



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Plenary sitting

5.11.2014

B8-0220/2014

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the humanitarian situation in South Sudan
(2014/2922(RSP))

Linda McAvan, Norbert Neuser, Arne Lietz, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Vincent Peillon, Marlene Mizzi, Michela Giuffrida, Elena Valenciano Martínez-Orozco, Doru-Claudian Frunzulică
on behalf of the S&D Group

European Parliament resolution on the humanitarian situation in South Sudan (2014/2922(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on South Sudan, in particular those of 10 December 2013 on the efforts of the international community in the area of development and of ‘state building’ in South Sudan¹ and of 16 January 2014 on the situation in South Sudan²,
- having regard to the statements of 23 January 2014 and 10 May 2014 by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR), Catherine Ashton, on the situation in South Sudan,
- having regard to the statement of 28 August 2014 by the spokesperson for the VP/HR on the situation in South Sudan,
- having regard to the Council declaration of 10 July 2014 on South Sudan,
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 20 January 2014 and 17 March 2014 on South Sudan,
- having regard to the statement of 25 September 2014 by the Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva,
- having regard to the statement of 30 October 2014 by the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon,
- having regard to the statement of 20 October 2014 by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD),
- having regard to the roadmap for Sudan and South Sudan set out in the communiqué of 24 April 2014 by the African Union Peace and Security Council, which is fully supported by the EU,
- having regard to the revised Cotonou Agreement,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights,
- having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

¹ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2013)0546.

² Texts adopted, P7_TA(2014)0042.

- A. whereas a political conflict started after Salva Kiir, the country's president, accused his sacked vice-president, Riek Machar, of plotting a coup d'état against him; whereas Riek Machar has denied attempting such a coup;
- B. whereas, according to UN estimates, more than 10 000 people have died during months of fighting, and whereas extraordinary acts of cruelty and ethnic violence amounting to war crimes have been widely reported;
- C. whereas South Sudan is the world's youngest and most fragile state and ranks second in the Commission's humanitarian Global Vulnerability and Crisis Assessment Final Index;
- D. whereas the parties to the conflict in South Sudan started negotiations on 7 January 2014 in Addis Ababa, under the auspices of IGAD;
- E. whereas a ceasefire agreement was signed on 23 January 2014 and reconfirmed on 9 May 2014, but continues to be breached without any punitive measures being implemented;
- F. whereas peace talks have yielded little progress in terms of finding a lasting solution, and whereas the UN humanitarian aid coordinator has indicated that the chances of achieving sustainable peace at the political and intercommunity level are not good;
- G. whereas fighting between the forces of President Kiir and rebels loyal to Riek Machar has already resumed with the end of the rainy season and is likely to intensify during the dry season if there is no political solution;
- H. whereas this humanitarian crisis risks affecting a much wider region in an area that is already prone to instability, with Sudanese rebel groups and Ugandan troops having already taken part in the fighting;
- I. whereas the conflict has led to horrific sexual violence on an alarming scale, as outlined by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Bangura; whereas unconfirmed reports continue to circulate on the recruitment of child soldiers in South Sudan;
- J. whereas the UN has declared the crisis in South Sudan a level 3 emergency – the worst level of humanitarian crisis;
- K. whereas 3.5 million people in South Sudan have been reached with humanitarian assistance since the beginning of the year; whereas thanks to a combination of local coping mechanisms and international humanitarian aid, famine has been avoided;
- L. whereas an estimated 3.8 million South Sudanese people are in need of humanitarian assistance, 1.4 million are internally displaced and more than 470 000 are seeking refuge in neighbouring countries;
- M. whereas the most urgent humanitarian needs are food, clean water, healthcare, shelter, sanitation, hygiene, a response to epidemics (such as cholera), and protection; whereas

increased psychosocial support is needed for survivors of sexual violence;

- N. whereas the outlook for 2015 as regards food security for the country is bleak, with 2.5 million people expected to face crisis- and emergency-level food insecurity if fighting is renewed;
- O. whereas access to people in need continues to be hampered by hostilities and violence, which also target aid workers and supplies;
- P. whereas in September 2014 the Minister for Labour of South Sudan said that all foreign workers would have to leave by mid-October, a statement he later retracted;
- Q. whereas the adoption of an ‘NGO bill’ aimed at limiting the space in which NGOs and civil society can work in South Sudan has been postponed to December 2014;
- R. whereas international humanitarian resources have been stretched to the limit by multiple and prolonged global crises; whereas the international community will not be able, either financially or operationally, to continue to respond to a long-lasting crisis;
- S. whereas the EU has provided more than one third (38 %) of all international contributions in response to the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, with the Commission alone increasing its humanitarian aid budget for the crisis to over EUR 130 million in 2014;
- T. whereas the EU has reprogrammed a ‘state-building contract’ initially envisaged as budget support for a partnership with NGOs and international organisations to address education and health;
- U. whereas the African Union has appointed a commission of inquiry to investigate the widely reported human rights atrocities;
- V. whereas a democratic political solution to the current conflict should be found, paving the way for democratically agreed institutions to build the new state which came into being after the independence referendum;
- W. whereas on 10 July 2014 the EU announced a first round of targeted measures against individuals responsible for obstructing the peace process, breaching the ceasefire agreement and committing gross human rights violations; whereas the EU arms embargo against South Sudan has been maintained;
- X. whereas sustainable peace, post-conflict state-building, and efforts to overcome fragility require a long-term perspective and solid, predictable and stable engagement on the part of the international community;
- 1. Firmly denounces the alarming man-made disaster in South Sudan, which contradicts the values and purpose of the country’s liberation movement;
- 2. Strongly condemns the resumption of violence and the repeated past violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement; deplores the weak command and control of the armed forces, which increases the likelihood of further fragmentation of fighting forces;

