



**Increasing Women's Participation and  
Engagement in Planning for Peace:  
The 2011 Gender Symposium and International  
Engagement Conference (IEC) for South Sudan**

## Acknowledgements

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## Increasing Women's Participation and Engagement in Planning for Peace: The 2011 Gender Symposium and South Sudan International Engagement Conference

*Throughout this report "national government" refers to South Sudan and "host government" denotes the United States.*

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\*Any reference to "UNIFEM" in the document must be understood to refer to "former UNIFEM", one of the four entities merged into the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on 21st July, 2010 by United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/64/289.

\*Any reference to United Nations "resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions or 5 WPS resolutions" in the document must be understood to refer to Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security 1325 (2000); 1820 (2008); 1888 (2009); 1889 (2009); and 1960 (2010).

On the cover: South Sudan women civil society delegates and UN Women staff celebrate together following the close of the IEC.  
Credit: *The Institute of Inclusive Security*

*An "engagement conference" differs slightly from a donor conference. An engagement conference provides a platform for discussion and consensus building prior to the financing of a country's development plan. While both bring together national policymakers with international funders and sector experts, it is at donor conferences that donors pledge financial commitments.*

Donor and engagement conferences focus international attention on a country's future. In countries emerging from conflict, policymakers from the post-conflict country gather with key decision-makers from bilateral and multilateral partners to prioritize development requirements and map a vision of peace and prosperity. Sector experts present analysis on the country's needs and, in many cases, development agencies commit resources and assistance. The country hosting the donor conference plays a key role in shaping the agenda of the discussion. Donor conferences tend not to be single day events, but often mark the culmination in a longer process of identifying and assessing national priorities and strategies. Consequently, participation in planning for a donor conference often shapes the selection of national priorities. Because of this, and because donor conferences play such a significant role in translating assessments of needs into priority action areas and financial commitments, it is important to support broad social participation and transparency in their preparation and implementation.

The following report highlights the strategies and steps taken to promote women's inclusion in the 2011 South Sudan International Engagement Conference (IEC). In addition to outlining key interventions for success and lessons learned in promoting women's engagement, it includes guidance for planning pre-conference gender symposia and checklists for national and host governments involved in conference planning.

### What is the role for women in peacebuilding and post-conflict development?

Women are essential partners in rebuilding societies after conflict and charting the course of development. Women are typically the majority of the internally displaced as well as the majority of the total population after war. They possess intimate knowledge of community needs and priorities that can differ from those of men. During conflict, women assume roles traditionally played by men, such as serving as the de facto head of household in the absence of men.

Despite this, women are often marginalized from development processes, including donor pledging fora and aid allocation. Although female officials often make up a small minority of national government delegations, women participants from civil society are historically not consulted in determining development priorities nor do they typically have sanctioned seats at

engagement and donor conferences. This has consequences. A 2011 study of 115 project documents from United Nations (UN) managed Multi-Donor Trust Funds and Joint Programmes in six case study countries – Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Timor-Leste – found that 6.1 per cent of project budgets targeted gender specific needs or issues.<sup>2</sup> According to Inter Press News, while the World Bank's World Development Report (WDR) 2011 focused on gender issues, the Bank's budget for "social development, gender and inclusion" investments decreased to 908 million dollars from 952 million in 2010. The Bank's spending in this thematic category represents less than two percent of its 2011 budget.<sup>3</sup> Thus, there is tremendous opportunity to expand women's engagement in development and aid processes.

### Women's inclusion in South Sudan's development

In July 2011, the Republic of South Sudan became the world's newest nation. Its ongoing transition to statehood offers a unique window of opportunity for women to shape development priorities.

*The IEC aimed to outline the Government of South Sudan's strategic development priorities to external partners and highlight opportunities for engagement with public and private sector partners.*

Women played a vital role in the struggle for independence and came together across divisions to call for peace between the warring sides. They also came together for a stake in their new country's future. As a result of their mobilizing, the post-independence National Transitional Constitution guarantees women at least 25 percent representation in the executive and legislative branches. Currently, women hold 88 of 382 seats in the National Legislative Assembly - just exceeding the 25 percent quota - and the deputy speaker is also a woman.<sup>4</sup> Unfortunately, women fill only four of 29 cabinet posts and only seven of 78 ambassadorships. The future for women's political participation shows some promise; a recent survey found 86 percent of South Sudanese would vote for a woman candidate and 85 percent of men are in support of a quota of 25 percent or higher for women.<sup>5</sup>

