



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Statement of the Republic of South Sudan

Delivered by

**Hon. Deng Dau DENG, Deputy Minister of
Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation**

To

**72nd Session of the UNHCR Executive
Committee (ExCom 2021)**

Geneva, 4th October 2021

**Excellency Amb. Maria Farani, the Chairperson of ExCom
Mr. Pilippo Grandi, The High Commissioner
Excellencies, Distinguished delegates**

The Republic of South Sudan aligns itself with the statement delivered by Burkina Faso on behalf of the African group, and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Her Excellency Maria Farani of Brazil for her election as the Chair of the 72nd Session of ExCom for the year 2021.

Allow me, Excellency, to convey to you the best wishes from the people of South Sudan for your assumption to this important task of steering up the work of the 72 Session of ExCom.

I equally wish to seize this opportunity to congratulate the high Commissioner Mr. Flippo Grandi for his commendable leadership in complementing efforts of member states in search for durable solutions to the problem of refugees, IDPs, Returnees and Host communities around the world. This has not been an easy task particularly during this extreme challenging time of the global pandemic.

High Commissioner, you had not only visited South Sudan twice this year alone, but you have extensively travelled to the most remote part of the Country in order to see for yourself the affected population and the sequence of the spontaneous return shown by returnees and in places like Pan Akwac and refugees in Makpandu, Western Equatoria.

The Government of South Sudan thank you a great deal for the solidarity you have demonstrated to the people throughout your tenure as the High Commissioner.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is my distinct honour to echo to you the commitment of the Government of South Sudan and its readiness to fully implement the Revitalized Agreement of Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS).

Recently the President of the Republic H.E Salva Kiir Mayardit inaugurated the launching of the National Legislature to mark the completion of the vital section of the Governance structure provided for in Chapter1 of the Agreement. This was preceded by the reconstitution of an inclusive National legislature and appointment of the three females to lead, one as the speaker of the R-TNLA, the deputy speaker of the Council of States and the Government chief Whip.

The Government has already made momentous progress in the implementation of the R-ARCSS, by putting down; governance structure at both national, states and local Government levels, amendment Bills and the security sector.

We welcome the efforts by the international Community that is being matched by the assurance of our pledge of political will, commitment and determination to implement the Agreement and bring a lasting and sustainable peace in the Country. The revitalized peace agreement remains a major step for our Country to restore peace and stability, and it is also a unique opportunity for humanitarian Context including the implementation of durable solutions adopted to rebuild broken social fabrics by creating safe conditions for the dignified return.

Currently there are 2.5 million citizens displaced in neighbouring countries as refugees, and 1.6 million internally displaced persons. Nevertheless, within these figures there are individuals eager to return home and restart building their lives. In March 2021, the Government launched technical workshops with support of UNHCR and IGAD, to develop a durable solutions strategy as a follow to the consultations conducted in the areas affected by displacement in order to respond to calls by IDPs and refugees.

The initiation of the comprehensive approach to finding a durable solution to protracted displacement in South Sudan, will support the ongoing efforts to stabilize and sustain the 400,000 spontaneous returnees since the inception of the peace Agreement. It is imperative for the international community to bolster development efforts that will assist the host communities that have been supporting IDPs and refugees, for they are the ones that are affected most in the process.

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates

South Sudan is implementing the 1951 Convention and its Protocol. Our country is currently hosting over 300,000 refugees. The Government is availing land to the refugees, IDPs and returnees as means to improve their Livelihood. The Government appreciates the launching of IGAD Platform Support in 2019, at the margin of Global Refugee forum which later led to the adoption of the Durable Solutions to the Protracted Displacement of Refugees, IDPS and Returnees in South Sudan and Sudan, it is an effort that cannot be tallied.

South Sudan profoundly commends the development partners for their long-term engagement to support the Government of South Sudan; a spirit which

reflects the essence and objectives laid out in the 2018 Global Compact for refugees. Together, we must work hard to close the missing link between relief assistance and development endeavours in the areas of possible return. In this way, it will be of help to develop the capacities of the affected population for their ultimate resilience and self-reliance. Indeed, a larger development effort must be geared towards ensuring that those that are returning home will be able to remain in order to avoid letting them to take risks of leaving their homes again due to lack of adequate basic services available. These efforts must be in coordinated fashion to support and promote social cohesion, economic growth that shall lay a concrete foundation for longer term sustainable development in the Country.

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

The exerted efforts by the Government in support of partners to resolve the displacement portent in South Sudan, were sternly hardened in the year 2020, by natural disasters; severe flooding, locust invasion and COVID-19 pandemic. These natural plagues affected the Country rigorously and added to the displacement a considerable number of people; which necessitated serious intervention by the humanitarian agencies to support Government's efforts. As part of the Government's national COVID-19 response strategy, it was necessary to include key entry points around the Country that are used by people on the move, for them to receive disposition of COVID-19 preventive measures.

Madam Chair and Distinguished delegates,

In Conclusion, I would like to reiterate my government's commitment to fully implement the Revitalized Agreement (R-ARCSS) and the resolution

related to ExCom in order to achieve a lasting and sustainable peace that will resolve the protracted displacement once and for all.

Our thanks and appreciation go to the UNHCR, IGAD and Core Group for their unwavering support to the process of finding durable solutions to the protracted displacement around the World.

Once again, on behalf of my Government, I want to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the region for hosting our citizens for many years.

Thank You