

**H. E. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, First Vice President of  
the Republic of the Sudan and President of the  
Government of Southern Sudan**

**'Address to the African Union, United Nations and IGAD Joint  
High-Level Meeting on Sudan'**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Monday, 31 January 2011**

**Your Excellency, Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika, President of the  
Republic of Malawi and Chairperson of the African Union,**

**Your Excellency, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the  
United Nations,**

**Your Excellency, Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African  
Union Commission,**

**Your Excellency, Mr. Meles Zenawi, Chair of IGAD and our host,  
Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,**

**Excellencies, Ministers of the Member States of the African  
Union,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great honour and satisfaction for me to be invited to address this **august Assembly** in this beautiful city of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This country is our cherished neighbour that together with the sisterly IGAD member states supported the search for permanent peace in the Sudan. Thus, I would like to seize this opportunity to pay tribute to the IGAD countries, the IGAD

Partners, the African Union, and the United Nations for jointly taking the initiative to host this essential meeting on Sudan. Your collective consistent engagement on Sudan has made the dream of the people of Southern Sudan to become a reality and your future continued attention to Sudan at this critical time in history will remain imperative.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the historic events of the past weeks and to express my Government's gratitude for the significant contributions of the African Union, the United Nations, and in particular the Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), and the international monitors and observers, to the safe and peaceful holding of the Southern Sudan referendum. The fact that the referendum was held on time, and was conducted peacefully, is a major achievement of which we can all be proud of. This is a concrete demonstration of the capabilities and the maturity of the citizens of Southern Sudan – a culmination of a noble struggle.

At this juncture, allow me to also recognize the interim statements made by the UN Secretary-General's Monitoring Panel of H.E. Benjamin Mkapa former President of Tanzania and his team, as well as observers from the African Union, the European Union, the Carter Centre, the Arab League and all those who have indicated that the referendum was credible, free and fair, and a true reflection of the democratically expressed will of the people of Southern Sudan. This view is strongly endorsed by the Government of Southern Sudan.

Furthermore, the interim results from the South that were announced yesterday on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2011 have indicated clearly that the vast majority of voters have opted overwhelmingly for

separation. Although we will of course wait for the process of CPA implementation to reach its conclusion, we expect this outcome to be confirmed by members of the international community, beginning with those present in this **august Assembly**. We must therefore begin preparing to welcome the consequences of this historic decision and we are now presented with the opportunity to cement the transition towards an era of long-term peace and stability in the Sudan and the wider region.

In this regard, I must express my appreciation to H.E. Field Marshal Omer Hassan Al-Bashir, the President of the Republic of Sudan and the NCP for the welcome message to respect the outcome of the referendum and support the emergent new state in the South once the final result in favour of separation is confirmed.

I also welcome the calls that have been made for the African Union to be the first body to recognise the results of the referendum, and the independence of South Sudan. We believe that such recognition would be entirely appropriate given the AU and IGAD's crucial leadership, both in the conclusion of the CPA and its implementation throughout the Interim Period. In this regard, we salute the significant contribution of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel, and the tireless work of its leader, former Republic of South Africa President Thabo Mbeki. Your Excellency, the people of Southern Sudan acknowledge the efforts of your team with profound gratitude.

Having come this far, our challenge now is to finalise the full implementation of the CPA, to which we remain completely committed. Building a sustainable and lasting peace for all of the people of Sudan remains our top priority. The SPLM and GOSS are therefore ready to re-engage vigorously with the NCP as a partner, on critical post-referendum issues including oil revenue flows, citizenship, protection of our populations, and border security. Resolution of all outstanding issues is essential to maintaining stability and progress throughout the Sudan and the region. We are equally cognizant that the finalization of post-referendum arrangements is not a pre-condition to the emergence of the new state of South Sudan.

That said, we will seek to further all aspects of our relationship with the North in the coming months. While we may proceed along separate paths, both parties have a joint responsibility to all the peoples of Sudan to guarantee a peaceful and prosperous future. The only way to achieve this is to establish a deep and cooperative relationship between Northern and Southern Sudan. As I have said several times before, we have no interest in returning to the bitterness and divisions of the past. We desire the democratic transformation of Sudan. Today, the ballot box has triumphed over the bullet. It is our most sincere wish to achieve peaceful coexistence between North and South, to enable all of our peoples to live in security and prosperity.

**Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I shall be remiss if I do not express our disappointment that the referendum required by the CPA on Abyei did not take place. The terms of the Abyei Protocol, as well as those of the Award of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), have very clearly set out the legal obligations of both parties to the CPA with respect to Abyei. I would like to pledge our commitment to remain on course working together with the NCP and the local communities in Abyei Area to resolve the current impasse as soon as possible. The recent security incidents are regrettable and I am optimistic that a definitive solution to the question of Abyei must be found and expeditiously. For us, we continue to forecast two possible outcomes: (1) The holding of a referendum consistent with the provisions of the CPA, or (2) The administrative transfer of Abyei by Presidential Decree to the South.

Meantime, there is need to convince the Misseriya that their access to water and grazing land will be guaranteed. Once again, I want to send a reassuring message to the Misseriya and other nomads that the South is committed to respect and protect their grazing rights in Southern Sudan. Therefore, their leaders must understand that these rights will be guaranteed. Despite the challenges we face on this issue, we are optimistic that the question of Abyei will be resolved, particularly with the continued support of President Mbeki and his team plus the goodwill and understanding of our

international partners such US, UK, Norway, Netherlands not to mention but a few and with our full commitment.

I shall also be remiss if I do not mention the two areas of Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states. Being an integral part of the CPA, the SPLM and the NCP should continue to cooperate to fully implement the protocol of these areas in order for permanent peace to be realised. Similarly, Sudan needs help in order to peacefully resolve the conflict in Darfur. No new strategy can work for Darfur until all parties are brought to the negotiating table. We are committed to assist our partners in the NCP to find a political settlement for Darfur. We do not support a military solution. It is not in the interest of Southern Sudan to encourage war in any area of the Sudan, as we are now enjoying the fruits of peace that we would like our brothers and sisters in Darfur and all other parts of the country to equally enjoy.

Now that the formidable burdens associated with preparing for the referendum have passed, the Government of Southern Sudan will renew its attention to the development of governance institutions and structures. We welcome the support of IGAD, the AU, the UN, the European Union and others in the international community to enable us achieve our development dreams. Given the favourable results for separation, we are working actively to prepare for statehood by focusing on good governance, institution-building, establishment and fostering of a multi-party system of governance.

As soon as the independence of Southern Sudan is declared, we will form a broad base government of national unity and draw a plan for the holding of a constitutional convention. This convention will map out a countrywide consultative process for the production of a permanent constitution for an independent South Sudan. Given the legacy of our struggle for freedom, democracy, justice, equality and human dignity, South Sudan will not just be the world's newest state, but its newest democracy.

This new country will uphold and remain committed to the **guiding values of the African Union – respect for diversity**. Fortunately enough, we have also learned some lessons from the past, particularly from the experiences of our neighbours. Since we have been central in the fight to dismantle the centre and periphery architecture of the Sudanese public, we will not commit the same mistakes of marginalisation. Instead we will build our unity through diversity and we will continue engaging South Sudanese of all walks of life to consolidate the new state. Moreover, we have already started engaging with '**All Southern Sudanese Political Parties**' when we held a Conference in October 2010. In the area of security, we will continue to show the same responsibility we made during the referendum to protect the lives and property of northern Sudanese and foreigners throughout Southern Sudan.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

South Sudan will become the newest and youngest country in Africa and indeed the world. Like a child newly born, we will have growing pains that must be nurtured and nourished. I, therefore, call upon you to seriously consider this young baby with full potentials to contribute to regional, continental and international wellbeing and prosperity. Fortunately, God Almighty has endowed our land with full potential resources that we must now turn all our energies and minds to exploit them in order to change the lives of our people. As an infant, we will emulate and embrace what is at the heart of this continental body, the Union's vision of **'an integral, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena'**.

This is a decisive moment, both for Sudan and Africa. It is my hope that as the CPA comes to an end, and Sudan makes a new start, we have the chance to convey important lessons to the rest of our continent about establishing genuine and lasting peace after a long period of bitter war. We will build a successful state that will provide peace, stability and prosperity for all. This is our common desire, our common challenge and for a common future.

**Thank you very much and God Bless this Continent!**