



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MESSAGE OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE DURING THE 51ST ANNUAL PLENARY
ASSEMBLY IN MALAKAL ON THE CURRENT TRAJECTORIES OF CONFLICT AND PEACE IN SUDAN AND
SOUTH SUDAN

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God Forgave You"
(Ephesians 4:32)

**Dear Brothers and Sisters, and
The people of Good Will**

We, the Catholic Bishops of the Sudan and South Sudan gathered in Malakal from 7th – 14th November 2025 under the theme: *"Building peace, healing wounds, and strengthening unity"*, send you greetings of peace in the Lord Jesus.

Having prayed, reflected and shared on the pastoral situation of our two countries, we find ourselves deeply disturbed by the continuous devastating conflicts, and the dishonored peace agreements in both countries, especially with the worsening situation in 2025. It is alarming that dialogue is no longer seen as a vehicle for harmony, healing, reconciliation and unity. Instead of pursuing dialogue, selfish interests have taken central stage and have unleashed violence. This has aggravated the humanitarian crises, community-based hatred, divisive propaganda, destabilized livelihoods, recurrent displacement, misappropriation of public resources, widespread hunger and the looming famine etc.

Overwhelmed by this appalling human conditions, we reaffirm our stand in solidarity with the people of Sudan and South Sudan and send out the following message mindful of the words of Pope Paul VI *"Peace is not merely the absence of war but the work of justice"* (Message for the World day of Peace 1972)

On Power Struggles by Rival Politicians and Competition over Control of Public Resources. The ongoing power struggle within our governments and Opposition groups in Sudan and South Sudan lacks respect for human dignity; it is harmful to the core, and maliciously selfish. On the other hand, our land is full of the abundance of resources, which are misappropriated by individuals for their luxury, creating cliques of their supporters, amid abject poverty imposed on the common people. This attitude must change so that good governance takes root. We strongly remind you that to lead is to serve; power without service is a loss of direction. So "where there is injustice, there is the seed of future conflict" (Desmond Tutu). The common good is to be prioritized and celebrated above anything else because "the goods of creation are destined for all." (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si* n.93).

On Politically Engineered Ethnic Divisions. A nation born out of struggle for freedom has high chances of holding together in unity of purpose unless the vision that held the people together is lost.

We are seeing unprecedented ethnic, tribal and even inter-tribal divisions in the name of politics. Unity in diversity among the tribes, ethnic groups and communities of Sudan and South Sudan has always been the source of strength in the context of their histories, religions, race, and cultures. This richness in diversity should not be spoiled by short-sighted divisive politics. A prosperous future lies in living together harmoniously. For the Lord Jesus warns about division: *"if a household is divided against itself, that household can never last."* (Mark 3:25).

On Forced Repatriation of Vulnerable South Sudanese. We are seriously concerned about the alarming forced repatriation of the vulnerable women and men of South Sudan from Sudan without due consideration to the welfare of their children and other members of the families who depend on them. We call on the two Governments to find a just solution.

On Disarmament and Punitive Expeditions in South Sudan. As much as disarmament is responsibility of the government, we must always remind those concerned that it should be conducted with clear respect for human dignity. The indiscriminate bombing of civilians is never justified.

We call for the full implementation of the Revitalized Agreement for Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) by all parties to create confidence in the people and engage in sincere dialogue. We also call the parties in the Sudan conflict to resume dialogue and to implement the Jeddah Declaration *"for the man of peace will have a posterity"* (Psalm 37:37).

On Downsizing of the UNMISS. We continue to be grateful to UNMISS and all the other partners. However, we are disturbed by the recent downsizing of UNMISS staff and closing some of the stations. This move will have serious implications and consequences for peace in South Sudan. We appeal to the United Nation members and partners to continue supporting the people South Sudan at this critical time.

On the Floods. The floods in Sudan and South Sudan have become equally destructive like the civil wars and community-based conflicts. We witnessed this natural disaster on our air transit, and during our travel along the Nile. More areas are still threatened by overflows of rivers and the tributaries. Many villages, farms, schools, health facilities and sources of livelihoods of the people have been submerged. We are hereby appealing for special attention and publicity of this natural disaster and establishment of its cause and remedies.

