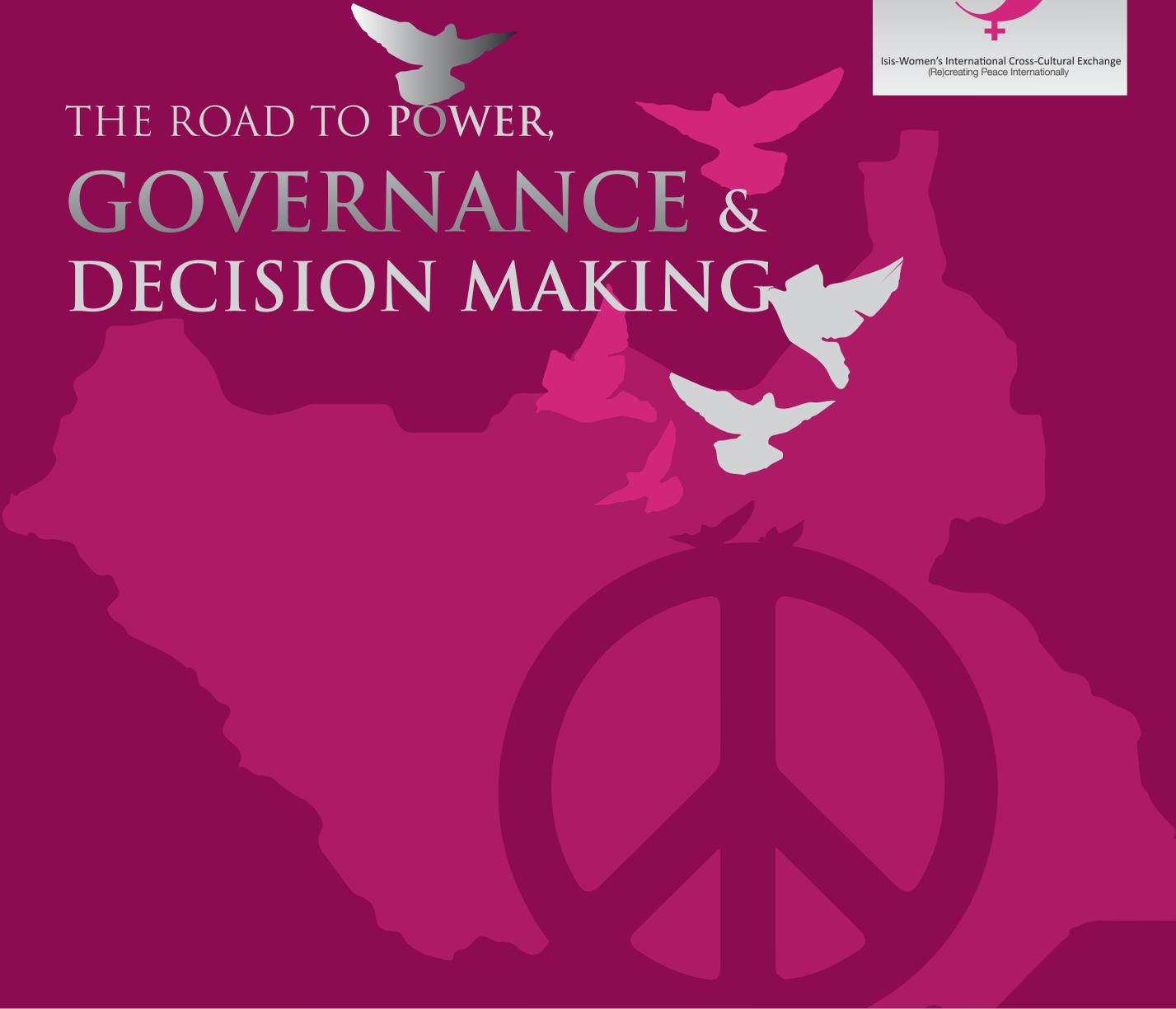




Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange
(Re)creating Peace Internationally



THE ROAD TO POWER,
**GOVERNANCE &
DECISION MAKING**





Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange
(Re)creating Peace Internationally

THINK TANK²



ACRONYMS

AU	African Union
CAR	Central African Republic
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
DDRR	Disarmament Demobilisation Rehabilitation and Reintegration
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ECA	Economic Commission of Africa
FAS	Femmes Afrique Solidarite
GIMAC	Gender is My Agenda Campaign
ICGLR	International Conference of the Great Lakes Region
IGAD	Inter Governmental Authority on Development
Isis-WICCE	Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange
NGO	Non – Governmental Organisation
RSS	Republic of South Sudan
SSWLP	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace
SPLA	Sudan People's Liberation Army
SPLM	Sudan People's Liberation Movement
UN	United Nations
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WYWCA	World Young Women's Christian Association

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1

Background

1.1 Isis-WICCE's Journey for Peace in South Sudan

Isis-WICCE's journey for peace with Women in South Sudan started about 16 years ago in 1997 when the organisation started to engage with South Sudanese women refugees in Uganda. Through the Isis-WICCE Leadership Institute, the goal then was to build solidarity and sisterhood interactions among the women, initiate knowledge management skills in peace and trauma management. Eventually, the women who received skills started to organise small peace committees and activities within the refugee camps. These women peace committees later translated into a bigger movement of South Sudanese women who returned home to contribute towards a strong foundation for peace through the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005 provided the grounding and importance of articulating the interests of women in governance and leadership. Women no longer wanted to be mere observers in these processes; but wanted to be part of the leadership. With the support of the Isis-WICCE, a series of meetings, debates and discussions were undertaken by South Sudanese women in order to identify what they felt was important in the interim government of South Sudan.

In the years leading to Independence, Isis-WICCE continued to undertake other interventions meant to strengthen the skills and peace activism of South Sudanese women. Isis-WICCE carried out peace education initiatives and sexual and reproductive health interventions.

16
years ago...

...the goal then was to build solidarity and sisterhood interactions among the women, initiate knowledge management skills in peace and trauma management.

The Health camps involved screening of women for health complications and giving them appropriate treatment. It also involved building the capacity of local health practitioners to be able to respond to specific cases involving survivors of conflict, rape and abuse. Health interventions are very central to the work at Isis-WICCE. *“We believe in healing of women’s bodies, mind and spirits as a starting point for any meaningful participation in development”.*

In preparation for Independence, Isis-WICCE sought to elevate its interventions by moving beyond skills building and grass roots activism by ensuring that women start influencing and defining policy interventions in the new government. In April 2011, Isis-WICCE held a post referendum conference in Juba to enable women leaders’ dialogue and consolidate the women’s position within the new government. This position was presented through six clear priority areas that were presented to the Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare under the new government of South Sudan.

These priority areas include, Peace and Security, Elimination of Gender based violence, Basic Social Services in Health and Education, Good governance, Economic Empowerment and Poverty Reduction and Institutional Building. The priorities are also in line with the new United Nations Development agenda under the Post 2015 development framework.

In November 2013, Isis-WICCE launched the Women’s Priorities for Peace and Development in Juba, South Sudan. Isis-WICCE together with the local women leaders in South Sudan were on track and progressively advancing the women’s agenda and movement for peace in a country that was just embarking on its peace honeymoon.



**...Isis-WICCE launched the Women’s
Priorities for Peace and Development in
Juba, South Sudan.**

1.2 Solidarity for Peace in South Sudan

Isis-WICCE worked in close collaboration with World Young Women's Christian Association (WYWCA), with support from ICCO and Cordaid to promote the participation of the women of South Sudan in the on-going peace process in Addis Ababa. The Isis-WICCE meeting in Kampala reflected the organisation's current strategic direction that seeks to increase communication and knowledge management for connections, visibility and influence, towards support for real change, grounded in the experiences and perspectives of women.

The proposed actions of the Kampala consultative meeting were being concretized at a time when two key events were happening in the region; the South Sudan peace negotiations taking place in Addis Ababa under the chairmanship of the Intergovernmental Agency for Development (IGAD) and the African women's preparation for the African Union Pre-Summit meeting, the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) in Addis Ababa. GIMAC with special consultative status with the African Union is a lead body for the promotion of women's rights and gender mainstreaming in the African Union.



Participants light the candle for peace in South Sudan

The partners to the consultative meeting with South Sudan women in Kampala decided to engage with the different on-going processes in Addis Ababa as a means of influencing the participation of women in the South Sudan peace process as mandated by regional and international human rights frameworks. At the regional level, Article 10 sub section 2(a) and (b) on the right to peace of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; and the international level Articles 1 and 2 of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 call for 'increased representation of women at all decision making levels and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. Isis-WICCE's experience of promoting women's participation in peace building processes in Uganda, Liberia and South Sudan shows that consistent engagement is required to get actors in the process to recognize the importance of including women in peace processes.

In the entire process, Isis-WICCE and its partners worked with the principle that the women of South Sudan should be at the centre of all actions to establish peace in South Sudan. Isis-WICCE's initial contact with women leaders of South Sudan, where many of them have engaged with Isis-WICCE either as participants of her international exchange program or as participants of its women's Think Tank for leadership in peace and security in the region was to cement this objective.

In October 2013, Isis-WICCE held a regional (with women leaders from South Sudan, Uganda, Liberia and Zimbabwe) think tank on women's leadership in Peace and Security where the need for women to continue to take lead in bringing about peace was discussed. In November 2013, Isis-WICCE also held a regional Institute that brought women from conflict and post conflict countries of South Sudan, Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to equip them with leadership skills to promote UNSCR1325.

The January 2014 consultative meeting and follow up engagements in Addis Ababa and beyond, therefore, was a practical step towards ensuring that the outcomes of the two previous processes are effectively followed up towards achieving the set objective of increasing women's leadership in peace and security globally and in the region.

1.3 Project Partners

South Sudan Women Operational group

The major partners to the project is the South Sudan Women Operational group; a group of women leaders that was established on 23rd December 2013 following the break out of violence in Juba, South Sudan. The objective of the group was to push for women's involvement in peace talks in Addis Ababa. They presented their concern in parliament and even met the President to demand being part of the team to Addis Ababa but nothing worked.

The group has grown to include women parliamentarians, women leaders of NGOs, peace activist and grassroots women organizations. There are plans to widen membership to state levels to ensure inclusivity. The South Sudan Women operational group is the main link between other project partners and South Sudan women on the ground. Their major role included identifying and agreeing on women to participate in meetings, contributing to the different agendas and representing and speaking on behalf of the women of South Sudan during this period of conflict.

Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE)



Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange
(Re)creating Peace Internationally

Isis-WICCE is a global action-oriented feminist organisation that focuses on enhancing women's leadership in conflict and post conflict settings. As the lead partner in the project; the organisation had major roles that included organising and hosting the Kampala consultative meeting and providing technical and logistical support to South Sudan women while in Addis Ababa during the GIMAC meeting and engagements with key actors that had an influence on the South Sudan Peace negotiations. It was also to provide feedback and updates to all partners, and

was mandated by GIMAC to take charge of the peace and security panel during the Pre-Summit meeting.

