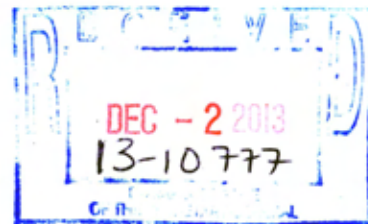


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Note to the Secretary-General

**MISSION OF THE DEPUTY EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR
VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN, ADDIS ABABA AND NAIROBI
17 TO 25 NOVEMBER 2013**

1. I travelled to South Sudan from 17 to 20 November 2013 to highlight the on-going humanitarian needs and the challenges to effective humanitarian response in South Sudan. I then travelled to Addis Ababa, from 20 to 21 November, to engage with UN and AU interlocutors to strengthen the UN system support for and engagement with the AU on humanitarian issues. I then went to Nairobi, from 22 to 25 November, to co-chair the Regional Consultation for the Great Lakes region with ASG Modibo Toure, take stock of OCHA's engagement in Kenya and the East African region and to discuss with partners the modalities for transitioning from a humanitarian to a development context in Kenya.

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2. My visit to South Sudan took place soon after the launch of the 2014 appeal. It provided an opportunity to draw attention to the on-going humanitarian priorities and challenges in the country and the need for sustained and equitable funding. I met with the government authorities at central and state levels, donors, HCT members, and NGO partners to discuss concerns related to access, protection of civilians, shrinking political and civil society space, and challenges to principled humanitarian assistance. The support for the 1.9 million returnees from Sudan was also discussed.

3. In Juba, I met with the new Minister of Gender, Social Welfare, Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management. We reviewed the response to the recent floods which affected 9 out of 10 states, and discussed the government's efforts to establish a national disaster risk reduction and preparedness strategy. I also raised the issue of the pending and contentious NGO bill, which, if passed in its current form, would severely restrict the ability of international and national NGOs to deliver humanitarian support. I also met with the UNMISS SRSG a.i. to discuss the need for distinction between humanitarian action and the mission mandate in Jonglei State.

4. In Bor, the capital of Jonglei State, I had an extensive discussion with the acting Governor and state ministers on the full range of humanitarian challenges facing the state, including lack of roads and basic infrastructure, food insecurity, lack of education especially for girls, violence and displacements triggered by inter-communal clashes and armed conflict between the SPLA and non-state armed groups, and the amnesty offered by the President to non-state armed actor David Yau Yau. Many state ministers mentioned the Saemaeul Movement of South Korea as their inspiration. I pointed out that the movement had to be adapted to the local situation to be successful. While in Bor, I also met with the Hanbit Republic of South Korean engineering corps of UNMISS that are building roads in the state. The Mayor of Bor and other leaders expressed appreciation for the troops' good work.

5. In Twic East County, I met with the County Commissioner and leaders of a village where inter-communal attacks had a devastating impact on the lives of civilians in October. Apart from a few policemen who had been dispatched in the aftermath, little seemed to have been done to bring the perpetrators to account or to support the victims. In Pibor County, where humanitarian assistance commenced in July after months of difficult negotiations with the SPLA and non-state armed actor David Yau Yau, I met with the County Commissioner.

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who appreciated the work done by humanitarian actors to assist those caught up in conflict, but expressed frustration over the slow pace of the peace talks with David Yau Yau. He also expressed the concern, shared by many, that the upcoming dry season may see a revival of the armed conflict. In this regard, he underscored the importance of protection of civilians and the presence of UNMISS in Pibor town. I also briefly met with the new SPLA Commander in Pibor town, who assured me of his commitment to keeping his troops in line in response to concerns raised about SPLA misconduct.

4. As the world's youngest nation, after decades of marginalization and civil war, South Sudan is struggling to provide security and meet the basic needs of its people. It has a vast and fertile land, but it still continues to face chronic and acute food insecurity, violent inter-communal clashes, armed conflict between SPLA and rebel groups, disease outbreaks, and seasonal flooding. While these clearly underscore the need for continued international humanitarian assistance, the humanitarian actors on the ground have expanded their horizon to the longer term, and have integrated community resilience and national capacity building into their 3-year humanitarian strategy.

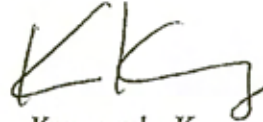
6. In Addis Ababa, I participated in the annual Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) meeting, which brought together UN entities in support of the AU's Agenda 2063. The meeting provided an important opportunity to engage with UN and AU decision-makers and get an update on ongoing priority setting for the UN-AU relationship. In my intervention at the RCM as well as in my meeting with the ECA Executive Secretary, I explained your initiative to hold the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 and asked for their active participation and contribution into the process.

7. In Nairobi, I had a series of meetings with OCHA staff and managers of the Regional Office, IRIN and Somalia Office, and listened to staff concerns, including with regard to safety and the support provided to staff after traumatic security incidents in the UNCC in Mogadishu and Westgate Mall. While there was overall appreciation for the support after both incidents, some concrete areas for improvement were suggested, such as giving greatest weight to the advice of the stress counsellor in the recommendation given by the medical doctor on staff leaves after traumatic incidents. I also spent several hours in the Mathare slums visiting Concern International's livelihood support projects.

9. I also met with the Director General of UNON, and discussed political discourse in Kenya surrounding the ICC trial of the President and the Vice President. The DG also updated me on the many demarches against the new railroad levy that the government had imposed quite suddenly without exemption to UN and diplomatic entities. The government's position has been that the UN entities will be reimbursed, but the UN position is clear in seeking exemption rather than reimbursement.

10. On 22 November, I co-chaired the Regional Great Lakes Consultations together with Mr. Modibo Touré, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to Ms. Robinson, Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes (SESG). Building on previous regional humanitarian meetings, we met to review the latest political, security and humanitarian developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region, to update on current and upcoming efforts to find a lasting solution to the DRC conflict through the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, and to identify areas of cooperation between the Office of the SESG and the humanitarian community in the region. We agreed to establish a working group of key humanitarian entities in Nairobi to strengthen information

sharing, coordinate strategically on funding mechanisms and support the advocacy efforts of the SESG. On a specific matter, the Office of the SESG was requested, together with political leaders, to lead efforts to address the issue of the former M23 fighters now in the care of Rwanda and Uganda, as existing humanitarian tools are insufficient to find a solution regarding their status or treatment.



Kyung-wha Kang
2 December 2013

cc: Ms. Clark
Mr. Feltman
Mr. Ladsous
Mr. de Serpa Soares