



THE HON KEVIN RUDD MP

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
CANBERRA

13 SEP 2011

The Hon Lt Gen Nhial Deng Nhial  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

Dear Minister

On behalf of the people and Government of Australia, I warmly congratulate you, the people and new Government of the Republic of South Sudan for your achievement of independence on Saturday 9 July 2011.

Australia is delighted to welcome South Sudan to the community of nations. Australia formally recognised South Sudan on 9 July and was proud to co-sponsor the General Assembly resolution on South Sudan's admission to the United Nations on 14 July 2011.

I offer my personal congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and look forward to working closely with you in the future.

Australia's high-level representation at celebrations in Juba by the Prime Minister's Special Representative, Mr Danby MP, Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, was a symbol of Australia's desire to foster close and friendly relations with South Sudan and its people. I want to personally assure you that Australia is committed to working with the international community to assist South Sudan with the many challenges that lie ahead.

Building an enduring peace and stability will be a key challenge. Australia remains gravely concerned about ongoing serious violence and threat to civilians in parts of Sudan and South Sudan, including Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states, Abyei and the Darfur region. Australia urges all parties to resolve outstanding matters peacefully by negotiation, not unilateral action, and refrain from further violence.

Australia is determined to play its part in addressing these peace and security challenges. I am pleased to inform you that Australia has offered a contribution of up to thirty five peacekeepers to the recently established United Nations Mission in South Sudan. As you would be aware, Australia has contributed to the United Nations Mission in Sudan since 2005.

Australia and South Sudan already share close ties through the large South Sudanese community in Australia. And there is great potential for the strengthening of trade and

investment ties. Represented by the Hon Mr Pa'gan Amum, South Sudan's presence at the Africa Down Under conference in Perth in September provided an excellent early opportunity for South Sudan to engage with Australian businesses and investors.

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I would like to propose that Australia formally establish diplomatic relations with South Sudan as soon as practicable. Should you agree, I would like to suggest that we arrange a bilateral meeting next week in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, at which we could issue a Joint Communiqué formalising the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Upon establishment of diplomatic relations, I propose that our High Commission in Nairobi have formal diplomatic and consular responsibility for South Sudan.

I look forward to working with you and your Government to take forward a positive and constructive bilateral relationship between Australia and South Sudan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Rudd', written in a cursive style.

Kevin Rudd

# The Hon Kevin Rudd MP Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs

## Australia welcomes South Sudan to the Community of Nations

Joint media release: Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

Canberra

9 July 2011

The Australian Government has today formally recognised the Republic of South Sudan as an independent state.

South Sudan declared its independence today.

Australia warmly welcomes South Sudan into the community of nations.

Independence reflects the clear aspirations of the South Sudanese people, as expressed in January's credible and peaceful referendum.

We congratulate in particular Australia's large South Sudanese community, with Australia the largest voting site outside of Africa.

Australia will shortly establish diplomatic relations with South Sudan.

Australia will be represented at today's celebrations in Juba by the Hon Michael Danby MP.

Mr Danby is the Chair of the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade and was appointed by the Prime Minister to be Australia's Special Representative at the independence celebrations.

Working with the international community, Australia stands ready to support the people of South Sudan and Sudan build a viable and secure future.

The Australian Government is pleased to announce \$16 million to assist South Sudan over the next two years to deliver basic services such as education, maternal health, sanitation and also to support rural livelihoods.

While today is a day of celebration, the people of South Sudan face substantial challenges.

Australia is gravely concerned about ongoing serious violence and insecurity in parts of Sudan, particularly in Southern Kordofan state and the Darfur region, and in parts of South Sudan.

Australia has contributed peacekeepers to the United Nations Mission in Sudan since 2005, and intends to make a contribution to the new United Nations Mission in South Sudan, expected to be established shortly.

Australia urges the peaceful resolution of all outstanding matters by negotiation, not unilateral action. The protection and safety of civilians must be the highest priority.

### Media inquiries

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- Minister's Office: (02) 6277 7500
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Media Liaison: (02) 6261 1555
- AusAID Media: 0417 680 590



## JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

On the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between  
**The Republic of South Sudan**  
And  
**Australia**

The Governments of the Republic of South Sudan and Australia,

Guided by their mutual willingness to develop and strengthen friendship and cooperation between the two States in political, economic, social, humanitarian and other fields, in accordance with the principles and norms enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, International Law and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations dated 18 April 1961;

Have mutually decided to establish diplomatic relations as of the date of the signing of this Joint Communiqué.

The Governments of the Republic of South Sudan and Australia wish to express their mutual confidence that establishing diplomatic relations corresponds to the wishes of both States and will help consolidate international peace and security as well as peaceful co-existence.

In witness whereof, the undersigned Representatives, duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Joint Communiqué.

New York, 24 September 2011

For the Government of the Republic of South Sudan      For the Government of Australia

The Hon Lt Gen Nhial Deng Nhial  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and  
International Cooperation of the  
Republic of South Sudan

The Hon Mr Kevin Rudd MP  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia