



**WOMEN'S PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES FOR SOUTH SUDAN**  
**South Sudan International Engagement Conference and Gender Symposium**  
**Washington DC**  
**11 to 15 December 2011**

We, the delegates from women's civil society standing for the women of South Sudan in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (RSS), met in Washington DC from 12 to 13 December 2011 to define our priorities for the future of our country, in line with the South Sudan Development Plan. We met on the eve of the South Sudan International Engagement Conference, with the support of The Institute of Inclusive Security, UN Women, the World Bank, and the Governments of Korea, Norway, Spain and the United States.

In meeting, we are guided by the South Sudan Transitional Constitution, UN Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), and 1960 (2010), the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Millennium Development Goals, the Africa Protocol on Women's Human Rights, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, as well as other women's rights commitments, principles, goals and actions set out in the various national, regional, continental and international instruments on women's human rights.

We stand proud of our country's many achievements, most importantly our recent independence. We acknowledge the critical role women played throughout the war, in bringing peace to our country, during the Comprehensive Peace Agreement negotiations, the interim period, the elections and most recently the referendum. The new nation of South Sudan holds significant promise – the promise of peace, prosperity and equality. To fulfill this promise, we will need to tackle significant short and long-term challenges. Leveraging women's human and intellectual capacities is key to addressing these challenges. Our new nation has many priorities to achieve lasting peace and development. Our recommendations are guided by the following five overarching themes that can be applied to all of the sectors discussed in this week's International Engagement Conference:

1. **Women's Participation:** Women, as equal citizens, must participate fully in all public decision-making on the future of our country. We call on the RSS to continue to implement the 25 per cent quota and extend it to all levels of government, including in government commissions and committees, and at the local, state, and national levels.
2. **Legal and Policy Framework:** The RSS should put in place the necessary legal and policy framework to enhance women's rights, security and empowerment. Constitutional and legislative norms must ensure the prevention of gender-based violence and punishment of perpetrators. Women's rights to land ownership and use, ownership of movable and immovable property, and inheritance must be protected. Determined efforts are needed to ensure women's equal share of new employment opportunities and equal access to enterprise support.

3. **Earmarked Spending:** The UN must meet its commitment of allocating a minimum of 15 per cent of programme funds to women's empowerment and gender equality. We call on international partners and the RSS to make similar commitments to allocate concrete proportions of funds to addressing gender equality and women's empowerment. This will require prioritizing public finances in ways that result in a more equitable distribution between social and security spending.
4. **Capacity development:** The RSS and international partners must support the development of an able and well resourced Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MoGCSW). It is equally critical that support to the RSS is balanced with support to building a robust and vibrant civil society in order to maximize contributions to peacebuilding and to build citizen engagement in accountability. We recommend the creation of a special funding mechanism to facilitate the rapid disbursement of resources and technical support to women's civil society organizations.
5. **Gender-Responsive Security:** Community security is a pre-requisite for development and women's empowerment. The specific security threats faced by women and girls require tailored responses. We commend the RSS for its proactive approach to addressing gender-based violence, and underline that this is a serious problem that continues to need substantive resources and far reaching solutions.

We, the women civil society delegates, recommend the following actions for statebuilding and peacebuilding:

#### **A) Accountability, Transparency, & Governance**

- i. Ensure the representation of and consultation with women in the constitutional review process and that the principles of gender equality and affirmative action are enshrined in the permanent constitution.
- ii. Pursue legal reforms to incorporate gender equality, and specifically enact legislation to prevent violence against women and to enshrine equal property, land ownership and inheritance rights.
- iii. Create an incentive scheme administered by the MoGCSW to reward government bodies that recruit, hire, and promote the highest number of women internally, and deliver the most quality services to women.
- iv. Ensure that international and national investments in improving the rule of law allocate adequate resources to family law and women's access to justice.
- v. Strengthen the capacity of women's civil society organizations to understand, review, and monitor government spending and direct investment, and participate in oversight in order to strengthen accountability. This will require providing women's organizations with access to information about government decision-making and spending patterns and private sector investment patterns.

#### **B) Human Capital Development and Capacity Building**

- i. Prioritize the needs of women by allocating monetary and human resources to each state for broad reaching functional literacy and accelerated education programmes. Double national functional literacy rates amongst women to 25 per cent by 2014.
- ii. Provide incentives for young women to enroll in and complete courses that enable them to apply to institutions of higher education and vocation and technical training.
- iii. Develop a government-wide policy to promote women's recruitment, retention and promotion in the civil service, including in leadership positions.