Ford Foundation



FORDFOUNDATION

The Ford Foundation East Africa supports the work of civil society organizations in the region to give voice to those on the margins so that they can act as change agents on their own behalf. The foundation strives to transform key

institutions and social structures that perpetuate inequality and exclusion so that all people have access to opportunities. This focus is grounded in the goal to promote more democratic, peaceful and equitable societies and improve the socio-economic and political well-being of East Africans.

The support to profile the voices of South Sudan women in the peace process in Addis Ababa and ensure their participation is in fulfillment of the objective that seeks to transform institutions and social structures that perpetuate inequality and exclusion as well as promote a more peaceful and equitable South Sudan.

ICCO and Cordaid



ICCO and Cordaid are the two organizations that raised the financial resources for the project. Both organizations have physical offices in South Sudan and have been supporting the women of South Sudan in the development of their National Action Plan on UNSCR1325. In the aftermath of the conflict, it became important for them to find ways of ensuring that peace is restored in South Sudan with the full participation of women; in fulfillment of their mandate to support the implementation of the Sudan CPA and UNSCR1325.

Cordaid



2

THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING FOR SOUTH SUDAN WOMEN

2.1 Introduction

In December 2013, South Sudan suddenly flared into an internal political conflict that led to a clash between army factions loyal to President Salva Kiir and the Vice President Dr Reik Machar. What started as a misunderstanding soon spread from the capital Juba and engulfed other major towns in the new nation. The few days of fighting soon deteriorated to tribal persecution leading to death of hundreds of people, mainly from the two main tribes, the Nuer and Dinkas. Thousands then became displaced as others scrambled to get out of the country that had just flared up as a powder keg.

Regional and international efforts were for the immediate ceasefire and the government and rebels to hold talks in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the mediation efforts of IGAD. Although women experienced much during conflict, they were not visible in the rebel and government negotiation teams. Even when the women in Juba put in place a women's operational group to push for women's participation in the talks in Addis Ababa, their efforts were all in vain; albeit putting their demand through parliament and meeting the president.

Isis- Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE) was quick to provide a central rallying and organising point for the women of South Sudan.

There was an urgent need to connect with international partners and majority of well-wishers in different parts of the world.

Isis- Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE) was quick to provide a central rallying and organising point for the women of South Sudan. Majority of the women had been displaced within the country and others had relocated to neighbouring countries like Uganda and Kenya. There was an urgent need to connect with international partners and majority of well-wishers in different parts of the world. Isis-WICCE had to use a multiplicity of communications channels such as email and telephone to quickly bring a cross sections of partners for the meeting.

Isis-WICCE and World Young Women's Christian Association (WYWCA), in collaboration with ICCO and Cordaid organised a Consultative meeting from 19th to 21st January 2014, in Kampala, Uganda¹. The meeting involved South Sudanese female Members of Parliament (MP's) representing all states of South Sudan, representatives from Civil Society Organizations in Uganda and South Sudanese Women living in Uganda. Prominently present were representatives from WYWCA Switzerland represented by Ms Marie-Claude Julsaint, Ms Elise Kant from ICCO in the Netherlands, representatives from the ICCO regional office; Oliver Michael and Angeline Nguedjeu and from Cordaid South Sudan office Ms Nicolien Wassenaar. Observers were from UN Women and the Institute of Inclusive Security (Appendix I); with the aim of ensuring linkage and avoiding duplication in different processes of enabling South Sudanese women participate in the peace process.

The meeting aimed at enabling South Sudanese women participate in the peace processes and enable the women leaders provide insights about the on-going conflict in South Sudan and together identify issues to be addressed.

**20
14**

19th to 21st January

**Isis-WICCE and World Young Women's
Christian Association (WYWCA), in
collaboration with ICCO and Cordaid
organised a Consultative meeting in
Kampala, Uganda**

¹ Held at the Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala

2.2 Objectives of the meeting

The objectives of the consultative meeting were:

- To analyse the underlying triggers of the on-going conflict from a gender and feminist perspective and propose an alternative approach and solutions to the problem at hand.
- To provide insights and information on the impact of the on-going conflict on women and girls in South Sudan.
- To identify a team of South Sudanese women who will provide women's position in the on-going peace negotiation process at the African Union (AU) through Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC).

2.3 Isis-WICCE's International Response for **South Sudanese Women's Substantive Engagement**

2.3.1 Welcome **Remarks**

In her opening remarks during the meeting, Isis-WICCE Executive Director Ruth Ochieng expressed her frustration with the current situation in South Sudan which was setting the country into full scale war. She commended the women of South Sudan for their resilience and urged them to remain focussed as they struggle to become major participants in the processes of establishing peace in the country.

“I am highly frustrated with what is happening in South Sudan well aware of the bravery and efforts the women of South Sudan put in to stand up stoically to ensure peace in the country after decades of war. I am therefore hopeful that this meeting should try to help and find a breakthrough so that we can have peace again.”

Ruth also noted the recognition the South Sudanese men have for women who stood up and fought the war with them till peace was established in the country.

“During our research in South Sudan, we learnt from the men that they know that the rights of women in South Sudan are beyond the kitchen and they recognize the strength and capability of their women in bringing about peace.”

Women of South Sudan have struggled since the liberation times to bring about peace; from the time of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, it is the women who stood out and made sure that this agreement is signed. They continued to support other important efforts such as Oslo meeting, the Referendum and the eventual independence.

‘Therefore, I want to emphasise the point that no one in this room is more experienced that the Women of South Sudan when it comes to peace building.’

She urged the meeting to ponder seriously on how South Sudanese women can now participate effectively to help put the country on a peaceful course bearing in mind key questions such as;

- What went wrong?
- Where were we (the women) when all this was happening?
- What happened to our power?
- We also want to concern ourselves about the future, what happens beyond Addis Ababa?
- How can we make sure that whatever is happening now does not happen again?

She called on the participants to reflect deeply about the desired peace and especially understand that as women, they need to provide a new definition for peace if Africa is to realize the growth it needs.

“I therefore want to invite you today to talk freely and openly as women who want to live in peace and recreate peace.”

2.3.2 Messages of Solidarity from **Partner Agencies**

ICCO's message by Ms Elise Kant

ICCO's message of solidarity with the people of South Sudan was delivered by Ms Elise Kant who on behalf of ICCO in Netherlands coordinated with Isis-WICCE and other partners to have the Kampala meeting. She told participants that;

“The people of Netherlands are in solidarity with the people of South Sudan. I want to tell you that when the war broke out, all civil society organizations in Netherlands that work on UNSCR 1325 wrote a joint statement to the government calling for immediate attention towards the ending of the conflict.” (Appendix III)

Cordaid Message on Strengthening Partnership by Nicoline Weisner

In her message, Nicolien Wassenaar from Cordaid pledged her organisation's commitment to strengthen solidarity with the people of South Sudan and especially enabling women to participate effectively in ensuring lasting peace in the country.

“As Cordaid, we have been working very closely with all parties in South Sudan and we look forward to strengthen the partnership.”

WYWCA's message of support by Marie Marie-Claude Julsaint

On behalf of WYWCA which has a base in Yambio in South Sudan, Marie-Claude Julsaint, the World YWCA Global Programme Manager on Violence Against Women and leads WYWCA's activities on UNSCR 1325 told participants that she had continued to monitor the situation since the war began while also maintaining contact with women of South Sudan. She noted that;

“As WYWCA, we exist to support women rights. I am here on behalf of WYWCA to support the women of South Sudan to make sure that they have a safe space for sisterhood and respond to those critical issues that affect women's rights. We also know that in order to have sustainable peace, the process needs to be inclusive. We therefore want to listen out for the new approaches and strategies that would enable women to participate effectively.”

2.3.3 Statement by Women Leaders from South Sudan

The South Sudanese women briefed the meeting on the political developments in South Sudan since the country attained independence in 2011. They said that the country has been struggling with an ugly internal political conflict which led to a clash between factions led by two of its top political leaders, the President Salvir Kiir and the Vice President Dr Reik Machar. The power struggle between the two leaders resulted into a war in December 2013, which has so far claimed hundreds of innocent lives and displaced thousands of people internally and to neighbouring countries.

The view was that the lapse in political oversight, “intolerance and greed” of a few leaders should not cloud the strength and determination by the citizens of South Sudan to build and lay a strong foundation for their country. The women leaders noted that the majority of South Sudanese citizens especially the women paid a heavy price for the liberation of the country and are still working hard to ensure those generations to come live in peace.

They noted that it is wrong to come out with misleading statements such as labelling the country as a ‘failed state’ in reference to the on-going conflict;

“The Story of South Sudan can be best told by the mothers of this country. We know how far this country has come, we know who are our friends and we know those who did not support us.....we are a strong and powerful people who cannot easily surrender to forces of violence and anarchy, we are a country that will recover...”

They refuted the tribalisation of conflict noting that;

“We want to make it clear that this current conflict is not a tribal conflict like many people want to believe, but a conflict of power. It is a clash of two egos and it is just unfortunate that the two different leaders at the helm of this conflict are from some of the largest tribes in South Sudan. It is therefore not surprising to see that this conflict quickly turned into a tribal affair.”

The women leaders appreciated the initiative as another important route that could be consolidated to ensure peace in the country; bringing women at the centre of peace making.

“We do hope that this emergency convening in Kampala by Isis-WICCE will quickly consolidate our strategy for peace as women of South Sudan and enable us to reign in on the men who are leading this country. Our message is clear; power in South Sudan does not lie with the leaders, power lies with the people. It is important for the leaders to listen to the women of this country because we know where we have come from and know how to get to where we are going.”

2.4 Overseeing a Nascent Peace: **Did the Women Drop the ball?**

At the start of the meeting in Kampala, the key question that the majority of the women leaders kept pondering over was; how did then conflict get to this level? Where did we go wrong? How come we never managed to prevent the war from happening? The Women Movement in South Sudan is supposed to play the role of an early warning system and make sure that violence and war do not happen. “Unfortunately we failed in this role...we know our leaders so well. These men are our friends, they are our husbands, they are our brothers, and maybe we got so comfortable around them and we forgot that they are also very ambitious and sometimes greedy.”

The women leaders noted that in the process of consolidating their grip on power, they (men) forgot their basic calling and the collective aspirations for the people of South Sudan. It is also important to note that the current breakdown of peace in the South Sudan today was not as a result of power hungry men alone; there were also women alongside them. There are women in leadership who were aware of what was unfolding, there were women who were part of the current leadership and share the blame for the current mess!

