



Date: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

**STATEMENT  
ON IGAD HIGH LEVEL REVITALISATION FORUM  
INTRA-SOUTH SUDANESE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS  
FROM THE SOUTH SUDAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

In February 2018, during ecumenical prayers, the parties and stakeholdersto the IGAD High-Level Revitalisation Forum (HLRF) requested the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) to bring them together into a South-South dialogue. Initial consultations by South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) with the parties took place during the month of February and March 2018.

At the technical workshops prior to the resumption of the High-Level Revitalization Forum (HLRF) third phase this week the parties and the stakeholders renewed their appeal for an opportunity to hold a South-South Dialogue. During the opening of the High-Level Revitalization Forum (HLRF) on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018, the IGAD Special Envoy to South Sudan announced that the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) to facilitate this dialogue.

On 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 the parties formed a Leadership Committee and sub-committees on Security and Governance. Each committee is chaired by senior Church leaders, with Secretariat support. Work began on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018 with agenda-setting, allocation of participants to the committees, after which discussions began. IGAD has provided overall logistical support.

Some progress has been made and the spirit is positive, even as the committee members begin tackling the issues. The parties have committed to silence the guns while the process and momentum are maintained. The South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) appeals to all parties to avoid Negative Statements and to strictly abide by the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access.

The CHURCH expresses its thanks to IGAD and the International Community for their positive role in promoting the process of peace. Let us continue to PRAY for the illumination of the Holy Spirit with all His gifts.

Oh God Bless South Sudan.

