

Tumaini Initiative



PRESS STATEMENT

TUMAINI INITIATIVE HANDS OVER FRAMEWORK FOR DIALOGUE ON SOUTH SUDAN NATIONAL CONSENSUS CHARTER

On 29th January 2026, Lt. Gen. Lazaro Sumbeiywo (Rtd), Chief Facilitator of the Tumaini Initiative, handed over a Framework for Dialogue to the Special Envoy of HE President Salva Kiir in Nairobi. The Framework is intended to guide deliberations on a draft South Sudan National Consensus Charter for Peace and Democracy.

The Tumaini Initiative likewise presented the Framework to the leaders of SPLM-IO in Nairobi, the opposition leaders of the United Peoples' Alliance (UPA), and prominent civil society leaders; it also shared the Framework with leaders in the South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance (SSOMA) (including the National Salvation Front (NAS)) and the South Sudan Council of Churches.

This marks a critical step toward a transparent and accountable South Sudanese-led and South Sudanese-owned inclusive national consensus that charts a clear pathway to the successful conclusion of the transition through timely, credible, free, and fair elections.

The forthcoming dialogue represents a significant paradigm shift in both process and substance. Procedurally, the dialogue adopts an inclusive and non-hierarchical approach in which all participants genuinely engage as equal stakeholders, with dynamism, pragmatism, patriotism and goodwill for the people and the Republic of South Sudan.

The process moves away from adversarial posturing and zero-sum negotiations, and instead promotes a people-centred model focused on collective problem-solving and national ownership. Participants are expected to refrain from advancing narrow individual, party-political, sectarian, or ethnic agendas, and to prioritize the supreme interests of the people of South Sudan—peace, security, dignity, transparent and accountable governance, and democratic choice.

Substantively, the dialogue focuses on the cessation of hostilities, stabilization, civilian protection, and humanitarian assistance. It is designed to build trust and confidence among stakeholders, break the country's prolonged cycle of political stalemate, perpetual transitions, and recurring conflict, and create the conditions necessary for timely, credible, free, and fair elections, followed by sustainable post-transition stability.

The Stakeholders will deliberate and agree on components of a long-term agenda to be handled by the elected government, such as Permanent Constitution Making, Transitional Justice, durable solutions for displaced persons and refugees, security sector transformation, and unification of forces and DDR.

The Tumaini Initiative recognizes the importance and contribution of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS). The R-ARCSS Building on this foundation, the Initiative seeks to address the current political stalemate and the prevailing security and livelihood challenges by drawing lessons from the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the R-ARCSS. The proposed Framework responds to the legitimate aspirations of South Sudanese citizens for good governance and accountable leadership, an end to cycles of violence, improved economic conditions, and a definitive transition.

The Tumaini Initiative will be convened within a regional framework, together with IGAD (as a steward of the regional peace process), and with the support of the international partners.

Deliberations on the draft Charter are expected to be concluded within four weeks.

Lt. Gen. Lazaro K. Sumbeiywo, (Rtd)

CHIEF FACILITATOR

31st January 2026