

Troika Statement on the Opening of a Humanitarian Corridor from Sudan to South Sudan

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Media Note

Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC

April 6, 2017

The text of the following statement was issued jointly by the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, and Norway.

Begin Text:

The members of the Troika (Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States) welcome the Government of Sudan's opening of the border crossing into Bentiu, in South Sudan, for the delivery of humanitarian food assistance to areas gravely affected by the conflict and suffering from famine and severe food insecurity. This border crossing will allow for a second access route for emergency food assistance, along with the already open Kosti – Renk river corridor. The Troika also recognizes the Government of Sudan's efforts to facilitate the flow of food assistance through Port Sudan.

The Troika notes that Sudan has accepted over 365,000 South Sudanese refugees, including more than 60,000 South Sudanese who have entered Sudan in the first three months of 2017, and encourages the government to insure continued humanitarian access to these refugee communities. The Troika also welcomes the Sudanese government's decision to donate food from their own food reserves to people in need in South Sudan.

The Troika calls on the government of South Sudan to coordinate with the World Food Program and partners providing vital assistance. The Troika urges the government and all armed groups to allow full and safe humanitarian access to reach the communities in need, and to ensure that food and other commodities are not diverted from the intended beneficiaries.

The troika recommends the opening of the additional land and water routes between Sudan and South Sudan so that the communities in both countries can benefit from open trade and the efficient and swift movement of humanitarian goods and personnel.

End Text.