the country.
- 5) The following acts are prohibited:
  - (a) attacks, inside and outside South Sudan, on the civilian population including killings, abductions and robberies;
  - (b) sexual and gender-based violence;
  - (c) torture, inhuman and degrading treatment;
  - (d) the laying of ambushes;
  - (e) offences against property;
  - (f) unauthorised or unlawful entry into any Protection of Civilian sites;
  - (g) unauthorised or unlawful entry into an Internally Displaced Persons' camp, or a refugee camp or settlement;
  - (h) perpetuating or inciting violence in or around the sites referred to in paragraphs (f) and or (g) above; and
  - (i) any other human rights violations.

## **Article six**

### **Protection of Civilians**

- 1) The Parties shall protect civilians from any form of attacks by other armed actors not part of this Agreement operating within South Sudan.
- 2) The Parties shall cooperate with UNMISS in the discharge of its mandate to protect civilians.
- 3) The Parties shall fully support full and rapid deployment and operations of Regional Protection Force (RPF).
- 4) The Parties shall ensure that all other non-South Sudanese armed groups leave the country.



## **PART III**

### **APPLICABLE HUMANITARIAN OBLIGATIONS**

#### **Article Seven**

##### **Humanitarian Access**

- 1) The Parties shall uphold international law, and shall allow and facilitate unfettered access for people in need to receive assistance from the United Nations, and impartial international and national non-governmental organizations.
- 2) The Parties shall guarantee the safety and security of all humanitarian personnel.
- 3) The Parties shall facilitate the safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons, taking into account the special needs of the most vulnerable, in particular women, children and the elderly.
- 4) The Parties shall allow and facilitate the free and unimpeded movement of people, and passage of goods and humanitarian relief, including the establishment of safe corridors.

#### **Article Eight**

##### **Demobilization, Release of abducted Children, Women and Detained Persons**

- 1) Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, each Party shall unconditionally demobilize any child recruited or enlisted by their group to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- 2) The Parties shall release the following persons to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) without delay:
  - (a) any persons who has been deprived of their liberty for reasons related to the conflict;
  - (b) any Prisoners of War (PoWs);
  - (c) all political prisoners and detainees;
  - (d) All abducted women and children.

- 3) Within 72 hours of the signing of this Agreement, the Parties shall submit to the ICRC a complete list of PoWs, and all political prisoners and detainees, and released them within 14 days.

## **Article Nine**

### **Prohibited Acts**

- 1) In accordance with international humanitarian law, the following acts are prohibited:
  - (a) recruiting or enlisting children into armed conflict;
  - (b) deliberate attacks on humanitarian personnel and assets;
  - (c) deliberate restriction of the movement of humanitarian personnel and goods,
  - (d) attacks on humanitarian convoys and vehicles;
  - (e) looting of humanitarian supplies and assets; and,
  - (f) obstruction and interference with humanitarian operations;
  - (g) Cease all forms of harassment of the media; and
  - (h) Cease media campaigns against mediators and Special Envoys.

## **PART IV**

### **IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

## **Article Ten**

### **Monitoring and Verification Mechanisms**

- 1) The Parties agree that CTSAMM shall be restructured in the course of the revitalization process. The regional and international members of CTSAMM, with relevant stakeholders in their areas of control, shall undertake monitoring and verification activities until a permanent ceasefire is agreed upon.
- 2) During the revitalization period, the reconstituted CTSAMM Board shall meet bi-monthly outside South Sudan to ensure full participation of all the Parties.

- 3) This Agreement shall be formally monitored and verified by the CTSAMM. Civil Society organisations and communities may support, as appropriate, the work of CTSAMM.
- 4) Each Party shall allow CTSAMM to monitor and verify its adherence to the provisions of this Agreement including the movement of its personnel and equipment.
- 5) The Parties shall provide to CTSAMM advance notification of any movement of its personnel and equipment for CTSAMM to verify and monitor.
- 6) The Parties shall fully cooperate with the CTSAMM in the discharge of its functions under this Agreement. The Parties shall unconditionally allow and grant unhindered access to CTSAMM to verify and monitor in all areas under its control.
- 7) The Parties shall provide CTSAMM with information it requires for the discharge of its duties, including the following:
  - (a) the location of their forces;
  - (b) the location of any military units in close proximity that need an immediate disengagement;
  - (c) the names, ranks and contact information of field commanders relevant to the implementation of this Agreement;
  - (d) the names, ranks and contact information of their liaison officers; and
  - (e) Reporting on sexual violence.
- 8) The Parties shall assist CTSAMM to develop a map depicting the location of their forces.
- 9) The Parties shall unconditionally allow CTSAMM to monitor and verify the adherence of their forces and affiliates with the provisions of this Agreement.
- 10) The Parties shall report to the relevant entities any violations of this Agreement.

## **Article Eleven**

### **Prohibited Acts**

- 1) The following acts are prohibited:
  - (a) attacks, harassment, intimidation and arrest, abduction or detention of CTSAMM personnel; and
  - (b) obstruction or interference with the movements and work of CTSAMM.

## **Article Twelve**

### **Accountability for Any Violations**

Parties shall prevent, investigate and ensure accountability for breaches of this Agreement. This shall not preclude investigations and punishment by any other entities.

