

Tumaini Initiative



COMMUNIQUE OF 8 FEBRUARY 2025
BY THE HIGH-LEVEL MEDIATION FOR SOUTH SUDAN
(TUMAINI INITIATIVE)

The High-Level Mediation for South Sudan (Tumaini Initiative) issues the following brief on the status of the process:

1. Since May 2024, the Tumaini Initiative has been convened in Nairobi, Kenya, at the request of H.E President Salva Kiir Mayardit of the Republic of South Sudan to H.E President William Samoei Ruto of the Republic of Kenya, in order to reach out to the hold-out groups and other opposition members non-signatory to the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), in order to achieve an inclusive and sustainable peace and democratic transformation.
2. The mediation has been ongoing for ten months and has been co-chaired by IGAD and the Community of Sant'Egidio, who previously held this brief.
3. During the process, several bilateral consultative missions have been undertaken by the mediation to Juba, South Sudan and Rome, Italy for consultations with hold-out groups, the South Sudanese Presidency, and other stakeholders.
4. Pertinent to this negotiation are the R-ARCSS, the Declaration of Commitment signed by the Parties and Stakeholders on 16th May 2024, and the Tumaini Protocols.

5. The eight Tumaini Protocols were developed through a process of sustained negotiations and had been agreed by the Parties and Stakeholders to include:
 - a. Trust and Confidence Building,
 - b. Permanent Ceasefire, Security Arrangements and Reforms,
 - c. Humanitarian Access and Support,
 - d. Communal Conflicts, Armed Civilians, and Land Disputes,
 - e. Economic Recovery, Resources, and Financial Management Reforms,
 - f. Justice Sector Reform, Transitional Justice and Accountability,
 - g. Permanent Constitution Making Process, and
 - h. Guarantors;

Only the Protocol on Responsibility Sharing was outstanding.

6. Following this agreement, the RTGONU Delegation retreated to Juba for consultations in August 2024, during which time the R-ARCSS was extended for another two-year period.
7. H.E President William Samoei Ruto and H.E President Salva Kiir Mayardit met in Juba on 6th November 2024 and issued a Joint Communique in which they guided that the protocols should be concluded and that responsibility sharing should be negotiated, which was to have been finalized within two weeks.
8. When the RTGONU Delegation returned to Nairobi, it was with a substantially different composition and therefore negotiations restarted afresh.
9. Finally, an agenda was adopted in January 2025 to include:
 - a. the Negotiating Parties,
 - b. the Root Causes of the Conflict in South Sudan,
 - c. the Relationship between R-ARCSS and the Tumaini Protocols, and
 - d. Responsibility Sharing.

10. The root causes of the conflict were extensively deliberated through a joint technical committee, summarizing them as:
 - a. Political, Governance and Leadership Crisis,
 - b. Power Struggle,
 - c. Structural and Institutional Weaknesses,
 - d. Economic Crisis and Resource Mismanagement,
 - e. Insecurity and Militarization of Society,
 - f. Lack of Social Cohesion and Historical Factors, and
 - g. External and Geopolitical Influences.
11. It has been acknowledged throughout the negotiations that the implementation of R-ARCSS is ongoing but faces challenges.
12. Given the acute human insecurity and humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, the Mediation believes that actions must be taken for there to be effective mechanisms of implementation.
13. The Mediation is of the view that there are three priority areas of critical importance necessary to ending the perpetual transition in South Sudan, and to ushering in a new dispensation.
14. These priority areas are:
 - a. the unification of forces and security sector reforms,
 - b. the permanent constitution making process, and
 - c. the holding of free, fair, credible and transparent elections.
15. The RTGONU Delegation now requests to adjourn the mediation.

The Mediation appreciates the continued leadership and support of the Government of Kenya, IGAD, and the Community of Sant'Egidio on behalf of the people of South Sudan.

Lt. Gen. Lazaro Sumbeiywo (Rtd)

CHIEF MEDIATOR
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