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PRESS RELEASE

President Salva Kiir and Dr. Riek Machar sign a landmark agreement to end the conflict in South Sudan

9 May 2014, Addis Ababa: H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, the President of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and Dr. Riek Machar, Former Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan and leader of the SPLM/A (In opposition), met in Addis Ababa today and signed a landmark agreement to immediately end the conflict in the country.

The meeting that was facilitated by H.E Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the IGAD Assembly was the first face-to-face meeting between the two principals since the outbreak of the conflict in South Sudan on 15 December 2013.

The Agreement contains a commitment to an immediate Cessation of Hostilities within 24 hours of the signing and a rededication to the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement that was signed on 23 January 2014 in Addis Ababa. The two leaders have also committed to freeze forces in their current locations and refrain from any provocative action or combat movement until a permanent ceasefire is agreed.

They have further committed to unconditionally cooperate with the full operationalization of the IGAD Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVM) as well as to facilitate unhindered humanitarian access to all populations affected by the conflict.

In addition, they agreed to work together to move the country forward by establishing a transitional government of national unity through an all inclusive peace process that will include the two direct negotiators (GRSS and SPLM/A (In opposition)) as well as the SPLM Leaders (Former Detainees), political parties, civil society and faith-based leaders.

The transitional government of national unity will be tasked to oversee government functions during a transitional period; implement critical reforms as negotiated through the peace process; oversee a permanent constitutional process and guide the country to new elections. The terms of the transitional government will be negotiated through the IGAD-led peace process. The two leaders will also be holding a follow up meeting in one month under the auspices of IGAD.

The agreement represents a breakthrough in the ongoing IGAD-led Mediation process and it is expected to invigorate and expedite the negotiations in Addis Ababa ###