



**Community Empowerment for Progress Organization**

**Working Paper**

**Desk Review**

**of**

**AUC-5 Summit Resolutions Implementation**

**Juba, South Sudan**

**July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



## Executive Summary

Since the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) in South Sudan formally endorsed the African Union High-Level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan (AU C5) declaration and resolutions dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2026. The endorsement of the resolutions was done by the RTGoNU Council of Ministers, chaired by President Salva Kiir<sup>1</sup>. The resolutions were to accelerate peace implementation ahead of the general elections scheduled for December, 2026. It is now three months without concrete implementation results from the government. The African Union has done their part by ensuring that H.E. Jakaya Kikwete has regular travels or filed visits to Juba to pursue the government for the implementation of the AUC-5 plus Declaration on one hand and engaging the opposition parties' non-signatories to R-ARCSS on the other hand. The government role in undertaking primary responsibility for implementing the AUC-5 plus declaration is below expectations. The central resolutions of the AUC-5-plus declaration that was endorsed by the government and opposition parties include the following:

1. **Ceasefire & Security:** Demands for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, along with the fast-tracking of unified forces and security sector reforms.
2. **Inclusive Dialogue:** Fostering inclusive political dialogue without preconditions and considering the release of political detainees, including First Vice President Riek Machar, to promote national cohesion.
3. **Election Preparation:** A strong commitment to laying the groundwork for the upcoming peaceful, credible elections.

Our tracking exercise revealed that the government has a very low appetite for executing the AUC-5 plus declaration resolutions because the key resolutions of the AUC-5 plus declaration are reinforcing the political return to the spirit and the letter of the R-ARCSS, including mainstreaming the position of harmonization of R-ARCSS and Tumaini Initiative outcomes. The government is very much interested in driving the inter-party dialogue that was designed by the government, which seems not in accordance with the resolutions of the AUC-5 plus declaration. AUC-5 plus a declaration offers a pathway that was agreed upon by IGAD, the AU, and the UN, including the conflicting parties by consensus. Undermining the AUC-5 plus declaration by embracing the interparty offers real risk for winning consensus for political transition. The benefits of the UC-5 summit resolutions require serious leadership undertakings from the African Union Peace and Security Council, including the leadership of the African Union-C-5 member states. Especially serious leadership for dealing with the spoilers of the peace and profiteers of the violence. The spoilers of the peace and profiteers of the violence seem to be stronger and influential around the leadership of the country.

### 1. Brief Introduction

This working paper is a brief advocacy work on attempting to pursue consultative influence for genuine implementation of the AUC-5 summit resolutions. The actions from the AUC-5 member states and the appointed African Union Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa and Red Sea, H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, former president of Tanzania, are not demonstrating timely moves towards delivering the AUC-5 summit resolutions effectively. This is the trigger for undertaking this brief task of desk review of the efforts accomplished already towards the

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.eyeradio.org/cabinet-endorses-key-au-c5-resolutions-to-advance-peace-implementation/#google\\_vignette](https://www.eyeradio.org/cabinet-endorses-key-au-c5-resolutions-to-advance-peace-implementation/#google_vignette)



genuine implementation of the AUC-5 summit resolutions. South Sudan's political transitional process is facing many challenges triggered by the high deficit in trust and confidence among the leaders of the party's signatories to the 2018 peace agreement. It is clear that South Sudan's current political leaders will not be able to deliver peace and security for the nation without external efforts of solidarity that aim at encouraging them to undertake their primary responsibility for making peace and security prevail for the country. The intervention of the AUC-5 summit is the real approach for the external required efforts because the spoilers of peace and profiteers of violence around the leadership of the conflicting parties seem to be influential and drive the leaders towards resolution of political differences through violent means, although the violent means make the citizens of the country pay expensive prices with their lives and properties.

## 2. Purpose of this report

To generate influence for effective implementation of the AUC-5 summit resolutions for realization of peace and stability in South Sudan

## 3. Methodology

The report information was generated through desk review only with limited key informants' interviews from the government, civil society, IGAD, and the African Union. The methodology was designed to just review the political commitment of the government for the AUC-5 plus resolutions implementation.

## 4. Key Observations

Besides the strategic decisions or resolutions of the AUC-5 plus declaration, the following observations were surfacing strongly:

- a) Tactical delaying of the implementation of the AUC-5 summit declaration/resolutions
- b) Watering down the pillars of the AUC-5 summit resolutions into the conduct of ill-planned elections
- c) Possibility of utilizing the AUC-5 summit resolutions for buying a long extended transitional period rather than securing the technical setup of a practical timeline/roadmap for the conduct of the elections

The strategy of championing interparty and planning for December 2026 elections in an exclusive<sup>2</sup> manner in the face of the AUC-5 summit efforts is clear proof for the observation made by this report. The current statement of the interim chairperson of RJMEC during the consultative plenary dated 2nd July, 2026, references<sup>3</sup> to AUC-5 resolutions as genuine.