Nonetheless, staggering human development challenges compound women's marginalization and inequality. Early marriage and poor access to education and health services are commonplace. According to the 2006 Sudan Household Health Survey, the illiteracy rate for women age 15 to 24 is an alarming 97.5 percent and the country has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world (2054 per 100,000 live births).<sup>6</sup> While the nascent Government of South Sudan (GOSS) has made important steps to advance women's inclusion, more effort is needed to successfully mainstream efforts across government agencies and broaden the conversation beyond the use of quotas. The commitment to ensuring women are involved in decision making is about enabling diverse groups of women to shape policies and programmes in South Sudan.

Sudanese women have consistently called to be included in national and international dialogues on development. Prior to the 2005 International Donor's Conference for Sudan, former UNIFEM, now part of UN Women, and the Government of Norway, in collaboration with The Institute for Inclusive Security (Inclusive Security), organized a Gender Symposium of more than 50 Sudanese women to ensure women's participation at the official donor conference. Two female delegates, one from the North and one from the South, addressed the full audience and delivered a statement proposing urgent priorities and actions for reconstruction. First Vice President of Sudan, Mr. Ali Osman Taha, and the Chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement Dr. John Garang de Mabior, participated in the Gender Symposium and were among the speakers at the donor conference "who talked most about this issue...mentioning women and women's empowerment in particular."<sup>7</sup>

In 2008 another international donor gathering provided an opportunity for participation. With support from the Government of Norway, UN Women and Inclusive Security, twelve women traveled from Sudan to participate in a Gender Symposium taking place alongside the 2008 Oslo Donor Consortium on Sudan. They drafted a set of recommendations

on all aspects of development policy and programmes to reflect women's priorities. While civil society women had to feverishly advocate for their participation throughout the conference and weren't granted official access until the last day, their efforts were picked up by 20 out of 22 donor delegations who mentioned the need to fund women's leadership and priorities during the closing session.<sup>8</sup>

Based on these experiences, South Sudanese women seized the chance to shape the development priorities of their new nation through participation in the IEC. The conference brought together the Government of South Sudan, the United Nations, bi-lateral partners and representatives of the national, regional and global business community to discuss South Sudan's future. Hosted in Washington DC by the US Government, the 2011 IEC served as a critical moment for women's engagement in defining development policy and set a precedent for women's involvement moving ahead. Rarely do women from civil society get official invitations to donor conferences, yet all seven women in the delegation of women civil society leaders received official passes to the conference and joined discussions on development priorities. They shared concrete recommendations in an official speech to over 500 conference attendees and their contributions were widely recognized by high-level policymakers.

### How did women engage in the IEC?

In the lead up to the IEC, women civil society and private sector leaders worked with South Sudan's Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MoGCSW), UN Women, Inclusive Security and the World Bank to participate in the planning and proceedings of the conference. The leaders requested support and resources to advocate for full engagement in the conference, and this was provided through a robust partnership with UN Women, Inclusive Security and the World Bank.

The following section charts the process of supporting women leaders to participate in the conference, and notes good practice for future opportunities and engagement.

The working group of South Sudanese leaders was made-up of the following organizations.

- *South Sudan General Women's Association*
- *NS Watch (New Sudan Women Acting Together for Change)*
- *Roots of South Sudan*
- *South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network*
- *National Legislative Assembly*
- *Sudan Radio Service*
- *SS Women Entrepreneurs Association*
- *South Sudanese Women Lawyers Association*

### 1. IEC preparation phase

In early September 2011, South Sudan women's civil society and private sector leaders, in collaboration with the MoGCSW, began planning and advocating for women's inclusion in the IEC.

#### a. Strategies pursued in South Sudan

**Create a working group:** A small and informal working group of South Sudan women civil society leaders, private sector leaders, parliamentarians and staff from the MoGCSW, UN Women and the World Bank met regularly to discuss conference updates and strategies for accessing decision-makers and policy documents. The partners sought to influence the South Sudan-based preparations for the conference, including by providing support to the MoGCSW to participate in the planning process. Strategic alliances were also made between the women leaders and bi-lateral donors at the country level.

