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## Statement by the Spokesperson concerning the Joint Declaration of the AU, IGAD and UN on South Sudan of 29 January 2017

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Statements by the Spokesperson

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The EU joins its voice to that of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the United Nations to highlight the need for an inclusive political solution and an active role for the African Union High Representative towards ensuring such a result in South Sudan.

The organisations also expressed deep concern, which the EU shares, about the continuing spread of fighting and the risk of inter-communal violence escalating into mass atrocities, and the dire humanitarian situation in the country.

The population of South Sudan must be spared further suffering. An immediate cessation of hostilities must be accompanied by a process of political consultation that is representative of, and trusted by, the entire population of South Sudan. This process should be initiated without delay and without obstacles. There are no shortcuts to full and fair representation.

The European Union stands ready both to support such an effort and further to strengthen and enhance international co-operation in support of the South Sudan peace process.

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Author

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