

South Sudan Council of Churches

Head Office

P.O. Box 209 - Juba, South Sudan.



LUKENYA GETAWAY, 29th April 2022

SSCC RECOMMITMENT TO THE 2015 KIGALI STATEMENT OF INTENT AND THE ACTION PLAN FOR PEACE (APP)

"We are hard pressed on every side, but never distressed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."
(2 Corinthians 4: 8-9).

Seven years after the historic Church leaders' retreat in Kigali in June 2015 we, the current Church leaders of South Sudan, recommit ourselves and our Church to continue working for peace and justice in our beloved nation through the medium of our Action Plan for Peace (APP). Meeting in Lukenya, Kenya, from 26th-29th April 2022, assisted by our elder retired Church leaders, our technical experts and our international partners in specialised ministries, we the Heads of the member churches of the South Sudan Council of Churches have reviewed the peace-building efforts of the Church and others and have prayerfully discerned our way forward.

First, we reaffirm the unity of the churches in South Sudan, and once again we identify as the Church of Christ rather than individual churches. We also recognise that peace and justice will not come about through technical and political mechanisms alone, but through transformation of the hearts of all our leaders and our people. *"For my people have committed two crimes: they have abandoned me, the fountain of living water, and dug water-tanks for themselves, cracked water-tanks that hold no water"* (Jeremiah 2:13). We will deepen our efforts for spiritual renewal in our nation and our people. We insist once again that conflicts must be resolved through nonviolent means, but we go further and call for a new culture and lifestyle of nonviolence throughout our society, in our government, in our political and military factions, in our communities, in our homes and in our hearts.

Secondly, we celebrate the positive changes which have taken place since 2015 and we express our gratitude to all those who have contributed to this. Our first aim was "Stop the war Now!" and we thank God that the nationwide war has indeed ceased. However, it has been replaced by widespread violence across the nation; we are still killing ourselves, and our people are suffering. We also thank God that a peace agreement and a transitional government are now in place, and we congratulate the parties on the clauses which have been implemented. But we note with sadness the slow implementation of some clauses to which the parties have agreed, the apparent lack of political will amongst many of the signatories, and the failure to address the root causes of the conflict. We regret that a number of armed parties have felt unable to sign the R-ARCSS and we support the efforts of the Community of Sant'Egidio and others to achieve a more inclusive agreement.

Thirdly, we therefore reaffirm our commitment to our Action Plan for Peace. From the beginning we insisted that our goal was not only to "Stop the War" but also to prevent

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new wars from springing up. Thus, we pledge to continue our efforts to bring about a lasting “just peace” in our nation through spiritual renewal, advocacy, dialogue, reconciliation and trauma healing, while encouraging all nonviolent means of bringing about positive change in our society. We will collaborate with all people of good will in this endeavour. We know that peace and justice are God’s will, and that in God’s good time they will prevail.

We ask for your prayers, and we offer you our blessing.

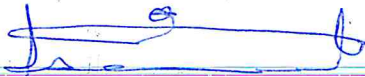
SIGNED:



The Most Rev. Archbishop Dr Stephen AMEYU MARTIN MULLA
Metropolitan Archbishop of JUBA
Apostolic Administrator, Catholic Diocese of TORIT.



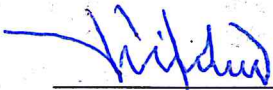
The Most Rev. Dr Justin BADI ARAMA
Primate and Archbishop
Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS) &
Metropolitan Bishop of JUBA.



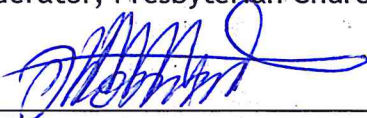
Bishop Dr Isaiah MAJOK DAU
General Overseer
Sudan Pentecostal Church (SPC).



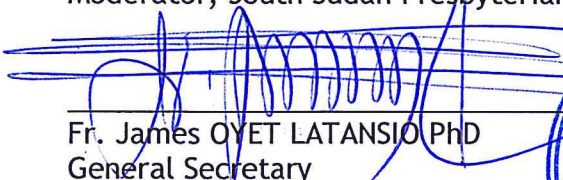
Bishop James LAGOS ALEXANDER
Presiding Bishop
Africa Inland Church (AIC).



Rt. Rev. Moderator James MAKUEI CHUOL
Moderator, Presbyterian Church of South Sudan and Sudan (PCSS/S).



Rt. Rev. Moderator Thomas TUT PUOT MUT
Moderator, South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SSPEC).



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

