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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON,  
UNITED KINGDOM FOREIGN SECRETARY HAGUE,  
AND NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER STØRE

Sudan Troika Recognizes Progress on Referendum Preparations; Calls for Further Efforts

In a September 17 letter to Sudanese First Vice President Salva Kiir and Second Vice President Ali Osman Taha, the United States, Norway, and the United Kingdom, as members of the Sudan Troika, commended recent progress on preparations for Southern Sudan's referendum, and called on the CPA parties to take swift action to ensure that peaceful referenda take place on time, in a manner consistent with the will of the people of Southern Sudan and Abyei.

There remains an enormous amount to be done and work must be accelerated to make up for lost time. We have highlighted to the parties that it is their responsibility to ensure that the Commission moves quickly to take critical decisions on further preparations, including most immediately: finalizing an operational plan and budget; agreeing on voter registration criteria and procedures; and hiring and training of registration workers, among other things.

We look forward to joining the CPA parties and international partners in New York this week at the UN General Assembly for continued dialogue on these critical issues and to demonstrate our sustained support to the process.

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Govt of UK: Michael Ryder, UK Special Envoy – ok  
Govt of Norway: Kjersti Anderson, Chief of Staff to Minister Stoere – ok

This press statement was approved by the NSC Small Group.