

#### SOUTH SUDAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

# SOUTH SUDAN HEADS OF CHURCHES STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN AND THE PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

## Let us dialogue and live in Peace! (Isaiah 1:18)

**We,** the Heads of Churches, come to you with a message of hope, encouragement, and peace. As a body committed to the spiritual and moral guidance of our nation, we remain steadfast in our support for a peaceful and prosperous South Sudan,

**Convened,** for prayers and high-level regional peace engagement at Lukenya Getaway, Machakos, Kenya under the auspices of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025,

**Cognizant that,** South Sudan continues to grapple with a profound political and humanitarian crisis, persistent delays in the implementation of R-ARCSS, ongoing sub-national violence, severe economic hardships, and deep erosion of public trust. All these have left the peace process fragile and the population in a state of enduring suffering,

**Aware of**, the need for a critical and timely intervention aimed at breaking the political deadlock that threatens the fragile peace in South Sudan with the goal of reinvigorating the peace process through creating safe spaces for country wide genuine dialogue and offering a tangible pathway to lasting peace for conflict fatigued South Sudanese,

**Recognizing that**, the nation stands at a perilous crossroads where stagnation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement risks undoing sustained efforts towards cultivating peace in South Sudan,

**Having reflected and prayed** over the state of South Sudan, inspired by the church's calling and prophetic Ministry of peace and reconciliation embodied in the Mission of the Church; do hereby agree that:

- 1. The Church shall assert its divine mandate to minister peace and reconciliation as urged by the South Sudanese people.
- 2. Articulating the voice of the suffering South Sudanese people and serving as the independent conscience of the nation.
- 3. Act as a trusted, neutral bridge between conflicting South Sudanese parties and instrument of transformation/reconstruction of South Sudan.
- 4. Establishing a mechanism for dialogue through a **Church Initiative for National Healing and Reconciliation (CINHR).**
- Urge our political leaders to have political will and move from mere rhetoric to actionable commitments for peace and dialogue in our country.
- 6. Call for general amnesty and national forgiveness, including those in the detention, and those who have taken up arms against the state.
- 7. Exert considerable moral and spiritual influence over South Sudanese leaders to encourage compliance and good-faith negotiation.
- 8. Commit to advocate against proxy interferences and present a coherent, unified regional stance on South Sudan.
- Champion Church Initiative for National Healing and Reconciliation (CINHR) process at the Local, and National. And urge the Regional and International Forums like the AACC, WCC, EAC, AU, Peace and Security Council, IGAD and the UN to support the Church led initiative.
- 10. Encourage respective allies within South Sudan to engage constructively with the Church-led process.

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### With prayers and steadfast hope,

The Most Rev. Dr. Justin Badi Arama Chair, South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) & Primate of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS).

His Eminence Dr. Stephen Ameyu Martin Cardinal Mulla Metropolitan Archbishop of Juba

Rt. Rev. James Makuei Chuol Moderator of the 34<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCSS), Juba.

Rt. Rev. Thomas Tut Puot Moderator of South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SSPEC), Juba

Bishop James Lagos Alexander
Presiding Bishop of Africa Inland Church (AIC), South Sudan.

Bishop James Lado Emiliano General Overseer, Sudan Pentecostal Church (SPC), Juba.

Rev. Benykeng Ajak Pal Chairman, Sudan Interior Church (SIC), Juba.

Fr. Bishay Elantoni Edward General Vicar FR. FSQ

### Coptic Orthodox Church, Khartoum and South Sudan

Rt. Rev. Kewy Ismail Geng President, General Synod Sudanese Reformed Church Tel

Bishop Simon Nyamara Tibi Presiding Bishop, Christian Brotherhood Church

Rev. Tut Kony Nyang Kon General Secretary South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), Juba.