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<sup>2</sup> **Undermining** the genuine and meaningful participation of rightful signatories of the R-ARCSS/2018 peace agreement

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/rjmec-au-efforts-renew-hope-for-south-sudan-peace-process>



## 5. The Way Forward

South Sudan's political transitional process requires serious demonstration of political leadership and commitment. The actions that will describe serious political leadership and commitment are centered on the following steps below:

### **Step 1: Completion of the constitutional making**

The statues of the permanent constitutional making are in their finalizing stage, especially after the competition of the citizens' consultations in the states and administrative areas. The citizens' views and perspectives on the content of the permanent constitution were already gathered, and the next step will be the zero drafting of the permanent constitution content. The possibility of having the permanent constitution zero draft validated by the citizens in the next five months is possible.

### **Step 2: Observing a permanent ceasefire and security arrangement**

The observation of a permanent ceasefire and genuine undertakings for securing professional security unification are essential in setting the proper road to end the ongoing political stalemate. Pressing consultatively the conflict military parties of South Sudan to recommit themselves and their military allies to observe and enforce the permanent ceasefire and the unification of the forces is key for laying down a foundation for a genuine political transitional process. South Sudan's conflicting gun classes are strongly influenced by the political leaders of the party's signatories to the 2028 peace agreement. Making a permanent ceasefire hold and securing a one-off unification of forces are the required foundation for conducting credible elections in the future of South Sudan's political transitional process.

### **Step 3: Hold elections**

Holding elections for ending the political transitional process in a post-conflict situation is the credible way for securing durable and sustainable political and security stability for the growth of the society and development of human resources. Credible and peaceful elections in the post-conflict South Sudan requires the following tasks delivered or conditions gained:

- a) Rightful signatories of the R-ARCSS availed political consensus for the conduct of the elections without any form of preconditions. This is where inclusive political decisions for holding peaceful and creditable elections
- b) Having clear and properly specified legal frameworks for handling and administering the electoral process
- c) Adequate and timely release of funds to the National Elections Commission for creating good enough conditions for the conduct of the elections in accordance with the perimeters of the R-ARCSS



## 6. Recommendations for Actions for the realization of AUC-5 summit Resolutions

- a) The leadership of AUC-5 and the African Union have no clear strategy and approaches for delivering the adopted resolutions of the AUC-5 summit apart from attempting to utilize **the role of the African Union Envoy to the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea, H.E. Jakaya**
- b) The mandate of H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, besides facilitating inclusive political dialogue among the party's signatories and non-signatories to the 2018 peace accord, should also include briefing the African Union Peace and Security Council on regular briefs in order to generate regional consensus and influence for timely deliverance of the adopted resolutions of the summit.
- c) H.E. Jakaya Kikwete's mandate should be impressing on the matters of making a ceasefire hold, releasing political detainees, and conducting the inclusive political dialogue with specific focus on creating a conducive environment for holding credible and peaceful elections for ending the transitional period.
- d) The culture of high deficit in trust and confidence supporting genuine political transition is still higher, and therefore AUPSC should intervene effectively before it is beyond the mandate of H.E. Jakaya.
- e) THE leadership of the African Union Peace and Security Council should undertake practical and concrete regional coordinated impunity measures against the action. Spoilers of peace and profiteers of the violence fear the country's stability.
- f) There are tactics observed for watering down the resolutions of the AUC-5 summit declaration to simple, ill-planned elections and facilitation of exclusive interparty dialogue in Juba.

## 7. Conclusion

The preservability of the government pushing the African Union back for ignoring genuine implementation of the AUC-5 summit resolutions is very high and eminent. The leadership of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the African Union should seriously undertake tasks that make them reign over the government for genuine and meaningful implementation of the AUC-5 summit resolutions/declaration. The attempt of the AUC-5 summit has raised very high expectations among the conflicting political establishment of South Sudan, including regional and international partners. The effectiveness and influence of the appointed African Union envoy to the Horn of Africa and Red Sea are required to be tangible and deliver results against each of the adopted resolutions of the AUC-5 summit. The tactics that were observed for watering down the genuine implementation of the AUC-5 summit resolutions should be taken seriously by the leadership of the AUC-5 member states. The interparty dialogue intended to be held in Juba, if it is to be inclusive among the rightful signatories of R-ARCSS, will be a good attempt for handling the internal conflict parties' differences for better engagement with the non-signatories to the R-ARCSS.

