

REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF HIGH-LEVEL BREAKFAST DISCUSSION AND STRATEGIC THINKING ON PEACE PROCESS IN SOUTH SUDAN



1ST SESSION REPORT | NOVEMBER 2018



INTRODUCTION

The Center for Strategic and Policy Studies (CSPS) organized a **High-Level Breakfast Discussion and Strategic Thinking on Peace Process in South Sudan** at Pyramid Continental Hotel in Juba on 7th November 2018 (08:00 to 10:45 a.m). The event brought together policy and decision makers from government of South Sudan, parties to the agreement, other political parties, civil society, academia, diplomatic community and international organizations. The theme was: **“Changing of Perceptions and Confidence Building about the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ACRSS) for Effectiveness of National Pre-Transitional Committee (NPTC)”**.

1.1 KEY CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES TAKEN BY IGAD AND PARTIES SINCE JULY 2018

Prior to the Discussion, the CSPS prepared a list of confidence-building indicators by the R-ARCSS parties and guarantors from July to November 2018. These were harmonized with the keynote address by the lead speaker, **Gen. (Rtd) Lazaro Sumbeiywo**, as well as with summary of plenary discussion as moderated by **Prof. Samson Wasaara**. These indicators represent positive peace-building blocks on which more have to be added in future:

- 1). Handshake and face-to-face meetings between President Salva Kiir, Dr. Riek Machar and other opposition leaders in Addis Ababa, Khartoum and Entebbe under mediation of IGAD Heads of States and Governments.

- 2). Direct engagement of political and military leaders in non-stop negotiations in isolated environment in Khartoum; particularly that government and opposition military commanders of South Sudan and Sudanese senior commanders knew themselves very well. Hence, it was easy to have amicable and technical discussions on security arrangements.
- 3). Identification of contentious areas and addressing them one by one.
- 4). Recognition that the principal parties lack the confidence to work together, hence, balancing the lack of trust and sense of responsibility for keeping the Republic of South Sudan intact swayed them to sign R-ARCSS.
- 5). Deferring the 4 contentious issues (number of states and their borders, the decision making process in the cabinet, the constitution making process and the issue of deployment of RPF) to IGAD Summit, relieved the parties from the responsibility to take any decision that might have led to collapse of the talks.
- 6). Mediation by the Sudan in Khartoum and impartial assurances by President El-Bashir to the parties contributed to neutralizing their hard-line positions, given the fact that the Sudan has known the concerns of leaders of parties individually.
- 7). Suffering of the people of South Sudan, which is visible in villages, towns, displacement and refugee camps, contributed to the pressure on the leaders of the warring parties to reconsider their bitterness with each other and sign R-ARCSS.
- 8). Scepticism of regional and international community about the parties and their willingness to restore peace in South Sudan, has challenged the parties to take positive steps to prove them wrong by signing the R-ARCSS and demonstrating that it could hold.
- 9). President Kiir's invitation and response of the opposition leaders without security guarantees to come to Juba and celebrate R-ARCSS with appreciation of regional and international friends who stood with them, was one of the most important steps that vibrated well for confidence building among the parties.
- 10). Formation of committees for R-ARCSS implementation from all the parties to the conflict and their meetings in Juba, provided another vibrant step in confidence-building.
- 11). Release of detainees of war and voluntary exchange of visits and coming-together by field commanders of SSPDF and Opposition field Commanders around Pagak, Juba, Yei, Wau, Malakal, Liech, Raja and other theatres of operations, has taken confidence-building to another important level at the grassroots.
- 12). Confirmation of continuity of funding of JMEC and CTSAMVM activities by the international community is also an important measure for confidence-building with friends and partners of South Sudan on peace process.
- 13). Continuous engagement by IGAD leadership via confirmation of the Special Envoy and his Taskforce to continue in helping the parties and stakeholders to implement the R-ARCSS and overcome the obstacles.
- 14). Inclusivity in R-ARCSS has remained instrumental in building wider confidence among the parties and continue to be an important instrument that can persuade those who have not yet signed the R-ARCSS.

