

Press Statement by the Joint Preparatory Committee for the SPLM Intra-Party Dialogue:

WE members of the Political Bureau (PB) of the SPLM, mandated to work on the preparations for the Intra-Party Dialogue met in Addis Ababa, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, under the facilitation of the African National Congress (ANC) and the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) to engage in a preparatory work that lays a solid ground for the smooth deliberation of the Intra-Party Dialogue by the Political Bureau (PB) of the SPLM.

The meeting which took place from the 23rd to 26th of April 2014, was conducted with a sense of responsibility and cordiality and has reached agreement on the following:

- a) Objectives of the Intra-Party Dialogue;
- b) Agenda to be discussed by the Political Bureau (PB);
- c) Rules of engagement for the Intra-Party Dialogue and
- d) Continuation of the discussion on the remaining issues.

The delegations are satisfied with the conduct of the preparatory work and wish to express continued commitment to the finalization of the preparation for the Intra-Party Dialogue.

We believe that this inclusive process and efforts that we have undertaken and the commitments that we have made will help us in taking the process forward and assist us in finding a peaceful and lasting solution to the current challenges facing our country. It is in this spirit that we welcome the release of the remaining four detainees by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan. It is our belief that this spirit will open the way for future unity of the party and national reconciliation. ###

Issued on April 25, 2014, in Addis Ababa