This kind of scenario raises some key questions for the women leaders of South Sudan and the friends of the Women’s Movement. As the women embarked on the two day consultations and review process, they posed for themselves some key critical questions;

- i. Where were the Women Leaders when the tensions were rising and what did they do to prevent the conflict?
- ii. Why did the Women Leaders fail to prevent the violence?
- iii. Do the Women Leaders in South Sudan have what it takes to stop conflict and bring about peace?
- iv. What Should the Women Leaders do in order to be relevant in the ongoing peace processes on South Sudan?
- v. What skills and organizing among the Women leaders of South Sudan is needed to foster the fragile peace and development in South Sudan?
- vi. What are the Short Term, Medium and Long Term Strategies for Peace in South Sudan?

2.5 Situational **Analysis of the Conflict**

2.5.1 Defining the triggers and **root causes of the current conflict**

During the session, participants took time off to identify some of the aspects that could be responsible for triggering off the current South Sudan conflict. The most recurrent reasons included:

- Unequal distribution of power and resources; which has created mistrust as some people feel that they are not getting enough or are being denied access.
- Violation of constitutional laws and policies, because since the CPA all key policies and agreements have not been followed e.g. the separation of powers between the judiciary and other arms of the state.
- Lack of inclusiveness in the government in terms of male and female positions as most appointments for key jobs are done without any consultations.
- Failure to follow appropriate nation building procedures because since independence, there has neither been any opportunity to discuss and agree on the roll-out plan of the CPA nor a national reconciliation and healing process. As such, there are so many grievances on almost everything.
- Poor governance, lack of transparency, failure to punish corrupt elements and what we say is different from what we do.
- Lack of South Sudanese Identity because before the CPA, South Sudanese were socialized as slaves and treated as useless people. Unfortunately, this mentality has continued even when the country is independent. People still feel inadequate. These feelings continued to dominate after the CPA and attitudes continued even against each other.
- Mistrust among all sectors of governance and tribal levels.
- Lack of a national army as many different factions pay allegiance and obedience to people holding different posts. As such, there is no demarcation between SPLM and SPLA and there is no transparency in the way things are being handled.

- There is a lot of corruption, as most of the money that was transferred to South Sudan from the North is not reflected in any way; and has been stolen.
- Proliferation of small arms. Due to the long period of conflict, guns are almost everywhere!
- Lack of services to the people. As a new state which has for long been disadvantaged, there is almost lack of services everywhere. With independence, people have high expectations and expect the government to perform now.
- No salaries for the army.
- Lack of criticism because the current government does not listen to any form of criticism.
- High Expectations after independence. Many former fighters expected to get jobs for all their family members and become rich overnight. When this did not happen, they have been grumbling since.
- Lack of a comprehensive Disarmament Demobilisation Rehabilitation and Reintegration (DDRR) process. After the war, many people returned their guns and expected to be integrated back into the community. However government never destroyed most of the ammunition but collected it and instead redistributed them back into the population.

2.5.2 Women's reflections on the war

In a session that was facilitated by Ms Yaliwe Clarke, the women of South Sudan made recollections about their experiences especially when the war broke out in December. The reflections were to help them reconnect and make concrete resolutions on peace in South Sudan.

Those who were in Juba and witnessed what happened also spoke about their experiences;

“Juba was a cave for me from December 15th 2013. There was limitation of movement due to the state of emergency. I felt fear, panic and lack of sleep...”

“I felt heartbroken; I felt a deep sense of emptiness in me. I felt that we, the people of South Sudan have become a big disappointment to ourselves and the rest of the world, I am deeply hurt with the fact that we have gone back to war.”

“In one way or another, I hope that we can now be able to learn from our current acts of selfishness and greed; our unending thirst for power to be able to arrive at a final and permanent peace. My heart has never settled since independence because I could always see greed in the eyes of those leaders.”

“I became afraid when the shooting started. I was shocked when I saw dead bodies being piled on to big trucks and being taken off to be dumped”.

“I was very disappointed, very frustrated, and very empty – all my plans were shattered!”

“I lost many valuables; I became much disorganized-I was very angry!”

Those who were in Kampala at the time also reflected on their experiences and feelings:

“When war broke out in South Sudan, there was killing, raping of women, displacement of people and many businesses were closed. I have been living in Uganda since I left South Sudan last year. My auntie who joined me from Juba predicted that war was going to break out any time and indeed it broke out on December 15th 2013. I was depressed and traumatized. I am feeling sorry for all my relatives and friends I left behind. I am thinking about the hunger they must be experiencing because we did not have food and could only rely on buying food from the market”.

“I was in Kampala when war broke out. Personally I did not believe that it would turn into a real war because I was optimistic that the two leaders were tired of war and knew the suffering people had experienced. It was therefore a great shock. I feared for my family and loved ones back in Juba. The tension and stress I was going through was unimaginable. I was paralysed mentally and even eating became rare because of all the things I was watching on the news. The joy of Christmas therefore turned into tragedy for me and my family”.

2.5.3 Gaps to women's **effective engagement**

Women's effective engagement in peace process has been affected by core bottlenecks. A session was conducted to identify these gaps as a way of enabling women to ably map out some of the aspects that would inform the post Addis Ababa activity plan. Participants identified the Key Gaps in women's peace efforts as:

- a. Lack of Funding for women's activities.
Funding emerged as a major challenge.
“Since the war broke out, the women have not had any financial support to enable them engage meaningfully. We do not have funds to travel to Addis Ababa where the meetings are being held just as we also do not have funds to support the local coordination activities”
- b. Insufficient knowledge on who the mediators are and how to reach them
The women noted that they did not have sufficient knowledge on who the mediators were and how to reach them. It was therefore important for them to map out who is who in the peace process and how to communicate with them in order to have a meaningful engagement.

Participants quickly identified the mediators as Seyoum Mesfin (Ethiopia), Lazarus Sumbeiywo (Kenya) and Mohammed al-Dabi (Sudan). The women tasked themselves to find out more about these mediators, their sphere of influence and how to best reach them.

2.5.4 Strategies to consider for **women's effective engagement**

The following strategies were identified as key in enhancing women's effective engagement.

i. **Mapping out other Key leaders to be influenced**

Participants suggested a need to adopt a broader strategy of influencing peacemakers and mapping out other core sectors of people to influence such as religious leaders and chiefs.

ii. **Getting a woman mediator onto the team**

Participants noted that the negotiation team was comprised of men only. They also realized that the few women who were present on the team were simply serving in backend support staff roles. They therefore proposed that the partners need to identify resources and facilitate a woman negotiator on the team as well.

iii. **Funding Organizations to be influenced to ensure that women are part of the negotiations**

The women leaders noted that the donor organisations that are sponsoring the peace process in Addis Ababa should be approached to ensure that women participate in the peace process; since they are also in position to mount pressure on the warring parties to ensure that they bring women to the negotiation table.

iv. **Rising beyond political, ethnic and other differences and speak with one voice for peace as women of South Sudan**

Participants observed that acting as one is critical because it is a source of strength. They urged the selected representatives to Addis Ababa to present the South Sudanese women's position with one voice and avoid taking sides with politicians.

v. **Have a consistent cohesive method of communication between communities in South Sudan, political leaders, and women's groups.**

In order for the women's advocacy to be effective, the women leaders agreed on having a consistent message with all stakeholders. They also agreed on having a clear strategy of communication with the population and strive to be knowledgeable with what was happening.

vi. Skills in Conflict Resolution

Participants noted that they needed some training in conflict resolution and analysis. This was crucial if the women were going to be effective. They agreed to put it into the strategy paper for the Women of South Sudan after Addis Ababa

vii. Responding to the Humanitarian Crisis

The participants described the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan as “heart breaking”.

“When the war broke out, we simply decided to take off. Some of the women ran into bushes, while others who managed crossed into Uganda. Some women who had carried their babies on their backs were shot at, while others had to hide under dead bodies on the streets as they looked for where to hide”.

Participants therefore noted that there was an urgent need to connect with Internally Displaced People because many people are still scattered out in the bushes without any support. Support should also be considered for South Sudanese children studying in Uganda who may have lost any form of contact with their parents and guardians and are permanently stranded in Uganda without any assistance.

viii. Extending counselling and trauma healing to IDPs and women affected by conflict.

Most of the participants noted that South Sudan as a nation has never had time for people to reconcile and deal with their unresolved traumas since the 1983-2005 war. This scenario also extended to those in power like the presidency, armed forces and other leadership spaces. Participants called for measures to undertake healing mechanisms of body, mind and spirit for sustainable peace in the country.

ix. Learn from the lessons of the past like initiatives

Participants noted the struggles and resilience of women of South Sudan especially in their engagement in the liberation struggles, the CPA and contribution to peace in the 2011 referendum. They were urged to revise their strategies and approaches of their partners, as best lessons for further engagement in the peace process.

2.5.5 What Women can do beyond their Usual Boundaries

In order for the women to be successful, they needed to think more strategically about engaging in the peace process. They needed to reflect on how to act differently, what strategies should be employed so as to register success. As part of the learning for this session, participants also got to watch the video – Pray the Devil back to Hell, lessons from Liberia’s women movement’s efforts that helped the country return to peace after prolonged years of conflict. The women resolved that as they plan for their engagements at the AU and after, they needed to uphold key aspects.

- Let us not rely on corridor meetings of AU Summit, there will not be settling for less, we need to be at the table.
- Be creative with the way we write and deliver messages to key persons.
- Need for different kinds of messages for different people.
- Give each other feedback on what happened when the message was/was not delivered.
- Have follow up plan to ensure messages are actually heard and acted on by targeted actors.
- Have a communiqué as well as particular messages.
- Ensure a clear communication chain during and after AU Summit and beyond.
- Create an alternative discussion platform for women only (Palaver huts in Liberia was one example of how women still creatively managed to be part of discussion on land reforms in their communities by creating an alternative discussion platform for women only after having been denied access to the men only platform).
- Ensure continuous (positive) communication between communities in South Sudan.
- Recognise fear and manipulation. (It is important for the women to know what their fears are, their threats and points of resistance. They must try to identify a bad deal, be in position to know who is for women and who is not. This will help them to skilfully manoeuvre the corridors of power and achieve lasting peace for South Sudan).
- Improve communication with other key actors such as Ministries in South Sudan.

2.6 Overview of Nairobi Process

The update on the peace initiatives of the Nairobi based meetings by South Sudanese Women was presented by Ms Florence Butegwa from the UN Women in Nairobi.

The Nairobi meeting was attended by South Sudanese women leaders from different parties, faith based organizations and civil society groups. Ms Florence Butegwa presented the Nairobi communiqué and advised that the Kampala communiqué should refer to the Kenyan one as a way of recognizing the different processes and the unified approaches. The Nairobi meeting highlighted the following key observations:

- There is a commitment to peace among the South Sudan women although there are still a small number of women involved.
- Religious organizations/faith based institutions could be mobilised to play a significant role in the South Sudan peace process.
- The peace processes should also focus on contribution of the girls and young people alongside senior women.



Ms. Butegwa presenting the Nairobi outcome

2.7 Towards a Women's Alternative to Peace in South Sudan

The participants noted the importance of continuing the Kampala initiative but emphasised that for South Sudanese women to be at the helm of peacemaking, they must speak with one voice, ensure all groups unite and pursue a common agenda.

