

Republic of the Sudan

Press Statement

On the invitation by the AUHIP Chairperson President Thabo Mbeki, the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan held a meeting in Addis Ababa – Ethiopia from 14-19 January 2013, to discuss the implementation of the Cooperation Agreements of 27 September 2012 and the Outcomes of the Presidential Summit of the two countries which was convened in Addis Ababa during 4-5 January 2013.

The meetings were conducted in 3 tracks, namely, the implementation of the temporary arrangements on Abyei, the implementation of the Security arrangements on the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone "SDBZ", and the preparation of a Comprehensive Matrix with appropriate timings for all the agreements signed in Addis Ababa in 27th September 2012.

(1) With regards to the Abyei Issue, it was agreed on the arrangement concerning the establishment of the Abyei Administration Area (AAA) to be chaired by a representative of the Republic of South Sudan (GoSS), and a deputy from the Republic of Sudan (RoS), plus Three heads of Department from GoSS and two from GoS (majority for GoSS).

On the Legislative Council of Abyei (AAC) the two parties could not reach an agreement. While the Agreement stipulates that the Council be composed of 20 members it did not specify the ratio of membership of the two countries. The delegation of GoSS insisted that they should have the majority of the Council in the ratio of (12-8) based on a previous arrangement during the interim period, that lapsed at the end of the interim period and the secession of South Sudan. GoS accepted and agreed on that ratio at that time, as Sudan was one country, and in order to support the stipulation of the CPA to work for the realization of attractive unity.

Hence, the position of Government of the Sudan (GoS) is that the ratio of the membership of the Council should be (10:10) for the reasons stated above, and additionally due to the fact that Abyei legally is under the sovereignty of the Sudan till the Final Status of the area is determined.

Dispute the above fact, GoS has made a concession of sharing jointly the institutions of Administration, Legislation and Police Service in Abyei with the Republic of South Sudan for a temporary period to create a conducive atmosphere for confidence building and an amicable resolution for Abyei issue.

The Abyei Joint Oversight Committee(AJOC) meeting on the composition of the Council agreed to refer the matter each side to its President for consideration.

On the matter of the Abyei Police Service (APS), and as stipulated in the invitation of the AUHIP, the delegation of each party was to include representative of the Police to finalize a decision on the establishment of the APS. While GoS came ready to finalize this issue, the decision on the matter could not be taken because GoSS failed to bring its designated representative. The parties agreed to convene a meeting of AJOC on 30th of January 2013, to finalize the matter of APS.

With regards to the Final Status of Abyei, and as stipulated in the Summit Outcomes, it is to be considered by the Presidents after the implementation of the temporary arrangements in Abyei (The Administration, the Council and the Police Service) and an agreement to implementation of the Comprehensive Matrix for all the agreements.

(2) On the Joint Political and Security Mechanism, (JPSM), an agreement was reached to activate the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism for the SDBZ and the Military Monitoring Team including the Headquarters of the monitoring teams and the protecting forces. Unfortunately again the delegation of GoSS obstructed the implementation of what was agreed by back-tracking from the agreement on the full implementation of the agreement concerning the 14 miles by insisting on only partial withdrawal of its forces from the area. Despite the extensive and appreciated efforts exerted by the facilitation (AUHIP) and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and chair of the IGAD H.E. Haile Mariam Desalegn in an attempt to commit to the Outcomes of the Presidents' Summit. The objective was the commitment to implement fully all the security arrangements in accordance with the security map that was

submitted by the AUHIP on 20th November 2011, that RoSS retracted from, which necessitated the convening of the mentioned Summit. Further, the delegation of GoSS refused the establishment of a mechanism for monitoring and verification of the disengagement of its army and the rebels in the two areas (South Kordofan and the Blue Nile States), and to cease harboring and support to armed rebel forces, in spite of being stipulated for in the security arrangements matrix agreed by the parties in 18 Dec. 2012.

(3) With regards to the preparation of a Comprehensive Matrix for the agreements signed in 27 Sept 2012, including the security arrangements, the delegation of GoSS obstructed again achieving an agreement by refusing to sign and implement what had already been agreed in the security arrangements that led to failure to establish the SDBZ. Added to that the back-tracking by GoSS of accepting the Security Map on the 14 miles. Over and above is the insistence of GoSS to submit new claims of border areas, before the completion of the demarcation of the agreed section of the common border, in accordance with the Demarcation Agreements embodied in the Border Issues Agreement signed in 27 Sept. 2012, a matter that may probably render the agreed demarcation of the borders unattainable.

(4) On the joint approach to the International Community to solicit the third of the agreed TFA for GoS, the debt relief, and the development aid to GoSS, the latter putting a condition on participating only on the Joint effort on the withdrawal of Sudapet arbitration suit against GoSS with regards to the unilateral confiscation by a Presidential decree of Sudapet participating interests and assets, in the South. A matter which contravenes the Summit Outcomes on non-conditionality. While the case is entertained by the tribunal of the World Bank (WB), GoS is ready and willing to continue, discussions with GoSS to reach on amicable solution of the matter.

(5) GoS would like to reiterate its commitment to the honest implementation of the agreements signed with GoSS in a coordinated manner as stipulated in the Outcomes Report of the Heads of State Summit

meeting of 5th January 2013 , quote "unconditional and coordinated implementation of all these agreements", end of quote.

GoS would like to state that it had not, and has no intention of bringing any new issues to the negotiations table as falsely alleged by the GoSS delegation in its Press release of 19. Jan. 2013.

GoS believes that substantial progress has been achieved in the last rounds of negotiations, and would like to express its appreciation to the positive role played by the facilitation (AUHIP) and H.E. Haile Mariam Desalegn Prime Minister of Ethiopia and to re-iterate its commitment to continue engaging with GoSS to discuss all outstanding issues faithfully. We hope that GoSS would engage with the same spirit for the benefit of the two people and for contributing to the creation of two viable and prosperous States.

**Government of the Sudan Delegation
to the Negotiations with the Government
of the Republic of South Sudan.**

Khartoum – 20 January 2013