



National Consensus Forum

Press Release

South Sudan's Salva Kiir at the United Nations General Assembly

September 20, 2023

The National Consensus Forum informs South Sudanese and the world that President Salva Kiir Mayardit does not represent the sovereign will of the people of South Sudan in his participation at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, UN Headquarters. His government and militias have impoverished and caused over 76% of our population to need humanitarian assistance, over four million people are displaced internally and in refugee settlements in neighboring countries, an unspecified number is in torture chambers of security agencies, villages are under attack by the military and citizens are denied their constitutional rights to freedom of expression, association, and assembly. These repressive and authoritarian acts of President Kiir's government strip him of any legitimacy to represent our people both at home and internationally, especially at the 78th UNGA.

President Salva Kiir Mayardit has suddenly woken up to participate in this year's UNGA meeting after nearly ten years of absence from those meetings at the UN Headquarters. The President is scheduled to speak on the theme of this year's UNGA, Rebuilding Trust, and Reigniting Global Solidarity: Accelerating Action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainability Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress, and sustainability for all, on Thursday, September 21, 2023. The National Consensus Forum (NCF) contends that in his leadership in South Sudan, President Salva Kiir Mayardit has no intention to accelerate actions on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) towards peace, prosperity, progress, and sustainability for all his citizens. In his 18 years of rule, President Salva Kiir Mayardit has presided over civil wars, state failure, corruption, large-scale abuse of human rights, denial of justice, humanitarian crises, ethnic divisions, and restricted political, civic, and media spaces.

He has failed to implement several peace agreements he signed with his adversaries to restore peace, reform institutions, rebuild the economy, deliver social services, address humanitarian crises, and facilitate transitional justice and general elections. The timeline of the latest peace agreement has been extended three times without any meaningful progress in the implementation

of the agreement. His actions at home continued to demonstrate no political will and required leadership to restore peace and prepare for the elections.

On the eve of President Kiir's departure to New York for this UNGA, his security agents disrupted and canceled a public event organized by the South Sudan Opposition Alliance (SSOMA), a major political group in the country. The security agents also launched an indiscriminate attack on civilian targets in Pochalla village, the home of one of the most marginalized communities in the country. Meanwhile, in Parliament, legislators mainly from President Kiir's party, enacted National Elections Act, undemocratically mandating him to appoint 5% of legislators, instead of having them all elected by citizens.

Considering his obstruction of peace in South Sudan, President Kiir's speech at the UNGA will be mere political rhetoric intended to mislead the world into believing that there is progress in development in South Sudan and that his failed authoritarian government deserves support from the international community. President Kiir poses a serious threat to Regional Peace and being accepted to speak at UNGA will now only embolden him to outdo his well-established dismal record of the gross abuse of basic human rights of his own people with impunity.

The National Consensus Forum strongly believes that any support accorded to President Kiir will not be used for the welfare of the people of South Sudan. On the contrary, any support he receives may end up strengthening his failed and illegitimate authoritarian regime to increase the repression of civilians in South Sudanese.

The Forum appeals to the friends of the people of South Sudan attending the UNGA to question and hold President Kiir to account for obstruction of peace, attacks on civilians, destruction of villages, abuse of human rights, denial of justice, and gross mismanagement of national resources. The only way to resolve the conflict in South Sudan rescue the country and achieve sustainable peace is by addressing the Root Causes of the Conflict through a Roundtable Conference that will bring all South Sudanese Stakeholders together.

The National Consensus Forum is a South Sudanese multi-stakeholder forum, founded to unite the people of South Sudan and to seek national consensus on core issues critical to laying a strong foundation for the nation and resolving the current national crisis. The National Consensus Forum stands for the unity of the people; the sovereignty and territorial integrity of South Sudan; and the promise of justice, liberty, and prosperity for all its peoples, irrespective of ethnicity, religion, race, political affiliation, and or origin. The Forum comprises political organizations, civil society groups, women and youth groups, academics and professionals, and faith-based organizations.

The National Consensus Forum (NCF) is an umbrella organization comprising 21 South Sudanese Political, Civil Society, Women, Youth, and Faith-Based Organizations and the Academic and Professional Association and represents a major segment of the South Sudanese Society.

Hon. Pagan Amum Okech: 

Real SPLM

General Paul Malong Awan: 

SSUF/A

Mr. Abraham Awolich: 

PCCA

Ms. Angela Tuna: 

SAA

Dr. Henry Lejukole: 

Academic & Professionals

General Thomas Cirillo: 

NAS

Ambassador Emmanuel: 

Ajawin: NDM-PF

MS. Suzanne Jambo: 

STEPS

Mr. Alex Yatta Lukadi: 

SSNMC

General Stephen Buay: 

Rolnyang: SSPM/A

End