1.2 THE ACHIEVED OBJECTIVES, ACTION POINTS AND WAY FORWARD

In the first breakfast session, the discussion was successful in its timing, inclusivity and high-level participation by different parties and eminent personalities; the frank discussion and honest propositions for way forward. This has deepened the level of insights on R-ARCSS and generated essential points for confidence-building and way forward with changed perceptions. All the participants were impressed with level of organization as well as commitment demonstrated by the invitees to respond in time and engage amicably for the sake of peace in South Sudan. The discussion brought forth key pillars for confidence-building and strategic thinking on peace process in south sudan through R-ARCSS. The indicators for these are:

- 1). Unwavering commitment for peace with positive perception and attitude.
- 2). Continuous engagement, communication, interaction, consultations and amicable unity.
- 3). Diplomatic Support and Facilitating Funding of Essential Activities of Peace-building.
- 4). Shared developmental dividends with critical lessons learnt from past mistakes.
- 5). Popular ownership of peace process with cemented culture of dialogue and trust.
- 6). Effectiveness, efficiency and credibility of public institutions and their leadership.

Based on these pillars and in accordance with the need to highlight action oriented recommendations raised during the High-Level Discussion, the following action points and best practices have been urgently recommended for the parties, stakeholders, regional guarantors and international partners to consider for confidence building and positive perceptions and attitudes on R-ARCSS:



S/N	LEADERSHIP	CITIZENS	STAKEHOLDERS	GUARANTORS	PARTNERS
1.	Denounce militarism, antagonism, hate and greed; release all detainees of war; and lift the state of emergency for forgiveness to take roots with no more citizens regarding themselves as enemies.	Embrace the culture of peace with dialogue, reconciliation, healing and focus on the future with changed attitude and language.	Uphold the voice of the people and speak out frankly for peace and its challenges without fear.	Stand with the people of South Sudan and keep the leaders on path of peace without putting their interest above people.	Support the positive progress made on restoring stability to South Sudan and condemn any tendency to deviate or spoil the chance for peace and development.
2.	Reach out to those who have not signed the R-ARCSS and persuade them amicably to join the peace process in collaboration with IGAD Special Envoy's Office.	Support the R-ARCSS signatories in persuading those who have not joined peace process to rethink their positions.	Initiate realistic mediation between R-ARCSS parties and those who have not joined peace process, including involvement of academia, church leaders and traditional authorities.	Keep seized with the peace process in South Sudan and persuade or pressure the parties to stick to their commitment while engaging those who rejected the R-ARCSS to join.	Facilitate and encourage the positive initiatives taken by the leaders, citizens and stakeholders for peace, and support IGAD Special Envoy to help the parties who are holding out.
3.	Keep lines of contacts and interaction open for engagement with each other for peace with emphasis on ethos that unite the country.	Mend the loosened social fabrics and address the moral decay that was spread by the war.	Create regular forums for the citizens and leaders to engage for peace and development.	Keep constant the external oversight on the leaders of South Sudan to keep them on the right path of peace.	Keep the pressure on the parties to toe the line of peace and get the necessary support for this.
4.	Take the institutional establishment, restructuring and reforms seriously with collective responsibility and prioritization to make a real difference of peace and development in the lives of people.	Respect the established institutions and keep demanding for reforms of the old ones that are not consonance with the spirit and letter of R-ARCSS.	Ensure that the right procedures and qualified staff are adopted and recruited for making a quick impact on state and nation building for the era of peace in South Sudan.	Draw attention of the government and political parties in South Sudan towards best practices and models from the region.	Encourage the government and political parties to adopt best international practices of good governance through strong institutions and laws.
5.	Conduct joint tours and rallies in states and counties to assure the people at the grassroots that R-ARCSS is real and there is no going back to war again whatsoever the motivation	Extract the right information about R-ARCSS and disseminate it widely focusing on optimism and keen interest in the dividends of peace for the people.	Check the parties on their commitment to implement the R-ARCSS provisions without delays or scepticism.	Keep the parties accountable to implementation of the provisions of R-ARCSS and assist them overcome any arising obstacles by way of consensus and remedial actions.	Move along with the parties in their joint rallies for peace and development in all parts of South Sudan

