



Council of the
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
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To: Delegations

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Subject: South Sudan
- Council conclusions 12 October 2015

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on South Sudan, adopted by the Council at its 3416th meeting held on 12 October 2015.

Council conclusions on South Sudan

1. The signature of the South Sudan peace agreement marks an important step forward. It offers a unique opportunity for this war-torn country to move towards a future of stability and of responsible government in the interests of its citizens. The EU welcomes the signature and the stated commitment of the parties to engage in a political process, which is key to achieving reconciliation and lasting peace. The agreement needs to be implemented in a timely, full, effective and inclusive way, involving all segments of society, including women as important agents of change. A sound transitional process will be essential to rebuild the country.
2. The EU urges all parties to respect the ceasefire and refrain from all actions which contradict the letter and spirit of the agreement. We are concerned by the recent announcement by the government of its intention to increase the number of federal states in the country as well as the reluctance of the opposition to commit to the implementation of the security arrangements and the recent outbreaks of fighting in Unity State. We recall the urgent necessity for all South Sudanese stakeholders to recommit to the implementation of the agreement. Spoilers on all sides undermining the agreement will be held responsible for the consequences of their actions.
3. The EU salutes the efforts of international and regional actors, in particular the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) and the African Union (AU), which were key to reaching this deal. The EU also welcomes the AU's decision to publish the Commission of Inquiry reports and to take the necessary steps to establish the Hybrid Court of South Sudan as well as the AU Peace and Security Council's 26 September 2015 call for the implementation of the agreement. Preserving the unity of purpose within the region is essential and we look forward to their continued leadership in the implementation phase, as well as to an updated role for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). To support this, it is important that the new oversight bodies, especially the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) are quickly established. Strong monitoring with South Sudanese civil society, regional and international representation is vital to ensure that all stakeholders respect the agreement.

4. The humanitarian situation in the country remains disastrous. 2.2 million people have been displaced both inside and outside the country. Over four and a half million people have faced severe food insecurity in the past four months. The renewed fighting, if prolonged, would increase the likelihood of famine in the most affected areas. Delays in the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance cannot be tolerated. The EU urges all parties to ensure immediate, full and unconditional humanitarian access.

5. South Sudan's population has experienced over the past 18 months horrific violations and abuses of human rights. The violence and abuses against women and children are deeply shocking and must be ended, prevented and investigated without delay. There can be no lasting peace without accountability for the crimes committed by both sides during the conflict. The transitional justice mechanisms outlined in the peace agreement must be implemented as a matter of priority, and those responsible for violations and abuses held to account. South Sudan has to fulfil its obligations under international law.

6. The EU is ready to step up its engagement, in close coordination with the international community, to support the implementation of the agreement and calls on South Sudan to ratify the Cotonou Partnership agreement. We will continue our development assistance targeting the direct needs of the people, including basic services throughout the country, as we consider that these activities are fundamental to the creation of a peaceful, stable and prosperous country. We also stand ready to work with the Transitional Government of National Unity to establish the transitional institutions and to develop sound policies essential for the rebuilding of the country, in particular to ensure the responsible, transparent and equitable management of South Sudan's vast resources. It is imperative that these resources are used for the benefit of the entire population.