- » Key to success: Regular and early planning and coordination between partners strengthened collaboration throughout the lead-up to the conference.
- » Key to success: Early and direct engagement between non-governmental women leaders and the national government laid the foundation for coordination and consistent messaging.

**Hold consultations in advance:** Months in advance of the conference the MoGCSW convened women to discuss their development priorities. A diverse group of 15-20 women representing different states and sectors, including government, civil society, media, and the private sector, met regularly to provide feedback on the proposals.

- » Key to success: Early consultations allowed participants time to build working relationships with each other and broad awareness of South Sudan's development policy.
- » Lesson learned: Additional consultations with champions for gender equality could have been undertaken through outreach with other conferences and events happening around the same time to broaden engagement and conserve resources.



Sarah James, Chairperson of the South Sudan Women's General Association and member of the delegation of South Sudanese women leaders to the IEC  
Credit: The Institute of Inclusive Security

**Ensure access to information:** Access to the South Sudan Development Plan (SSDP) policy papers, which served as conference papers, came through unofficial collaboration between leaders and staff at the GOSS, US Government (USG) and the World Bank. A short gender analysis of each of the SSDP policy papers was also produced by the group of women leaders, with support from international partners, and fed back to the relevant ministries through the World Bank.

- » Key to success: Exposure to the conference papers was critical for the leaders to develop their positions and build expertise on issues for discussion.
- » Lesson learned: An official commitment by the GOSS to widely share the SSDP policy papers could have allowed the working group more time for discussion and advocacy with decision-makers, enabling agreement in advance of the official conference between the policymakers and gender equality advocates about the importance of women's priorities.

**Select a diverse delegation:** The consultations fed into the selection of an official delegation of South Sudan women leaders to attend the Gender Symposium and the IEC. The MoGCSW selected ten women to represent a broad section of civil society (media, community-based organizations) and the private sector.<sup>9</sup> UN Women helped to ensure logistical needs were met on the ground in advance, for example by arranging flights, convening meetings prior to travel, etc.

- » Key to success: Technical and financial support were provided through the deployment of a short term UN Women Coordination Specialist to South Sudan, and the allocation of funds to travel and logistics. As the group of seven had to travel from various states in South Sudan, these resources ensured effective coordination and a timely departure.
- » Key to success: The diversity of the delegation enabled participants to represent a broad population of women in South Sudan.

#### Diligently plan for engagement conference and Gender Symposium

The South Sudanese women's leaders delegation, with technical and logistical support from UN Women and Inclusive Security, began planning for a Gender Symposium two months in advance to take place in the US prior to the IEC. The Symposium was structured to provide space for substantive discussion among the delegation of South Sudanese women leaders and members of the GOSS delegation, to review and refine priorities for development, and to refine advocacy and public speaking skills.

- » Key to success: Planning far in advance and with clearly defined roles helped to create a successful partnership in coordinating the Gender Symposium. For example, three months before the date of the conference Inclusive Security took the lead on the US-based advocacy and planning while the MoGCSW, with support from UN Women and the World Bank, took the lead in South Sudan. These two streams of activity needed to occur simultaneously and collaboratively to ensure the week of events was successful.
- » Key to success: The provision of financial resources to enable the delegation to travel to the US-facilitated operations – this came to close to USD 70,000.

#### b. Strategies pursued in the US

##### Conduct intensive advocacy vis-à-vis the host government:

While consultations were convened in South Sudan, advocacy efforts were undertaken in Washington DC, USA with offices in

the USG responsible for conference planning. The USG was open to collaborate from the earliest stages of planning and offered senior and working level staff support.

With input from the working group in South Sudan, Inclusive Security drafted a list of specific ways in which the USG could ensure the participation of the delegation of South Sudanese women leaders in the IEC. Recommended actions included a) officially recognizing, endorsing, and attending the Gender Symposium, b) issuing invitations to the delegation for all engagement conference-related events, c) guaranteeing an official speaking slot during the main conference, and d) encouraging USG personnel to reference the delegation and their recommendations in official statements and remarks.

Two months prior to the conference, Inclusive Security staff presented this list to personnel at the US Department of State and US Agency for International Development (USAID). USG personnel shared the recommended actions with principals organizing the conference, all of whom have a strong record of supporting women's inclusion in decision-making.<sup>10</sup>

Inclusive Security maintained consistent contact with relevant personnel at the Department of State and USAID, particularly staff in the offices of the principals listed above, and often participated in group meetings with policymakers from across agencies. This regular contact and strong pre-existing personal relationships between USG personnel and principals and Inclusive Security's staff facilitated valuable information sharing.