The level of engagement demands that the women create necessary space, build common ground but also ensure inclusiveness of women and youth at all levels.

The fact that the space has hitherto remained dominated by negotiators who are only men, the women must therefore employ well trained South Sudanese female mediators and negotiators with a reasonable mandate and at senior level of the process. That the conflict has so far been tribalised demands that women must aim for inclusiveness of all states and communities in an engendered New Deal contract and mainly include women in the monitoring teams.

The women's alternative to peace will also be achieved through intensive peace building activities at all levels; with majority of women leaders trained in conflict resolution, transformation and reconciliation. Even at all stages, women must participate in all processes; like in undertaking a holistic DDRR process and all supportive programmes for mental and social health. There is need for intensified efforts on the dissemination and implementation of the NAP on UNSCR 1325 at all levels with an acknowledged role of the civil society.

2.7.1 Sizing up with alternative solutions

Participants finally consolidated resolutions on the way forward for South Sudan women's participation in the peace process considering of short, medium and long term objectives.

Short term

- Cessation of hostilities must be gender responsive with emphasis stopping rape, Gender Based Violence and abductions.
- Recognize women's role and include women in national peace building initiatives at all levels.
- Support women who are addressing humanitarian needs among vulnerable communities.

- Ensure South Sudanese women have regular contacts with mediators and negotiators.
- Ensure that 25% of negotiators are women from South Sudan.

Medium term

- Draw up a gender sensitive plan of actions to be addressed after the AU summit in which women are equally involved like in cease fire monitoring and humanitarian engagements.
- Ensure that the New Deal is gender responsive.
- Document an inventory of South Sudan women's contribution in the past and present peace processes at all levels.
- Provide funding to women organizations in South Sudan to implement the outcomes of the Kampala and Addis Ababa meetings as well as for all the engagements at the African Union

Long term

- Ensure allocation of resources to provide the necessary capacity building of women leaders in gender analysis, advocacy, conflict analysis, conflict resolution and peace building.
- Create mechanisms for conducting a holistic DDRR process in South Sudan
- Provide funds to respond to the impact of the conflict on communities in terms of GBV, destruction of property and infrastructure, psycho-social support and healing

2.7.2 Joint Communiqué

After the meeting, a Joint Communiqué (Appendix II) was developed and harmonized with input from all stakeholders. In the Communiqué, the women of South Sudan demanded immediate cessation of hostilities, an all-inclusive and participatory implementation and monitoring guidelines on sticking issues like rape and other forms of violence against women and ending of forceful conscription and recruitment of youth and children by different groups.

The communiqué also highlighted strict adherence to the South Sudan Constitution and international laws, protection of lives and properties of people in South Sudan. It urged UNMISS to protect lives of civilians within their areas of operation and IGAD to ensure effective participation and involvement of women in the on-going peace process.

2.7.3 Messages to stakeholders

Participants developed messages for different stakeholders to ensure a coordinated approach of actions in support of women's participation in the peace process. These included messages for the United Nations, H.E Mary Robinson, Heads of States and the AU.

i. Message to the UN Secretary General

The UN Secretary General to:

- Intervene and urge the two parties to sign the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and monitor its implementation involving a wide section of actors
- Galvanise International community to support humanitarian assistance efforts in South Sudan
- Call on warring parties and government to stop violations of human rights
- Ensure that the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is transparent and neutral according to the mandate of UN

ii. Message for Mary Robinson

- Ensure the participation of women in all peace and mediation processes
- Push for an end to all violations against women and especially the stopping of sexual violence

iii. Messages to Heads of State

The key Heads of States to be reached include Ellen Johnson (Liberia), Joyce Banda (Malawi), Catherine Shamba (Central Africa Republic), Olesgun Obasanjo (Former Nigerian President). Participants called upon the Presidents to ensure that they:

- Ensure warring parties sign the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement
- Facilitate women to be part of the peace process and have access to mediators and negotiators
- Pledge funds for women of South Sudan to participate and influence the peace process including facilitating their travel costs, communication, convening meetings and deliberations
- Facilitate women's effective participation in the peace process

iv. Messages to the Directorate of Gender at the African Union

Participants called upon the Directorate of Gender at the AU to;

- Be concerned about the involvement of women in all peace processes especially at the negotiation table.
- Ensure that UNSCR 1325 is adhered to.
- Support women who are addressing humanitarian needs in the camps.
- Ensure that peace negotiators should be South Sudanese.

v. Messages towards the Peace and Security Directorate at the African Union

Participants called upon the Security Directorate:

- To support the mechanism of a holistic DDDR process
- To ensure that women and girls are not victims of rape and violence in the conflict
- To address all laws, orders and forms of insecurity
- That South Sudanese women want peace now
- No more Killing, Displacement and marginalization

3

ADVANCING SOUTH SUDAN WOMEN'S AGENDA

A team of 5² South Sudanese representatives who were nominated during the consultative meeting to represent South Sudan in advocacy engagements in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; participated in series of events and meetings from 23rd to 31st January 2014. They were accompanied by 2 members of Isis-WICCE³ staff who provided technical support in liaison with the WYWCA⁴ team present in Addis Ababa.

20
14

23rd to 31st January

**Advocacy engagements in Addis
Ababa, Ethiopia by South Sudanese
representatives.**

2 Hon. Betty Ogwaro, Hon. Adeng Leek Deng, Hon. Mary Kiden Kiri, Hon. Umjuma Juma Sebil and Ms. Rita Martin

3 Ms Helen Kezie-Nwoha and Ms Juliet Were Oguttu

4 Ms Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda and Ms Hendrica Okondo

3.1 Gender is My Agenda AU Pre-Summit Workshop

The theme of the 23rd GIMAC AU Pre-Summit on Gender Mainstreaming in the AU was Empowering Women in Agriculture and Food Security in line with the theme of the 22nd Ordinary Session of the Summit of the AU, which was ‘Agriculture and Food Security’. Since 2002 GIMAC holds bi-annual consultative Pre-Summit meetings in the margin of the AU Summit. The meeting provides a platform for GIMAC members to examine cross cutting issues in line with the summit themes and develop strategies to advocate for effective gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment at national, regional and international levels.

The objectives of the 23rd GIMAC Pre- Summit were to mobilize a diverse cross section of women to dialogue on the issues of women in agriculture, women’s reproductive health and rights, violence against women and peace and security and make recommendations to the 22nd AU summit. It was also to deliberate on emerging conflicts in Africa and develop strategies for women’s engagement; deliberate and make inputs on African women’s priorities in the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063 among others.

The ideology of Isis-WICCE as the lead partner on women, peace and security in the GIMAC is that sustainable economic growth and development cannot be achieved without peace and human security for women and that women’s full participation in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict is a pre-requisite to achieving peace. When conflict erupted in South Sudan therefore, the important issue to bring to the table was to demand for women’s participation in the ongoing peace process.

Isis-WICCE’s experience of working in conflict situations and previous documentation on the impact of conflict on food security shows that women are more impacted by conflict as they are the main sources of food for families. Research carried out by Oxfam in 2012 revealed that about 3 million South Sudanese were at risk of food insecurity. These figures must have tripled as a result of the ongoing conflict. The relationship therefore between food security and conflict is huge and obvious. The session on emerging conflicts in the African continent was a reminder of the impact of conflict on food security and the need to urgently address the conflicts in order to ensure an enabling environment to address food insecurity concerns.

During the opening session, Mr. Carlos Lopes, the UN Under Secretary General to the Au and Executive Secretary to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) emphasized the importance of including women in all processes of development to ensure that the narrative of a new Africa

that is rising towards a structural transformation can be meaningful. He called for the recognition of women's contribution to economic growth through agriculture⁵, and called for support to regional efforts to ensure women's access to land through the Land Policy Initiative and other initiatives geared towards empowering women farmers to increase food production.

3.2 GIMAC Panel on the **Emerging Conflicts on the Africa Continent**

The session on Emerging Conflicts on the African Continent aimed to create space for women in conflict and post conflict countries of South Sudan, Central African Republic (CAR) and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to share their experiences and seek the support of African women to ensure their full participation in resolving the various conflicts. Presentations were received from women from Egypt, DRC, CAR and South Sudan.

The various presentations showed that the conflicts these countries were experiencing impacted differently on women and girls and at the same time exposed them to various forms of sexual gender based violence, mostly rape. The conflicts have also led to early marriages in South Sudan and Egypt; lack of education for girls; and increased violence against women. In the case of Egypt, the whole strategy of the ousted government to use religious sentiments to buy support was flawed as it became obvious to women that new laws being introduced will further violate their rights. This realization is evidence in the overwhelming majority voting for a new constitution.

In addition, the government used religions to brain wash the youths to carry guns and fight. The whole idea of using religion in the various circumstances needs further interrogation. This is very similar to the ongoing conflict in CAR where Muslims and Christians are using religion as their main weapon of war.

The presentation by the women of South Sudan (Hon. Betty Ogwaro and Ms. Rita Martin) revealed that the South Sudan conflict is complicated and is an outcome of accumulated differences among the politicians and fundamental problems including: constitutional reform issues; power sharing arrangements; resource management; and weak governance.

The resulting violent conflict led to displacement; loss of lives; destruction of infrastructure and heightened suspicion among political elites. A conflict that started as an internal political party

5 The female share of agricultural labour force in Africa exceed 55% according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO Yearbook 2012: Africa food and agriculture, page 10. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3137e/i3137e00.htm>.

problem generated into a wider political and ethnic conflict and led to more deaths than was experienced during the 20 years conflict. While the presenters were quick to note that the youth had been co-opted into the conflict, the media had also played a big role in fuelling the conflict.



Ms. Rita Martin speaking at the African Union

Hon. Betty Ogwaro shared how the women of South Sudan mobilized across religious and ethnic lines and developed a common vision of peace for the people of South Sudan. Subsequently, the women have participated in various meetings in Nairobi, Kampala and Juba; building up to the GIMAC and the various consultations with actors in Addis Ababa. It was obvious that women have remained active in engaging with the various peace building efforts for South Sudan at the national level.

In suggesting the way forward and presenting the type of support the women of South Sudan would want from African women, Ms. Rita Martin appreciated women in Africa and globally for supporting South Sudan. She listed the following as strategies required to harness the participation of the women of South Sudan:

- Continuous advocacy and engagement with different actors in the region and globally to profile the voices and the need for an inclusive peace process in South Sudan
- Inclusiveness in the entire peace building process and ensuring the involvement of women and youths and those at the grassroots to promote ownership
- Provision of humanitarian assistance to women and children, particularly providing more resources for the special needs of women and children
- Promotion of the effective participation of women in the peace process so that the voices of women will be heard and their needs and concerns addressed
- Supporting women to embark on grassroots mass mobilization for sustainable peace
- The government of South Sudan must be encouraged to address existing problems as a way of bringing an end to the conflict
- Supporting the development of the National Action Plan for UNSCR1325
- The New Deal for fragile states must address the issues of women; and
- Ensure that youths are not manipulated and dragged into the conflict from a tribal point of view, due to their vulnerability; and at the same time, empower them to be part of the peace building process.