- iv. Link higher education programmes to national priority policies and needs to enable civil servants, social service providers, and private sector actors to address social and market needs.
- v. Strengthen and support State Capacity Building Units to better target women's capacity building needs.
- vi. Enhance capacity of women and women's civil society organizations to provide support services and engage fully in the state building processes, including participation in constitutional review, civic education, and delivery of services to communities.
- vii. Build robust women's organizations by allocating ten per cent of civil society support grants to institutional strengthening and organizational management.

### **C) Integrated Social Service Delivery**

- i. Insist that private sector engagement in social service delivery included space for women's participation in decision-making on the design and delivery of services at national and local levels and must not impose cost, labour or security burdens on women.
- ii. Reduce South Sudan's high maternal mortality rate by 20 per cent by taking concrete actions such as awareness campaigns, improved access to services and training 300 midwives to be dispatched to all ten states by 2014.
- iii. Provide free comprehensive reproductive health services in all ten states, with at least one hospital with a women's health center of excellence that also trains health workers on obstetric care.
- iv. Achieve gender parity in teachers' training, health worker training, vocational and technological training and basic and higher education by 2014.
- v. Ensure private sector investment in water delivery and sanitation does not increase costs of or limit access to safe and affordable drinking water to urban and rural areas.
- vi. Support the development of community health programmes and centers that educate on and prevent the spread of communicable diseases, provide immunizations, and meet the health and family planning needs of families.
- vii. Fund public campaigns for girls' education and functional adult literacy for women and establish and fund national boarding schools for girls.
- viii. Enact laws that eradicate harmful practices that have an impact on the physical, emotional, and psychological health of women and girls.
- ix. Strengthen gender-responsive HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and access to antiretroviral drugs, including access to voluntary counseling and testing centers at the community level and strengthening awareness campaigns throughout the country.

### **D) Petroleum Revenue Management**

- i. Ensure that 50 per cent of communities' and states' shares of revenue from oil exploration, development and production is earmarked for community health and development initiatives in all oil revenue accounts. These community initiatives should contain provisions for women's groups to have oversight on spending decisions and to monitor implementation.
- ii. Fifty per cent of the resources in the Community Development Funds must be allocated to women's health, education, economic and physical security.
- iii. Establish, fund, and maintain transparent structures of decision making over oil exploitation and

revenue. Such structures should be inclusive and represent the make-up of South Sudan.

- iv. Commission an independent audit of the oil sector that determines the socio-economic, environmental, health, and security impact to date on communities, with a gendered analysis that assesses the impact on women of oil sector practices, specifically related to security impacts, environmental pollution and local economic development and employment.

#### **E) Attracting Investors to South Sudan**

- i. Given women's central role in food production, ensure women receive 25 per cent of all investment in agriculture extension services and commercial livestock, increasing their food productivity, their entrepreneurship, access to seeds and other inputs, access to credit and markets. Land title reform, constructing feeder roads and other necessary infrastructure that will facilitate women's productivity must be prioritized.
- ii. Promote women's equitable access to produce for large-scale agricultural investment schemes. Revive and ensure women's full access to agriculture and livestock cooperatives.
- iii. Increase women's market engagement through grants and technical assistance to women entrepreneurs and farmers. Provide more accessible credit and enterprise capital to women entrepreneurs. Banks and other financial institutions should allocate a minimum of 15 per cent of financing to women-led businesses.
- iv. Establish a Women's Bank with start-up capital of a minimum of USD10million, providing women with accessible low-interest loans, using social collateral instead of physical assets.
- v. Ensure national Public / Private partnership legislation and regulation of the private sector promotes women's full access to decision-making, markets, credit, and asset ownership.
- vi. Mandate a minimum of 25 per cent women on Boards of Directors of all international and national companies registered and operating in South Sudan.
- vii. Ground private sector investments in a principle of creating maximal employment opportunities of which at least 40 per cent should be reserved for women.
- viii. Promote women's employment as service delivery agents in health, education, teaching, legal services, agricultural extension and business support services.

#### **F) Mobilizing Aid**

- i. Utilize gender-responsive budgeting as a tool to monitor the implementation of the SSDP.
- ii. Facilitate a gradual shift from funding international partners to national partners, both governmental and non-governmental, including MoGCSW and women's NGOs. Support this shift through technical assistance and other resources.
- iii. Maintain and strengthen the MoGCSW-led Gender Working Group that was established during the SSDP process as a mechanism to facilitate civil society consultation on policy development, implementation and monitoring, government priorities, and private sector investment plans.
- iv. Ensure the Gender Working Group has full access information on government expenditures and direct foreign investments in order to brief and engage with civil society.