

## **Joint Communiqué**

The President of the Republic of the Sudan, H.E Omer Hassan Al-Bashir accompanied by a high-level delegation, concluded today, Friday 12 April 2013, a one day official visit to Juba in response to a kind invitation extended by H.E Salva Kiir Mayardit President of the Republic of South Sudan.

The meetings, presided over by the two Presidents were cordial and fruitful and covered all important aspects of the implementation of the matrix for the 9 cooperation agreements signed recently between the two countries.

The two sides affirmed their commitment to implement the cooperation agreements signed in Addis Ababa on Sep 27<sup>th</sup> 2012 honestly to the letter and with the same constructive spirit prevailing between the two countries.

The Presidents expressed their satisfaction with the progress achieved so far in the implementation of the different provisions of the Matrix, and appreciated in particular the progress in implementation of security arrangements, oil, and banking Agreements. They directed all joint mechanisms and committees to accelerate their efforts to enhance the relations between the two countries in all fields of cooperation.

The Presidents further discussed the way forward regarding the remaining issues, and decided to continue their efforts to resolve Abyei issue in accordance with the implementation Matrix.

The two Presidents re-iterated their satisfaction with the Summit meetings mechanism and agreed to establish a high ministerial joint committee led by the Vice Presidents in the two countries with a small number of ministers to support the speedy decision taking to promote the relations between the two countries.

H.E President Al-Bashir expressed his thanks and appreciation for the warm reception accorded to him and the accompanying delegation, and reciprocally invited H.E President Salva Kiir to visit Khartoum shortly to expedite their joint efforts to cement the relations between the two sisterly countries and to strengthen their constructive cooperation.

Juba- April 12<sup>th</sup> 2013

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Original Arabic

**Excellency and Brother**

President SalvaKiirMayardit

President of the Republic of South Sudan

Distinguished members of the delegation of the Government of South Sudan

Distinguished members of the delegation of the Government of the Sudan

AlsalamuAlaikum

I feel deeply happy for visiting Juba, a city that possesses a special place in my heart and the hearts of every Sudanese. I am accompanied by a high level delegation of state officials including assistants to the President, Ministers, and representatives of civil societies. This reflects a strong political resolve either in Government or civil society to open a new page in the relations between the two countries, which are tied not only by neighbourhood, but by strong and deeper ties whether in history, a common civilization, geography, or deep mutual interests.

**Brother President**

The positive atmosphere, and the opportunity that was availed by the signing of the integrated Matrix for implementing the Cooperation Agreements of 27 September 2012, has paved the ground for this visit which we believe signals the beginning of a constructive cooperation in normalizing the relations between the two countries, and developing it to the level of integration and the building of a strategic partnership. A matter all of us are aspiring for.

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The implementation of the Matrix, since its signing is very encouraging, and calls for optimism. With joint hard work, and the support of friends and the International Community, we will implement all its requirement and in accordance with its timelines. The security arrangements for instance, commenced with seriousness and a joint strong resolve, and we look forward for security and stability in the two countries to become a common concern of the two, each pursuing to support the other. This will lay down an important spring board for regional security and stability in our mother Continent Africa.

The resumption of production of South Sudan oil is a model of constructive and positive cooperation, as an agreement and understanding was reached on both the political and technical levels and all necessary arrangements so that the flow would feed the economy in the two countries, for the prosperity of our two peoples.

The Central Banks in the two countries, in their part were supporting, on their recent meetings, the fiscal part of the oil agreement and has paved the ground for the meetings of the Ministerial Joint Committee on Trade.

**President and Brother,**

The positive achievements in the relations between the two countries in the recent past weeks, has encouraged the appetite of government institutions and civil society to initiate contacts with each other. I am confident that the coming days, and after this successful visit, God willing, witness wide movements and activities in all fields of cooperation between the two countries. The successful visit of South Sudan Trade Union and South Sudan Parliament to Khartoum in recent days, is just a start of this trend. It was fortunately covered positively by the Media, in the two countries in spite of the independence of the Media from the reins of Government.

**President and Brother,**

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I wish to reiterate to your Excellency that this successful visit would have its positive impact on the progress of the relations between the two countries. I take this opportunity to instruct all state organs in the Sudan including political institutions, and to urge civil society institutions to open up for cooperation with their brothers and counterparts in South Sudan. We want the cooperation that was embodied in the agreements to be a fact that positively contribute to their lives and living.

Allow me, Brother and President to reiterate to you again our full commitment to implement all what we agreed, and our deep wish to reach satisfactory solutions for all pending issues, with the same constructive spirit that cares for the interests of the two countries and peoples.

#### **Brother and President**

Regarding Abyie we affirm the importance of jointly implementing the Temporary administrative and security arrangements for Abyie Agreement, by establishing the Legislative Council, the administration and the Police Service, to assist in protection of security, rendering of services and helping the return of the displaced. We believe this would assist the two Presidents to reach an understanding on the final status of Abyie.

As for border issues, they represent as you know one of the strongest concerns in bilateral and international relations in the world. Fortunately, the borders between our two countries are inhabited and are full of economic and social activities. We therefore pursue the resolution of all border disputes by wisdom and through peaceful means, and in accordance with recognized principles and International Customary Law.

We also affirm our resolve to create a soft border, which could be managed jointly with the aim of achieving integration through joint projects to which we should exert efforts for securing financing. Within this understanding

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we should work together to implement the cooperation Agreements, as one of the Cooperation Agreement, and to continue efforts with the African Union team of experts concerning a resolution of the issue of the five disputed border areas.

**Brother and President**

I hope to see you soon in Sudan to continue the joint cooperation in order to achieve what we aspire for and to be not only an African model, but a world model for countries emerging from conflicts and heading to development and to positively contribute to human civilisation, which we were initially one of its pioneers.

Thank you.

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