

South Sudan Young Leaders Forum

January 9-10, 2017

Final and Official Resolutions of the SSYLF

The South Sudanese Young Leaders Forum (SSYLF) held its first conference from 9th-10th January 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya. Under the support of the International Growth Center (IGC), the United States Agency for International Development (USA/ID) and the World Bank, about 50 young leaders who reflect the diversity of the country and representing South Sudanese youth from across South Sudan, and across the diaspora in Uganda, Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, and the United States of America deliberated on the challenges that face the Republic of South Sudan.

Gravely concerned about the current security, political, economic, and humanitarian situation in South Sudan, the SSYLF identified five areas of immediate action to enable a return to peace and stability in the nascent republic. As the meeting coincided with the 12th Anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005 and the 6th Anniversary of the 2011 Referendum that paved the way for the independence of South Sudan, it allowed the participants to share their own stories and reflect on the journey that South Sudan took since the end of the North-South war and the hopes and aspirations that the South Sudanese had and continue to have for their country.

Under the theme, “Uphold us united in peace and harmony,” the SSYLF:

On the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU):

1. **Urges** the parties to exert all efforts to ensure full implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (ARCISS);
2. **Calls upon** the TGoNU to recognize that there are armed groups engaged in hostilities across the country and urge the TGoNU to peacefully engage these groups in order to end war and usher in an era of reconciliation and healing;
3. **Commends** the TGoNU for initiating the National Dialogue of South Sudan (NDSS) process and urges it to expend all efforts to ensure that the national dialogue is inclusive, credible and transparent;
4. **Recognizes** the National Dialogue as the only mechanism for resolving lingering disputes and as the only means for restoring full legitimacy and inclusivity to the TGoNU;

On Economic and Humanitarian Situation:

5. **Calls** on all armed actors to immediately end the war in order to facilitate increased economic production and reverse the decrease in average incomes;
6. **Urges** the TGoNU to embark on the immediate economic reforms in accordance with Chapter 4 of the ARCISS;
7. **Calls upon** the TGoNU to ensure an end to a nagging fiscal indiscipline across the government to build confidence of citizens and donors in the fiduciary systems;

8. **Demands** improved humanitarian services delivery and call upon the TGoNU to secure highways and transport routes to enable adequate and uninterrupted distribution of humanitarian services;
9. **Urges** the TGoNU to embark on trust-building and strengthening of relationship with international NGOs and UN agencies to ensure smooth humanitarian intervention and operations;
10. **Calls upon** the donors and the international partners to provide economic support to prevent total collapse of the South Sudan’s economy;
11. **Urges** the members of parliaments to channel the available resources to true national priorities;

On Security and Governance

12. **Calls upon** the armed actors to declare an unconditional ceasefire immediately;
13. **Demands** for the involvement of youth in the formulation and review of rules and regulations governing possession of small arms and light weapons;
14. **Urges** the government to embark on a comprehensive security sector reforms as stipulated in the ARCISS that leads to the establishment of a National Security Architecture;
15. **Further calls** on the government to set a competitive recruitment process into the army and other security organs based on merit;
16. **Calls upon** the government to embark on diplomatic engagement that would culminate on the resolution of disputed national and international borders;
17. **Calls upon** the government to launch reforms in the Judiciary of South Sudan as stipulated in the ARCISS in order to improve administration of justice;

On the National Dialogue

18. **Commends** the government for initiating the national dialogue, but urges it to ensure that the process is citizen-driven, open, inclusive, and transparent;
19. **Calls upon** the TGoNU and South Sudan Legislative Assembly to draft and pass a bill that would ground the NDSS on a strong legal ground and legally bind all parties to the outcome of the NDSS;
20. **Recommends** that the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) with the help of African Council of Churches (ACC) and the World Council of Churches (WCC) lead the NDSS;
21. **Urges** the government to allow the SSCC to preside over and convene the NDSS;
22. **Calls upon** the government to allow the SSCC to modify the Steering Committee so that it becomes all-inclusive;
23. **Decides** to immediately embark on a complementary youth dialogue process as part of the national dialogue among all the youth of South Sudan;
24. **Demands** that the National Dialogue be conducted as it is stipulated in the ARCISS;

On External Engagement:

25. **Recognizes** that South Sudan has a large and powerful diaspora that needs to be mobilized and engaged to improve relations with external actors;
26. **Urges** the government to embark on a confidence building measures with external supporters of South Sudan;

27. **Directs** South Sudanese youth in the diaspora and across South Sudan to shun hate speech and improve relations among themselves and improve South Sudan’s relations with other countries;
28. **Call upon** IGAD, African Union, Troika, and UN to engage the SSYLF on all issues related to the resolution of conflict in South Sudan;

On the SSYLF:

29. **Directs** all South Sudanese youth to immediately cease hostile political propaganda against South Sudan’s partners, e.g., the UN, USA, Troika, and against themselves and their own communities;
30. **Urges** all South Sudanese young leaders to conduct themselves with dignity and serve as a positive example of change for all South Sudanese people;
31. **Directs** the SSYLF to build bridges among South Sudanese youth to create synergy, especially between urban and rural youth and engage them in programs that create needed awareness for young people and their rights to liberty and justice;
32. **Calls upon** the youth of South Sudan to advocate for improved basic services to people of South Sudan;
33. **Directs** the SSYLF to use media to advance youth advocacy across the nation and in the diaspora and further directs it to form committees to sensitize youth across the country and the diaspora;
34. **Directs** the SSYLF to institute a National Youth Day for more tailored programs and messages for youth across South Sudan and the Diaspora;
35. **Directs** the SSYLF to mobilize and engage the youth of South Sudan in economic production, e.g., farming, fishing, etc.
36. **Directs** the SSYLF to conduct youth dialogues across the country and the diaspora and further directs it to form committees to inform the region and the world on the intention of the SSYLF to conduct these dialogues;
37. **Directs** the SSYLF to write open letters to all parties engaged in South Sudan conflict and urges them to give true peace a chance;
38. **Directs** the SSYLF to author position papers and memoranda on how to address arrays of crises facing South Sudan and present them to concerned leaders/parties;
39. **Directs** the SSYLF to identify and engage all national and international youth organizations and mobilize them to support peace, reconciliation and healing;
40. **Decides** to convene a second conference of SSYLF in Juba, South Sudan within the next several months and directs the SSYLF to take ownership of South Sudan’s issues and exert all efforts to usher in an era of peace.

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