



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Sudan to the United  
Nations  
New York**

**ADDRESS OF THE  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN  
H.E. DR. RIEK MACHAR TENY-DHURGON**

**General Debate of the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General  
Assembly**

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**Mr. President,**

**Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me from the outset to join fellow Member States in congratulating you on your election to preside over the Sixty-Seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and to commend your predecessor, for his successful stewardship of the last session of the United Nations General Assembly.

I would like to seize this momentous occasion to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the passion and compassion he has shown in responding to the various global challenges facing the organization, most importantly his unwavering personal support for our self-determination referendum, independence and the speedy admission of the Republic of South Sudan into the United Nations.

Furthermore, we are also deeply grateful to this Assembly for the warmth, generosity and hospitality accorded to our President when he addressed this Assembly last year. He made that address at the time when the international community was concerned over the viability of our new nation. In the light of the progress we have made and despite recent events, I am pleased to address this Assembly this year under the theme of the sixty-seventh session: **“Bringing about adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations by peaceful means.”**

**Mr. President,**

The Republic of South Sudan achieved its independence peacefully, through the exercise of the right of self-determination by the people of South Sudan in an internationally supervised referendum as stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The international community played an important role in this process of our independence. We are therefore very thankful to all those who helped us achieve independence, not least the United Nations.

Mr. President,

Our declaration of independence on July 9, 2011 did not resolve all the issues between us and the predecessor state; the Republic of Sudan. These unresolved, post independence issues include border demarcation, oil infrastructure, security and the final status of Abyei. The bilateral engagement of the two countries failed to achieve an agreement. As a result the African Union intervened by mandating the African Union High Implementation Panel (AUHIP) under President Thabo Mbeki to facilitate negotiations between the two parties.

As the situation continued to deteriorate, the UN Security Council intervened and passed Security Council Resolution 2046. This resolution sets out a clear road map for resolving all the remaining differences between Sudan and South Sudan including Abyei and addresses the conflicts in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile as well.

**Mr. President**

Before I discuss the developments in the talks in Addis Ababa, allow me to brief this assembly also on other issues of importance such as state building, food security, public service reform, access to education, security and accountability.

**Mr. President,**

We have embarked on laying concrete foundation for a prosperous, democratic and stable nation by establishing institutions at national, states and local government levels for governance and delivery of services to the people.

**Mr. President,**

We believe that food security is not a privilege but a basic right of each and every citizen in South Sudan. No citizen should go hungry, as the saying goes, "A hungry man is an angry man". It will not be good for stability of the country if we have many hungry and angry men. In our endeavor to achieve food security, we are diversifying the economy by utilizing the oil revenue to fuel agriculture and build the necessary basic infrastructure. This is the only way we would benefit from our vast fertile agricultural lands that our country is immensely endowed with.

**Mr. President**

Our public service is functioning satisfactorily, especially after introducing far reaching public service reforms. This has brought about

efficiency and transparency in service delivery. We have introduced constructive and effective reforms in our public financial management, and have strengthened measures to improve transparency and accountability.

**Mr. President,**

As to education, we have increased access to education for all children in South Sudan. Since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, enrolment in our primary schools has more than doubled. In this past year, we have continued to strengthen and expand the education sector by further introducing Alternative education. This innovative notion of Alternative Education System is currently offering accelerated learning programs to more than two hundred thousand youth and adults.

Favorable conditions and terms of service for teachers have been introduced throughout the country and the government is working tirelessly to meet the rapidly increasing demand for secondary education caused by increase of primary schools enrolment.

However, the government still has a long way to go in providing educational opportunities for our children and young people that prepares them for the future and meets their expectations and aspirations. At this juncture, Mr. President, allow me to commend the launch by the UN Secretary-General of “the Global Initiative on Education”, which we hope will open up avenues of collaboration between South Sudan and the international community on improving education access for our children.

**Mr. President,**

Our nascent nation has been tested enormously in its first year of independence. We have been tested by conflicts within and beyond our borders; we have been tested by severe economic hardship; and we have been tested by the revelation of severe abuse of the public trust and funds resulting partly from malpractices and lack of capacity. The government is taking serious corrective measures and institutional capacity building to address this issue in order to restore public confidence.

My government is striving harder than ever to combat corruption in our public service. Along with reformed systems for management of public funds and tighter controls, we are combating corruption through the rule of law and through greater transparency and accountability. The government has enacted legislations that hold public officials accountable and brings the management of our resources closer to international standards.

The government has published the entire annual budget and opened our books to public scrutiny. By the end of this year, we aim to be up to date on all the audits of our national accounts since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005. As an accountable government before our people, we still believe there is a long way ahead to achieve the efficiency, transparency and accountability in our public service and financial management. Despite the economic peril since the shut-down of oil production, we are nevertheless, encouraged that this period of austerity has strengthened our resolve to press ahead in our reform agenda, and has allowed us to lay a strong

foundation for more efficient and accountable governance beyond the austerity period, “tough times never last, but tough people do”.

With regard to security, currently the Republic is facing security threats in the form of armed militia groups creating insecurity and undermining the young democracy. The government has accorded the highest priority in reaching peaceful resolution to these internal conflicts. Four of the armed militia groups have laid down their arms and integrated voluntarily into our national army and civilian life.

**Mr. President,**

We believe that internal and external security of our nation is a prerequisite in having meaningful economic development and social progress. While, we are working tirelessly towards achieving and maintaining peace within our borders, critical unresolved issues remain between South Sudan and Sudan, including border demarcation, citizenship rights, the Status of Abyei, and oil related issues. The lack of progress in these post-independence issues has been posing threats to peace and stable relations between the two countries.

