

South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance and Other Opposition Groups

Press Statement for Immediate Release, 6th December 2024

The leadership of the South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance (SSOMA) and other Opposition Groups welcome the resumption of the Tumaini Peace Initiative in Nairobi Kenya. We welcome the return of the reconstituted delegation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGONU) to the peace negotiations and commend the Mediation and stakeholders for their patience and sustained commitment to this peace process, as we waited for months for the return of the government.

We seize this opportunity to inform the people of South Sudan, the region and international partners that we are utterly dismayed by the new position of the reconstituted R-TGONU delegation as expressed in their statements over the past two (2) days.

In its speech during the launch of the resumption, the government delegation reiterated the position of the anti-Tumaini elements in the R-TGONU who are hell bent on dismantling the Tumaini Consensus. This position rules out any possibility of approaching these negotiations with open minds to conclude these talks with a viable, realistic and implementable framework for peace to exit the troubled the unending extensions of the unimplementable R-ARCSS.

By presenting the position of its anti-Tumaini groups, the reconstituted R-TGONU delegation has openly reneged on the Tumaini Consensus, negotiated and agreed by the former delegation of the same government, the opposition, and stakeholders and witnessed by representatives of the Government of Kenya, IGAD and the Community of Sant'Egidio. Their action also dismisses completely the Joint Communiqué of the two Presidents of Kenya and South Sudan issued in Juba on 6th November 2024, that recognized the completed protocols and called for finalizing the Tumaini Peace Initiative within two (2) weeks.

We are deeply shocked by comments made by the Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Hon. Martin Elia Lomuro, a new government delegate to the Tumaini talks and a ringleader of the anti-Tumaini group. Mr. Lomuro denied knowledge of President Salva Kiir's request to President William Ruto to mediate this peace process until June this year, even though he attended the launch of the Tumaini at State House Nairobi on the 9th of May 2024. There is no doubt that the government was fully aware that President Salva Kiir had requested President William Ruto in a letter since December last year, to mediate these talks. We, therefore, believe that these unfortunate utterances made by a senior government minister and leader were deliberately intended to undermine President Salva Kiir's initiative and to destroy his standing among his counterparts in the region.

Considering the failure of implementation of the R-ARCSS, the suffering and harsh impoverishment imposed on our people, worse than what they had endured during the decades of our struggles for independence, the Tumaini Consensus cannot and shall not be an insignificant annex to this failed and expired agreement.

We remain committed to finalizing the Protocols of the agreed Tumaini Consensus within two (2) weeks as stipulated in the Joint Communiqué of the two Presidents issued in Juba on 6th November 2024, and to delivering the outcome of this process as a Christmas gift of peace for the people of South Sudan. The purpose of the Tumaini Consensus is to usher in an era of peace, harmony, and prosperity for the people of South Sudan.

We appeal to the people of South Sudan, the able Mediation, the region, and the international community to not allow the reconstituted R-TGONU delegation to destroy the tremendous progress and achievements made by the Tumaini Peace Initiative.

We reiterate our firm commitment to finalize the Tumaini Consensus to rescue our country from descending into total chaos and disintegration.

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Secretary-General & Spokesperson

