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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1297TH MEETING

15 AUGUST 2025
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1297.1 (2025)

COMMUNIQUÉ



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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1297th meeting held on 15 August 2025 on the consideration of the PSC Field Mission Report on South Sudan.

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling all its previous decisions and pronouncements on the situation in South Sudan, particularly, Communique [PSC/PR/COMM.1283 (2025)] adopted at its 1283rd meeting of 12 June 2025; and Press Statement [PSC/PR/BR/1270 (2025)], adopted at its 1270th meeting of 31 March 2025;

Mindful of the outstanding transitional tasks and the extended timeline for the end of the Transition, namely, February 2027; **Reiterating** the unwavering commitment of the AU, as a guarantor, to support the full implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), signed on 12 September 2018;

Reaffirming the AU respect for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of South Sudan; and **also reaffirming** the solidarity of the AU with the people and the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in their legitimate aspirations to restore durable peace, security, stability and development in their country, which will significantly benefit the Horn of Africa region and the African Continent as a whole;

Taking note of the presentation of the report by H.E. Dr. Ambassador Mohamed KHALED, Permanent Representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the African Union (AU) and Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council of the AU for August 2025; and

Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council;

1. **Adopts** the Report of its field mission to South Sudan, conducted from 10 to 12 August 2025;
2. **Takes note** of the commitment expressed by H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan, to conclude the transition process and hold elections in December 2026, as stipulated in the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS);
3. **Notes** the completion of phase 1 of the unification of forces and **urges** the parties to fulfill phase 2 of this unification process; and **calls** for the full implementation of the remaining tasks in the Revitalized Agreement;
4. **Emphasizes** the vital role of women and youth in the implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement and **urges** for their full and meaningful participation in political and reconciliation processes;
5. **Expresses deep concern over** the current political and security situations in the country; **also expresses deep concern** over the continued preventive detention of the First Vice President, H.E. Dr. Riek Machar, and the prevailing political tensions, which risk derailing the transition; in this regard, **urges** the Parties to engage in a high-level dialogue, with the support of the African Union Commission, as the only viable and sustainable path towards addressing any leaders' differences they may have;

6. **Reiterates** its call for an immediate and unconditional release of the First Vice President, H.E. Dr. Riek Machar, along with all political detainees, further if there is concrete evidence of violation of the law; **calls upon** the South Sudanese Transitional Authorities to ensure that the case of the First Vice President and all political detainees is processed through the judicial system as prescribed by the law of the country as soon as possible and in respect of all fundamental judicial guarantees;
7. **Urges** all parties to take immediate steps to de-escalate the prevailing political tensions before the situation deteriorates further and **underlines** that it is imperative at this critical juncture to focus all efforts on preventing a return to conflict, fostering the inclusive and timely implementation of the Agreement, and supporting a peaceful transition towards South Sudan's first democratic elections in December 2026;
8. **Commends** the high-level visits and engagements undertaken by the Republic of Uganda, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Kenya and the Chairperson of the AU Commission, the IGAD, as well as the AU Panel of the Wise and the AU Ad Hoc Committee on South Sudan (C5) at Ministerial level, with the aim of addressing the challenges and de-escalating the political tensions in the country;
9. **Urges** all stakeholders to embrace dialogue, uphold the spirit and letter of the R-ARCSS, which remains the cornerstone for sustainable peace, stability, and national reconciliation, and building trust so as to address any differences they may have in the implementation of the Peace Agreement;
10. **Calls** for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, the recommitment of all parties to the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, and to resort to dialogue by initiating an inclusive, high-level political dialogue;
11. **Reiterates** the call for the UN Security Council to gradually lift the arms embargo imposed on South Sudan to enable the Revitalized Transition Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) to expedite the unification of NUFs and to address more effectively the security challenges facing the country; and also **appeals** to the international partners to lift sanctions measures imposed on the country, in order to facilitate the expeditious implementation of the outstanding pillars of the R-ARCSS;
12. **Notes with concern** the worsening of the humanitarian situation marked by acute food insecurity, displacement, and limited humanitarian access; and **appeals** to all partners and humanitarian agencies and Member States in a position to do so to sustain humanitarian support and ensure assistance to humanitarian workers and civilians; in this regard, **appeals** to the South Sudanese authorities to ensure the safety of humanitarian workers and civilians;
13. **Urges** the Revitalized Transition Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) to find solutions to sporadic cases of intercommunal violence, and, in this context, **reiterates** the call to the responsible authorities in all parts of the country grappling with intercommunal violence to work earnestly towards an inclusive process of wholistically addressing the root causes, with a view to promoting durable peace in these areas;
14. **Urges** the RTGoNU to provide a clear electoral road map, with bench marks leading to the election in 2026;
15. **Request** the AU Commission to work with all relevant partners to provide technical support and to coordinate and mobilize resources to support RTGoNU in preparation for the elections of December

2026 and **appeals** to Member States in a position to do so, to also provide technical, material, and financial assistance for the constitution-making and organization of elections scheduled for 2026;

16. **Directs** the AU Commission to urgently deploy a Technical Assessment Team to South Sudan to engage the Transitional Government of South Sudan and other relevant stakeholder with a view to identifying the technical and financial needs by of South Sudanese authorities regarding security sector reform, constitution making process and elections organization, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) among other, and make comprehensive recommendations aiming at addressing all political, security, socio-economic and humanitarian challenges in South Sudan, with the view to set a timeline to accomplish the transition process by February 2027 and submit a comprehensive report to the PSC for consideration;

17. **Commends** the Government and people of the Republic of South Sudan for the warm reception and constructive engagements during the visit; **Expresses gratitude** to the South Sudanese authorities for their interaction with the PSC Delegation during the field mission, as well as to all interlocutors, including IGAD, R-JMEC, UNMISS and the Troika, as well as the representatives of civil society and faith-based organizations; and also **expresses particular gratitude** to the AU Liaison Office in South Sudan for facilitating the successful conduct of the field mission;

18. **Requests** the Chairperson of the AU Commission to urgently appoint an AU High-Level Representative to South Sudan, preferably a former Head of State, to maintain regular engagements with the South Sudanese authorities and other key stakeholders aimed at addressing the challenges in the country with the view to working with the Parties towards the conclusion of the Transition;

19. **Further calls** for PSC High-Level delegation visits to South Sudan; **also encourages** the C- 5 Ad Hoc Committee, Panel of the Wise and IGAD to continue engagement in a high-level dialogue with all parties, on all issues including support towards the holding of the elections in December 2026; and

20. **Decide** to remain actively seized on the matter.