

November 17, 2014

To: IGAD Envoys to the South Sudan peace process, Amb. Seyoum Mesfin; H.E. Gen. Lazaro K. Sumbeiywo; H.E. Gen. Ahmed M. El Dabi  
Chief Negotiator Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS), Hon. Nhial Deng Nhial  
Chief Negotiator (Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A IO), Gen. Taban Deng Gai  
AU Special Envoy for Women, peace and Security, Ms. Bineta Diop  
Executive Director UN Women, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuk  
The members of the Troika – the Governments of Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States  
IGAD Gender Department,  
UNMISS - SRSG Ellen Margrethe Løj  
South Sudan Country Representative UN Women – Ms. Izeduwa Derex - Briggs

CC: All heads of delegations to the peace process

**Subject: A Call for the appointment of a High Level Gender Advisor to the South Sudan IGAD – Led Peace Process**

We, the women's organizations, other civil society groups, individual women leaders and peace and human rights activists of South Sudan, gathered on 13 November 2014 and reviewed, re-affirmed our commitment and priorities to the South Sudan IGAD led peace process.

We acknowledge the headway made so far by the two principals and the negotiating delegations on the complexity of the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGONU). It is our hope and expectation that the pending issues concerning power sharing, structure of the TGONU, security arrangements and resources are agreed upon within the 15 days ultimatum set for consultation for the two warring parties during the 28<sup>th</sup> extraordinary summit of IGAD Heads of State and Government held on 6-7 November 2014 in Addis Ababa.

We commend the two parties for the signed re-dedication to the cessation of hostilities (COH) agreement and the implementation modalities for the cessation of hostilities Matrix signed on 09 November 2014.

However, we express our grave concern about the continued violations of the cessation of hostilities (CoH) and the destructions and loss of lives. Eleven months into the conflict, close to 1.8 million people have been uprooted from their homes, including over 450,000 people who have fled to neighboring countries and it is the women of South Sudan who bear the brunt of the war. We express our frustration and desperation on the dragging of the peace process.

We urge the government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in opposition (SPLM/A IO) to genuinely commit to a comprehensive and an inclusive resolution to the conflict in South Sudan through Dialogue. We would like to remind the

parties that solutions to the ordeals of South Sudan does not spring from the cask of the gun. The people of South Sudan are desperate for peace.

We call upon the leaders of IGAD, African Union, Troika, China, the UN and the international community to honor their commitments not only in words but also in action and support efforts to restore peace.

### ***Women's Meaningful Participation in Peace Negotiations***

While South Sudanese women continue to lead the call for peace and affirm our rights of participation, inclusion and consultation of decision-making processes that would impact our lives as stipulated in UNSCRs 2122, 1889, 1325; we have noted that this had not been adequately realized in the South Sudan peace process.

Earlier on the **25<sup>th</sup> April 2014**; the women of South Sudan sent out letters to the different actors to call for the appointment of a woman mediator (Gender advisor) to the IGAD-led South Sudan peace process, but to-date, we have noted that this had not materialized. This raises more concern to us as the talks have reached an advanced stage and it is critical that a gender perspective be applied at this stage. Much as women had inputs into the general thematic committees discussions, it is essential that the final peace agreement adequately address women issues and priorities.

Therefore the need to ensure that women are not only at the decision-making table but that our voices inform the affluence of strategies intended to bring peace is vital. There are worldwide evidences that demonstrate that the participation of women in peace processes and the full integration of gender perspectives in the negotiations often lead to a more sustainable peace. For the South Sudan peace process to be one of the best practices in the world and set precedence to other nations, it is important that this need is realized.

As women of South Sudan; we constructively challenge all of you to seriously show your commitment to meaningful women participation by:

**Immediately appoint a High Level Gender Advisor to the IGAD – led South Sudan peace process whose main responsibility is to advise the chief negotiators and the Special Envoys on gender with special attention to women's issues and priorities and how these can be fully integrated into the negotiations, the subsequent peace agreement and the implementation of the peace agreement. The responsibility of the High level Advisor will also include regular consultations with South Sudanese women's organizations, grassroots women groups, women in the different delegations at the peace table and other CSOs working on women's rights, gender equality and peace and security issues. Most importantly the Advisor should be a FEMALE; someone who understands the dynamics of South Sudan and with experience in peace processes with similar complexities of South Sudan. Preference should be given to an African woman expert unless otherwise.**

In conclusion, we; South Sudanese women avow our commitment to ensuring that peace prevails in South Sudan.

### **Signatures**

EVE Organization For Women Development  
South Sudan Women with Disabilities Network

South Sudan Women Platform for Peace  
National Empowerment of Positive Women United ( NEPWU).  
Global Network of Women Peace-builders – South Sudan Network.(GNWP –SS)  
Kapoury Women Association  
Women and Child development Association  
Liwolo Women Development Association  
University of Juba – Women group  
South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace  
South Sudan Democratic Elections Network (SSunde)  
End Impunity Organization (EIO)  
Nuer Association for women Development (NAWD)  
Development and Peace Returnees Association (DPRA)  
Women Union  
Voice for Change  
Smile Again Africa Development Organization (SAADO)  
Organization for Peace, Relief and Development (OPRD)  
Mother and Children Development Aid (MaCDA)  
Agency for Social Transformation & Development (ASTAD)  
Women Development Group (WDG)  
Gender committee – Human Rights commission  
Fashoda Organization  
Nyaret Women Organization for Development  
Soweto Community Based organisation