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PRESS RELEASE

DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH SUDANESE PARTIES

The face-to-face negotiations between South Sudanese parties in the IGAD-led mediation process continued in Addis Ababa today 6th January 2014 under the mediation of the Special Envoys, Amb. Seyoum Mesfin, Gen. Lazaro Sumbeiywo and Gen. Mohamed Ahmed Mustafa Eldabi.

The two delegations appreciated the gravity of the situation and the need and urgency of resolving the crisis in South Sudan. They reminded themselves of the long-drawn liberation struggle that culminated in the independence of their country. They regretted the unfortunate situation which the current conflict has brought.

Consequently, the two parties enriched and endorsed the following principles, rules and regulations that will guide the dialogue:

1. Modalities of South Sudan Dialogue,
2. Rules of Procedure, and
3. Structure and Terms of Reference.

The three special envoys and Amb. Mahboub Maalim, IGAD Executive Secretary expressed confidence and optimism that the delegations would tackle the substantive agreed agenda of the dialogue, namely cessation of hostilities and the status of the detainees, will continue from tomorrow 7th January 2014.

Issued on 6th January 2014 in Addis Ababa