

# **Civil Society Statement on the Integration of Gender in the New Deal, CEDAW and the Validation of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 in South Sudan**

**Juba, South Sudan**

**December 11, 2013**

We, the representatives of women civil society organizations (CSOs) and other Civil society organizations from both national level and (5) five other states in South Sudan gathered on 10 – 11 December 2013, at Regency Hotel, in Juba South Sudan, to discuss the successes and challenges experienced by CSOs on addressing issues of women peace and security in 2013 in South Sudan and Launch the 2012 – 2013 CSOs in-country monitoring report on UNSCR 1325

We further reviewed the first draft of the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan (NAP) to establish a ***common civil society position*** on the validation of the UNSCR 1325 NAP that is due on the 12 – 13 December 2013.

We acknowledge the commitments made by the Ministry of Gender, Child, Social Welfare, Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MGCSWHD) and comment the good work done by the National Steering Committee for the development of the first draft of the NAP of South Sudan.

However, we are deeply concerned, that the time between when the first draft was circulated and the validation date is too short for an important document like the draft NAP to be reviewed and validated. The NAP matrix carries a lot of information and complex to be easily understood by an ordinary South Sudanese woman who is supposed to own the NAP. We are also concerned that the timeframe for implementation 2014 is quiet immediate which is only two weeks away from today. While we understand the need and importance for South Sudan to have a NAP as soon as possible, it is equally important that adequate consultation is done with all the ten (10) states in South Sudan to ensure that all relevant nationwide views are incorporated to ensure ownership. We believe that we are heading in the right direction however to ensure that all priorities acquired from the baseline study on the UNSCR 1325 validated earlier this year, the UNSCR 1325 conference recommendations from both government and CSOs and the regional consultations conducted by the National Steering Committee are captured in the draft NAP; therefore some time is required.

We also discussed the inadequate integration of gender in the South Sudan New Deal Compact and the need to continuously engage and advocate to ensure the inclusion of gender experts in the New Deal Technical and Steering Committees. We also reviewed the status of the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in South Sudan.

Based on the above points, we the CSOs recommend the following points

***For the Validation of the draft NAP for UNSCR 1325;*** we call on the National Steering Committee and the MGCSWHD to consider the following points

1. Reconsider change of the validation date of the draft NAP to provide adequate time to review the first NAP draft and provide adequate inputs and feedbacks from the grassroots.
2. Provide a summarized and simplified version of the draft NAP and circulate to states government and CSOs for a final review before validation
3. Extend deadline to receive inputs/feedback on the first draft from states/grassroots to end of February 2014
4. First draft to be validated by March 2014 and possible implementation to start Mid 2014

***For the Integration of gender into the New Deal;*** we call on the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) and the donor community to consider the following points

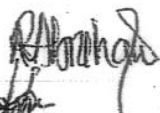
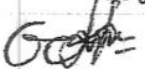

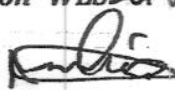


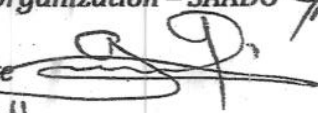


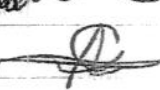

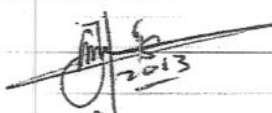

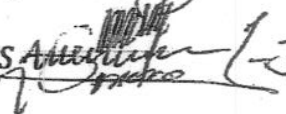
1. Integrate gender in the key monitoring indicators
2. Merge the gender component in the New Deal with the UNSCR 1325 NAP and the South Sudan National Gender Strategic Plan
3. Ensure that funds under the New Deal framework are allocated using a gender budgeting approach.
4. Include gender experts from both the MGCSWHD and the CSOs in the New Deal Technical and Steering Committees during the implementation phase of the New Deal Compact

***For the ratification of CEDAW;*** we call on the Gender committee in the National Legislative Assembly to put forward the document for ratification

We, the undersigned CSOs commit to continuously advocate for the inclusion of gender in National processes, call for the ratification of international treaties that support the rights of women and also actively contribute to South Sudan's NAP development process through our representatives at the National Steering committee and also the implementation phase of the UNSCR 1325 NAP. We therefore urge the National Steering Committee to consider the recommendations of the CSOs.

***Annex I – List of CSOs***

CSOs

1. Eve Organization for Women Development - CES 
2. Young women Christian Association - WES 
3. Self-help Women Development association- WES 
4. Women Development Fund- Warrap - 
5. Big Brothers' Association - WES 
6. Smile Again Africa Development Organization - SAADO 
7. Jonglei Youth Union - Jonglei State 
8. Women and Leadership - W.BG 
9. Community Empowerment Program - CES 
10. Women self-Help Development Organization - CES 
11. South Sudan Hars - Juba 
12. People of Progress Organization - CES 
13. Women Development Group - W.BG 
14. Morobo Children Empowerment Association - CES 
15. SKILLS for South Sudan - Juba
16. Women for Women International - CES