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The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 15, 2011

Joint Statement by the United States and the Republic of South Sudan at the International Engagement Conference for South Sudan

International Engagement Conference for South Sudan

The Governments of the United States and the Republic of South Sudan are pleased to have hosted the International Engagement Conference for South Sudan December 14-15, 2011 to highlight the national development vision of South Sudan and the opportunities for investment in the country. The United States and South Sudan appreciate the support and participation of the conference co-sponsors – the United Kingdom, Norway, Turkey, the European Union, the African Union, the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, the Corporate Council on Africa, and InterAction. Senior officials from each of these governments and organizations participated in the conference, providing valuable insights and contributions.

At the conference, President Salva Kiir Mayardit presented a forward-looking development vision of South Sudan and emphasized his government's commitment to promoting a climate conducive to attracting and retaining new investment, including taking specific legislative actions and encouraging regional and international trade, especially in several key sectors. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton noted the U.S. commitment to partnering with South Sudan as it works to develop its economy and strengthen its institutions of government for the benefit of its people.

Participants in the conference saluted the people of South Sudan for achieving their independence in July and welcomed the government's early focus on and commitment to accountability, transparency and good governance. Follow-through on this commitment is critical to fulfill the aspirations of the South Sudanese people for economic and social development. The conference focused on several important themes central to this goal: responsible management of oil revenue and natural resources; effective social services delivery; investments in education, health and agriculture; human capital and institutional capacity development; promotion of women, youth and respect for diversity; and efficient coordination of international assistance. In addition, participants discussed specific investment opportunities in sectors such as oil and renewable energy, information technology, agriculture, transportation infrastructure, clean water and sanitation, capacity building services, and financial services. South Sudan proposed and participants agreed that investments, international support and development assistance will be linked to national priorities. South Sudan will engage the international community on a high-level dialogue to strengthen institutions to advance accountability and transparency.

Going forward, the United States Government and other key partners -- including other donors, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations -- reinforced a commitment to work alongside the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to serve as a catalyst for new partnerships and opportunities to assist in achieving prosperity and social development for the people of South Sudan. The conference emphasized that South Sudan must be supported in its desire for peace in order to enable it to concentrate on the needs of its people, who have waited long for the opportunity for a better life.

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January 27, 2012 12:23 PM EST

Deadline Saturday: Submit Your Questions for President Obama

President Obama participates in the first completely-virtual interview from the White House and takes questions submitted by the public.

January 25, 2012 1:50 PM EST

National Strategy for Global Supply Chain Security Announced

The Obama Administration is taking an important step to strengthen and protect the worldwide network of transportation, postal, and shipping assets and their supporting infrastructures

January 25, 2012 9:46 AM EST

State of the Union Deep Dive

Want to understand the data behind President's Obama's Blueprint for an America that is built to last? Check out these charts, graphs and other facts from the enhanced version of the 2012 address to the nation

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- Photo Galleries
- Video
- Live Streams
- Podcasts

Briefing Room

- Your Weekly Address
- Speeches & Remarks
- Press Briefings
- Statements & Releases
- White House Schedule
- Presidential Actions
- Legislation
- Nominations & Appointments
- Disclosures

Issues

- Civil Rights
- Defense
- Disabilities
- Economy
- Education
- Energy & Environment
- Ethics
- Family
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Foreign Policy
- Health Care
- Homeland Security
- Immigration
- Poverty
- Rural
- Seniors & Social Security
- Service
- Taxes
- Technology
- Urban Policy
- Veterans
- Women
- Additional Issues

The Administration

- President Barack Obama
- Vice President Joe Biden
- First Lady Michelle Obama
- Dr. Jill Biden
- The Cabinet
- White House Staff
- Executive Office of the President
- Other Advisory Boards

About the White House

- Interactive Tour
- History
- Presidents
- First Ladies
- The Oval Office
- The Vice President's Residence & Office
- Eisenhower Executive Office Building
- Camp David
- Air Force One
- White House Fellows
- White House Internships
- Tours & Events
- Inside the White House

Our Government

- The Executive Branch
- The Legislative Branch
- The Judicial Branch
- The Constitution
- Federal Agencies & Commissions
- Elections & Voting
- State & Local Government
- Resources

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