



STATEMENT BY KOFI ANNAN ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE OFFICIAL RESULTS OF THE SOUTH SUDAN REFERENDUM

The overwhelming decision for separation marks the conclusion of an important chapter in Sudan's peace process and the beginning of an exciting new episode in Africa's history.

I want to congratulate the authorities including the Governments of North and South Sudan, and particularly the South Sudan Referendum Bureau, for ensuring a smooth, orderly and above all peaceful voting process that should stand as an example in Africa and beyond.

During my recent visit to Juba with former US President Jimmy Carter, I was deeply impressed by the enthusiasm, patience and optimism of the people of South Sudan. It is now up to the Government of South Sudan and its leader President Salva Kiir to translate this positive attitude as well as the significant international goodwill into tangible progress for all. The tragic violence that has recently engulfed Jonglei state is a clear sign of the enormous challenges ahead. I call on all sides to end the violence and to carry the spirit of the referendum into their negotiations and ensure that peace prevails.

While they will now go their separate ways, North and South Sudan will remain dependent on each other for their prosperity, stability and development. Without peace in the North, the South will not be able to address the majority of its development challenges. At the same time, development in the South is a prerequisite for economic and political stability in the North. It is crucial that the international community, and particularly the neighbouring countries, support the efforts of both countries to work together for the benefit of their citizens and the region as a whole.