3. Urges all parties to honour the agreement and to engage constructively in the Addis Ababa peace talks; underlines the obligation under international humanitarian law to protect civilians, and stresses that a lasting political settlement is the best way to end the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan;
4. Recalls that humanitarian aid is vital, but cannot fix a political problem, and that the prime responsibility for protecting civilians lies with the government; calls, therefore, for the country's wealth to be made directly available for the well-being of the South Sudanese people; also calls for the full implementation of the ceasefire agreement and the rapid resumption of talks leading to the formation of a transitional government of national unity as the only long-term solution;
5. Warns of the spillover and destabilising effects of the conflict on an already unstable region, especially as a result of the increasing number of refugees in neighbouring countries; also urges the African Union to monitor the situation in the region;
6. Welcomes the EU's contribution to the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan and asks the Member States to find a solution for funding the increasing number of crises, in line with their international commitments;
7. Calls on the international community to honour its funding commitments to South Sudan and the region and to mobilise resources in order to respond immediately to the worsening humanitarian situation in South Sudan;
8. Encourages the EU to reprogramme its development assistance in order to meet the most urgent needs of the South Sudanese people, and to support a transition towards peace and stability; welcomes, therefore, the suspension of development assistance through budget support for South Sudan, with the exception of actions which provide direct support to the population or direct support for democratic transition and humanitarian aid, and calls for the redirection of aid through NGOs and international organisations;
9. Urges the international community to fund the South Sudan response plan and the regional refugee response plan swiftly and proportionately;
10. Denounces the deterioration of relations between the humanitarian community and all parties to the conflict, including the illegal taxation of aid and the harassment and even killing of aid workers with impunity;
11. Insists that humanitarian aid and food assistance must be provided to the most vulnerable purely on a needs basis, and reminds all parties to the conflict in South Sudan of their obligation to recognise and respect the neutrality, independence and impartiality of humanitarian workers, to facilitate life-saving assistance to people in need, regardless of their political affiliations and ethnicity, and to stop immediately all harassment of aid workers, commandeering of humanitarian assets and diversion of aid; requests, also, that the 'NGO bill' be withdrawn or rejected;
12. Insists that humanitarian aid, especially in the form of basic services and food assistance, should not be diverted to armed groups;

13. Is deeply concerned by the food security situation in South Sudan, which has been caused by the conflict and worsened by recurrent natural disasters, and which is expected to deteriorate dramatically if fighting is renewed;
14. Insists that a peace deal would allow people to return to deserted farms, reopen markets and rebuild their homes;
15. Strongly condemns the extrajudicial and mass killings, deliberate targeting of civilians, arbitrary arrests and detention, enforced disappearances, ill-treatment and torture, the use of child soldiers, and sexual violence against women – which are being employed as weapons of war – by all parties; takes the view that President Kiir and Riek Machar should do all they can to stop soldiers under their control from committing such abuses against the people;
16. Is deeply worried about the ethnic dimension of the conflict; stresses that seeking power by means of violence or division along ethnic lines is contrary to the democratic rule of law and contravenes international law;
17. Calls for a negotiated, equitable and sustainable solution that will allow South Sudan's leaders to resolve their differences peacefully and democratically, and for national reconciliation in the interests of the South Sudanese population as a whole;
18. Calls for credible, transparent and comprehensive investigations that meet international standards – notably by the African Union commission of inquiry – in relation to all allegations of serious crimes by any party to the conflict; encourages the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms, with all the necessary international support, to promote both reconciliation and accountability; encourages the Government of South Sudan to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as soon as possible;
19. Supports, in this connection, the establishment of a special hybrid tribunal with international involvement to hold leaders accountable for the gross human rights violations committed by both sides of the conflict, as suggested by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and recommended in a UNMISS human rights report;
20. Welcomes the collective responsibility for the conflict taken by all parties, but insists that actions must follow words; regrets the fact that no significant progress has been made in the IGAD-mediated peace talks;
21. Continues, nonetheless, to support the mediation led by IGAD and its efforts to open the way for an inclusive political dialogue; calls, also, for the EU to continue to assist IGAD in both substantive and financial terms, and to continue to contribute staff to the ceasefire monitoring and verification mechanism;
22. Regrets the ineffectiveness of the individual sanctions imposed by the EU and calls for targeted sanctions to be imposed by IGAD and the global community; supports the continuation of the arms embargo against South Sudan and urges the adoption of a UN arms embargo;

23. Supports, and views as essential, the participation of civil society in peace negotiations;
24. Calls on all neighbours of South Sudan and regional powers to work closely together to improve the security situation in the country and the greater region, and to find a way towards a peaceful, lasting political solution to the current crisis; stresses that cooperation with Sudan, in particular, would represent an improvement in relations;
25. Welcomes the work of the EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa, Alexander Rondos; recommends that all his efforts be directed to contributing to a lasting solution;
26. Encourages the Government of South Sudan to ratify the Cotonou Agreement between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP);
27. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Government of South Sudan, the Human Rights Commissioner of South Sudan, the National Legislative Assembly of South Sudan, the institutions of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and the UN Secretary-General.