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Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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Date

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### Statement on the preliminary referendum results in South Sudan

In accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in 2005, the People of Southern Sudan successfully exercised their right to self-determination from 9 to 15 January 2011. The preliminary result of this exercise has been released by the South Sudan Referendum Commission. The results indicate that the overwhelming majority of the people of South Sudan voted for separation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia welcomes the peaceful and orderly conclusion of the Southern Sudan Referendum and the announcement of the preliminary result by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission. The Ministry congratulates the South Sudan Referendum Commission for its impeccable organization, efficient and professional work.

This referendum would not have been possible without the wise and courageous decision and leadership of H.E. President Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Beshir and H.E. First Vice President Salva Kiir Mayardit. The Ministry would like to congratulate both leaders and their peoples for their exemplary maturity. The referendum was monitored by various domestic and international observers, including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the midwife of the CPA. All declared that the referendum was conducted freely and fairly and that the people of Southern Sudan were able to vote in a safe and conducive environment. It is in this context that the Ministry is prompted to underline its acceptance of the result of the referendum.

This is the beginning of a process that still needs the full collaboration of the two parties. It remains necessary to exert all efforts to resolve any outstanding issues before the end of the referendum period, to ensure stable, secure, and prosperous two viable states living in peace with one another. In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal democratic Republic of Ethiopia would like to assure both parties and the peoples of the Sudan that Ethiopia is fully prepared to assist all efforts to ensure peace, prosperity and development of the two states and of the region at large.

3 February 2011

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