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China Initiates S. Sudan Dialogue in Khartoum

China's role to resolve South Sudan's conflict has heavily weighed in with the new invitation of the parties in conflict to meet face-to-face in the Sudanese capital Khartoum.

On Saturday, a high level delegation from the government led by the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin, headed to Khartoum for peace dialogue initiated by the People's Republic of China between the government and the SPLM-IO.

"The main purpose of the visit is to prepare the ground for an expected South Sudan's IGAD-led peace talks on 18th January 2015; the delegations have been invited to Khartoum to meet the Chinese top leadership. They will hold talks in order to find a common agenda with officials of the People's Republic of China and try to forge mutual understanding" Minister of information and broadcasting and government spokesperson Michael Makuei quoted by *The Juba Telegraph*.

About 140 Chinese companies are currently registered in South Sudan and the traces of their involvement in non-oil sectors are increasingly perceptible, particularly in infrastructure construction and telecommunication according to the Chinese media.