## **Article Thirteen**

### **Enforcement of Compliance**

- 1) In the case of any violation of this Agreement by any party, an armed group, organization or person, CTSAMM shall report such breach to the JMEC and the Chairperson of IGAD Council of Ministers in a timely manner for quick remedial action and accountability.
- 2) The Chairperson of JMEC, in accordance with its mandate, shall report any serious breaches to the TGoNU, IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC), and to the United Nations Security Council for their action.
- 3) The actions referred to in sub-section (2) above, the actions may include the measures decided by the 28<sup>th</sup> Extra-Ordinary Summit of the IGAD Heads of State and Government of 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014.
- 4) The Parties call upon neighbouring States to promote the implementation of this Agreement in their territories.

- 5) JMEC to be restructured and reconstituted to include all armed groups, women and youth representation.

## **PART VI**

### **MISCELLEANOUS PROVISIONS**

#### **Article Fourteen**

##### **Promoting the Agreement**

- 1) Each Party signatory shall assume responsibility for promoting this Agreement to the people of South Sudan. The Parties shall identify the most effective information and dissemination mechanisms and strategies for promoting this Agreement, and shall hold joint media and public events, and encourage civil society and communities to support and promote the Agreement.
- 2) The Parties shall seek the assistance of UNMISS, and any other regional or international entities, to disseminate information about this Agreement to the general South Sudanese public, using appropriate methods, with priority given to the rural areas, women, children and youth in particular.

#### **Article Fifteen**

##### **Resources for Implementation**

The IGAD and TGoNU shall mobilize the resources required for the implementation of this Agreement from national, regional and international sources.

#### **Article Sixteen**

##### **Amendment**

The Parties may amend this Agreement by consensus, failing which by at least two thirds of the Parties.

## **Article Seventeen**

### **Dispute Settlement**

- 1) Any dispute that may arise in the implementation and interpretation of this Agreement shall be resolved amicably between the signatories.
- 2) In case of a failure to resolve the matter the Parties shall refer the matter to the IGAD Council of Ministers.

## **Article Eighteen**

### **Status of the Agreement**

- 1) Upon signature, this Agreement shall become an Addendum to the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan.
- 2) In witness of the above, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties have signed this Agreement on this **21<sup>st</sup> day of December 2017**, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**Signatures of the Parties, other Stakeholders, Guarantors and Witnesses to this Agreement**

**I. THE PARTIES:**

---

H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit  
President of the Republic of South Sudan/  
TGoNU

---

H.E. Deng Alor Kuol  
For the SPLM – FDs

---

H.E. Dr Riek Machar Teny  
SPLM/A -IO

---

Hon. Pagan Amum Okiech  
SPLM –FDs

---

Gen Thomas Cirilo Swaka  
NAS

---

Hon. Peter Mayen Majongdit  
Umbrella Party

---

Dr Lam Akol Ajawin  
NDM

---

Hon. Gabriel Changson Chang  
FDP/SSAF

---

Col. Joseph Bangasi Bakasoro  
SSNMC

---

Dr Castello Garang  
SSPM

---

Gen. Peter Gadet  
SSUM

---

Gen Bapiny Montul  
SSLM

## II. STAKEHOLDERS:

---

Bishop Enock Tombe Loro  
Faith Based

---

Prof. Moses Machar  
Eminent Persons

---

Hon. Alokir Malual Aguer  
Representative of Civil Society of South  
Sudan

---

Mrs. Amer Manyok Deng  
Representative of Women's Bloc of South  
Sudan

---

Dr Emilly Koiti  
Representative of Youth of South Sudan

---

Hon Prof. Francis Deng

---

Prof. Pauline Riak

---

Hon. Rebecca Nyandeng Garang

---

Mr Edmund Yakani

---

Mr Biel Boutros Biel

---

Ms Rita Lopidia

---

Mr Rajab Mohandis

---

Mr Samson Aligo

---

Ms Sarah Nyanath Elijah



### III. THE GUARANTORS:

#### A) IGAD Heads of State and Government

---

H.E Hailemariam Dessalegn  
Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic  
Republic of Ethiopia and Chair of IGAD

---

For the Republic of Uganda

---

For the Republic of Sudan

---

For the Republic of Djibouti

---

For the Republic of Somalia

---

For the Republic of Kenya

#### B) African Union High Level Ad-hoc Committee for South Sudan and African Union Commission

---

For the People's Democratic Republic of  
Algeria

---

For the Republic of Chad

---

For Federal Republic of Nigeria

---

For the Republic of Rwanda

---

For the Republic of South Africa

---

Chairperson African Union  
Commission

#### IV. FOR THE IGAD LED MEDIATION:

---

H.E. Amb. Dr Ismail Wais  
Special Envoy for South Sudan

---

H.E. Georges Chikoti  
Former Foreign Affairs Minister  
Republic of Angola

---

H.E. Ramtane Lamamra  
Former Foreign Affairs Minister  
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

---

H.E. Hanna Tetteh  
Former Foreign Affairs Minister  
Republic of Ghana

#### V. INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS AS WITNESSES:

---

Representative of the Peoples Republic of  
China

---

Representative of the Kingdom of Norway

---

Representative of the United Kingdom

---

Representative of the Unites States of  
America

---

Representative of the United Nations

---

Representative of the European Union

---

Representative of the United States of  
America

---

Representative of the IGAD Partners Forum  
(IPF)