As your Shepherds by the grace of God, we would like to assure you the people of Sudan and South Sudan that we share your pain and suffering and we are determined to pursue continuous advocacy for dialogue, reconciliation, healing, unity and peace both with the political leadership and grassroots. We ask for your prayers so that our leaders in Government and Opposition become more open for a sincere and amicable dialogue.

In our pastoral responsibility, we are equally happy to inform you that we have re-launched the Small Christian Community as a pastoral program in the new context of Synod on Synodality in the Jubilee Year of Hope. The Synod on Synodality calls on us to walk together while benefitting from the gifts each one possesses. Therefore, we call on you to have hope because the power of God that surrounds

us is greater than the challenges we are facing, as God himself declares “Yes, I know what plans I have in mind for you, plans for peace, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11).


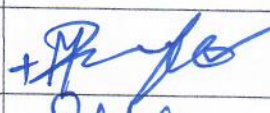
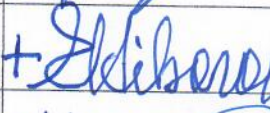
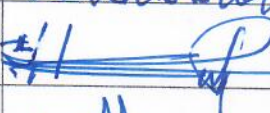
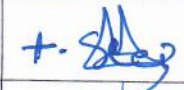
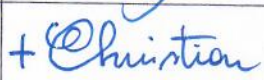

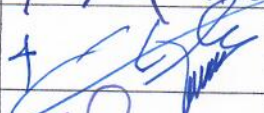
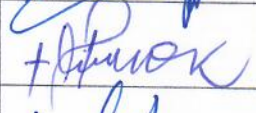
Beloved Clergy, Religious men and women, and the people of God, as we conclude this pastoral message, we renew our faith in the God of peace, who never abandons His people.

Though our nations walk through dark valleys of pain and uncertainty, we hold firmly to the promise of Christ and his words: “Peace I leave you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives” (John 14:27). Let us, therefore, continue to pray without ceasing for our brothers and sisters in Sudan and South Sudan, for victims of war, the displaced, the wounded, and those burdened with fear and loss. May our hearts remain open to forgiveness, reconciliation, and mutual love.

We, your bishops, invite every parish, religious community, and family to dedicate daily moments of prayer and fasting for peace. Let our churches become sanctuaries of hope, where all may find healing, unity, and renewed strength. As we have launched small Christian community, we use it as vehicle of peace.

May Mary, Queen of Peace, intercede for our nations. May St. Joseph, protector of the universal Church, guide us in rebuilding what violence has destroyed. And may the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, renew the face of our lands with justice, compassion, and lasting peace.

Given in Malakal, Wednesday 13th November 2025

	Name	Diocese	Signature
1	H. E. Stephen Ameyu Martin Cardinal Mulla,	Archbishop of Juba & President of the Sudan and South Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference (SSSCBC)	
5	Rt. Rev. Bishop Matthew Remijio Adam Gbitiku, mcccj	Bishop of Wau & Deputy President of SSSCBC	
2	Rt. Rev. Barani Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala	Bishop of Tombura-Yambio	
3	Rt. Rev. Tombe Trille Kuku	Bishop of El-Obeid	
4	Rt. Rev. Bishop Stephen Nyodho Ador	Bishop of Malakal	
6	Rt. Rev. Bishop Christian Carlassare, mcccj	Bishop of Bentiur & Apostolic Administrator of Rumbek	
7	Rt. Rev. Bishop Alex Lodiong Sakor	Bishop of Yei	
8	Rt. Rev. Bishop Emmanuel Bernardino Lowi	Bishop of Torit	
9	Rt. Rev. Bishop Daniel Adwok Marko Kur	Auxiliary Bishop of Khartoum	
10	Rt. Rev. Bishop Santo Loku Pio Doggale	Auxiliary Bishop of Juba	