



## STATEMENTS BY THE SPOKESPERSON

# Statement by the Spokesperson on the peace accord celebrations in South Sudan

At the Peace ceremony today in Juba South Sudanese parties reconfirmed their commitment to the 'Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan', signed on 12 September under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The initial steps taken towards its implementation, are going in the right direction and should be followed by others.

However fighting continues in some areas of the country. It is important that all parties immediately observe the provisions of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement of December 2017 and disengage and separate their forces in close proximity as agreed by them. Full and unimpeded humanitarian access throughout the country is equally paramount. Recent reports have documented grave human rights violations and abuses in South Sudan, some of which may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. We expect all parties to hold perpetrators of violence to account, and ensure that transitional justice and accountability mechanisms are in place for the people of South Sudan.

The full implementation of actions, such as releasing all prisoners of war and political detainees, would build confidence among South Sudanese parties and with the international community and is critical for an effective peace process, with political and economic inclusiveness, transparency and accountability.

IGAD and its member states have a central role to ensure that the Agreement is implemented by the parties. The European Union will continue to support the region and to show solidarity with the people of South Sudan and remains committed to accompanying them on their journey towards peace, reconciliation, stability and resilience.



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