



National Consensus Forum

Press Release

SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

NCF Condemns the New Extension of the Lifespan of South Sudan's Failed Unity Government.

Another extension of the lifespan of South Sudan's Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) was announced through the social media platforms of President Salva Kiir Mayardit on 13th September 2024. This is the fourth extension of the overall implementation timeline of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), signed in September 2018. Regrettably, it is also the extension of the suffering of the South Sudanese People.

The R-ARCSS, meant to be implemented for forty-four months, has run for over seventy-two months without achieving its objectives. It failed to end violent conflicts, create professional national forces, address humanitarian crises, revamp the economy, deliver transitional justice, conduct a census, develop a new constitution, and conclude with credible democratic elections.

On the contrary, violence continues to rage in different parts of the country, the economy has collapsed, humanitarian crises have worsened, and the country remains without a unified professional national forces. The government has been unable to pay salaries for over ten months, and the sharp depreciation of the national currency caused the collapse of the salary system – whether paid or not, salaries no longer matter. The new constitution, national population census, and general elections were not achieved.

In the previous extensions, the government demonstrated no political will, leadership, or capacity to implement the provisions of the R-ARCSS and this new extension will only add to the list of failed extensions. Without implementing the R-ARCSS, the government spent four years negotiating with opposition groups in Rome but ran away from those negotiations without achieving any results. Similarly, President Salva Kiir Mayardit decided to initiate another round of negotiations in Nairobi Kenya, only to abandon it four months later.

These behaviors of President Kiir's RTGoNU indicate intransigence and unwillingness to work for peace, address the grievances of the civil population, unite, and build the country.

Accordingly, the National Consensus Forum (NCF) condemns and rejects this latest illegal extension of the lifespan of the failed RTGoNU and R-ARCSS. This extension offers nothing to the people and the country. It undermines all goodwill efforts of the South Sudanese, the region, and the international community to work for peace in South Sudan.

This is proof of President Kiir's lack of seriousness, commitment, and political will to bring about a genuine lasting peace. It is also a slap on the face of President William Ruto, who whole-heartedly, accepted President Kiir's request to host and mediate genuine peace between the government of South Sudan and the country's opposition groups. It is a disregard for the commitment of the Community of Sant 'Egidio, which spent four years, mediating peace negotiations between President Kiir's government and opposition groups. By rejecting both Sant 'Egidio and the Kenyan Mediations, how does President Kiir expect to resolve the conflict, and by which method?

Therefore, NCF calls on South Sudanese and the International Community to reject this illegal unilateral extension and call on the de facto government of South Sudan to accept and participate in an inclusive Roundtable Conference to agree on the identified root causes of the conflict and address them to usher in a New Era of peace and stability to ensure a New Dispensation and Social Contract for the long-suffering people of South Sudan.

End

The National Consensus Forum (NCF) is an umbrella organization comprising 21 South Sudanese Political, Civil Society, Women, Youth, and Faith-Based Organizations and the Academic and Professional Association and represents a major segment of the South Sudanese Society.