- » Key to success: Early and regular communication with senior and working level host government staff involved in conference planning facilitated collaboration.
- » Key to success: Creating specific asks about women's inclusion for the host government and consistently following up on the status of these asks focused conversations.

#### 2. The week of the IEC

Several activities and events provided opportunities for the delegation of South Sudanese women leaders to develop messages and advocate to policymakers during the week of the IEC. The following strategies facilitated the women's success.

##### a. Gender Symposium

Inclusive Security and UN Women organized a workshop at the request of the South Sudanese women leaders with the aim of generating space for collaboration with the government

Priscilla Nyangyang Makuae, Deputy Minister, MoGCSW. At the Gender Symposium, December 2011

delegation and the development of shared priorities, immediately prior to the IEC. Over two days, the delegation analyzed each SSDP paper and crafted concrete policy recommendations on development, security and governance priorities. US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer officially opened the event.

**Develop clear, actionable recommendations:** Participants brainstormed, refined, and prioritized key peace and security issues, finally reaching a consensus on over 40 specific recommendations on major IEC topics with support of the workshop facilitators and gender experts. The delegation then selected the following four top priority recommendations to highlight in their outreach. This prioritization helped to ensure consistent and straightforward messaging:

1. Double national functional literacy rates amongst women to 25 per cent by 2014.
  2. Establish a Women's Bank with start-up capital of a minimum of USD 10 million, providing women with accessible, low-interest loans, using social collateral instead of physical assets.
  3. Ensure women receive 25 per cent of all investment in agriculture and commercial livestock, increasing their food productivity, their entrepreneurship, and access to markets.
  4. Ensure half of the resources in the Community Development Funds, financed through oil revenues, is allocated to women's health, education, economic and physical security
- » Lesson learned: Large numbers of recommendations can be difficult to communicate. Focusing on a handful of messages makes for strong and clear advocacy.

**Practice tailoring messages and plan for advocacy:** Once the delegation finalized the recommendations, they focused on enhancing their skills in advocacy and strategic communication through sessions with Inclusive Security and UN Women staff. Based on the official agenda of the IEC, the delegation strategized how to ensure top decision-makers were made aware of their recommendations and that women's views and inputs would be part of each IEC panel and roundtable. Deputy Minister for the MoGCSW Dr. Priscilla Nyangyang Makuae participated in the second day of the workshop; participants viewed her involvement as critical in finalizing the recommendations. As a senior government leader in South Sudan, her presence and support was important in bolstering the delegates.

- » Key to success: Training sessions must allow time for analyzing policy, generating recommendations, formulating messages and planning advocacy strategies for the main conference.
- » Lesson learned: Participation and support from the national government in the Gender Symposium promotes linkages between women in civil society, the private sector and government, and strengthens common messaging. This participation is better when sustained throughout the Symposium.

#### Generate media interest in the Symposium and the delegation:

Communication teams at UN Women and Inclusive Security reached out to media contacts prior to the arrival of the delegation, generating expressions of interest in the development of news and human interest stories. During the Symposium media contacts were invited to meet with the delegation and stories and Twitter messages were published before the IEC, creating a 'buzz' around the women leaders' delegation. At the end of the Symposium a press statement was released, summarizing the Symposium and the recommendations.<sup>11</sup>

Annexed to this report is the full statement of recommendations, and a one page synthesis.

- » Key to Success: A media and communications strategy is essential for key messages to be spread beyond the conference.

#### b. Gender Symposium Reception

The evening prior to the IEC, the US Department of State's Office of Global Women's Issues hosted a reception for the South Sudan women leaders at the site of the official conference. The event brought the delegation together with senior policymakers who would attend the conference the next day.

**Raise visibility:** High-level officials from the GOSS, USG, the UN, and national governments made remarks at the reception that raised the profile of the women and their priorities. The delegation presented its statement and recommendations at the event. The women also gave attendees scarves as gifts, which generated the interest of other conference participants and served as an emblem of solidarity with the women when the IEC began. Media, both print and broadcast, were invited to the reception and on-the-spot interviews were conducted.

