

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Juba, 31st July 2015

**SOUTH SUDAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
STATEMENT ON
PROPOSED COMPROMISE AGREEMENT ON THE RESOLUTION OF
THE CONFLICT IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN**

"SIGN THE AGREEMENT!"

We, the Heads of the member Churches of the South Sudan Council of Churches, met today in Juba with our collaborators to reflect on the Proposed Compromise Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan presented to the parties by IGAD.

Since we issued our first statement on 17th December 2013, we have consistently called for an immediate and unconditional end to the fighting. The war must stop immediately. There is no moral justification for this senseless war. It is unacceptable that people continue to kill and be killed while leaders argue over power, positions and percentages.

We are calling for an immediate ceasefire, and we ask the IGAD PLUS to put down the mechanism of protecting and maintaining the ceasefire. This will give the parties in the conflict an atmosphere for frank, trustful and sincere talks. We welcome the Proposed Compromise Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan because it achieves this end. Within 72 hours of its signing, a Permanent Ceasefire comes into force. This is a worthy achievement, a major step forward, a great blessing, and we warmly thank all those who have worked to bring it about. We therefore urge all parties to sign the Agreement, and to honour it by implementing the Ceasefire.

As Church leaders we do not wish to comment on the substance of the Agreement. We are not politicians and it is not our place to enter into the details. We see many good things in the Agreement, but we are also aware that many people have reservations and concerns about parts of it. We reiterate that the most important part of it is the Permanent Ceasefire. Once the guns have fallen silent, there is a window of opportunity, a breathing space in which South Sudanese can consider all the points of disagreement and controversy in a peaceful manner until a consensus is reached which meets the needs of the people, not just the political and military elites. This Agreement is not in itself a solution but it is a mechanism by which a solution can be reached. It creates a space in which we can all discern together how we will become a nation.

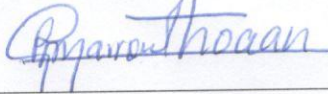
Once the Ceasefire is in effect and the people of South Sudan begin to grapple with the way forward, there will be more need than ever for the Church-facilitated Peace Process described in our Statement of Intent issued in Kigali on 7th June 2015. It will have three main pillars: Advocacy to change the narrative from war to peace; a Neutral Forum where stakeholders can discuss the pressing issues in an atmosphere which builds trust rather than polarisation; and Reconciliation. The Church has a special role to play in Reconciliation, and we will ensure that we are in the forefront of this great endeavour to bring healing to our people.



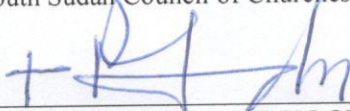
Once again we urge the parties to sign this Agreement and to implement the Permanent Ceasefire. Do not miss this opportunity to end the evil which has befallen our country. The Agreement is a compromise, it is not perfect, it has its shortcomings, but disagreement with some aspects of it does not justify the continuation of the war. It must be signed and implemented in good faith.

We pray for the warring parties, for those who have worked to bring about this Agreement, and for all the people of South Sudan. May God guide you and bless you all.

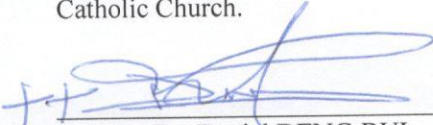
Given in Juba this 31st day of July 2015



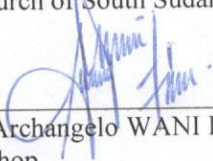
Rt. Rev. Peter GAI LUAL MARROW
Chairman
South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC).



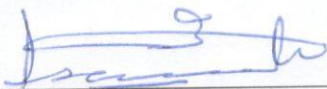
His Grace Paulino LUKUDU LORO
Metropolitan Archbishop of Juba
Catholic Church.



Rt. Rev. Dr. Daniel DENG BUL
Archbishop and Primate
Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan (ECSS/S).



Rt. Rev. Dr. Archangelo WANI LEMI
Presiding Bishop
African Inland Church (AIC).



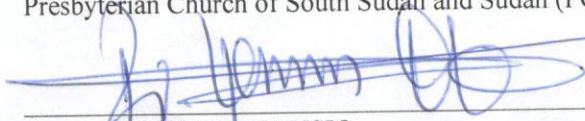
Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaiah MAJOK DAU
General Overseer
Sudan Pentecostal Church (SPC).



Rt. Rev. James PAR TAP HON
Moderator,
Evangelical Presbyterian Church of South Sudan and Sudan (EPCoSS/S).



Rev. Alex Gabriel LADU
Moderator
Presbyterian Church of South Sudan and Sudan (PCoSS/S).



Fr. James OYET LATANSIO
General Secretary
South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC).

