



Member of the European Parliament

Dear President TUSK,

Friday 5th June, 2015

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, urge the governments of the Member States of the European Union to stand with the people of South Sudan by making generous pledging commitments at the High Level Event on South Sudan in Geneva on 16 June, ensuring that critical funding shortfalls in the humanitarian response are addressed without delay.

South Sudan remains one of the world's worst food and protection crises. A new report by the IPC, a global system for tracking food security, projects that by July nearly 40% of the country's population will be severely food insecure. In Greater Upper Nile, the scene of intense conflict, households are running out of food. In the markets, prices for basic food staples like cereal, vegetable oil and sugar, are nearly double the norm. People are surviving by missing meals and selling their crops and livestock.

Fresh fighting by government and opposition forces has forced more than 100,000 civilians to flee their homes. There are allegations of deliberate targeting of civilians, rape, killing of women and children, forced recruitment of children, and the torching of entire villages. Many South Sudanese have shown a great ability to cope under unimaginable strain. Still, humanitarian aid could make the difference between life and death.

The EU and some Member States have made generous commitments to previous humanitarian aid appeals for South Sudan. The humanitarian aid they have funded has been effective: according to the IPC report, ten locations in the country have staved off emergency food insecurity thanks to humanitarian assistance. This shows that when aid is reaching people it's making a difference. But the ongoing war has led to further suffering and violence, and until a peace deal is reached, the international community must continue to stand with the people of South Sudan who are suffering as a result of a man-made crisis that is entirely out of their control.

We urge EU Member States to use the opportunity of the Geneva conference to:

- 1) Pledge generously to fully fund the South Sudan humanitarian aid appeal and South Sudan refugee response plan;
- 2) Ensure that all pledged funds are rapidly disbursed;
- 3) Ensure that pledged funds go both toward short-term survival needs, and multi-year programmes that build people's resilience, protect and educate children, re-establish markets and local systems, and help people rebuild their livelihoods;
- 4) Coordinate funding strategies with other donors to ensure that all needs are covered, particularly those of children;
- 5) Make humanitarian funding to South Sudan as flexible as possible, to allow agencies to rapidly respond to fast-changing needs, priorities and obstacles to access.

- 6) Commit to strong diplomatic action to press all parties to the conflict to immediately stop attacks against civilians, their homes and livelihoods, end the use of rape as weapon of war, and the forced recruitment of children. Civilians must be allowed to access assistance safely and be allowed to flee to safety.

Ultimately, a comprehensive peace is needed to bring security, well-being, and respect for the rights of the people of South Sudan. We urge EU Member States to combine their generous humanitarian commitment to the South Sudanese people with concerted pressure on the warring parties to end the war and foster a lasting peace.

Sincere regards,

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