- » Key to success: Having the engagement conference host government host the reception raises the profile of the event.
- » Key to success: Holding the Gender Symposium reception at the same location as the conference increases awareness of the delegation's presence and promotes attendance at the reception by other conference participants.
- » Lesson learned: Invitations to high-level officials in the national government to speak at the Gender Symposium are best sent early.

*"It's women who fought for independence. It's our country. We made it. Now, when it's time for South Sudan to tell the world, 'Here we are', women need to be there. In this development plan, we should be able to see ourselves."*

### c. South Sudan International Engagement Conference

The two-day IEC, the first official international meeting on the future of South Sudan, brought together nearly 500 policymakers, sector experts, and private sector investors. Deliberations on the post-separation priorities of South Sudan informed the shaping of the country's social, economic and political policies.

**Seize all opportunities for advocacy:** As a result of intense advocacy and planning by the South Sudan women leaders and their supporting institutional partners, women's voices were part of the historic conference. In response to demands by the leaders and the MoGCSW, the USG provided passes to the seven women from the civil society delegation. The USG also created an official speaking slot for members of the delegation to present their formal statement to the full plenary. The delegation strategically ensured its members voiced their priorities in all the roundtable and panel discussions. Additionally, delegates seized the opportunity to advocate to individual senior US policymakers inside and outside the conference including US Senator John Kerry (D-MA) and US Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY).

Through these mechanisms, the delegation contributed to the following outcomes:

1. The President of South Sudan Salva Kiir acknowledged the role of women in his closing address.
2. Several high-level speakers, including US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, specifically recognized the presence of the women's delegation and suggested consideration of their recommendations in the finalization of the development plan.

3. Leading media outlets focused attention on the women's delegation including The Daily Beast, the PBS News Hour, UN Radio, Voice of America, The Washington Post and Xinhua News.
4. The US Government's factsheet "Supporting South Sudan's Vision for the Future" at the close of the event listed "Supporting the Participation of Women in Political, Social and Economic Spheres" as one of its six commitments.
5. Since the conference UN Women and the MoGCSW have been working together in South Sudan to follow up on the implementation of the conference recommendations and priorities. The MoGCSW has taken the lead in this, forming a government, private sector and civil society working group to integrate the recommendations into on-going planning structures and agree on implementation arrangements.
  - » Key to success: When women leader delegates stay at the main conference hotel it promotes networking and advocacy opportunities.
  - » Key to success: Useful relationships can be built between the delegation and senior host government policymakers attending the conference during side meetings.
  - » Key to success: A powerful and memorable statement delivered by representatives of the delegation creates new allies in the conference.
  - » Lesson learned: Female delegation representatives must have a prime slot in the agenda to address the plenary, not over coffee breaks or lunch.

*"The Gender Symposium that helped launch this meeting was really a fitting start to discussions. As we know all too well, women often pay the highest price in conflict, and they must certainly be at the core of any lasting peace, between nations or among communities. And in developing nations women are also key drivers of economic development. We are particularly*

*grateful for the women delegates who traveled here to define their priorities, to ensure that their voices are heard, and to provide you with their concrete recommendations for building a state."*

Senator John Kerry (US Congress). IEC closing, December 2011.

### Summary of Recommendations from the South Sudan Experience: Replicating Successful Gender Symposia

1. Define clear roles and responsibilities between collaborating organizations early.
2. Ensure strong relationships with the conference host and national governments. Connect and forge strong communication channels as soon as possible to shape women's inclusion in the conference and support for a Gender Symposium.
3. Involve a diverse, committed group of women from civil society and government in a Gender Symposium. Formulate a selection process in collaboration with women attending consultations.
4. Allocate appropriate funds to support women's full participation in a high quality programme.
5. Create and distribute a list of concrete asks for the host and national governments to strengthen support for the Gender Symposium and women's participation in the conference.
6. Engage gender and development subject matter experts to analyze the national government's proposed development policy and work with women in consultations to conduct thorough analysis and formulate recommendations.
7. Host a Gender Symposium reception immediately prior to the conference at the same location. Invite senior level policymakers to speak.
8. Facilitate the host government's involvement in the Gender Symposium and IEC by providing talking points for remarks and coordinating the content of messages made by different actors.
9. Increase the likelihood of visibility. For example, enable access to media organizations. Encourage the women's delegation to all wear the same color scarf as a symbol of solidarity throughout the event. Print the women's official statement and recommendations on colored paper and bring attention to the document in any presentation.
10. Ensure women civil society delegates address the full plenary with their recommendations at a time of day chosen to increase the reach of their message.
11. Develop clear and actionable recommendations in the Gender Symposium and select a subset for emphasis. Distribute copies widely, from placing them on resource tables at the conference to emailing them to the media.
12. Support national actors to identify mechanisms to continue engagement with national planning actors and support implementation of recommendations, where appropriate.



