



**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
MINISTRY OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS**

**7<sup>th</sup> GOVERNORS' FORUM**

**RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Preamble,**

We, the participants of the 7<sup>th</sup> Governors' Forum, namely Governors of the ten States and Chief Administrators of the three Administrative Areas, Vice Presidents, National Ministers, leaders of legislatures, representatives of CSOs, and other delegates to this Forum hosted in Juba City from **28<sup>th</sup> November – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023**, chaired by H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit and co-chaired by H.E. First Vice President Dr. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, extensively discussed a number of critical issues, particularly strengthening intergovernmental relations, elections, security, implementation of the R-ARCSS, and humanitarian & other challenges, under the theme “Fostering National Cohesion: South Sudan’s Path to Peaceful Transition to Democratic Governance”.

**Congratulating** H.E. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan, for his leadership and assuming the Chairmanship of the East Africa Community (EAC) on behalf of the people of South Sudan; and pledging support to our President toward promoting peace and stability;

**Commending** H.E. First Vice President Dr. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon for chairing the meetings of the 7<sup>th</sup> Governors' Forum;

**Thanking** the Ministry of Presidential Affairs and the leadership of United Nations for their continued support, especially UNMISS and UNDP for technical and financial support to this Forum;

**Committing** ourselves to work for peace and national cohesion;

**Therefore**, we now adopt the following resolutions and recommendations on these thematic Areas (Intergovernmental Relations, Elections, and Humanitarian & Other Challenges):

## **Resolutions**

### **Intergovernmental Relations**

1. Respect mandates and powers of each level of government including the legislatures;
2. Ministry of Finance and Planning is to implement block grants and other transfers to states/administrative areas timely;
3. Support states/administrative areas to increase local resource mobilization to cover their budget deficits;
4. National Ministry of Finance and Planning is to support states/administrative areas to effect 400% increment of salaries;
5. Strengthen capacities of key institutions and staff of states/administrative areas;
6. Improve coordination and communication between national and states/administrative areas governments;
7. Conduct joint planning and review of key country programmes;
8. Hold regular meetings between the line ministries of national and states/administrative areas governments;
9. Promote collaborative engagements among levels of government to support and enhance sports development;
10. National government to avail funds to the National Ministry of Peacebuilding to carry out peace dialogues and reconciliation throughout the country;
11. Resolve disputes over land and borders among states/administrative areas, counties and communities and reactivate Boundary Committee;
12. States/administrative areas to collect their revenues including VAT without interference from the national government and harmonize taxes at all levels of government;
13. Fully fund development of general and higher education, agriculture, healthcare, information technology, security and other essential services in states/administrative areas and national level;
14. Foster cooperation between national and states/administrative areas governments;
15. States/administrative areas to respect the roles of traditional authorities in accordance with the local Government Act;
16. Process primary and secondary schools certificates;
17. Process school certificates in Juba and deliver to states/administrative areas for distribution to owners; and
18. The new bridge in Wau on Jur River was named Clement Mboro Bridge by the National Council of Ministers.

### **Elections**

19. Expedite establishment of election offices in states/administrative areas and appoint election officials;

20. Train electoral staff at all levels;
21. Conduct civic education to increase awareness of election procedures and processes; and
22. Ensure peace and reconciliation among communities;

### **Humanitarian & Other Challenges**

23. Provide adequate humanitarian assistances to IDPs, refugees and returnees;
24. States/administrative areas to allocate plots of land to IDPs and returnees to reduce dependence on assistance and vulnerability;
25. Search certificates to be issued by courts;
26. Ensure safety of UN and NGO staff and facilities throughout the country;
27. Encourage humanitarian organizations to boost interventions to reduce food insecurity;
28. Ensure safe corridors and zones for movements of cattle herders;
29. Encourage peaceful co-existence between pastoralists and agrarian farmers;
30. Establish mobile community police and schools for nomadic and pastoralist communities;
31. National government to prioritize states/administrative areas affected by floods and other natural disasters in distribution of resources;
32. Improve natural disaster risk reduction activities in areas prone to flooding;
33. Improve health services, including building facilities, training staff and providing equipment and medicines, throughout the country; and
34. State/administrative areas to adopt tree planting.

