

## STATEMENT ON THE BIRTH OF SOUTH SUDAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (SSCC)

*"A Just and peaceful South Sudan inspired and transformed by Godly values towards holistic and equitable development of all people"*

### Preamble

The Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) held its three governance organs' namely the Joint Executive, the Board of Trustees and the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (GA) Meetings that were concluded at All African Conference of Churches (AACC), Nairobi-Kenya from 3<sup>rd</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

In spite of all the challenges affecting the operation of the SCC in the last two years, the SCC continued to play its prophetic obligation by praying and working for a just and peaceful South Sudan and Sudan. The current SCC mission covers Civic Education, Advocacy, Peace & Reconciliation, Relief and Development services. These activities were all carried out either directly by the SCC or indirectly through its member churches.

After a lengthy deliberation during the SCC 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, considering the history of the SCC including asset allocations, settlement of liabilities, the geography and the context of the SCC, the GA agreed and resolved on the settlement of liabilities.

The GA also dissolved the SCC and established two Councils:

1. South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) in the Republic of South Sudan.
2. Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) in the Republic of Sudan.

The members from the SCC in the Republic of Sudan presented their one candidate to the position of the General Secretary and this candidate was approved and confirmed.

However, in the Republic of South Sudan, two candidates were presented for elections and using secret ballot, as per the good governance practices, the SSCC delegates conducted the elections after which **Festus Abdelaziz James** was duly elected as the General Secretary for the SSCC.

It is worth noting that the first leadership structure of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) following the dissolution of the Sudan Council of Churches in the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly from July 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at AACC, Nairobi, Kenya is as follows:

- **Bishop Michael Taban Toro**, Chairperson, SSCC
- **General Moderator Rt. Rev. Peter Gai Lual Marrow**, Deputy Chairperson, SSCC
- **A/Prof. Festus Abdelaziz James**, General Secretary, SSCC
- **Rev Mark Akec Cien**, Deputy General Secretary, SSCC

Attached here are the 17 resolutions of the Sudan Council of Churches 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

Thank you and God bless you all

# SUDAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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## Resolutions of SCC 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at AACC, Nairobi - Kenya

1. The General Assembly agreed to settle all the liabilities through the Juba office with the first priority to Sudan to be paid within a period of three months.
2. The house resolved that there shall be a 18 month transitional period to clear liabilities for each council (with the priority for the SCC in the North) as referred to by the modalities below (Scenario 1):
  - i. A Transitional Constitution will be developed to be used for 18 months to guide the operation of the newly created Councils.
  - ii. The Elected General Secretary to be tasked with the development of Constitution for the new council.
  - iii. *Current Acting General Secretary will be contracted as Deputy General Secretary for the 18 month to help the new General Secretary.*
  - iv. Assess liabilities and post benefits for affected staff.
  - v. Assess properties and their values in both countries and proposes to the Board of Trustee how they could be distributed.
  - vi. Agree on memberships of Churches.
  - vii. Agree on regions to be created?
3. The house resolved that the Chairperson, Co-Chairperson and Deputy General Secretary of Sudan Council of Churches shall continue in office for the South Sudan Council of Churches during a transitional period.
4. The house resolved that the South Sudan Council of Churches shall support Sudan Council of Churches in the different needs and to lobby for donors support. SCC will provide work-plan for twelve months from July 2013 to June 2014 to ensure payment from the Juba office of salaries of seven (7) staff at the Khartoum office.
5. The house resolved the establishment of a Technical Committee composed of five members (2) from SSCC, (2) from SCC and (1) shall be agreed upon to coordinate between the two Councils during the transitional period based on terms of reference.
6. The house resolved that there shall be consultant appointed by the SSCC and with the assistant who shall be appointed by SCC to review the liabilities and recommend ways to clear it after the split.
7. The house resolved that the building in Kampala will remain as a joint ownership.

8. The house resolved that the sub-committee of Finance and Administration of South Sudan Council of Churches continue during the transitional period. The Sudan Council of Churches should also form a sub-committee of finance and administration, inclusive of technocrats to help the Council sort her finances. The Co-Chair/Chair should not be part of the committee.
9. The house resolved that the draft constitution of South Sudan Council of churches be used as a working document during the transitional period and be returned for amendments; and that the Constitution of Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) in Sudan is amended to suit the situation in the Sudan.
10. The house resolved that:
  - A. The two candidates for the position of General Secretary for South Sudan Council of Churches are to compete for the position.
    - i) The SSCC delegates conducted a free and fair election after which Prof. Festus Abdelaziz James was duly elected
    - ii) Prof. Festus Abdelaziz James was confirmed to the position of General Secretary of South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC)
  - B. For the case of Sudan Council of Churches one candidate Rev. Kori Kuku for the position of the General Secretary is to be confirmed.
11. The house affirmed the Council be dissolved and create two Councils namely; Sudan Council of Churches and South Sudan Council of Churches as per the resolution of the Extra-Ordinary SCC general Assembly 2012.
12. The house resolved that the assets of the dissolved Sudan Council of Churches in the two countries will remain under the custody of each Council separately after clearing the liabilities.
13. The General Assembly resolved that the two councils should celebrate the 50 Years Golden Jubilee of the Sudan Council of Churches on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015. (Each Council will form a committee and prepare accordingly.)
14. The General Assembly resolved SCC historical documents should be secured in an archive in both South Sudan and Sudan.
15. The General Assembly resolved that the Peace and Reconciliation Committee formed in 2011 be dissolved and a new Peace Committee be formed by each Council.
16. The General Assembly recommended continuing with the instrument of SEF in its present form or as it may be restructured. All involved parties are asked to discuss modalities on the basis of the envisaged SEF-evaluation report latest by December 2013. Both Church Councils shall immediately set up sub-committees and stay in close contact with the SEF Chair.

17. The house resolved that:

Following the dissolution of the Sudan Council of Churches, the Constitution of the Council 2007 amended 2011 and its By-Laws are hereby repealed, provided that actions taken in accordance with these By-laws made under the provisions of this Constitution shall remain in force until amended or repealed under the new constitution for the two established Councils.

To avoid the vacuum, the below chapters, provisions and sub-provisions of the Constitution 2007 amended 2011 of the dissolved Sudan Council of Churches shall remain in force until the new constitution for the two established bodies are adopted:

**a. Chapter Four**

- i. Organs of the Council Provision 12 a-e
- ii. Executive Committees – Provision 15 a-d and f
- iii. Inter-Church Committees – Provision 16

**b. Chapter Five – SCC Officers**

- i. Chairperson Provision 18
- ii. Co-Chair – Provision 19
- iii. Deputy General Secretary – Provision 22 pending the election of General Secretary
- iv. Executive Secretary of the North Sudan – Provision 23

**c. Chapter Six – Finance**

- i. Finance and Support – Provision 24

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Bishop Michael Taban Toro  
Chairperson  
Sudan Council of Churches (SCC)  
Juba

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

24/7/2013