GIMAC suggested that the women of South Sudan develop a special statement (Appendix V) that GIMAC could present to the Heads of State, being that South Sudan is top on the agenda of the AU Summit.

3.3 Meetings with women of South Sudan

To avoid conflicts during the GIMAC panel on Emerging Conflicts in the African Continent, partners convened a separate meeting with the women of South Sudan participating in the GIMAC meeting to develop a common position.

The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Thelma Awori and chaired by Dr. Margaret Mongella⁶. The aim of the meeting was to brief women of the actions that have taken place so far around the conflict in South Sudan and the participation of women. The meeting was also to listen to their own experiences and what they have done since they arrived at Addis Ababa as well as agree on a common position for the GIMAC panel.

The meeting observed that there were about four or five different groups of South Sudan women in Addis doing advocacy work, which could lead to duplication of efforts. It was noted that it is important that the groups meet to ensure synergy of actions. After discussions, the meeting concluded that there was need to develop specific recommendations that must be presented to GIMAC. The group also decided that Hon. Betty Ogwaro and Rita Martin represent the group at the panel. Ms. Letty Chiwara the UN Representative to the Africa Union who was to chair the panel also attended the meeting.

A second meeting which was more of an internal team building session was held in the afternoon. This was a follow up to the concern raised that South Sudan women were not united in the hope for inclusion in the peace process. Dr. Mongella requested women to express their concerns. It was observed that the groupings were aligned to organizations that have held previous consultations and/or sponsored women to Addis Ababa, for instance the women mentioned Nairobi group (UN Women and Inclusive Security) Kampala group (Isis-WICCE and YWCA), the GIMAC group and the group sponsored by the government of South Sudan. It became clear that each of these groups were influencing different spaces without sharing with the others. This approach made it difficult for partners to easily know what others have done and whom they have seen.

The women of South Sudan requested that partners to help them harmonize their actions to ensure they achieve a common agenda. This enabled the South Sudan women to develop an addendum to the GIMAC statement which was shared with all for inputs at the end of the day. It was also agreed that the statement becomes the advocacy tool for moving forward.

⁶ Former President of the Pan-African Parliament. She also led the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, 1995.

3.4 Advocacy Engagements

This section presents the various advocacy meetings that the women of South Sudan participated in while in Addis Ababa. The main objective of the various meetings was to profile women's voices and their needs and concerns about the ongoing peace process and the upcoming political negotiations.

3.4.1 Meeting with the Chief negotiator; **Amb. Seyoum Mesfin**

Prior to the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and the Agreement on the release of political prisoners, the women of South Sudan exclusively met with the Chief Negotiators. The negotiators provided the women with an update of the actions they have taken since the beginning of the peace process; they shared their concerns about some women representing the Republic of South Sudan (RSS) who seem to claim to be representing women but taking sides with the RSS.

The Chief negotiator advised the women to speak with one voice and remain neutral so that their contribution to the peace process can be valued and sought by the team. He was of the view that taking sides would make the already difficult situation complex. During the meeting Ms. Rita Martin (one of the women leaders at the Kampala meeting) had the opportunity to share the outcomes of the Kampala meeting with the Chief Negotiator and representatives of the South Sudan Government.



Women of South Sudan, Isis-WICCE staff and WYWCA staff with the IGAD Chief Mediator Hon. Seyoum Mesfin

3.4.2 The Cessation of Hostilities Agreement

Following the meeting with the negotiators, the women present at the meeting were invited to witness the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. It was a memorable moment for women as they had longed for the agreement to be signed. They believed that the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement is the beginning of bringing peace to South Sudan (Appendix VI).

3.4.3 Meeting with the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs

The group sought and secured a meeting with the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs Dr. Aisha Abdullahi where two partners from Isis-WICCE and WYWCA, represented the group at the meeting. The partners shared information they had on South Sudan based on discussions during the Kampala consultative meeting. They shared copies of the Kampala Communiqué with the Commissioner, the Director and the Gender Adviser of Political Affairs at the African Union. The team raised the issues of humanitarian assistance, the Government of South Sudan position on the UN and the need to resolve the conflict. They also demanded to know more about Uganda's support to South Sudan and the perception of people on ground. The team requested the AU Chairperson to meet the women of South Sudan and volunteered to organize the women if need be.

Subsequently, with support from Femmes Africa Solidarite the women of South Sudan met with the AU Commissioner of Political Affairs on 29 January 2014. The meeting was attended by representatives of all South Sudan women's groups in Addis Ababa.

In a very brief encounter the women presented the final statement developed; which she promised to read, make sense of and position the issues in her engagement with Ministers and Heads of State. Dr. Aisha who was also planning a trip to South Sudan promised to meet with the women in South Sudan while in Juba.

3.4.4 Meeting with the Norwegian Special Envoy on Sudan and South Sudan - Jens-Petter Kjemprud

During the meeting, the women shared their experience and presented specific recommendations from the Kampala meeting and the most recent statement developed during the GIMAC meeting. Hon. Betty Ogwaro and Ms. Rita Martin articulately presented the recommendations. Some of the key messages were the need for both parties to the conflict to respect the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and developing an effective monitoring mechanism. The impressed it on the donors to help in addressing the root causes of the conflict to avoid a reoccurrence; addressing the unresolved issues in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005; emphasizing and funding women's participation in upcoming political negotiations; ensuring that humanitarian assistance deals with trauma; and security for women and children.

The Ambassador committed to request the parties to the conflict to meet with the women and promised to share the women's recommendations with IGAD and the AU Peace and Security Council. He reaffirmed Norway's support to women and promised to follow up on the call for support for women to continuously meet in preparation for the next levels of talks.



Participants in a group photograph with the Norwegian Special Envoy on Sudan and South Sudan

3.4.5 Meeting with the UN Women Representative to the AU Ms. Letty Chiwara

The meeting with the UN Women Representative to the AU was aimed at briefing the Representative on the situation of South Sudan and what the women and partners had done prior to arriving in Addis Ababa; and at the same time make specific demands of the support that the women of South Sudan would want from UN Women.

The meeting reviewed the different efforts by women prior to the GIMAC and AU Summit and presented specific requests; which included the need for the UN Women to profile the voices of South Sudan women, provide support (technical and financial) for women to continuously meet at the margins of the political negotiations and ensure the issues of South Sudanese women are presented to the Heads of State during the summit. The women shared the recommendations from the Kampala meeting.

Following the earlier observation of fragmentation of the different groups of women, it was agreed that the UN Women and the AU Gender Directorate call a meeting of all partners supporting South Sudan women and another for all women of South Sudan to develop a common strategy for influencing the Heads of State summit. The meeting called on the UN Women to take charge of the efforts of women to harmonise their advocacy efforts.

3.4.6 Meeting with H.E Mary Robinson, the UNSG Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region

During the meeting with the Special Envoy, Ms. Rita Martin with support from Jacqueline of WYWCA presented the statement of the South Sudanese women. The key highlights of Rita's presentation dwelt on the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement; protection of women, youths and children (including IDPs and refugees),

Young women from South Sudan and the rest of Africa meet with the UNSG Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region Mrs. Mary Robinson



humanitarian support, women and youth's participation in the upcoming political negotiations and protection of women peace activists. The presentation also emphasized the need for donors to provide funds to facilitate women's participation.

Mrs. Robinson emphasized the role of women and girls in peace building and sustainable development; and the need to profile their voices in all processes at all levels. She called on the young women to support her climate justice campaign as climate change also impacts of peace and development. She promised to share the concerns of the women of South Sudan in her meeting with IGAD and other relevant stakeholders.

The other young women from countries in the Great Lakes Region (DRC, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania) spoke on the different ICGLR frameworks that relate to security in the region and SGBV. They showed great knowledge of existing frameworks and called on H.E Mary Robinson to ensure countries in the GLR to respect their commitments.

3.4.7 Meeting with IGAD Mediator on the South Sudan Peace Talks; Amb. Seyoum Mesfin

In the meeting, the women were happy with the mediator who values the contribution of women to the peace process. The women presented their concerns in line with the Statement and additional issues were raised, such as the need to develop a comprehensive strategy for security sector reforms, and a truth and reconciliation process as an important component of healing. Amb. Mesfin appreciated the insights from the women and described their contribution as "... genuine concerns coming from the womb of mothers, daughters and sisters, who are at the receiving end of the crisis".

He shared challenges of the entire process; of a complicated conflict. He pointed to tribal differences and poor leadership as some of the root causes of the conflict. He informed the team that the process of developing a monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement has started with major partners including; UN, AU, EU, the Troika, China, IGAD countries and partners to the conflict. He however, stated that the process is going to be different this time round as the participation of citizens particularly religious groups, women and youths is paramount. He appreciated the effort of the women and called for their help in moving forward the process.

3.4.8 Launching of the Women's Platform for Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework

The South Sudan women leaders and Isis-WICCE attended the launch of the Great Lakes Women's Platform on Peace and Security. The event was organized jointly by the Office of the UNSG Envoy on the Great Lakes Region; the UNSG Rapporteur on Violence against Women in Conflict, Femmes Afrique Solidarite (FAS and Global fund for women, who is the coordinator of the Women's Platform), young women from YWCA, representatives of the African Union Leadership and the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

The Great Lakes Women's Platform for Peace and Security is a partnership between women's civil society organizations, governments of the Great Lakes Region and the ICGLR. The meeting had representations from all the partners including the Commissioner of Peace and Security at the African Union. The aim of the meeting was to create awareness about the platform and invite a larger group of stakeholders to be part of it. The Platform hopes to build synergy among different actors and also enable the implementation of the Special Envoy's Framework of Hope. We observed that while the idea sounds great it seems like a duplication of the ICGLR women's forum.

However, the representative of the ICGLR women's forum called on the organizers to focus on raising funds for existing networks and platforms instead of creating new ones, and expressed hope that the Women's Platform will work closely with the ICGLR Women's Forum and other regional bodies. Mrs. Mary Robinson agreed in her closing statement.

3.4.9 Partners Meetings

Following the arrival of the UN Women Representative for South Sudan, partners held a meeting to update her and get a better understanding of the planned meeting with the UN Women Executive Director. She proposed that partners and all South Sudan women present in Addis Ababa meet the following day to plan for the meeting with the UN Women Executive Director scheduled for January 30th. She also highlighted that the meeting would discuss the way forward.

She however emphasised that the people of South Sudan particularly women are traumatized and would appreciate if any follow up actions could address trauma first. This reflected the position

of Isis-WICCE, that until the body, mind and spirit of women are healed they are not able to participate meaningfully in peace building activities.

The planning meeting which was held enabled women to strategize and agree on the key issues to present to the UN Women Executive Director. The women of South Sudan used the space to share contacts and the schedule of activities and together reviewed the final statement and made their input, a great opportunity for women's continuous coordination of efforts to end the war.

