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**UN Statement**

delivered by

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at

**The African Union Peace and Security Council  
Meeting on the Situation in South Sudan**

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*Check Against Delivery*

**Your Excellency, Chairperson of the Council,**

**Excellencies, members of the Council,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure to join you today to discuss the situation in South Sudan. I would like to thank the [Commissioner / Director for Peace and Security] for the clear and insightful briefing, which highlights the strong collaboration between the African Union and the United Nations in addressing the situation in South Sudan.

From the outset, I would like to acknowledge the progress made in implementation of the process, and to recognize the Government and Opposition leaders for having the courage to return and participate in a robust dialogue in Juba with the aim of moving the peace process forward. In the same vein, I would like to acknowledge and commend IGAD, the African Union Commission and African Union member States for their political support. This includes many in-kind pledges to operationalize the transitional security arrangements - indeed without the political and material support of IGAD and AU, implementation would be much further behind.

**Chairperson,**

As a result of the implementation of the peace agreement and ceasefire, there have been significant improvements in the security situation across South Sudan in the past year. The reduction in political violence has made it possible for: the return of approximately 594,000 displaced persons; an increase in food production; enhanced humanitarian access; and increased trade. It is, therefore, imperative that this

momentum continues for the sake of the people of South Sudan and neighboring countries.

Notwithstanding this progress, implementation is lagging far behind agreed benchmarks and timelines, particularly with regards to the transitional security arrangements and the number of states and their respective boundaries. Key opposition parties have expressed concern, and stressed that implementation of the agreement be accelerated, so that substantial progress is made to enable the formation of an all-inclusive and credible revitalized government of national unity. Given that a further extension has been ruled out – and discouraged - by IGAD and the AU, the preferred option is to support the parties to establish an all-inclusive government, as previously agreed by the parties, to avoid a breakdown of the peace process and a possible relapse into conflict.

It is therefore vital to increase momentum to fulfil the outstanding issues of the peace agreement, and at the same time work to build confidence among the parties to establish the unified government.

With just one month until the 12 November deadline, it is imperative to focus our collective effort towards the following:.

1. Encourage and facilitate the parties to accelerate implementation of the peace agreement.
2. Encourage the government to renew and demonstrate its political commitment to peace implementation, including by delivering on its pledge to fund implementation of the agreement. We should also

influence and encourage the Opposition parties, including the SPLM-IO, to join an all-inclusive transitional government.

3. Support IGAD to convene the parties to reset the implementation timetable and benchmarks in a manner that projects confidence that outstanding pre-transitional tasks will be resolved via consensus, as well as convene an IGAD Summit to endorse the way forward, including deciding on the final status of Dr. Riek Machar to enable him to fully participate in the peace process from Juba.
4. Finally, pursuant to its 12 July 2019 Communique in Niamey, the United Nations welcomes and encourages ‘a visit by the African Union C5 Foreign Ministers to South Sudan before November 2019, for consultations with the South Sudanese leaders, other stakeholders and international partners, to signify the collective engagement and support of Africa to assist the peace process towards the finality of reaching a durable peace.’

**Chairperson,**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Consultative Meeting between the African Union Peace and Security Council and members of the United Nations Security Council, scheduled for next week, provides a timely opportunity for discussions between the two Councils on the way forward, possibly including agreement on joint or coordinated actions to further support the peace agreement and joint messages.

The United Nations looks forward to continuing to work with the African Union and IGAD, to ensure that we move forward together to make this agreement a reality for South Sudan.

I thank you for your kind attention.

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