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Letter of Concern

A Call for restoration of peace, security, and stability for the citizens of South Sudan

“... and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God”, (Micah 6:8)

We, the members of the Ecumenical Network on South Sudan – Africa Hub, a network in Africa comprised of continental and regional faith-based organizations and like-minded non-governmental organizations with the well-being of South Sudan in their focus and mandate: All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in East Africa (AMECEA), Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA), ACT Alliance, Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA), Justice Africa, TAABCO, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL), Hekima University College (HUC), Arigatou International, Crisis Action, and World Vision International.

On this occasion of marking the first anniversary of the Transitional Period of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) and in solidarity with the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) and the citizens of South Sudan, join in the **call for restoration of sustainable peace, security, and stability and end to all the bloodshed and human suffering in South Sudan.**

Appreciating the gradual progress made in the implementation of the R-ARCSS especially in establishment of institutions and decisions on outstanding issues of the allocation of States as well as the sharing of responsibility at the Sub-National levels including the nominations, appointments and deployments of State Governors and Local Authorities,

Acknowledging the opportunities created by the national dialogue that took place last year that sought to awaken the nationhood consciousness for social cohesion, economic emancipation, and participatory governance in the country,

We are concerned that the implementation of the R-ARCSS is unnecessarily delayed and marred with inconsistencies including violations of commitments by the parties to the peace agreement where the agreement not responding to the needs of the ordinary citizens. The promise for an inclusive political process, revamping of the economy, and facilitation of a coordinated process of national reconciliation and healing in the country is becoming elusive.

We are concerned about the escalation of inter communal conflicts, violence, displacement of civilians, as well as sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) among communities. This is



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an indication that the core objective of the R-ARCSS to restore peace, security, and stability in South Sudan has not been realized resulting from the delayed/slow implementation of the peace agreement.

We are concerned that the peace agreement has not helped to ameliorate human suffering and perpetual reliance on unsustainable humanitarian assistance. Tragically, reports from aid agencies indicate that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased significantly in the last one year of the implementation of the peace agreement.

We call upon:

The Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) to:

- a.) Fast track the full implementation of the R-ARCSS in accordance with the letter and spirit of the revitalized peace agreement for the well-being and security of the citizens and residents of South Sudan. The RTGoNU should make a clear statement of intent to the citizens of South Sudan towards ending the conflict in the country.
- b.) Commence preparatory work on the legal framework and a robust civic education programme in the country with a view to prepare for credible democratic elections as outlined in the peace agreement.
- c.) In collaboration with the religious community, the civil society organizations and other stakeholders put in place a robust, well-planned and sustained nation-wide reconciliation and healing program especially targeting communities. This will contribute towards resolving inter communal violence.

We, the Ecumenical Network on South Sudan-Africa Hub, commit to accompany the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) and her partners, in their commitment to intensify the call for peace, justice, liberty, and prosperity for all citizens of South Sudan at the national, regional, and global level.

May God bless South Sudan!