



**ANNUAL PRE – SEASONAL CATTLE MOVEMENT CONFERENCE
WESTERN BAHR EL GHAZAL AND WARRAP STATES 2021**

COMMUNIQUE:

Date: 04th December 2021

Preamble:

We, the delegates of the Annual Pre – Seasonal Cattle Movement Conference comprising of members of cattle keepers from Warrap state, farmers from WBeGS, members of Inter-State Coordinating Committee for Cattle Seasonal Movement (ICCCSM), met between 02nd – 04th December 2021 in Wau town, at State Council of Ministers deliberated on how to maintain security and stability through the implementation of Marial Bai Agreement to have peaceful cattle seasonal movement in 2022 and beyond.

Acknowledged the opinion of the delegates from Wau County on non-acceptance of the seasonal cattle movement in their area and committed to respect this opinion;

Building on our joint interests to protect our resources, the Governments of Western Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap supporting the communities of cattle keepers and the farmers across the two states held an Annual Pre - Seasonal Cattle Movement Conference to dialogue on how to have peaceful cattle seasonal movement 2022 and beyond;

Cognizant of our responsibilities to maintain and enhance security and protection of both the resources (animals and crops) and our citizens in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap States;

Determined to work together as communities that coexist peacefully by implementing the provisions of Revised Marial Bai Agreement in letter and Spirit for the good of our people in the two states;

Considered the concern of delegates from Jur River County in areas of opposition (SPLA -IO) that all cattle keepers planning to move to their areas must ensure that all requirements by the Revised Marial Bai agreement are adhered to in letter and spirit;

Reaffirmed our commitment for peaceful coexistence and stability in our communities and take dialogue as the only means to resolve our differences;

Recognized that the issue of border related disputes among some communities in the bordering areas be left under the responsibility of the government and in the meantime encourage communities along the borders to live peacefully;

Mindful that the Annual Pre–Seasonal Cattle Movement Conference 2021 presents both challenges and opportunities for the cattle keepers and the farmers to dialogue and to effectively contribute to building sustainable peace across the two states, and also recognizing opportunities that safe spaces create to foster coordination and cooperation among the two communities to coexist peacefully.

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Applauding the role being played by UNMISS WBeG and Warrap States, Reconciliation, Stabilization Resilience Trust Fund (RSRTF) Project and other partners including members of Peace Building and Reconciliation Working Group (PRWG) in facilitating the communities of the two states to have space for dialogue and deliberation on some sticking issues within the Marial Bai Agreement and the process of the annual cattle seasonal movement;

The conference notes with great appreciation the consequential support of the Reconciliation, Stabilization Resilience Trust Fund (RSRTF) to the overall peace, reconciliation, justice, and accountability agenda in the two states and calls for sustained support going into immediate future to safeguard and secure gains realized in 2020 and 2021 period and address critical outstanding challenges;

Noting with concerns all the reported continuous violations during the grassroots consultations in both WBeG and Warrap States and calling upon the Inter State Coordination Committee on Cattle Seasonal Movement (ICCCSM) and other mechanisms to ensure violators are held accountable in accordance with Marial Bai Agreement;

Alarmed by the continuous report of unauthorized persons (cattle keepers & farmers) carrying firearms and the culture of renaming of some areas in WBeG State by the cattle keepers which is in total violation of the Marial Bai Agreement and bringing about mistrust among communities;

Calling upon the authorities of the two states to take charge of collecting the firearms from civilians using different strategies instead of open declaration of the exercise;

Urging the authorities of WBeG/Warrap/UNMISS and other partners to facilitate strengthening of the capacities of local committees to be more responsive and ensure the current Revised Marial Bai Agreement (R-MBA) structures (committees) reach the grassroots communities with the mobility given to them by partners;

Concern with interference into community peace and security and urging the Revitalized Government of National Unity to expedite the process of implementation of the security arrangement by speedy unification of forces;

Calling on all political parties to refrain from using Marial-Bai agreement as a political gain to allow communities take charge of the implementation of the agreement and request all relevant authorities to help the communities with effective implementation;

Calling upon the government and other stakeholders to strengthen operationalization of the Joint Mobile/Special court for trial of some imminent cases arising from the cattle related issues among the communities, which will contribute immensely to fight impunity and further recognize legal accountability to foster reconciliation in order to deter future crimes and potential offenders within the two communities;

Calling upon the states authorities and urged them to recommit to their task of 2020 communique to speedily form and deploy the joint integrated police force (special unit)

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along cattle seasonal movement's routes to monitor the movements of the cattle and arrest any cattle related conflict that may arise due to violations of the Marial Bai Agreement;

Aware of the ICCCSM acknowledgement of the support given by partners in the year 2021 and also noted the financial constraints experienced by the Inter – State Coordination Committee for Cattle Seasonal Movement (ICCCSM), the delegates appealed to the states authorities to provide support to the mechanisms to enable them to effectively carryout their mandates;

Concern with presence of local cattle within Municipality causing destruction of farms around Wau town and beyond and further calling upon the Wau Municipal Council to regulate these cattle under the provisions of the revised MBA and issue local order to complement the provisions of Revised MBA;

Confirmed the conference have confirmed the revised compensation rate / list of November 2019 and recommend comprehensive review of Marial Bai Agreement in the next year's Annual Conference.

Hereby append our signatures to the final communique of the Pre-Seasonal Cattle Movement Conference as below:

Signature:

Signed by participants of the two states and witnessed by peace partners in Wau Town, Western Bahr el Ghazal State on this 4th Day of December 2021:

s/n	Names	Title	Location	Signature
Western Bahr el Ghazal State				
1.	William Deng Kuol	Executive Chief	Jur River County	
2.	Aurelia Yuo Achor	Women	Jur River County	
3.	Igsam Saleh Rehan	Farmer	Wau County	
Warrap State				
1.	Ariath Mayar Mareng	Executive Chief	Paramount Chief Tonj North County	
2.	Chol Yuot Chol	Cattle Camp Leader (Majokwut)	Gogrial West County	
3.	Achol Majok Pec	Women	Tonj South County	



Witnesses:

Hon. Zackariah Joseph Garang
Deputy Governor
Western Bahr el Ghazal State

Sign: _____
Date: 27/12/21

Hon. Deborah Udwe Akiech
Deputy Governor
Warrap State

Sign: [Signature]
Date: 4/12/2021

Mr. Sam K. Muhumure
Head of Field Office
Western Bahr el Ghazal

Sign: [Signature]
Date: 4/12/21

Mr. Orasio Opiyo Buolo
Coordinator
Peace Building & Reconciliation

Working Group (PRWG)
Sign: [Signature]
Date: 04/12/2021

Mr. Luciano Thomas Abdalla
Deputy Chairman
ICCCSM

Sign: [Signature]
Date: 4/12/2021