Our relations with the Sudan reached a critical juncture last year, when Khartoum blocked tankers loaded with our crude oil and prevented them from departing Port Sudan. In addition, Sudan seized and resold crude oil that we had sold to international customers. By January of this year, we had lost some eight hundred million dollars in revenues. At that point, my government was left with no choice but to shut down the oil production. This decision was publicly supported by the majority of our people.

**Mr. President,**

In this context of South Sudan and Sudan relations, it is incumbent upon my government to shed some light of what became known as Heglig or Panthou incident between us and the Republic of the Sudan. This crisis was the result of increasing border tensions and repeated bombings in the border areas of my country by the Sudan Armed Forces.

In April this year our forces clashed with the Sudan Army in an area inside South Sudan, several kilometers south of Heglig. This resulted in our Armed Forces, taking over Heglig temporarily, acting in self-defense to prevent it being used as a launching pad for military attacks by the Sudanese Armed Forces on our country.

In compliance with advice from the international community, we then withdraw our forces soon after. Although Heglig is historically part of South Sudan, it was not our intention to take it by force. We believe we will settle this matter through peaceful negotiations.

**Mr. President,**

Another area in which we believe we have not been well understood by the International Community is our alleged support for the SPLM-North. What may not be fully appreciated by outside observers is that these forces were integral members of the SPLM. But, although they fought side by side with us, they were not fighting for the cause of Southern Sudan independence, but for their own cause, through alliance with us. Of course, we shared a common vision of creating a new, fundamentally restructured United Sudan of inclusivity, equality



and dignity for all, without discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion or culture. But we also had issues that were specific to our particular situation and which, for us, eventually led to our independence.

It should be recalled that the CPA included a special protocol on Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States that addressed their special grievances. That protocol is yet to be credibly implemented. As former allies who contributed significantly to our success in achieving the objectives of our struggle, we obviously have a moral and indeed political obligation to assist SPLM-N in addressing their legitimate grievances, as stipulated and agreed in the CPA.

In this connection, South Sudan is currently carrying the burden of accommodating an increasing number of refugees from the two areas. We therefore call upon the international community to assist in meeting the humanitarian needs of these refugees within South Sudan as well as through Sudan territory for those internally displaced by the conflict.

Our President stated in his statement at our independence celebration, "we cannot abandon them, but would support their cause peacefully through negotiated settlement between them and the government of the Sudan". South Sudan will use its good offices as a former ally of the SPLM-North to assist the Sudan by acting as an honest broker in mediating a peaceful, but just resolution, of the conflict. We believe our role as honest brokers will in long term assist our neighbor in the North, the Government of the Sudan to achieve peace and stability. We are glad that the United Nations recognizes that there can be no military

solution to the conflict and that a negotiated settlement is the way forward.

### **Mr. President**

I am pleased to inform this Assembly that today President Salva Kiir Mayardit and President Omer Hassan Ahmed al Bashir signed an agreement that will allow the two countries to pursue their national development under a secure and lasting peace. We are hopeful that the new agreement with the Sudan will lead to the resolution of our differences on security, borders, and the use of petroleum infrastructure. It is envisaged that if each side upholds its part of this agreement, the most significant causes of dispute between our two countries will have been amicably resolved. Diplomacy would have won; and reason would have prevailed. With resolution of these key matters, preparations to resume oil production in South Sudan will now begin.

Agreements signed today between our two countries are as follows:

- (i) Agreement concerning Oil and related economic matters;
- (ii) The Framework Agreement on the Status of Nationals of the Other State;
- (iii) The Agreement on Boundary Demarcation;
- (iv) The Agreement on Border Issues;

- (v) The Agreement on a Framework for Cooperation on central Banking Issues;
- (vi) The Agreement on Trade and Trade-Related Issues;
- (vii) The Agreement on Certain Economic Matters: Division of Assets and Liabilities, Arrears and Claims and Joint Approach to the International Community; and
- (viii) The Framework Agreement to Facilitate Payment of Post-Service Benefits.

Mr President

Whereas we are happy with all that has been agreed today by our two countries, I wish to inform the General Assembly that we failed to reach agreement on Abyei. President Beshir has rejected the proposal of the AUHIP, as stipulated under Resolution 2046 of the UN security Resolution. It is now incumbent upon the AU Peace and Security Council together with UN Security Council to take necessary action for the way forward.

We are thankful to both the AU Peace and Security Council and the UN Security Council for their great efforts to bring about this agreement between our two countries.

**Mr. President,**

As our President stated in this forum one year ago, “it is the ambition of the people of South Sudan to transform our country into a regional agro-industrial powerhouse, with reduced dependence on external assistance, and the potential to feed the people of South Sudan and a possible breadbasket for East Africa”.

Our strategy aims at utilizing oil wealth as a catalyst to stimulate our economic development potential, with emphasis on agriculture.

**Mr. President,**

We are conscious that we cannot achieve these goals alone. We need continued support from friends, partners and the international community. We are confident that together we shall overcome the challenges ahead. I take this opportunity once more, on behalf of the people and the government of South Sudan, to express our profound gratitude for the support rendered to us by the UN, AU, Regional Organizations, friends and partners.

Finally, Mr. President, allow me to reiterate the resolve and commitment of the people and the government of the Republic of South Sudan to be a productive and active member of this global family of nations, and to make their contribution in promoting world peace and prosperity for all human kind.

**Thank you**