



BANK OF SOUTH SUDAN (BoSS)

Office of the Governor

Expression of Gratitude on Behalf of Fellow Governors

By

Dr. James Alic Garang, Governor, Bank of South Sudan

During

The African Caucus Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria

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**Your Excellencies
Fellow Governors,
Ladies, and Gentlemen,**

Good afternoon.

It is an honor and a pleasure to deliver this Expression of Gratitude on behalf of my fellow Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) as we wind up our eventful and fruitful deliberations under the auspices of the African Caucus Meeting 2024 held here in Abuja, Nigeria. I am sure you will agree that our host's tireless and diligent preparatory efforts, in collaboration with the Bretton Woods Institutions, have been a resounding success with more tangible outcomes.

In my past African Caucus engagements, it takes a lot of time, efforts, and resources to host such radiant event, and we genuinely appreciate it. The authorities began preparations to arrive here soon after the 2023 Caucus Meeting concluded in Cabe Verde. The remarkable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Cabe Verde, **Dr. OLAVO AVELINO GARCIA CORREIA**, and his devoted team can attest to this proclamation. From the Offices of Executive Directors (OEDs), Executive Directors, Senior Advisors, Advisors, and OED administrators, the hosting country, and all relevant departments in the IMF and WBG have been preparing for this event. To this end, please allow me to express our collective gratitude to the Nigerian Government and everyone involved in making the 2024 Caucus Meeting a decisive success:

I would like to express Governors' profound gratitude to His Excellency, **BOLA AHMED TINUBU, President, & Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces**, of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for his crucial role in having kindly accepted to place the 2024 Caucus of African Governors of the IMF-WBG under his very high and distinguished patronage and hospitality.

We also thank and congratulate you, **Honorable WALE EDUN, Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy** of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Governor of the World Bank Group, for the outstanding conduct of the 2024 African Caucus Meeting, which would not have been a great success without your guidance and support. At the same time, your strong leadership, evident throughout this event, testifies to your unwavering commitment and dedication to the African cause. I know what it takes for a typical Minister of Finance and Central Governor to coordinate with various teams—development partners, government agencies, OED staff, and others—to execute the African Caucus agenda.





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We are grateful to **Dr. OLAYEMI CARDOSO**, Governor of the Central Bank of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and Alternate Governor of the IMF; to **Mrs. LYDIA JAFIYA**, Permanent Secretary Finance, Federal Ministry of Finance; and to **Mr. OKOKON UDOH**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This Caucus edition would not have been the same without people like you. How much of a difference your passionate contribution made! Thank you for setting the bar high.

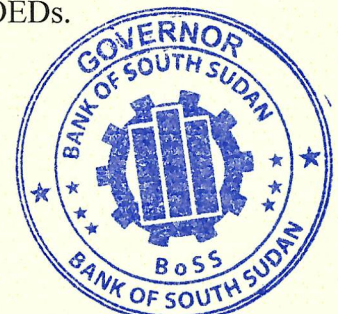
We will also remain grateful to **the people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**. Your home is so warm and welcoming. Your hospitality made our stay even more amazing. Thank you for opening your home to us. The way you spoiled us makes any of us not to ever leave. Each country within the African Caucus cannot wait to return the favor. In this connection, South Sudan under **His Excellency, GENERAL SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT, President, & Commander-in-Chief of the South Sudan People's Defense Forces**, also looks forward to a day when we will host the African Caucus in Juba and exceed your expectations.

We commend the **Nigerian teams of energetic women and men**, led by **Mr. GEORGE NYESO**, for the hard work put into the excellent organization and coordination of this event. Your efforts made our participation in the 2024 African Caucus memorable. Thank you for your invaluable contribution.

We thank our **IMF and WBG Executive Directors**. You are a critical part of our team, and we all benefit from your daily contributions. It has been incredible sharing our mission with you, and we all look forward to you strongly advocating and defending the outcomes of this 2024 African Caucus Meeting in the circles of the IMF and the WBG to turn them into resolutions in the upcoming IMF and WBG Annual Meetings. The outcome of today's commitment is a testament to your tireless efforts in preparing the draft Memorandum of Understanding, which we look forward to presenting to the heads of the Bretton Woods Institutions in October 2024 during our Annual Meetings in Washington, DC. I equally greatly appreciate the work done to put together the "Abuja Deceleration."

We would also like to thank the Honorable Ministers and Central Bank Governors present for the successful deliberations and active participation during the meetings. Your comments, questions, and insights have greatly enriched our documents, amplifying our unified voices on shared challenges.

We want to acknowledge the unsung group and usually the engine behind any Caucus Meeting. We thank, commend, and congratulate **the joint IMF and WBG Technical Team** of the 2024 African Caucus Meeting for the successful delivery of this event. We note your constant dedication to excellence and are incredibly grateful for it. Thank you for your valuable contribution, and special kudos to the IMF and WBG Coordinating OEDs.





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Finally, we also thank all the **keynote speakers, panelists, moderators, master of ceremony, and interpreters** for taking the time out of their busy schedules to be with us. The same goes to hardworking men and women of the media for swiftly communicating the event to the world. Your respective interventions were inspiring, passionate, and insightful. We also extend our gratitude to the organizers, especially the government officials and all the support staff who spent sleepless nights to see this function through. Your passion and efforts in ensuring that this meeting is colorful and reflects its importance have not gone unnoticed. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

In closing, we would like to thank and congratulate the Honorable Ministers and Central Bank Governors, Executive Directors, and everyone who actively participated in this journey for the consensus reached on the Abuja Declaration. We look forward to our deliberations in October 2024 and the next African Caucus Meeting in Central African Republic in 2025.

On behalf of my fellow Governors, I wish you all a wonderful evening, a nice stay in Abuja, and safe trips back home.

Thank you.

