



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

Office of The President

Press Statement

South Sudan's Peace Process: Sovereignty, National Ownership and the Path to Elections

South Sudan welcomes the continued interest and support of international partners; including the United States, Japan, Norway, Germany, the United Kingdom and Canada in strengthening peace, stability and development. However, partnership does not mean accepting directives from other countries. South Sudan is a sovereign nation, and its political decisions belong to its people and institutions. International support for the peace process must therefore be grounded in respect for South Sudan's sovereignty and its right to determine its own political future.

The implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement remains an important national commitment, but it should not become a basis for perpetual transition. South Sudan has made significant progress and must now move toward a democratic process that allows citizens to choose their leaders.

Peace Cannot Mean Permanent Transition

Since the peace agreement was signed, South Sudan has undertaken political compromises, established transitional institutions and continued addressing outstanding provisions. Where differences remain, dialogue should continue, not an assumption that no progress has been made.

Peace means creating conditions for citizens to exercise their political rights and for legitimate elected authorities to govern. This makes the planned elections essential to the people's sovereign right to choose their representatives and determine the country's direction.

Sovereignty Must Remain Central

South Sudan values its international partnerships, but partnership must not become external direction. Constitutional, judicial, security and economic reforms must be owned and driven by South Sudanese institutions and citizens. International partners can provide expertise and support, but political decisions belong to the people and institutions of South Sudan.

The Judicial Process Must Be Respected

South Sudan has functioning judicial institutions and legal processes. Where proceedings have been initiated, they must be allowed to follow their proper course. Judicial processes should not be pre-judged



from outside the courtroom, and political commentary must not substitute for due process. Respect for the rule of law also means respecting judicial procedures and the outcomes of completed processes. Reform should strengthen – not dismiss – existing institutions.

Security Reform Requires National Ownership

South Sudan recognizes the importance of security-sector reform and the professionalization and unification of its security institutions. But security arrangements are inseparable from national sovereignty and must be undertaken through South Sudanese institutions, in accordance with national laws and political agreements. The goal is a professional, unified and nationally representative security sector—not one dictated from outside.

Economic Reform and Accountability

South Sudan recognizes the need for stronger public financial management, transparency and accountability. With significant potential in agriculture, energy, infrastructure and tourism, the country can build a stronger economy if peace and stability are consolidated. International partners can support capacity building and investment, but South Sudan must own its economic transformation and determine how its resources benefit its people.

International Support Should Strengthen, Not Replace, National Institutions

South Sudan appreciates Germany's humanitarian and development assistance and welcomes continued partnership. But effective support should strengthen South Sudanese institutions, encourage dialogue rather than dictate outcomes, and support democratic development rather than prolong uncertainty.

South Sudan remains committed to peace, dialogue, reform and democracy, guided by national ownership and the sovereign will of its people. International engagement is welcome on the basis of mutual respect, partnership and sovereignty.

The measure of peace should not be how long South Sudan remains in transition, but whether it can move toward a stable political order in which its people freely determine their future.

South Sudan wants peace, reform and democracy; and it wants to build them through a process owned by the South Sudanese people.

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