



**SUDAN PEOPLES' LIBERATION MOVEMENT  
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS**

**SPLM LEADERS (FPD)**

Nairobi, 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2016

**PRESS STATEMENT**

**On**

**Outcome of the Visit of United Nations Security Council to South Sudan**

1. We welcome the outcome of the visit to South Sudan by members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as came in the communiqué jointly issued by the UNSC mission and the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU). It is rare that the Security Council of the United Nations meets outside New York; it is even rarer for the full contingent of 15 members to pay visit to a single country over an extended period of four days. The visit last week was therefore a welcome demonstration of the premium the international community places on stability and peace in South Sudan. We appreciate and whole heartedly thank them for this. We also appreciate and thank our immediate neighbours, the Eastern Africa Region and the African Union without whose quick response, recommendations and urging, UNSC Resolution 2304 (2016) and the subsequent visit to Juba by the Council could not have materialized.
2. In this vein we also wish to acknowledge and commend TGoNU for the mature decision to cooperate with the mission, thus placing peace, stability and the interest of the people of South Sudan above all else. This refreshingly new paradigm shift by the TGoNU on the Regional Protection Force delineates clearly which aspects of responsibility of a popular and empirical sovereignty should be underscored other than a mere rhetoric on the sanctity of a juridical sovereignty, which some government interlocutors have oft-cited. We urge TGoNU to stay the course.
3. We seize this opportunity to commend President Salva Kiir Mayardit in particular for urging the African Union (AU) to move expeditiously with the establishment of the Hybrid Court provided for in ARCISS so as to end the culture of impunity.
4. While appreciating and commending TGoNU for conducting the discussions with the UNSC mission with sobriety and tact, we cannot fail to draw attention of all concerned, especially President Salva Kiir Mayardit, to the statements purporting to clarify the meaning of the joint communiqué issued by TGoNU and the UNSC mission which implies that the communiqué does not accurately represent the essence of the discussions and what was agreed between TGoNU and the UNSC mission. We wonder whether this is the new position of TGoNU or simply the manifestation of what the President alluded to in the recent past as

'people expressing their own opinion,' and people 'certainly not speaking on behalf of the Government,' even if they happen to be highly placed individuals within TGoNU. The semantics of *consent* as opposed to *acceptance* or *agreement*, like the preceding arguments about *intervention* as opposed to *protection* force are, in our view, mere diversionary tactics that should not be entertained in regards to handling of grave matters such as the wellbeing of the people of South Sudan or the very existence of the country itself. It is our prayer that this apparent contradiction, coming fast on the heels of UNSC visit to Juba, does not turn out to be the beginning of reversals in the commitments the two parties gave to each other and, more importantly, to the people of South Sudan as came in their joint communiqué.

5. We therefore urge TGoNU and UNSC to stand firm by the understandings reached and the commitments made in their joint communiqué. We also urge the people of South Sudan in their various formations and expressions as well as all people of good will around the world that yearn to see the return of peace and normalcy to South Sudan, to insist on nothing less than full implementation of the commitments made by each side as came in their joint communiqué.
6. While welcoming regional intervention for the purpose of protection and to help resuscitate the Agreement on Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCISS), from which President Salva Kiir and the current fractured TGoNU derive their legitimacy, we wish to reiterate, once more, our previous position that intervention for the purpose of protection, by and in itself, is not sufficient condition to put ARCISS back on track. A political programme that provides a roadmap for sustainable peace in the country remains and should be the end-state of any effort to save South Sudan from itself and enable it to stand on its feet again.
7. Finally, we urge UNSC, AU, The Region and IGAD to remain seized of the situation in South Sudan.



Kosti Manibe  
For SPLM Leaders (FPDs)  
Nairobi, 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2016