



## **Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Sudan to the United Nations New York**

### **Statement by the Government of South Sudan During “The UN Security Council UNMISS Briefing”**

**By: H.E. Amb. Cecilia A.M. Adeng**

**Date: April 16, 2025, 10:00 AM**

Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you for assuming the presidency of the council for the month of April and I assure you of our delegation full support and cooperation. I would like to also acknowledge and appreciate the presence of Mr. Nicholas Haysom, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, Ms. Edem Wosornu, Director of Operations and Advocacy, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and Ms. Jackline Nasiwa, Founder and Executive Director of the Centre for Inclusive Governance, Peace and Justice.

At the outset, we wish to express our deepest condolences and unequivocal condemnation heinous attack on the United Nations helicopter in Nasir on 7 March, which claimed the lives of humanitarian and UNMISS personnel. We extend our deepest condolences to their families and pledge a full and impartial investigation to hold those responsible accountable. It's also worth noting that the government has already launched a full investigation and is committed to bringing those responsible to justice and ensuring the safety and security of all United Nations personnel operating in the country. It's also worth noting that South Sudan Defense Forces did not only lose soldiers, but also their wives and children.

Mr. President,

As a sovereign nation striving for peace and stability, we remain committed to transparency, accountability, and cooperation with all stakeholders who support our nation's progress. The Government of South Sudan remains steadfast in its commitment to the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). Despite the challenges, we are moving forward. However, we recognize that the current political situation in the country has raised concern among our international and regional partners.

We are grateful to the African Union for its support, in particular the recent visit of the Riala Odinga, on behalf of President William Ruto of Kenya, the Panel of the Wise, on behalf of the African Union, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Eritrea Presidential Envoy, European

Union Delegation, whose engagement reaffirms the continental and international commitment to peace and stability in South Sudan. We also wish to inform this Council that IGAD is scheduled to visit South Sudan in the time of their convenient. The Government is working closely with partners to ensure that the implementation of the peace agreement continues to progress in a manner that is inclusive, transparent, and credible.

Mr. President,

The voices of our people remain clear and unwavering, they are calling for peace. From every corner of our nation, citizens are urging their leaders to uphold and protect the gains made since the signing of the peace agreement. The government hear their voices and have reaffirm our collective duty to ensure that this peace is not only preserved, but strengthened.

As the Security Council considers the mandate of UNMISS, we request that the Mission continues to work in close partnership with our national institutions, aligns its efforts with the evolving realities on the ground, and supports the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding.

We acknowledge the observations presented in the April 2025 assessment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the provisions highlighted by the African Union, IGAD, and UNMISS. These institutions have stood beside us since our independence, and we remain grateful for their partnership in our journey toward a peaceful and democratic future.

We recognize the importance of the conditions identified for peaceful and credible elections. The Government welcomes the finalization of election-specific timelines by the National Elections Commission, and reiterate the determination to hold inclusive and credible elections at the end of the transition period. While challenges remain, particularly in launching civic education and constitutional consultations, we are taking concrete steps to advance these critical milestones with urgency and seriousness.

Mr. President,

I stand before you today to address the recent developments and the ongoing implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. The Government of South Sudan has taken note of the concerns raised by the United Nations Secretary-General, the African Union Peace and Security Council, IGAD, and other regional and international partners regarding the current security and political situation in our country.

Firstly, let me reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the full and faithful implementation of the Revitalized Agreement. We are mindful of our duty to safeguard the gains made since the signing of the Agreement and to ensure that South Sudan remains on the path of peace, unity, and democratic transition.

We recognize the devastating impact of localized violence and the involvement of armed youth groups. The Government is strengthening national policing and deploying mobile courts in affected areas to ensure justice and accountability. In partnership with regional and international

partners, we are investing in rule-of-law mechanisms and enhancing national reconciliation efforts to address the root causes of intercommunal strife.

At the same time, the operationalization of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing Act (2024) and the Compensation and Reparation Act (2024) marks a historic opportunity for our nation to reckon with the past, repair the wounds of conflict, and move forward in unity. These are not just legal frameworks, they are instruments of healing, justice, and reconciliation for our people. However, we must not ignore the shadows that loom over these gains.

The arrest of First Vice President Dr. Riek Machar and several SPLM-IO officials has triggered fears of a reversal in the peace process. However, President Salva Kiir Mayardit has assured the people of South Sudan and our partners, that we must not return to war and that we must remain fully committed to the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan. We recognize the fragility of the moment and are working diligently to de-escalate tensions, restore dialogue, and protect the integrity of the peace process.

Our nation cannot afford a return to conflict and welcome the calls by the African Union, IGAD, and the United Nations Security Council for restraint and consensual decision-making. We will not allow short-term grievances to undermine the long-term aspirations of our people.

Beyond the political front, we are acutely aware of the deep humanitarian crisis facing our people. Over 6.1 million of our citizens are at risk of acute food insecurity. The conflict in Sudan, the cholera outbreak, and climate shocks have only worsened this situation. Women and children are bearing the brunt of this suffering. We are working with urgency to facilitate humanitarian access, support vulnerable communities, and stabilize our economy, even as we grapple with resource constraints.

We thank our people for their remarkable generosity in hosting more than 1.1 million refugees fleeing the Sudan crisis. South Sudan remains committed to upholding its international obligations in protecting civilians, including foreign nationals, and we will continue to act against retaliatory violence.

South Sudan is once again at a crossroads. We can either allow discord and division to unravel the progress we have made, or we can choose the harder, nobler path of peace, unity, and reform. For the people of South Sudan the choice is clear they choose peace. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

I thank you for your kind attention.