

African Union High Level Implementation Panel

Communiqué

The Engagement of the AU Panel on Abyei

8 May 2011

The African Union High Level Implementation Panel is actively engaged on the issue of Abyei.

On 5 May, President Pierre Buyoya, accompanied by SRSG Haile Menkerios and U.S. Special Envoy Princeton Lyman, met with the President of the Government of Southern Sudan, H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit. On 8 May, President Buyoya met with the Vice President of Sudan, H.E. Ali Osman Taha.

President Buyoya impressed upon both Parties the importance of immediate action to implement the security agreements already reached. He emphasized that there should be no unilateral action by either Party that might negatively affect the security or political situation in Abyei.

President Buyoya obtained commitments from both President Salva Kiir and Vice President Ali Osman Taha that neither Government shall include an unconditional claim to Abyei in its draft national constitution. Both sides remain committed to the CPA. On the basis of these parallel commitments, the Panel understands that the status of Abyei will remain unchanged until a political settlement is agreed.

At the request of the two Parties, the African Union Panel has undertaken to make a proposal for the resolution of the question of Abyei to be presented as soon as possible.