6.	Retreats periodically to a serene place to reflect and iron out differences, build consensus with correctly designed strategies for enduring peace focusing on unity of purpose for all	Take interest in the outcomes of the retreats of the leaders and lend unwavering support for them in the activities that sustains peace in South Sudan.	Provide backstopping to policy-issues and managerial prudence for the leaders of the R-TGoNU to adopt accordingly in the interest of peace in South Sudan.	Provide peer review experiences of the region to inform the decisions and actions of the leaders of political parties and R-TGoNU.	Take note of the positive outcomes of the retreats and encourage the parties and R-TGoNU to move faster in implementing the matrixes of peace and development.
7.	Promote proportional participation of women and youth in public decision-making portfolios and treat this principle as mandatory in key appointments, ensuring that it is done in accordance with proper procedures based on qualifications.	Exert pressure on the leaders in authority to always include in their appointments gender and youth balance since over 90% of the population fall within this category and are the most affected by the war as well as the real force for future.	Check the parties constantly on inclusion of women and youth with changed mentality from the norms of the past; but also encourage women and youth to join political parties with competitive advantage.	Push South Sudan to become a good model for transformative women and youth leadership in key public institutions.	Keep empower the women and youth so that their participation in public leadership makes a unique difference in peace consolidation and development in South Sudan without succumbing to social pressure.
8.	Intensify the meetings of Clusters of the Council of Ministers and the Presidency at least 3 times a week with legislative oversight and judicial coordination when necessary.	Present submissions to relevant clusters of governance, economy, services, infrastructure, and gender and youth to inform their decisions.	Empower the citizens to organize and collectively learn to present their issues to the government and partners in a transparent and focused format.	Keep an eye on how the government and parties are handling the mandated issues of R-ARCSS for the welfare of the citizens.	Use intensive diplomacy to keep the government and parties accountable to the people; and to bridge the gaps of governance, economy and services.
9.	Settle amicably the issue of 32 states and then activate Governors and Speakers Forums to assist in consolidating peace and development at the grassroots, including reception of refugees and returnees.	Help the IGAD Mediation and Executive Secretariat and the Parties to find consensus on settling the issues of 32 states of incumbent TGoNU and 21 states of SPLM/A-IO.	Provide checks and well-researched technical advice on how to settle amicably the sensitive and emotional pending issue of states by the parties without rushing to referendum.	Persuade the leaders of the parties to negotiate a compromise that would settle amicably the critical issue states without complications of irresponsible politicization.	Encourage dialogue between leaders and citizens to reach an amicable resolution of 32 states even without delay.
10.	JMEC to become more assertive in its oversight and monitoring mandate without fear or favour from government, parties or guarantors.	Check the conduct of JMEC and quality of its secretariat staffing with gender balance and inclusion of highly qualified South Sudanese	Assist the JMEC with accurate monitoring and reporting of the status of R-ARCSS implementation, including swift remedial actions in case of possible relapse	Move faster with JMEC to keep government and parties on their toes, including taking serious measures against R-ARCSS violations.	Condition the funding of JMEC on honest performance in accordance with the mandate and resolutions of IGAD, AU and UNSC.

11.	Speed up the formation of Hybrid Court for South Sudan to deter the culture of impunity and allow the victims and survival to forgive and reconcile with the perpetrators.	Be ready to forgive and reconcile with perpetrators who have honestly confessed their crimes, including joint activities of livelihoods.	Spread the awareness among the citizens about benefits of forgiveness, forgoing the past and focusing on dividends of future.	Encourage the citizens and government to adopt best practices of truth telling, forgiveness, reconciliation, healing and togetherness.	Help the government and citizens in funding the activities that mend social fabrics with joint ventures on peace and development process.
12.	Cantonment of all armed forces to train and re-organize them in accordance with conventional standards, including delinks from political parties so that tensions do not easily destroy bigger gains of peace.	Collaborate with the technocrats in security and defence sector in identification, establishment and management of cantonment areas.	Conduct research and provide best practices on cantonment, reorganization and re-orientation of armed forces in human security and defence in 21st Century.	Encourage South Sudan to use the opportunity of cantonment and reforms in security and defence sector to produce an admirable regional model.	Support the reforms and re-orientation of armed forces as conditioned on adopting modern standards and involvement of armed personnel in development.

ABOUT THE CENTER

South Sudan Center for Strategic and Policy Studies (CSPS) was established in July 2011 with aims of participating in the development of the country through applied research to enhance the debate on governance, nation and state-building in South Sudan, with the purpose of adding objectivity, critical thinking, nurturing strategic thinking, progressive and well-informed leadership.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

This report was compiled by Dr. James Okuk, Project coordinator for the High-level Breakfast Discussion and Strategic Thinking on the Peace Process in South Sudan. He is renown academic and Research Fellow at CSPS.

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ROYAL NORWEGIAN
EMBASSY, SOUTH SUDAN



P.O.BOX 619

Juba, South Sudan

Tel: +211 (0) 920 310 415 | +211 (0) 915 652 847

www.ss-csps.org