

SOUTH SUDAN OPPOSITION MOVEMENTS ALLIANCE (SSOMA)

“Launching the New Vision of Hope & Transformation in South Sudan”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 9th April 2020

SSOMA Response to UN Secretary General Call for Immediate Global Ceasefire in Armed Conflict Countries Related to COVID-19

The Leadership Council of The South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance (SSOMA), comprising of The National Salvation Front (NAS), South Sudan United Front (SSUF), South Sudan National Movement for Change (SSNMC), The Real Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (R-SPLM), National Democratic Movement Patriotic Front (NDM/PF) and the United Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (UDRA), takes note of and welcomes the statement by the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres of 23 March 2020, calling for global ceasefire in countries where there are armed conflict in order to fight coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

SSOMA noted the declaration by the World Health Organization (WHO) that Covid-19 is a global pandemic affecting almost all countries across the globe.

SSOMA has been monitoring the devastating effects of the pandemic on global Population and recognizes that a period of such catastrophe calls for humanity to unite and defeat the common enemy through solidarity and a shared response by all.

SSOMA reiterates its concern for safety of the people of South Sudan at this critical moment and applauds the global efforts in response to the pandemic, including the work of humanitarian agencies and public health organizations mandated to facilitate access to medical care and humanitarian aid.

In response to this situation, The South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance (SSOMA) hereby resolves and affirms the following:

1. SSOMA has already committed/recommitted itself to cessation of hostilities agreement (COHA) of December 2017 with the Government of South Sudan in Rome, Italy on 12 January 2020. Therefore, by this act, we align with the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General’s call of 23rd March 2020, for an immediate global ceasefire on all hostilities in all conflicts of the world, in order to collectively fight against the Coronavirus Covid-19;
2. That as South Sudanese citizens and members of a shared global community, SSOMA shall, during the period of COVID-19 pandemic, partnering with relevant bodies to facilitate humanitarian access to our populations by humanitarian agencies such as the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to allow for their work of dissemination of basic health awareness and practices that can prevent the spread of corona virus in South Sudan;
3. That SSOMA reserve the rights of self-defence if its positions come under attack during this period.

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