'Delegation of South Sudanese women leaders, Inclusive Security and UN Women staff meet with US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer Credit: The Institute of Inclusive Security

## Checklists for National and Host Governments to Promote Inclusion

### Have the National and Host Governments:

- Announced a national commitment to women's inclusion, such as a UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan (NAP) or gender mainstreaming policy?
- Explicitly stated that a main component or goal of the conference is to promote women's inclusion in development?
- Organized, supported and/or endorsed a "Gender Symposium" workshop for women civil society members to generate recommendations on achieving inclusive development?

### Has the Host Government:

- Requested submission from civil society and women's groups in the national government on policy papers that will inform the engagement/donor conference?
- Requested that the national government include in its own delegation at least 30 percent women?
- Asked that the national government offer a speaking role for at least one female delegate from civil society at the engagement conference?
- Issued official invitations for women's civil society members to participate as delegates in all conference events, including associated receptions and dinners?
- Created a space in the conference agenda for women civil society leaders to present a summary of their recommendations?
- Notified relevant consular officials to ensure they are aware that the delegates will be applying for visas?

### Has the National Government:

- Requested submission from civil society and women's groups in the country of focus on the policy papers that will inform the engagement/donor conference?
- Publically released the policy papers that will inform the engagement/donor conference?
- Ensured its official delegation to the conference has at least 30 percent women?
- Offered a speaking role for at least one female delegate from civil society at the conference?
- Incorporated references to the importance of women's priorities in top officials' speeches and remarks to the media?

## ANNEX 1: WOMEN'S PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES FOR SOUTH SUDAN

### Gender Symposium Summary

Washington DC, 11 to 13 December 2011

From 11 to 13 December 2011, women's civil society representatives and members of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (RSS) met to define key priorities. The new nation holds significant promise – the promise of peace, prosperity and equality. Leveraging women's human and intellectual capacities is key to addressing short- and long-term challenges. The women developed 37 specific recommendations guided by the following five overarching themes that can be applied to all of the sectors addressed in the International Engagement Conference (IEC):

- » **Women's Participation:** Women, as equal citizens, must participate fully in all public decision-making and the RSS must continue to implement the 25 per cent quota for women at all levels of government.
- » **Legal and Policy Framework:** The RSS should put in place the necessary legal and policy frameworks to enhance women's protection and secure their rights, such as rights to land, inheritance and property.
- » **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. International partners and the RSS should make and implement similar commitments.
- » **Capacity Development:** The RSS and international partners should support capacity development of and provide adequate financing for the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MoGCSW) and women's civil society organizations and networks.
- » **Gender-Responsive Security:** Community security is a prerequisite for development and women's empowerment. The specific security threats faced by women and girls must be addressed proactively.

The 37 specific recommendations developed at the Gender Symposium target the six areas of focus of the IEC. The women prioritized the following four recommendations for urgent action by the RSS and international community:

1. Double national functional literacy rates amongst women to 25 per cent by 2014.
2. Establish a Women's Bank with start-up capital of a minimum of USD 10 million, providing women with accessible, low-interest loans, using social collateral instead of physical assets.
3. Women must receive 25 per cent of all investment in agriculture and commercial livestock, increasing their food productivity, their entrepreneurship, and access to markets.
4. Ensure half of the resources in the Community Development Funds, financed through oil revenues, is allocated to women's health, education, economic and physical security.

## ANNEX 2: 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 prerequisite 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 include 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 USD 10 million, 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 non-governmental organizations. 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.

#### Endnotes

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- 9 *At the time of the conference seven delegates received visas and were able to travel.*
- 10 *US Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan Princeton Lyman, US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer, and Deputy Administrator of USAID Don Steinberg.*
- 11 <http://www.unwomen.org/2011/12/south-sudanese-women-call-for-their-full-engagement-in-the-development-planning-for-south-sudan/>



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