3.4.10 Meeting with the Norwegian Foreign Minister

The meeting provided a platform for the women of South Sudan to share their concerns and hand out the women's statement. The Foreign Minister appreciated the efforts and the passion South Sudan women demonstrated to see that the on-going conflict is resolved. He encouraged them to remain focused and continue being vocal with the issues. He promised to take up the issues in the statement in his interaction with different actors.



South Sudan women meeting with the Norwegian Foreign Minister.

3.4.11 Meeting with the **UN Women Executive Director**

In the meeting, the South Sudan women presented their issues stating the current situation, what women had done and what women expect from the Executive Director, UN Women and the UN.

She assured South Sudan women will raise their concerns with the President while in Juba. She encouraged the women to keep on raising their voices together and said that UN Women will engage with the mediators to ensure women participate in the next level of negotiations. She assured them the UN Women will work closely with Madam Bineta Diop, in coming Special Envoy on women, peace and security to the Office of the AU Chairperson, to ensure the concerns of women are addressed.

3.5 Follow up Engagements **Beyond Addis Ababa**

During the 58th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women that focused on “Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls” and held in New York from 10th to 21st March 2014, Isis-WICCE, World YWCA and FAS continued to engage on the participation of South Sudan women in the Peace Process. Two South Sudanese women (Ms Rita Martin Abrahams and Hon. Betty Ogwaro) who were part of the engagements in Kampala and Addis Ababa also participated.

Ms Rita Martin Abrahams and Hon. Betty Ogwaro were panelists at a side event on “Women of South Sudan Front and Centre: Mobilising for Peace after the Addis Ababa Cessation of Hostilities Agreement” on March 20th 2014. The panel was organized by Cordaid, Global Network of Women Peace Builders and UN Women and moderated by the Norwegian Ambassador to the United Nations, Geir O. Pedersen. Isis-WICCE staff were a part of this side event.



Hon. Betty Ogwaro speaking during the CSW event at the UN

During the CSW, organisations who are members of the African Women’s Caucus developed a statement (Appendix VII) to reaffirm their solidarity to the plight of South Sudanese women and add their voice calling for a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

As part of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, a statement was prepared and presented by a representative of EVE Organisation, South Sudan at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict on 25th April 2014 (Appendix VIII).

The South Sudanese women have further prepared a statement (Appendix IX) that has been shared by development partners in Norway to inform the conference that the Norwegian government has organized to support the mobilization of resources for humanitarian assistance for South Sudan.

APPENDICES

Appendix I : Consultative Meeting Participants List

South Sudan Participants

1. Akuot Chan Kawoc

Member of Parliament
South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace
(SSWLP)
Tel: +211 915 203 517

2. Georget Lat

Member of Parliament
South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace
(SSWLP)
Tel: +211 915 148 571
Email: adut-mel@yahoo.com

3. Elizabeth Adut Mel

Member of Parliament
South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace
(SSWLP)
Tel: +211 911 248 407

4. Veronica Rodento Owui Koma

Member
South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace
(SSWLP)
Tel: +211 977 758 533

5. Umjuma Juma Sebil

Member of Parliament
South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace
(SSWLP)
Tel: +211 956 162 306

6. Martha Akwang

Member of Parliament
South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace
(SSWLP)
Tel: +211 955 309 537

7. Myitur Daniel Dhieu

Member of Parliament
South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace
(SSWLP)
Tel: +211 927 195 946

8. Betty Achan

Member of Parliament
South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace
(SSWLP)
Juba

9. Adeng Leek Deng

Member of Parliament
South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace
(SSWLP)
Email: hon.adeng@yahoo.com

10. Genivia Eliaba

Member
South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace
(SSWLP)/RSS
Email: geniviae@yahoo.com

11. Rita Martin

Director
EVE Organization for Women Development
Juba – South Sudan
Email: eve.sudan@gmail.com/ rlopidia@gmail.com

12. Catherine Pita

Member
EVE Organization for Women Development
Tel: +256 782 527 225
Email: pitamark@yahoo.co.uk

13. Dr. Woda Jeremiah

Member
Represent Women in Kampala Zion
Muyenga
Email: wodajago@gmail.com

14. Lonah James Elia

Executive Director
VFC Women Union Central Equatoria State
Email: llowillalzomo@yahoo.co.uk

15. Kiri Mary Kiden

Member of Parliament
Tel: +211 921 094 815
Email Address: maidens@yahoo.com/
mkidenss@yahoo.com

16. Goregina John

Member
South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace
(SSWLP)
South Sudan – Juba
Email: korregina@gmail.com

17. Veronica Lucy Gordon

Chairperson
Association of Media Women in South Sudan
(AMWISS)
Tel: +211 914 293 926
Email: gordonveronica48@yahoo.com

18. Merekaje Lorna

Secretary General
SSUDEMOP
IKV Pax Christi Office – Juba
Email: merekajel@yahoo.com

OBSERVERS

1. Florence Butegwa

Regional Advisor
UN Women
Email: florence.butegwa@unwomen.org

2. Rose Othieno

Executive Director
CECORE
Bunya, Kampala
Email: cecore@africaonline.co.ug

3. Evelyn Namusoke

CECORE
Bunga, Soya Road Ggaba Road
Email: cecore@africaonline.co.ug

4. Kristin T. Berg

Member
YWCA Norway
Email: jambokristin@hotmail.com

5. Jennifer Ochwo

Executive Director
YWCA-Uganda
Plot 1 & 3, George Street
P.O. Box 2108 Kampala
Email: jakenya72@gmail.com/ ywca.ug@gmail.com

6. Farah Council

Program Manager
Inclusive Security
Washington, DC
Email: farah_council@inclusivesecurity.org

7. Hope Chigudu

Consultant
Isis-WICCE
Plot 7, Martyrs Road
Ntinda, Kampala
Email: hopechigudu@yahoo.com

8. Oliver Michael

Program Officer
ICCO
Juba – South Sudan
Email: oliver.michael@icco-cooperation.org

9. Angeline Nguedjeu

Program Specialist
ICCO
1608 Kironde Road,
Muyenga – Kampala
Email: Angeline.nguedjeu@icco-cooperation.org

10. Marline Anthony

LAGU
Email: marlinegillo@gmail.com
Tel: +256 778 840 727

FACILITATORS

1. Ruth Ojiambo Ochieng

Executive Director - Isis-WICCE
Plot 7, Martyrs Road
Ntinda, Kampala
Email: oruth@isis.or.ug
Tel: +256 772 508 667

2. Yaliwe Clarke

Board Member - Isis-WICCE
Plot 7, Martyrs Road
Ntinda, Kampala
Obz Square, Cape Town
Email: yayaclarke@gmail.com
Tel: +27 729 542 479

3. Thelma Awori

Board Member - Isis-WICCE
Plot 7, Martyrs Road
Ntinda, Kampala
Tel: +256 772 622 560

4. Elise Kant

Specialist Gender Equality and Human Rights
ICCO Global Office
ICCO Netherlands
Email: elise.kant@icco-cooperation.org

5. Nicolien Wassenaar
Advisor Women Leadership - Cordaid
Juba Raha Compound, South Sudan
Email: nicolien.wassenaar@cordaid.net

6. Marie – Claude Julsaint
Global Programme Manager - World YWCA
Geneva, Switzerland
Email: m-cl.julsaint@worldywca.org

7. Juliet Were Oguttu
Program Coordinator
Research Monitoring and Evaluation
Isis-WICCE
Plot 7, Martyrs Road
Ntinda, Kampala
Email: wjuliet@isis.or.ug
Tel: +256 772 444 324

8. Helen Kezie-Nwoha
Program Manager - Isis-WICCE
Plot 7, Martyrs Road
Ntinda, Kampala
Email: khelen@isis.or.ug
Tel: +256 783 726 611

9. Bedha Kireju
Communications Coordinator - Isis-WICCE
Plot 7, Martyrs Road
Ntinda, Kampala
Email: beda@isis.or.ug
Tel: +256 772 407 653

10. Loyce Kyogabirwe
Information Officer - Isis-WICCE
Plot 7, Martyrs Road
Ntinda, Kampala

Email: kloyce@isis.or.ug
Tel: +256 773 108 636

11. Gloria .O. Adeti
Administrative Assistant - Isis-WICCE
Plot 7, Martyrs Road
Ntinda, Kampala
Email: agloria@isis.or.ug
Tel: +256 778 513 813

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

1. Archie Luyimbazi
Communications Consultant - Isis-WICCE
Plot 7, Martyrs Road
Ntinda, Kampala
Email: archieluyimbazi@gmail.com
Tel: +256 701 123 334

2. Rosebell Kagumire
Communications Specialist - Isis-WICCE
Plot 7, Martyrs Road
Ntinda, Kampala
Email: rosebell.kagumire@gmail.com

3. William Kintu
Documentary TV Camera
Kampala
Email: kintuwilliam@gmail.com

4. Paul Shamba
Producer -TV Documentary
Bukoto – Kampala
Email: shambatule@yahoo.com
Tel: +256 778 351 731

South Sudanese Women Leaders for Peace

19th – 21st January 2014, Imperial Royal Hotel Kampala-Uganda

Communiqué

Preamble

We the South Sudanese women leaders, drawn from all walks of life, gathered in Hotel Imperial Royal in Kampala Uganda on 19th – 21st January 2014 at a three day consultation meeting regarding the current situation in our country and the on going peace process in Addis Ababa – Ethiopia;

Grateful for progress made so far by the IGAD led ongoing negotiations in Addis Ababa and the commitment of the two teams to cease hostilities and end the current killing of thousands of lives and violations of human rights including rape of women and children in our country;

Recalling the long struggle of women for inclusion in peace building processes and their resilience as citizens of South Sudan;

Appreciating the efforts and contributions of South Sudanese women in the country and diaspora, African women leaders and all friends of South Sudan towards the ongoing peace process;

Acknowledging the unique strength and pride drawn from our regional and ethnic diversities as South Sudanese women leaders;

Recognizing the historical power of women in conflict resolution seen through the instrumental role they played during the 2011 Southern Sudan Referendum for Self-determination and independence;

Mindful of all international instruments including the international Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) UNSCRs 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2122, Maputo protocol, ICGLR peace and security pact;

Cognizant of the massive displacement, killing of innocent civilians, rape and gender based violence and the need to protect women and children in conflict situations and the importance of peaceful coexistence as citizens of one nation;

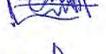
Expressing concern of the immense destruction, suffering and breakdown of moral values, governance systems and internal party politics which degenerated into an armed conflict;

Deeply saddened by the recent trend of events and human suffering caused by the conflict in our country;

Extremely troubled by the recent bloodshed, escalation of war, high influx of refugees into the neighboring countries;

We therefore demand the following;

