



JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

3RD ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY

1 NOVEMBER 2022 JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN

WE, South Sudanese women leaders from all ten (10) states, 3 administrative areas, and partners gathered in Pyramid Hotel, Juba, South Sudan between Oct 31- Nov 1st for the 3rd annual Women Leader's Conference under the theme "Weaving together: The struggle, the persistence, and the pull make a strong fabric";

ACKNOWLEDGING the efforts of Eve Organization in collaboration with the National Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Plan International, Cordaid, Christian Aid, AMA, PAX, and HealthNet TPO in the successful organization of the 3rd Annual National Conference which brought together over 160 delegates from the 10 States, and the 3 administrative areas of South Sudan;

RECOGNIZING the participation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) officials including Rt. Hon. Nathaniel Oyet, The deputy speaker of the R-TNLA, Rt. Hon. Mary Ayen, First Deputy Speaker Council of the States, Hon. Angelina Teny, the National Minister of Defense and Veteran Affairs, Hon. Aya Benjamin Warille, the National Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Hon. Esther Ikere, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Hon. Amb. Sitona Abdalla Osman, the Director-General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hon. Prof. Julia Duany, Under Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, 10 Ministers of Gender, Child and Social Welfare from the 10 States of South Sudan, 20 Honorable Members from the Transitional National Legislative Assembly, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Dr. Thomson Fontaine, Representative of RJMEC, CSOs, WROs, PLWDs, Women in Uniform, Speaker of Children and Young People's Parliament Magwi County and the Media Fraternity;

RECALLING the recommendations of the Second National Women Leaders gathering-2021, in which issues of implementation of the R-ARCSS, environment and climate change, mental health/education, and Socio-Economic empowerment were discussed as key advocacy issues that are pertinent to sustaining peace were raised with relevant authorities;

EXPRESS CONCERNS over the slow pace of implementing the Revitalized Peace Agreement, escalation in revenge attacks and inter-communal violence, increased insecurity and SGBV cases across the country, especially cases of early and forced marriage at sub-national levels, and surge in the number of women with addictions and mental health issues;

COMMEND R-TGoNU and particularly the National Ministry of Gender for initiating the national consultations on the development of South Sudan UNSCR 1325 NAP 2, improvement in women's representation in decision making, and increase in funding of WPS agenda by the donor communities;

FURTHER COMMEND R-TGoNU for the graduation of part of the first batch of the necessary unified forces (NUF) and urge that the graduation of NUF in Bahr ghazel and Upper Nile be expedited as per the roadmap to improve security in the states;

COLLECTIVELY URGE the National Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare and partners to continue building the capacity of women on peace, security, and development-related issues, ensure that women take up key decision-making positions in the Judicial and other respective commissions and that refugees in the neighboring countries be repatriated;

FURTHER URGE the National and State Ministries of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare to establish a link to coordinate and network with the women at the county, Payam, and Boma levels. This will pave way for issues at the grassroots reach to the two levels;

STRONGLY URGE R-TGoNU to establish the overdue Commission for Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing (CTRH) and the Compensation and Reparation Authority (CRA) to ensure justice for survivors of atrocities committed during the conflict, protection of women and girls from sexual violence and ensure that all victims of sexual violence are compensated;

FURTHER URGE R-TGoNU to establish the Women's Enterprise Fund in order to boost women's economic empowerment in the country, and requested the government to reduce taxes for women Entrepreneurs;

ENDORSE that the conference continues as an annual national event and that more partners including women-led organizations join in and support in organizing the conference to enhance learning, networking, and discussion on women, peace, and security issues affecting women in South Sudan as well as raise political consciousness among the women's constituencies and increase their capacity on lobby and advocacy;

FURTHER ENDORSE that the conference is taken to the different regions in the country and not only centered in Juba through partnerships with other stakeholders for inclusivity and to share responsibilities;

STRONGLY URGE the RTNLA to ensure the implementation of the Family Law and the Maputo Protocol to address alcoholism among children and tackle other numerous challenges affecting women;

CALL UPON R-TGoNU, development partners to support South Sudan women's efforts to coordinate and contribute to sustainable peace in South Sudan;

FURTHER CALL UPON R-TGoNU to sufficiently fund the States Ministries of Gender, Child and Social Welfare to implement their mandates;

COMMIT to remain seized on matters of women, peace, and security in the country.