



Press Release

H.E Omar Hassan Ahmed El Bashir president of the Republic of the Sudan declared on 17th June 2016 a four-months comprehensive ceasefire in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile, starting from Saturday 18th June 2016. The announcement is a goodwill gesture to give the opportunity to rebel movements who did not sign the Doha Document to lay down their arms and join the peace process in Sudan. The president also renewed the invitation to all political forces and the armed movements to join the National Dialogue before the General Assembly of the National Dialogue in the 6th of August 2016. The announcement was met with positive response from the United Nation, The European Union, The African Union, The Arab League and the Arab Parliament.

The United Nations welcomed the announcement in a statement by Mr. Ban Ki Moon the UN Secretary General in 22nd June 2016. The Secretary General reiterated his call for the Parties which did not sign the Peace Road-map proposed by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) to do so, and to continue talks with the Government of Sudan and other parties engaged in dialogue inside Sudan to reach an agreement, through inclusive national dialogue.

The European Union on its part welcomed the declared truce. Catherine Ray the spokeswoman of the EU's Foreign Service, welcomed the announcement made by the Sudanese President and encouraged the Sudanese parties to take this opportunity to find a viable solution to Sudan's conflict within the framework of the ongoing efforts led by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP).

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, welcomed the announcement of a unilateral cessation of hostilities in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan States. The Chairperson appealed to the rebel movements in the two Areas and Darfur to take this opportunity to join

the Roadmap process facilitated by the AU High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) and signed by the Government of Sudan on 21 March 2016.

The Arab League, on its part, welcomed the initiative made by the Sudanese President. The Arab League's envoy to Sudan stated on 20th June 2016, that the four month cease-fire is a positive and constructive step and a golden opportunity that should be seized by the opposition forces, the non-signatory movements and dialogue-rejecting parties to join the National Dialogue process. He added that the decision embodies profound political wisdom and an honest desire to achieve political solutions for the national issues via a comprehensive national dialogue which is open for all the political forces without exclusion to any party or issue.

The Speaker of the Arab Parliament stated in 21 June 2016 that the Sudanese president's wise initiative gives the opportunity for everyone to lay down their arms and catch the peace process in Sudan. He called on the fighting parties to respond to the president's invitation, stressing that this courageous decision supports ways to resolve the crisis through dialogue and peaceful means, which would save lives, security and peace.

It is regrettable that in spite of the repetitive calls for peace from the international community, and constructive steps undertaken by the government of the Sudan to achieve a lasting political, and peaceful solutions, including the last declaration of the ceasefire, the opposition both political and armed, refuse to join the peace process.

The government of the Sudan urges the international community, stakeholder, and all states that defend the principles of peace and justice, to refrain from providing support to the opposition, because it impedes the peace process, and to exert the necessary efforts to make them lay their arms and join peace dialogue.

The government of the Sudan affirms once again, its commitment to continue its efforts and endeavours to achieving a lasting and durable solutions.

Date 28 June 2016