

Ottawa

Thursday, March-13-14

Article 27 on South Sudan

Developments in South Sudan Conflict: Whoever meets, even Presidents, betrays the Peoples of South Sudan: IGAD Summit as glaring example

Our Articles 1 to 3 and 5 to 26 were situation analysis of the conflict in South Sudan. Our articles 4 (A), 4 (B) and 4 (C) were the first of our series on “Who is Who”. This article (27) is dedicated ONLY to the shameful performance of the IGAD Presidents as paper tigers.

For reference, please see the resolutions of Addis Communiqué of 13 March 2014, referred to in the analysis below.

A few observations on the communiqué on South Sudan:

1. There is mention of the “Former detainees” but not the “detainees” Kiir would have vetoed including them while they are on trial.
2. “Canada” is not mentioned anywhere.
3. Only absent from the 8 members is Eritrea as they never sit with the Ethiopians
4. But Somalia and Djibouti are there only to fill the seats!
5. Uganda and South Sudan could have sat in one seat!
6. The resolutions talk about “Urges the parties” but no modality of implementation
7. They talk of a “Protection Deterrent Force”. This is the weakest form of mandate. “Deterrent” is not as strong as “use of force” “Protection of civilians even by using force”
8. They want the PDF to be as part of the monitoring and verification mechanism (MVM). There goes any “potency” out of the window. It is the same problem with UNISFA’s 3997 strong that have been threatened by 600 SPLA force last week and they stopped patrolling Abyei. Not because the Ethiopians are cowards, but the mandate of 1990 was very weak.
9. They call upon the UN and AU to “Provide ALL necessary support”. That is money and logistics. What is the PDF without that? Has IGAD any support to give? So easy to “Pass the buck” to third parties.
10. Para 10 and 11 of the decisions is a sell out of the 4 in Juba. Cowards!
11. Para 14 shows they have nothing but words
12. Para 17, in ignorance, strips IGAD of any real power in the face of AU and the PSC.
13. Para 18 is another begging call.
14. It is such poor and impotent performance that keeps the violence going.

From day one and in our article # 1, article 2, 3 and our open letter to Gen Sumbeiywo in article 5 we warned of the incapacity of the IGAD to deal with the conflict. ICG came to the same conclusion but no one listens.

Text of the the Summit's resolutions:

7. Urges the Parties to fully comply with and implement the Cessation of Hostilities (COH) Agreement and its Implementation Modalities as well as show their political will and commitment to end the war; and take all necessary measures to encourage the Parties to abide by the Agreements;
8. Implores the Parties to urgently address the humanitarian crisis, provide unfettered humanitarian access and delivery of humanitarian assistance in full collaboration and coordination with local and international humanitarian organizations;
9. Authorizes the prompt deployment of a Protection and Deterrent Force (PDF) from the region with a clear mandate and operational guidelines as part of the IGAD Monitoring and Verification Mechanism in South Sudan and call upon the UN Security Council and the African Union to provide all the necessary support; and further reiterates the call on the parties to ensure the progressive withdrawal of all armed groups and all allied forces invited by either side from the theatre of operations as per the COH Agreement and in line with the Communiqué of the 24th Extraordinary Summit of IGAD Assembly of the Heads of State and Government, held on the 31st January 2014;
10. Reaffirms the need for an inclusive political dialogue and further calls on the parties to include in the negotiations all South Sudanese stakeholders particularly SPLM Leaders (Former Detainees), other political parties and representatives of CSOs as deemed necessary by the Mediation Process;
11. Stresses the need to recognize the Former Detainees as positive contributors to the peace process
12. Reminds the Parties to negotiate in good-faith guided by the spirit of give and take, tolerance and accommodation and reject the politics of zero-sum-game;
13. Agrees that all IGAD Member States may participate as observers at the on-going negotiations, and in the MVM;
14. Appreciates the international community for its continued political, diplomatic, humanitarian and financial support to the ongoing efforts; appeals for enhanced and sustained support;
15. Condemns all acts driven by tribalism and ideological bankruptcy; and calls for an immediate stop to the targeting of non-combatants including civilians and prisoners of war as these acts amount to War Crimes and are recognized as such by IGAD;
16. Denounces and condemns all human rights violations committed in South Sudan since the outbreak of the conflict in December 2013;
17. Welcomes the African Union (AU) establishment of the Commission of Inquiry headed by H.E Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to investigate

alleged human rights violations in order to mark the beginning of a genuine process of accountability, reconciliation, and healing in South Sudan in line with the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU PSC) Communiqué of 30th December 2013 in Banjul;

18. Urges the Parties to cooperate with the AU to expeditiously operationalize the Commission of Inquiry; and Calls on the international community to fully support the African Union initiative;

19. Reiterates IGAD's commitment to facilitating a quick and lasting resolution of the South Sudan crisis; and agrees to remain seized of the matter;

As for Obasanjo, please read our article # 23 to get sick!!

Subsahara Centre
Canada