

II. Appoint AU Transparency Envoy

The R-TGoNU should ask the AU to appoint an envoy charged exclusively with guiding economic accountability in South Sudan. The AU Transparency Envoy, appended to RJMEC, should ensure full implementation of Chapter 4 of the R-ARCSS and partner with South Sudan's main oversight institutions: the Anti-Corruption Commission;⁵⁵ National Audit Chamber;⁵⁶ Public Accounts Committee in the National Legislative Assembly; and the Fiscal, Financial Allocation and Monitoring Commission.⁵⁷

How would this action improve economic governance?

The failure of South Sudan's existing anti-corruption institutions to have the political space to investigate and release their findings on government finances has undermined transparency and accountability in the country. The Transparency Envoy would direct an ambitious anti-corruption reform agenda to counter the elite competition for illicit economic gain.

- With a public relations emphasis, the envoy would raise the profile and importance of Chapter 4 of the R-ARCSS, which focuses on economic governance, resource management, and public finance. Full compliance with Chapter 4 would transform the country's fiscal management practices and combat rampant corruption.
- With the support of the envoy, the independent voices in South Sudan's anti-corruption institutions, including the National Auditor General, would have an international ally to track and publicize whether key government institutions have full budget allocations, sufficient staffing levels, and freedom to work without political manipulation.
- The AU envoy would also steer international resources to existing South Sudanese auditors and investigators, which would help to prevent the misuse of donor assistance allocated for reconstruction.

Has this policy worked?

Anti-corruption policies are frequently written into peace agreements, but often are overlooked because of other post-conflict priorities. The AU's Advisory Board on Corruption (AU-ABC) is an independent office in the AU that is mandated to promote anti-corruption measures, advise member states, and analyze the nature of corruption in Africa.⁵⁸ The AU-ABC has not engaged in peace processes but is well-positioned to support transparency efforts in South Sudan in concert with IGAD's RJMEC staff.

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What are the steps to implementation?

The R-ARCSS outlines a range of commissions to implement economic governance, including new bodies such as the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority⁵⁹ and Fiscal, Financial Allocation and Monitoring Commission.⁶⁰ The appointment of an AU envoy would be consistent with the R-ARCSS formation of these bodies—and ensure a high-level and consistent focus on transparency. In this role, the envoy should be a first point of contact for the Economic and Financial Management Authority (EFMA) that oversees public management in South Sudan.⁶¹

- **South Sudan:** The R-TGoNU's immediate call for an AU envoy should coincide with a presidential directive that requires the immediate release of previous internal government reports written by government auditors, in order to trigger accountability across the transitional government.
- **IGAD, AU, United Nations:** The AU-ABC should volunteer to partner with RJMEC and recommend a well-qualified candidate. The AU Transparency Envoy should have the full endorsement of multilateral bodies—including an IGAD Heads of State Communique that backs the appointment and a UNSC request for regular briefings on anti-corruption progress. The envoy should also hold regular consultations with South Sudanese civil society, including anti-corruption, human rights, and women's groups.
- **International Partners, Donors:** Based on the past patterns of hesitancy among international donors to fund South Sudan's peace process, an international call for an envoy should alleviate some concerns about the R-TGoNU's commitment to the peace process. International donors should also support South Sudan's existing oversight institutions.