



## Open Letter

**17 March 2025**

**The African Union Peace and Security Council (AU PSC)**

**Ambassador Mohamed Arrouchi**

**Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the AU**

**Chairperson of the AU PSC for March 2025**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Your Excellencies, Members of the AU Peace and Security Council**

**RE: Proposed Urgent Actions for the AU PSC's 1267th Session on the Situation in South Sudan**

As you convene the 1267th session of the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU PSC) on 18 March 2025, to discuss the situation in South Sudan, Africans for the Horn of Africa (Af4HA), in solidarity with South Sudan's civil society, women's organizations, and peace stakeholders, write to you to express our deep concern regarding the situation in South Sudan and the impact it is having on the civilian population, for which we appeal to the AU PSC to act decisively on the proposed key issues. The issues we raise are far from exhaustive but represent the key issues that need the AU PSC's urgent attention and action. We positively note the [AU Chairperson's statement](#) for 8 March 2025, calling for an immediate end to hostilities in South Sudan.

The humanitarian toll of this crisis is particularly devastating for civilians who continue to suffer from mass displacement, injuries, and loss of life, while countless South Sudanese live in constant fear, forced to flee their homes to escape imminent attacks.

For far too long, the people of South Sudan have endured cycles of violence, political instability, economic hardships and humanitarian crises. At this critical juncture—where the

nation stands on the brink of renewed conflict—decisive and scaled-up intervention from the AU PSC is essential.

**We Urge the AU Peace and Security Council to:**

**1. Immediate Cessation of Hostilities**

- To push for an immediate end to the hostilities in Upper Nile (particularly Nasir and Ulang Counties), Bahr El-Ghazal, Western Equatoria and Central Equatoria, to prevent further and unnecessary loss of life.
- The people of South Sudan with whom we stand in solidarity have firmly opposed any resurgence of war, as it is neither a viable nor acceptable solution to South Sudan's challenges. Women and children have endured the tragic consequences of conflict for far too long. The people of South Sudan have the right to live in peace and with dignity.

**2. Stronger Collaboration by the AU & the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) on South Sudan**

- Direct the relevant AU organs and mechanisms to regularly monitor and update the PSC on the developing situation in South Sudan and develop proposals on how to prevent further escalation.
- To set up a framework of engagement with IGAD on a common approach towards responding to the situation in South Sudan.
- Impose targeted pressure on South Sudanese leaders to uphold their commitments under R-ARCSS.
- The AU and IGAD must convene an emergency summit in Juba to resolve the deadlocks in the peace process and prevent further instability.

**3. Full Implementation of the Peace Process**

- Urge the Government of South Sudan to re-commit to the resumption of the finalization of the Tumaini Peace Initiative to enable it to be finalised and for the parties to commit to the full implementation of the R-ARCSS.
- Call for security sector reforms to be expedited, including the unification of forces, to prevent armed factions from derailing peace efforts, while also ensuring the pending remuneration and emoluments for the forces are paid.
- Ensure a road map is put in motion by the AU to oversee South Sudan's transition process leading to credible elections in 2026.

**4. On the Protection of Civilians & Humanitarian Assistance**

- Develop a plan for the protection of civilians, including supporting the immediate deployment of mechanisms to safeguard civilians in the conflict zones.
- Call for an end to the recruitment and use of children to take part in the hostilities.
- Urge the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) to prioritize the safety of its people and create an environment conducive to the dignified return and reintegration of displaced citizens.

- Advocate for increased humanitarian funding and improved access for displaced populations and refugees in neighbouring countries.

## **5. Inclusive Peace & Political Participation**

- Urge all actors involved in the transition and peace process to ensure women, youth, and civil society are at the center of decision-making processes.
- Call on South Sudanese political leaders to reject divisive ethnic and regional politics and work towards national unity and inclusive governance.

## **6. External Interference**

- Firmly reject all forms of external interference in South Sudan and urge neighbouring countries to play a constructive role in supporting South Sudan to return to the path to sustainable peace.
- Call for the immediate withdrawal of any foreign forces presently in South Sudanese territory.

## **7. Accountability & Rule of Law**

- Call for independent investigations into recent atrocities and violations of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) to ensure the detractors of the pathways for sustainable peace are held to account and justice is served, including by those recruiting children as combatants..
- Call for the unconditional release of all the arbitrarily detained political and civil society actors.

## **Conclusion**

South Sudanese civil society remains unwavering in its dedication to peace, justice, and democracy, rejecting both the normalization of violence and the suppression of citizens' voices. The moment for decisive action is now. Immediate action is needed to prevent further escalation and atrocity crimes, safeguard ordinary people's lives and to strengthen the fragile peace. Africans for the Horn of Africa together with our South Sudanese partners are ready to offer our expertise, and to provide any support as needed at this critical moment, through structured engagement enabling civil society contribution, while having due respect for applicable working procedures and the institutional integrity of the AU.

## **About Africans for the Horn of Africa Initiative (Af4HA)**

Africans for the Horn of Africa (Af4HA) Initiative, is a solidarity platform established to amplify citizen action and voices in the response to and for the resolution of crises in the Horn of Africa. The Consortium consists of four leading Pan-African Organisations – The African Leadership Centre (ALC), Atrocities Watch Africa, the International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI), and the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU). Af4HA has established itself as a leading convener of non-state actors advocating for more effective response by decision makers at various levels. Af4HA's convening of African civil society and civic actors contributes to amplifying African local voices and fostering an enabling environment for citizen solidarity, ensuring a plurality of voices and a supportive environment for those seeking to address the complexities presented by conflicts in the region.