### **Recommendations**

#### **Intergovernmental Relations**

1. Implement previous Governors' Forum resolutions and recommendations;
2. Pay salary arrears to civil servants before the end of the year and pay salaries to all civil and public servants on time;
3. Pay pensions and gratuities to all deserving public officials throughout the country;
4. Allocate resources in ratio of 40% national government, 20% states, and 40% counties;
5. National budget to reflect budgets prepared by states/administrative areas;
6. Expedite the permanent constitution making process;
7. Gazette and disseminate information on laws, policies and rules adopted by the states and national government;
8. Expedite the process of security sector reform until professional security organs are in place;
9. Initiate comprehensive national youth service;
10. Ministry of Interior, security organs and states and other relevant government institutions to collaborate in order to address harmful substances and trafficking in human and organized crimes;
11. Ministry of Interior to issue birth certificates;



12. Complete deployment of Necessary Unified Forces;
13. Expedite the second phase of the unification of the remaining unified forces;
14. Adopt a comprehensive approach for disarmament of civilians and a mechanism that brings together the stakeholders on disarmament;
15. Establish community police to help security sector agencies and the states to manage and control: (a) intercommunal conflicts; (b) cattle rustling and movement of cattle;
16. Implement federal system of governance in accordance with the R-ARCSS;
17. Reform and capacitate the justice system so that justice is rendered to all impartiality;
18. Respect separation of powers of the three arms of the government to ensure cooperation and coordination;
19. Strengthen linkages between states/administrative areas and the national government;
20. Empower Boundary Commission to settle border disputes;
21. Abolish all the illegal and unnecessary checkpoints along rivers and roads across states/administrative areas;
22. National government should support states/Administrative areas to implement policies;
23. National government should increase emoluments for constitutional post holders;
24. Initiate amendment of Emolument and Remuneration Act;
25. Promote political diversity and inclusion and create appropriate atmosphere for peaceful co-existence;
26. Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs is to deploy more prosecution attorneys and legal advisors to states/administrative areas;
27. Ministry of Finance and Planning is to avail more funds to Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs for printing laws and Gazette and Publication and recruit more legal counsels; and
28. Judiciary is to deploy more judges to states/ administrative areas.

## **Elections**

29. Put in place all election laws and procedures to ensure free, fair and credible elections;
30. Political parties to the R-ARCSS to convene for more discussions on interparty dialogue to forge a unified position on the holding of free, fair, and credible peaceful elections;
31. Complete implementation of critical parts of the R-ARCSS to ensure peaceful elections;
32. Ministry of Finance and Planning to initiate the process of allocating supplementary budget for funding election processes;
33. Build capacity of elections institutions and staff;
34. Disseminate information on elections through print and online media/ channels;
35. Expand connectivity and media coverage throughout the country in preparation for elections;
36. Conduct Population and Housing Census;
37. Register all parties that meet the set criteria;
38. Invite international and regional experts to oversee elections;

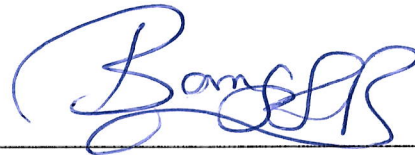
39. Ensure freedoms and right of expression and opinion throughout the election period; and
40. Allow space in media for all political parties and people.

### **Humanitarian & Other Challenges**

41. Implement durable solutions strategy and action plan adopted by Council of Ministers to ensure return of refugees and internally displaced persons in safety and dignity as well as support host communities;
42. Support return of South Sudanese from Sudan in safety and dignity;
43. National Ministry of Finance and Planning to release pledged funds to the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management for the onward transport of returnees stranded in Renk and Paloch to their final destinations, and also the returnees going to their places of origin;
44. Repatriate refugees who are in neighbouring countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia before elections;
45. Improve coordination between government and partners;
46. Expedite formation of Special Reconstruction Fund, stipulated in R-ARCSS, and provide required funds, so as to support return of refugees and IDPs and reconstruct war-affected areas;
47. Support agricultural activities through formation of cooperatives and provide inputs to all including refugees, IDPs and returnees;
48. Promote micro-finance activities;
49. States/administrative areas to coordinate with the National Ministry of Investment in issues related to investment; and
50. Ministry of Finance and Planning to give due attention to the activities of the Ministry of Investment that relate to attraction of investments to the country.



**H.E. Emmanuel Adil Anthony**  
Governor, Central Equatoria State



**Hon. Bangasi Joseph Bakosoro**  
Minister, Presidential Affairs

(On behalf of the ten State Governors and three Chief Administrators)



**H.E. Dr. Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon**  
First Vice President, Republic of South Sudan