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PRESS RELEASE

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER SOUTH SUDAN PEACE TALKS ADJOURN FOR CONSULTATIONS

23 June 2014, Addis Ababa: Multi-stakeholder IGAD-led peace talks for South Sudan in Addis Ababa, adjourned today for consultations. The multi-stakeholder roundtable talks, launched on 20 June 2014 in Addis Ababa, sought – for the first time - to bring SPLM Leaders (Former Detainees), political parties, civil society and faith-based organizations, to the negotiation table, alongside the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and SPLM/A (In Opposition). This is in accordance with the 9 May 2014 Agreement on Resolving the Crisis in South Sudan and the 10 June 2014 Communiqué of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

The SPLM/A (In Opposition) failed to attend the multi-stakeholder roundtable negotiations. This is in contradiction to the 9 May 2014 Agreement as well as the 10 June 2014 Communiqué which provides for the inclusion and participation of other stakeholders in the negotiations for a new political dispensation in South Sudan including arrangements for a transitional government of national unity.

The IGAD Special Envoys shall, during the adjournment, continue to undertake broad consultations with South Sudanese stakeholders, the leaders of the IGAD region, the African Union, the United Nations Security Council and other friends and partners of South Sudan. The Envoys will also follow up the full operationalization of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVM) in accordance with UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2155. IGAD and its international partners are moving rapidly to implement UNSC Resolution 2155 with the Regional Protection Force being deployed with a new mandate to protect civilians, reinforce the MVM and ensure unhindered humanitarian access as well as the protection of humanitarian corridors.

During the same period, the stakeholders are expected to consult and provide feedback on the draft framework for political negotiations toward a settlement of the crisis in South Sudan. The stakeholders are also urged to prepare for the next phase of negotiations and engage substantively in order to meet the deadline endorsed by the IGAD Heads of State and Government, to complete dialogue on the formation of a transitional government of national unity within sixty days.

The IGAD-led mediation urges the political leaders of South Sudan to assume their responsibilities with the same resolve that their neighbours and the international community attach to this tragic situation. ###