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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Phase II of the IGAD-led South Sudan Peace Talks Adjourn for Twelve Days

**19 May, 2014, Addis Ababa:** After fruitful deliberation, the third session of Phase II of the South Sudan Peace Talks on political dialogue for National Reconciliation and Healing that commenced on April 28, 2014 adjourns today for twelve days.

During this mediation phase, H.E. President Salva Kiir, the President of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, and Dr Riek Machar, Former Vice President the Republic of South Sudan and Leader of the SPLM/SPLA (In opposition), signed the landmark agreement to end the conflict in South Sudan. This agreement, signed under the auspices of the H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chairman of the IGAD Assembly, contains commitment to an immediate Cessation of Hostilities, pledge to freeze all forces in their current locations, and negotiate on a transitional government of national unity, among others. The agreement has favorably changed the landscape of the negotiation into a more inclusive, representative and forward looking process.

The Parties in conflict also signed a Recommitment on the Humanitarian Matters in the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement on 5 May, 2014. In addition, in accordance with the Terms of Reference adopted by the Parties on 6th January, 2014, process agenda, and in consultation with the Special Envoys, the Parties in conflict established two working Committees namely Security Arrangements and Humanitarian Affairs Committee and Political Committee. These committees have produced working documents on implementation modalities matrix for the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and the Framework for the Political Negotiations towards a Settlement of the Crisis in South Sudan respectively which is work in progress.

Announcing the adjournment, the IGAD Special Envoys urged the warring Parties to honor their agreements previously inked before the eyes of the people of South Sudan and the international community at large.

During the recess, the IGAD Special Envoys will undertake shuttle mission to South Sudan to consult with different stakeholders. The next phase of the mediation process shall commence on the June 4, 2014. ###