- Immediate cessation of hostilities with clear gender sensitive implementation and monitoring guidelines with participation of citizens;
- Including rape and other forms of violence against women
- Including manipulation and/or forceful conscription and recruitment of youth and children by different groups
- The government of South Sudan to continue to adhere to the South Sudan Constitution and international laws
- The government of South Sudan to protect lives and properties of people in South Sudan
- Call on UNMISS to protect lives of civilians within their areas of operation in South Sudan;
- That IGAD, African Union, the Chief Mediator, the Parties to the conflict and international community must ensure effective participation and involvement of women in the ongoing peace process;
- Immediate inclusion of at least 25% of South Sudanese women at senior levels positions in the mediation and ceasefire monitoring teams with a clear mandate
- Funds coming for the ongoing peace process should also be invested in human resource and capacity development to ensure that
 - The team of mediators and the ceasefire monitoring teams consistently
 - include and engage with women groups;
 - Support psychosocial therapy, sexual and reproductive health and rights services, trauma healing;
- Creation of corridor for humanitarian assistance to the IDPs;
- Immediate commencement of a nation wide citizen dialogue for national unity, truth, justice, forgiveness and reconciliation processes;
- Immediate development of a gender sensitive roadmap for national reforms that can lay the foundation for sustainable peace including a proper holistic DDDR process;

No.	Name	ORGANISATION
1	Nyitur Daniel Dhieu	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace 
2	Martha Akuany Deng	Sudan Women Leaders for Peace 
3	Akuot Chan Kawach	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace 
4	Elisabeth Adut Mel	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace 
5	Umjum Juma Sebil	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace 
6	Genivia Eliaba	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace 
7	Kiri Mary Kiden	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace 
8	Veronica Rodento	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace 
9	Goregina John Ajak Kar	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace 
10	Adeng Leek Deng	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace 
11	Mary Ayen Majok	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace
12	Betty Ogwaro	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace 
13	Georgette Lat Mading	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace 
14	Mary Ayen Majok	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace
15	Rita Martin Lopidia Abraham	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace 
15	Lona James Elia Luduro	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace 
16	Merekaje Lorna Nanjia	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace 
17	Lucy Veronica Gordon	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace 
18.	Pita Catherine	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace 
19.	Modi Mbarasa	South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace

Appendix III:

SOLIDARITY STATEMENT - PROTECTION AND PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN

On Friday, January 10 this year, the NAP 1325 South Sudan Working Group got together to discuss the escalation of violence in South Sudan and the (lobby) actions to be taken on behalf of the WO=MEN network.

On behalf of the WO=MEN members a statement of solidarity with the Southern Sudanese population has been released.

Statement of Solidarity

Protection and Participation of Women for Sustainable Peace in South Sudan

We as a signatory of the Netherlands' National Action Plan (NAP) 1325, representatives of civil society organizations (including South Sudanese diaspora) express our solidarity with South Sudanese citizens, in particular, its NAP 1325 stakeholders, concerning women, peace and security situation in the country. The United Nation Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security acknowledges women's specific roles to prevent manage and resolve conflict. It emphasizes women's rights to participate in all aspects of peacebuilding as well as to be included in decision-making bodies at all levels.

The current conflict in South Sudan has put its hard won independence and peace into extreme risk of reversing into the horror of war. It is our sincere hope that the South Sudanese government, civil society organizations and communities regardless of ethnic, religion or gender, resolve to immediate cease fire, end all form of violence and take measures toward long lasting peace.

In accordance with the UNSCR 1325 and in particular, the South Sudanese NAP 1325 currently under deliberation, we urge all stakeholders in the current conflict to ensure that the following two key elements of UNSCR 1325 are strictly adhered to:

1. Protection

(Armed) conflict bestows additional impacts on children and women. Protection of all civilian needs to be accompanied with specific measures to provide special protection needs of women and girls, including protection from gender based violence in refugee camps and beyond.

2. Participation

Full inclusion of South Sudanese women in peace negotiation at all stages and levels are crucial. Women's perspectives need to be included in defining the future development and peace and security of South Sudan. There are capable South Sudanese women, including from civil society organizations, who are ready to be included in both negotiation teams currently assembling in Addis Ababa.

We re-affirm our commitment to continue to work together with civil society in South Sudan and the international community in the process of the development of South Sudanese NAP 1325 and in integrating gender perspectives into the South Sudanese "New Deal" process.

In solidarity towards sustainable peace in South Sudan,

All members of WO=MEN.

DIALOGUE FOR SOUTH SUDANESE WOMEN FOR PEACE

Nairobi, Kenya. January 2014

Communiqué

18 January 2014

We, the undersigned South Sudanese Women in solidarity, searching, advocating and working for peace to prevail in South Sudan, met in Nairobi on 17-18 January 2014. We came together as women, grandmothers, mothers, daughters and sisters, united by our womanhood and our love for and commitment to our country, The Republic of South Sudan.

We are concerned by the outbreak of armed conflict in South Sudan so soon after we collectively celebrated independence. We are shocked at the widespread violence and loss of life across the country. We are further alarmed by the real potential for the conflict to escalate in the country and in the region.

The immediate consequences of this war include indiscriminate killings, the internal displacement of almost 500,000 women, children and men and the creation of a new refugee population estimated to be over 90,000 people (UNHCR). There is significant destruction of infrastructure, including peoples' property and the bombing and razing of entire villages and towns. This new country that was barely recovering from a protracted war cannot afford the loss of life, economic destruction, and the disintegration of our national unity through which the war was won.

We are aware of, and appreciate, the mediation efforts led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), intended to lead to a negotiated political settlement of the conflict. These efforts need to be supported by all countries in Africa and the broader international community.

We however note the absence of women's voices at the peace talks. We are major stakeholders in the future of South Sudan. We want to contribute not only to the dialogue and search for a solution to the crisis, but also to the implementation and monitoring of the emergent agreement. We call upon the negotiating parties, and the mediation panel to urgently create a framework for women's participation.

We urge both parties to the conflict to immediately cease hostilities and give peace a chance. We call upon them to show exemplary leadership and halt the violence.

We commit ourselves individually and collectively to:

1. Reach out to our political leaders on all sides of the conflict to encourage them to expedite the signing of an agreement for cessation of hostilities, and for a politically negotiated settlement for sustainable peace.
2. Mobilise women in South Sudan to join the movement for peace and work together at different levels, including at community level. South Sudan needs all of us at this very critical moment.
3. Mobilise and work with religious leaders of all denominations in South Sudan to support the women's effort for peace, in their teachings and dialogue with community and political leaders.
4. Open dialogue with the youths of South Sudan to encourage them to build a movement for peace in the country.
5. Work with and seek the support of women leaders in the Africa region, the Friends of South Sudan Women, for advocacy with South Sudan leaders and other regional/international leaders and organisations that can further our pursuit for peace.
6. Mobilise materials for humanitarian assistance to women and children who are internally displaced in the country.

We sincerely appreciate the senior women leaders from different African countries that came to express their solidarity with us, and to share with us their immense experience of organising for peace in different African countries. We drew strengths from their solidarity, understanding and commitment to supporting the women of South Sudan.

Finally, we want to appreciate UN Women for supporting this dialogue and the commitment to continue supporting our initiative.

STATEMENT FROM SOUTH SUDANESE WOMEN TO THE AFRICAN UNION (AU) AND INTER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD). 24 JANUARY 2014, ADDIS ABABA

We are concerned by the recent outbreak of armed conflict in South Sudan, and are shocked by the wide spread violence that led to numerous loss of lives and displacement of women, men and children. Therefore, on the 20th of December 2013 women of South Sudan met various leaders to urge for peace and took a decision to hold a national meeting for women. On the 15th January 2014, South Sudan women from all walks of life gathered at Juba Grand Hotel in Juba, to discuss the current crisis in the country. South Sudanese women in Nairobi Kenya held similar meetings on the 17th January 2014 and in Kampala Uganda on 19th January 2014. We finally converged on the 24th January under the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) meeting at the margins of the Heads of State meeting in Addis Ababa, to share our experiences and bring the different voices of women of South Sudan together.

We are also concerned about the manipulation and involvement of youths in the ongoing conflict; and demand that the parties to the conflict desist from this approach that is exploiting the young people of our country, especially young women and girls.

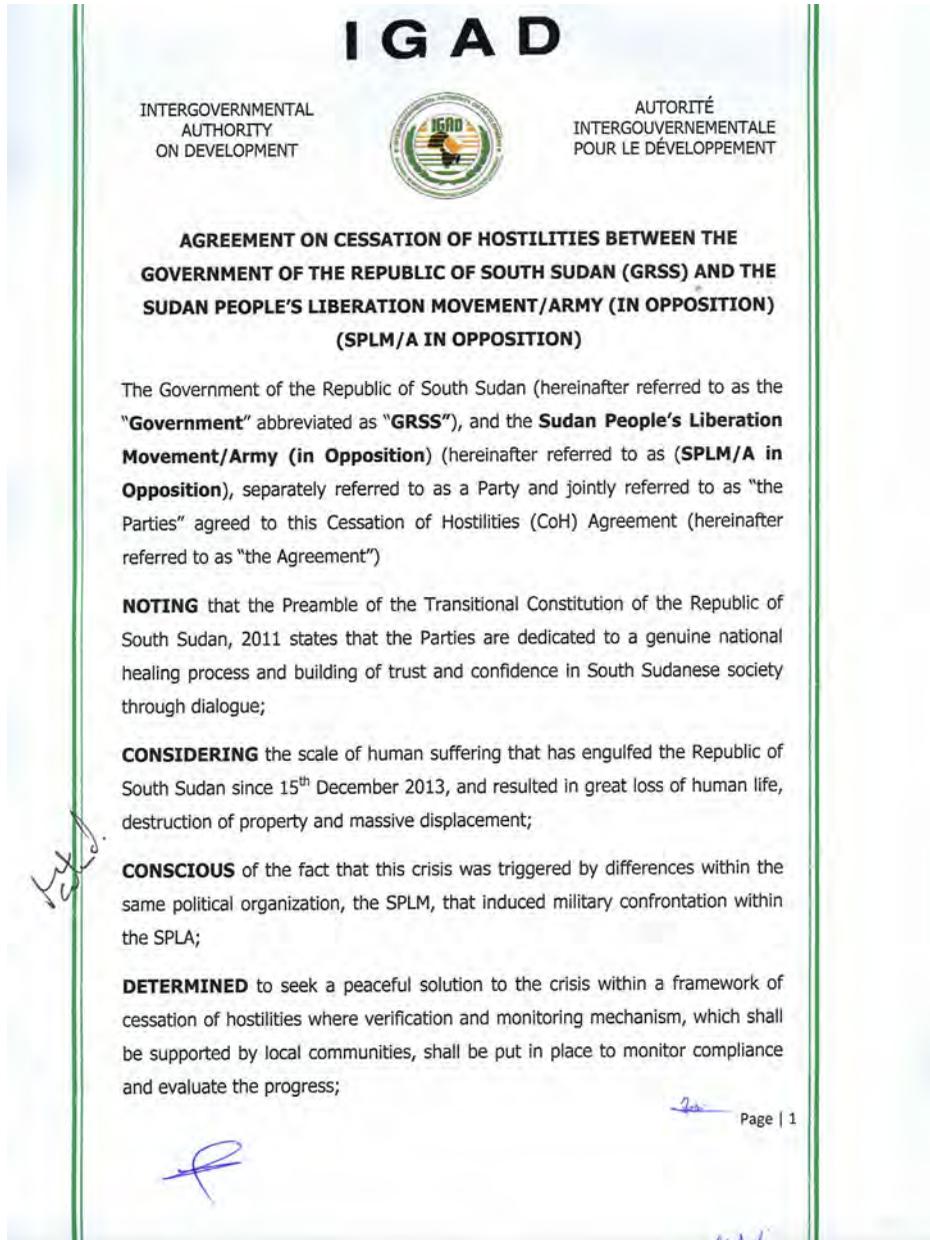
We recognize the historic participation of women in the Sudan Comprehensive Peace Agreement; and the role they played during the 2011 South Sudan referendum for independence. We the women of South Sudan are committed to continuously defend the peace and all that have been achieved since the signing of the CPA.

