



Member of the European Parliament

Ms Federica Mogherini
Vice-President of the European Commission
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
European External Action Service
Rue de la Loi, 200
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Dear High Representative/Vice-President,

Last week, another round of peace talks on South Sudan mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Addis Ababa failed. This outcome, although predictable, is profoundly disappointing and it proves that South Sudanese leaders neglect their people and the suffering they cause to them. At the same time it seems that divisions within IGAD inhibited it from applying the concerted pressure needed to pave the way for a sustainable compromise agreement. The regional organization recently acknowledged its limits and now calls for a reformed mediation process, "IGAD PLUS" that could include the African Union, U.S, China, the UK, Norway and the European Union.

It is also my view that a new coherent approach is urgently needed to end the war which has now been ongoing on for nearly 15 months. It seems necessary to unite relevant regional and international organisations and other key players in order to multiply leverage on the two warring parties and to reach an overall peace and transitional settlement agreement. The "IGAD plus" contact group should urgently begin its work in South Sudan and agree on a mediation strategy while monitoring and upholding the agreement on cessation of hostilities.

I am convinced it is vital the European Union participates in this new international mediation group. Within this framework, the EU should take a leading role in applying pressure and incentive mechanisms in order to reach a comprehensive peace agreement. We must bring the catastrophe in South Sudan to an end.

High Representative/Vice-President, I appreciate your efforts in this worrying situation and you can count on my support,

Yours faithfully,

Petr JEŽEK