

PRESS STATEMENT

Launch of Abyei Joint Oversight Committee

Addis Ababa, 8th September 2011: Following the signing of the Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area on 20th June, 2011, the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) convened an inaugural meeting of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee (AJOC) in Addis Ababa.

The two-day meeting, which was launched by H.E. President Pierre Buyoya member of the AUHIP, was cochaired by H.E. Omer Suleiman and H.E. Deng Alor Kuol representing the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan respectively.

Ambassador Kuol Alor Kuol for South Sudan, and Brigadier Mohieldin Ahmed Elhadi for Sudan attended as members. Mr. Boitshoko Mokgatlhe, representing the African Union Commission, and the UNISFA Force Commander, Lt Gen. Tadesse Tesfay participated as the non-voting members.

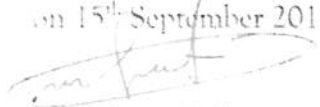
The meeting adopted modalities for the work of the AJOC, which shall base its work in Abyei to oversee the administration of the Abyei Area and to take responsibility for security issues in particular.

After receiving a briefing from the Force Commander, the meeting agreed on a timetable for the redeployment of all forces out of the Abyei Area, to commence on 11th September 2011 and to be completed by 30th September 2011.

The members of the AJOC agreed, in their work, to keep in mind the interests of the local communities, especially as the planting and migration seasons are due to commence soon.

On behalf of the AUHIP, President Buyoya commended the two Governments for the successful launch of the AJOC and for taking the decisions necessary for implementing the Abyei Administration and Security Agreement.

The meeting agreed that the AJOC would convene its next meeting in Abyei Town on 15th September 2011.



H.E. Omar Suleiman

Co-chairman , AJOC



H.E. Deng Alor Kuol

For Co-chairman AJOC

Witnessed by



Mr. Boitshoko Mokgathe
African Union Facilitator to the AJOC

and



Lt. Gen. Tadesse Tesfay
Force Commander, United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

