



Monday 21st September 2020

**Message of South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC)
On the International Day of Peace.**

"Blessed are the peace makers, for they will be called the children of God" (Mathew 5:9)

South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) joins the world to commemorate the International Day of Peace which is globally observed on 21st September. SSCC celebrates this day under the theme; *"End the Violence and Shape Peace Together."*

The month of the International Day of Peace coincides with the second anniversary of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) which was signed on 12th September 2018. An agreement hoped to end the conflicts in South Sudan and restore peace.

As the CHURCH in South Sudan, we acknowledge the positive steps made thus far in the implementation of the peace agreement (R-ARCSS) specifically in Chapter One and Chapter Two. This includes the formation of Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU), the agreement on the number of States, the appointment of State Governors, and the steps towards the training, unification and deployment of the National army.

The implementation of this peace agreement for the common children of God means silencing the guns, an end to sexual gender based violence, sleeping in peaceful communities without the fear of being killed or robbed, recovery of economy, protection of children and women, development of inter and intra states infrastructure.

However, it is with great concern that we observe the slow implementation of the peace agreement by all the signatories to the peace agreement. Chapter 1 and 2 are barely fully implemented, there are some pockets in the violations of ceasefire agreements, and the rampant inter communal revenge violence and cattle raiding which continues to destabilize communities across the country. The natural disaster of the floods in many parts of the country especially in Jonglei State have hindered and devastated the already poor infrastructure. The slow implementation of the agreement only continues to deteriorate the already dire conditions of the ordinary South Sudanese.

The Church is also greatly concern about the economic situations in the country. The South Sudanese currency continues to lose value at an alarming rate making it hard for the ordinary South Sudanese to barely afford basic needs in the markets. As we all know, *"a hungry person is an angry and desperate person. What is left of an angry person other than the thoughts of evil and taking the law in one hand?"*

On this occasion of the International Day of Peace, the Church in South Sudan through the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) urges the political parties especially the signatories to the Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) to recommit and speed up the implementations of the provisions in the agreement and the Non Signatories to recommit to the Rome Declaration mediated by the Community of Sant'Egidio.



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The full implementation of the peace agreement (R-ARCSS) especially Chapter Four (4) will provide a conducive environment for businesses and investments in the country, hence contributing to the recovering of the economy which will benefit the ordinary South Sudanese. The full implementation of the peace agreement (R-ARCSS) will reduce both the political and inter-communal revenge violence and conflicts in the country. The full implementation of the peace agreement (R-ARCSS) will reduce the violence perpetrated against women and children across the country.


South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) appeals to religious leaders of all faiths to promote social cohesion among their followers through preaching and initiating of dialogues to peacefully resolve grievances.

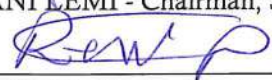
South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) calls upon UN Missions, International and Regional partners, and the Ecumenical Network of South Sudan (ENSS) from Europe & North America Hub and the Africa Hub to continue advocating and working with the Church in South Sudan to achieve a permanent and sustainable peace.

South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) recommits as partner for peace to amplify the voices of the voiceless South Sudanese through its flagship process of the Action Plan for Peace (APP) aimed at changing narratives from violence to that of peace.

O God Bless South Sudan

SIGNED


Bishop Dr. Arkanjelo WANI LEMI - Chairman, South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC).


Rt. Rev. James PAR TAP HON - Moderator, South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SPEC).


The Most Rev. Dr. Justine BADI ARAMA - Primate and Archbishop of the Province of the ECSS.


The Most Rev. Msgr. Dr. Stephen AMEYU MARTIN - Metropolitan Archbishop of JUBA.


Rt. Rev. Peter GAI LUAL MARROW
Moderator of General Assembly - Presbyterian Church of South Sudan & Sudan (PCSS/S).


Bishop Dr. Isaiah MAJOK DAU - General Overseer, Sudan Pentecostal Church (SPC).


Bishop William MUZEE WERESEN - Regional Bishop, Africa Inland Church (AIC).


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

