Letter dated 23 January 2014 from the Chargé d’affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of South Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached a copy of a press release dated today, 23 January 2014 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Juba, South Sudan, affirming the Government of South Sudan’s wish to continue its long-term and essential relationship with the United Nations, particularly the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), and the international community as a whole (see annex). The Government of South Sudan recognizes the deep concern of the international community for the ongoing crisis that has ensued in our republic since December 2013.

This press statement reiterates the Government of the Republic of South Sudan’s commitment to the Security Council and its willingness to continue to work closely with the leadership of UNMISS, as they provide critical support to the people and Government of South Sudan during this time. The Government of South Sudan looks forward to a robust and constructive dialogue on mechanisms to improve communication and logistical concerns, as partners in mitigating the suffering of the people of South Sudan.

Kindly accept this as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amanuel Ajawin
Chargé d’affaires a.i.
Annex to the letter dated 23 January 2014 from the Chargé d’affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of South Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press release

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has noted with concern a gross misinterpretation in some circles of a recent statement by H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic.

In that statement, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan featured twice as follows:

1. “The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) has done and is still doing a tremendous job in assisting our internal displaced persons (IDPs)”
2. “The World Community, particularly the United States of America, IGAD countries and the United Nations, who have been tirelessly supporting us in achieving the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and independence, are now very much concerned and worried about the ongoing political humanitarian crises in the country. All good voices of goodwill are very desperate for cessation of hostilities and ceasefire in order to allow political dialogue and peaceful settlement.”

The President’s statement confirms the following:

1. That South Sudan still considers the United Nations a principal partner.
2. That South Sudan still maintains its former position to fully cooperate with the United Nations.
3. The statement of the President, which is available as a public document, was therefore misconstrued and taken out of context.
4. Notwithstanding the above position, the Republic of South Sudan maintains its right to express concerns over erratic behaviours that occur from time to time. In the light of such behaviours, the President intoned the need to review cooperation for the general good of the parties.

Juba, 23 January 2014