

## PRESS STATEMENT

13 February, 2013  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

### OUR PARTICIPATION IN PHASE II OF THE POLITICAL TALKS ON RESSOLUTION OF THE CRISIS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

1. We the seven SPLM leaders - former Political Detainees, arrived Addis Ababa yesterday evening from Nairobi on the invitation of the IGAD Special Envoys, to participate in the second phase of the political talks on South Sudan crisis. This invitation for our participation came as result of the recognition by IGAD Summit of Heads of State, the Government of South Sudan and the SPLM/A in Opposition of the positive contribution that the former detainees can play in the search for speedy resolution of the unfortunate conflict that have gripped the country since 15<sup>th</sup> of December, 2013. This recognition was expressed in the Communiques of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Sessions of 27<sup>th</sup> of December, 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2014 respectively.
2. This morning we met the IGAD Special Envoys and exchanged views on the way forward and on matters connected with the agenda and programme of the talks.
3. We greatly appreciate this invitation and commit ourselves to participate effectively and positively alongside other parties in finding peaceful and durable solution to the crisis in the country.
4. Deeply concerned about the immense suffering facing our people as a result of the on-going conflict manifested in the form of massive loss of lives of innocent people, displacement of hundreds of thousands into the bushes of South Sudan, United Nations Camps and neighbouring countries, we call upon the Government of South Sudan, the United Nations Organization and the