

**Statement of participants from Nyal meeting on Wunlit 1999 Peace Conference after 22
years
Nyal, 13 – 14 May 2021**

On 13 – 14 May, we the twenty-nine the representative chiefs and women from Unity State, Lakes State and Warrap State, members of the original Wunlit Peace Conference of 1999, brought together by the Rift Valley Institute and Assistance Mission for Africa, with support from the Swiss Government, met in Nyal, Payinjiar County, Unity State.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Receive the research findings from the Rift Valley Institute and Catholic University of South Sudan oral history memory project on the 1999 Wunlit Peace Conference;
- Celebrate the achievements of Wunlit;
- Document proposed ways forward for South Sudan considering the lessons learnt from Wunlit.

In recent South Sudanese history one of the most significant peace-building events was the Wunlit Peace Conference of 1999. Wunlit was a meeting of chiefs, organised by churches, that began the process of reunification of the two factions of the SPLA/M. The Wunlit meeting paved the way for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005, which brought South Sudan into being as a nation.

This meeting in Nyal gave us the opportunity to reignite our memories of the Wunlit Peace Conference, which has inspired and encouraged us. Therefore:

We acknowledge:

- The great successes of Wunlit that include – the reunification of the two factions of the SPLA/M, that subsequently led to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 and the independence of South Sudan; and the peaceful coexistence of communities in the Western Nile and the networking, collaboration and friendship that it brought between the traditional leaders who attended, which still stand today;
- Our commitment to the spirit and implementation of the R-ARCISS.

We recognise with concern:

- The absence of key chiefs missing from our meeting including those from Mayom and Gogrial due to the focus of the meeting on bringing together participants from the original Wunlit meeting;
- The recent killings in cattle camps and at the border areas between our communities;
- The prevalence of guns in the hands of our young people;
- The high rates of illiteracy, disease and hunger in our communities;
- The lack of road infrastructure and telecommunications network in the Wunlit Triangle, particularly in Payinjiar.

We appeal:

- To youth in the cattle camps to maintain peace as we continue to work to rekindle the spirit of Wunlit;
- To all other political groups not under current government to negotiate and be under one flag of South Sudan;

- To the Transitional Government of National Unity, Republic of South Sudan to keenly support grassroots peacebuilding activities across the country;
- For unity and peace in all of South Sudan;
- That the spirit of Wunlit and of dialogue should be spread across the whole of South Sudan;
- To all communities to stop and refuse revenge killings.

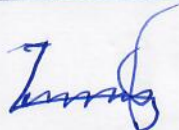
Therefore we resolve:

- To continue and further our discussions during this meeting at our upcoming meeting in Yirol, Lakes State, with additional from the 1999 Wunlit Peace Conference;
- To request a meeting with President Kiir and First Vice-President Riek Machar to discuss the issues of local conflict amongst our communities, through Ministry of Peacebuilding;
- That processes are urgently initiated and implemented to remove guns from the hands of the youth concurrently across communities to prevent further loss of life;
- To reconvene a second Wunlit meeting bringing together all chiefs from across the three regions to convene once again in Wunlit and evoke the spirit of Wunlit;

We, the undersigned, resolve this on Friday 14 May in Nyal, Payinjiar County, Unity State, South Sudan:

Name:

Peter Nyuong Danhiar
Paramount Chief, Payinjiar County



Date 14/5/2021

Name:

Gum Mading Akuecbany
Paramount Chief, Wunlit Payam



Date 14/5/2021



Name:

Sawat Malual Arop
Paramount Chief, Aduol Kong County

Date

Name:

Jacob Madhel Lang

Paramount Chief, Aweng Payam, Twic County

Chairperson: COTAL Warrap State



14/5/2021

Date

Name:

Andrew Madut Buoi

Paramount Chief: Yirol East County, Nyang Payam



Date

Name:

Joseph Kong Yoach

Paramount Chief: Guit County



Date

Name:

Elizabeth David Dabuol Ngot

Women League Chairperson, Koch County



Date

Name:

Isaac Magok Gatluak

Paramount Chief, Mayendit County



Date



Name:

Stephen Kuong Mabil

Paramount Chief, Leer County

Date