

General Lazarus Sumbeiywo,
Chief Facilitator, Tumaini Peace Initiative (TPI),
Government of the Republic of Kenya,
Nairobi – Kenya,

13th February, 2026

RE: POSITION OF SSOMA ON “THE SOUTH SUDAN NATIONAL CONSENSUS CHARTER DIALOGUE”

Your Excellency,

The Leadership of South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance (SSOMA) extends its compliments to the Government and people of Kenya and seizes this opportunity to confirm receipt of the proposed framework for the Tumaini Initiative.

SSOMA remains committed to achieving a just and sustainable peace through an inclusive process that addresses the root causes of the conflict in South Sudan and enables sustainable peace, ensures justice, dignity, security and sovereignty of the people of South Sudan.

SSOMA takes note of the Tumaini Initiative’s circulated document: “*Proposed Framework for the Tumaini Initiative – Towards South Sudan National Consensus Charter for Peace and Democracy*”; and makes reference to this document as well as to the virtual meeting between the Leadership of SSOMA and the Tumaini Initiative Mediation Leadership held on 4th February 2026. Consequently, SSOMA Leadership presents its position on this Initiative, the proposed framework document and the National Consensus Charter Dialogue.

The Tumaini Peace Initiative & Framework for Dialogue on the South Sudan National Consensus Charter

In early 2024, SSOMA engaged with your leadership in the pre-mediation consultative talks in Rome, Italy, with a desire to clearly understand the Tumaini Peace Initiative under the auspices of the Government of the Republic of Kenya and clarify its participation in the process. Based on the meetings conducted, it was apparent that the Tumaini Initiative was intended to find better mechanisms of implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS, 2018) rather than addressing the Root Causes of the conflict in order to achieve sustainable peace. SSOMA members are not signatory to the R-ARCSS and therefore could not participate in its resuscitation process.

SSOMA acknowledges receipt of both *The Framework for Dialogue on the South Sudan National Consensus Charter* and the *Tumaini Press Statement*, dated 31 January 2026, released by Your Excellency. SSOMA, as a matter of principle, appreciates the stated intention that the peace process for South Sudan be owned by South Sudanese themselves. However, after careful review of the Framework, fundamental concerns regarding both the process and substance of the Framework were identified.

First, the Framework was developed and presented without prior structured consultations with South Sudanese stakeholders. This approach contradicts the core principle emphasized by the Tumaini Initiative itself — that peace-making process must be owned by South Sudanese.

Second, the Framework appears to predetermine the agenda, process, and outcome, particularly through the proposal of a Peace Charter. In SSOMA's view, such an approach limits genuine dialogue and constrains South Sudanese parties to negotiate within externally pre-set parameters rather than shaping the process collectively and freely.

Third, the Framework does not allow room for negotiations but rather adopts a pre-determined problem-solving approach. This caveat will not only disallow stakeholders from frankly addressing the Root Causes of the conflict but can lead to a recurrence of the vicious cycle of violence that has gripped South Sudan for over a decade.

Fourth, the Framework prioritizes elections as the primary pathway out of the current crisis, while deliberately avoiding addressing the Root Causes of the conflict. SSOMA believes that elections, conducted under the current conditions of war, displacements, humanitarian crisis, and collapsed national institutions as well as the broken and fragmented social fabric of the nation, will not produce peace. Instead, it leads to legitimizing the status quo, leading to the disintegration of the fragile South Sudanese nation-state.

SSOMA is of the conviction that South Sudan needs credible and inclusive negotiations that will lead to a comprehensive peace agreement that will guarantee sustainable peace.

SSOMA RECOMMENDATIONS

SSOMA respectfully submits the following recommendations for a credible and effective peace process:

1. Preliminary Consultation

The mediation must begin with inclusive consultations involving South Sudanese stakeholders: political movements, civil society organizations, faith-based institutions, women, youth, traditional leaders, academia, professionals and displaced communities.

2. Stakeholder-Informed Framework

Based on the consultations conducted, the mediators should develop a first draft peace framework that reflects the views of the stakeholders.

3. Validation of the Draft Framework for Dialogue

The draft framework for dialogue developed should be shared with all stakeholders for review, input, and validation before finalization - so that all stakeholders thereafter agree on the agenda, modalities, methodology, venue, and principles for peace talks.

4. Inclusive Roundtable Conference

SSOMA proposes the convening of an Inclusive Roundtable Conference as a basis for peace negotiations to address the Root Causes of the conflicts in South Sudan and chart the path to achieve sustainable peace.

5. Primary Focus on the Root Causes of the Conflict

Agenda of the peace talks must prioritize addressing Root Causes of the conflict, including - among others - governance failure, ethnicized security sector, justice and rule of law, mismanagement of resources, land occupation and grabbing, impunity and ethnic polarization.

6. Comprehensive Peace Agreement

The peace negotiations process should culminate in a comprehensive peace agreement, negotiated and signed by South Sudanese parties, with clear implementation mechanisms, modalities, guarantees, and regional and international guarantors for clear consequences of violations of any clause/s of the agreement.

7. Conducive Environment and Requisites for Elections

Elections should be the outcome of peace, not a substitute for it. They must only take place after the enactment of a permanent constitution through an agreed process, security stabilization, repatriation and resettlement of displaced populations, formation of an inclusive transitional government, conduct of population census and creation of a conducive political environment for free, fair and credible elections.

8. Immediate and Unconditional Release of all political Detainees

All political detainees under the outgoing South Sudan regime's security apparatus should unconditionally be released to show the political will for peace. The top political detainee is South Sudan's First Vice President, & Chairman / Commander-in-Chief of the SPLM-IO, Dr. Riek Macher Teny, and all his political and military colleagues as well as other detainees.

9. Broad-Based Mediation

The conflict in South Sudan is so complex that its resolution demands a broad-based mediation involving different stakeholders in refining and shaping the posture of the parties to the conflict and all other secondary issues. An appropriate mediation team to achieve peace in South Sudan should include: IGAD, AU, Community of Sant' Egidio, TROIKA, EU, UN and others.

10. Neutral Venue Acceptable to all Parties to the Conflict

All parties should agree on a neutral venue - as a pre-requisite for any meaningful negotiation and to ensure safety as a fundamental right of any participating group. Such a venue would be conducive for free negotiations without coercion, pressure, intimidation, personal insecurity. Such a venue must also be open for all members of the mediation team as well as guarantors.

11. Guarantors and Accountability

An implementable and time-bound peace process in South Sudan is only possible when the question of guarantors with clear mandates is addressed with all possible measures for addressing intransigencies and any violations of an agreement.

Your Excellency, SSOMA reiterates its firm belief that a consultative and transparent approach focused on Root Causes is the viable path that will lead to a Comprehensive Peace Agreement towards achieving sustainable peace in South Sudan.

We trust that these views and recommendations will be given due consideration. SSOMA remains available for further consultations and dialogue in the interest of peace for our people and the Republic of South Sudan.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sincerely,



Gen. Thomas Cirillo Swaka

Chairman, South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance (SSOMA),
Chairman and Commander-in-Chief, National Salvation Front (NAS).

Copies to:

- IGAD
- AU
- TROIKA
- Community of Sant Egidio
- UNMISS
- UN
- UN Security Council
- European Union (EU)
- Faith-based Groups