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PRESS RELEASE

Advance IGAD Verification Team Heads for Juba

Addis Ababa, Sunday 2nd February 2014: An advance team of the IGAD Joint Technical Committee left for Juba this morning to start the process of establishing the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism for the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement.

The 14-member team led by Major General (rtd) Gebreegzabher Mebrahtu of Ethiopia and deputised by Major General Mohammed Amin Moustafa Eltinay of Sudan is expected to meet with state and non-state stakeholders including local and international organizations in Juba and several locations in South Sudan. The team will also assess the situation on the ground before the deployment of the monitoring and verification teams in various parts of the country.

Furthermore, the team that includes military and civilian experts drawn from IGAD Member States, the Troika and the Partners will also conduct a recce of the areas for possible deployment of the monitors.

At the end of the five-day advance mission, the team will report back to the IGAD Special Envoys in Addis Ababa by 7th February 2014 with recommendations on the way forward.

**For more information, contact either Brazille Musumba
(brazille.musumba@igad.int), +251.920.385.441 or Tigist Hailu
(tigist.hailu@cewarn.org), +251.911.663.514**