We acknowledge the commitment of those who signed the cessation of hostilities agreement on the 23 January 2014 in Addis Ababa. We believe that we are heading in the right direction towards attaining a lasting peace in South Sudan. However, we also acknowledge that this is the beginning of a difficult part of the peace process and the inclusion of women and their full participation in the process of negotiation and mediation is a prerequisite for both the success of this process and sustainable peace in South Sudan.

Based on the above, we the women of South Sudan call on the AU and IGAD:

- To urge the parties to the conflict not to breach the cessation of hostilities agreement.
- To commit to women's participation in the next phase of the political negotiations and provide all necessary support.
- To provide protection for displaced women, women at the negotiation and women who advocate for peace.

We call on our sisters in the African continent to continue to support our cause and all actors to respond to the plea of South Sudanese women.



BEARING in mind that the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the international community are concerned about the violence and humanitarian crisis resulting from the armed conflict in South Sudan;

RECOGNISING the various efforts to bring a peaceful resolution to the crisis by IGAD, the African Union (AU), the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the Troika (Norway, UK, and USA), China, and the IGAD Partners' Forum (IPF);

MINDFUL of the desire of the people of South Sudan to live in peace and dignity, and in an all-inclusive democratic society based on justice, equality, respect for human rights and the rule of law; and

REAFFIRMING the commitment of the Parties to building a unified, stable and peaceful nation in which power shall be peacefully transferred;

NOW THEREFORE THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. DECLARATION OF CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES

- 1.1 The Parties hereby agree to cease all military actions aimed at each other and any other action that may undermine the peace process;
- 1.2 The Parties shall, upon the coming into effect of this Agreement;
- a) commit to immediately cease all military operations and freeze their forces at the place they are in;
 - b) refrain from taking any actions that could lead to military confrontations including all movement of forces, ammunition resupply, or any other action that could be viewed as confrontational;
 - c) ensure that all forces or armed groups under their influence, control or/and command shall observe this Agreement;
 - d) disengage forces or armed groups under their control;
 - e) Redeploy and/or progressively withdraw forces, armed groups and allied forces invited by either side from the theatre of operations in the Republic of South Sudan;

1.3 The time for lifting the State of Emergency shall be recommended by the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism;

2. CESSATION OF HOSTILE PROPAGANDA

2.1 The Parties shall cease hostile media and other propaganda campaigns including any action that may undermine the peace process;

2.2 The Parties shall not engage in any hostile propaganda, particularly those that fan ethnic hatred, through any form of media.

3. PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

3.1 The Parties shall refrain from attacks on the civilian population and commit to the protection of human rights, life and property as provided by various national, continental and international instruments;

3.2 The Parties shall refrain from any acts of rape, sexual abuse and torture as prohibited by applicable national, continental and international instruments;

3.3 The Parties shall not engage in any acts of violence against children, girls, women and the elderly and more importantly, they shall support the reunion of families;

3.4 The Parties shall cease acts of violence including summary executions, displacement of populations, all forms of torture, destruction of property, attacking civilian aircrafts, vehicles or riverboats, recruitment of child soldiers or any other acts as prohibited by applicable national, continental and international instruments.

4. HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

4.1 The Parties shall open humanitarian corridors, support all humanitarian assistance, including the creation of conditions that enhance urgent supply of aid to all displaced populations in line with the Communiqué of the 23rd Extraordinary Session of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and

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Government of 27th December 2013 and the UNSC Resolution 2132 of 24th December 2013;

- 4.2 The Parties agree to provide an enabling environment to facilitate decent burials of the dead and memorialization, support reunion of families, and any such acts that promote human dignity;
- 4.3 The Parties undertake to assist displaced persons and refugees who wish to return to their original areas of abode within the Republic of South Sudan or elsewhere;
- 4.4 The Parties commit to allow the free movement of persons and goods within the areas affected by the armed conflict;
- 4.5 Nothing in this Agreement shall in any way undermine the dignity and sovereignty of the people of South Sudan
- 4.6 The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and International Humanitarian agencies operating in the territory of the Republic of South Sudan will operate extending humanitarian assistances as per their stated mandates.

5. MONITORING AND VERIFICATION

- 5.1 The Parties shall commit to the immediate formation of a Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (MVM) under the leadership of IGAD;
- 5.2 The IGAD Special Envoys in consultation with the Parties shall establish a Joint Technical Committee (JTC) responsible for setting up a Monitoring and Verification Team (MVT) and drawing up the modalities for the implementation mechanism;
- 5.3 The MVM shall be responsible for monitoring the implementation of this Agreement;
- 5.4 The MVT, whose membership will be determined by JTC shall be approved and be accountable to the IGAD Special Envoys;
- 5.5 The MVT shall verify and report to IGAD Special Envoys on the Parties' compliance with the Agreement, including the requirements to protect

civilians. The team may use its discretion in deploying verification missions on the basis of credible information, complaints submitted by the Parties, and/or direct requests from the IGAD Special Envoys.

6. **COMPOSITION OF MVT**

6.1 The MVT shall, with the consent of the Parties, be composed of representatives drawn from IGAD Member States, the Parties and Partners which shall include a mix of civilians, and individuals with a military background;

6.2 The MVT shall be comprised as follows:

- a. One (1) chairman, three (3) headquarters staff, and eighteen (18) monitors working in teams drawn from the Parties, the region and the international community;
- b. Based on the requirements on the ground, the IGAD Special Envoys may deploy additional monitors in consultation with the Parties;
- c. The Chairman shall be selected by the IGAD Special Envoys, in consultation with the Parties, and report directly to the Special Envoys; and
- d. The IGAD Special Envoys may restructure the MVT as necessary to achieve the stated objectives in consultation with the Parties as appropriate;

6.3 The MVT at local levels shall:

- a. collaborate with local communities in performance of their work;
- b. have focal points known as local committees whose membership shall be drawn by the MVT in consultation with the local community; and
- c. identify the local committees from traditional and religious leaders, women and youth representatives;

7. OPERATIONS OF THE MVT

- 7.1 The MVT shall monitor activities of the Parties and acts associated with their forces, and armed groups under their control or invited allied forces that may complicate the peace process;
- 7.2 The MVT shall also:
- a. be unarmed, and shall enjoy full protection by the Parties;
 - b. enjoy complete freedom of movement and unhindered access throughout all areas controlled by the Parties, and may conduct verification missions by air and/or land, as determined by the JTC;
 - c. have its headquarters to be based in Juba, with team sites in other areas to be identified by the JTC so as to ensure maximum coverage and agility;
 - d. have the aerial support which will be provided in order to conduct verifications in a timely manner, as well as boats and ground vehicles to enable local patrolling and coordination; and
 - e. use its discretion to conduct verification missions in response to credible information, complaints submitted by the Parties, and/or direct requests from the IGAD Special Envoys;
- 7.3 IGAD will provide dedicated liaison officers to the headquarters and each of the team sites in order to facilitate the safe and timely coordination of all aerial and ground movements of the verification team(s).

8. POSITIONS OF THE FORCES

- 8.1 The Parties shall declare the positions of their forces to the JTC and commit to remain at the declared positions at the signing of this Agreement which shall be certified by the MVT;
- 8.2 The declared positions of the forces of the Parties shall be monitored by the MVT.

9. AMENDMENTS TO THIS AGREEMENT

This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the Parties which shall be in writing and be signed by the Parties.

10. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Any dispute that may arise from the implementation and interpretation of this Agreement shall be resolved amicably by the mediation of the IGAD Special Envoys.

11. ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Agreement shall enter into force 24 hours after the signature by the Parties.

In witness of the above, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties have signed this Agreement on this day 23rd of January 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**For the Government of the Republic
of South Sudan**

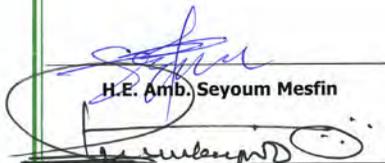
**For the Sudan People's Liberation
Movement/Army in Opposition**



Hon. Nhial Deng Nhial

Gen. Taban Deng Gai

Witnessed by the IGAD Special Envoys



H.E. Amb. Seyoum Mesfin



Gen. Lazaro Sumbeywo

Gen. Mohamed Ahmed M. El Dabi

STATEMENT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD) ON THE ONGOING CONFLICT IN SOUTH SUDAN AND THE NEED TO FULLY INCLUDE WOMEN IN THE PEACE PROCESS. APRIL 2014

The African Women's Caucus of the Commission on the Status of Women and other organizations are deeply concerned about the ongoing conflict in South Sudan, which has continued despite the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities agreement on the 23rd of January 2014 in Addis Ababa. We acknowledge the various peace efforts of the women of South Sudan to bring an end to the conflict and are concerned about the violence perpetuated against civilians, the lack of food and spread of disease among the general population, and the deteriorating humanitarian crisis in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps.

We want to thank IGAD and the two political parties for including women in their teams, but strongly call for a more robust inclusion of women in the South Sudan peace process.

We stand in solidarity with South Sudanese women who have specifically called for:

- An end to the ongoing violence and demand the commitment of both conflicting parties to the peace process through continuous constructive dialogue and engagement, and above all putting national interest first. Women and children of South Sudan are tired of war and they deserve peace.
- Respect and implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities agreement.
- Immediate upscale of humanitarian assistance to IDPs as the situation is continuously deteriorating, and urge both sides to open corridors to enable the delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- An inclusive political negotiation that would enable the participation of women organizations and other groups, and include women in all committees that would be formed.
- The protection of women and children in IDP camps, and demand that humanitarian assistance must address the special needs of women, particularly health facilities and the need for qualified midwives.
- The inclusion of women as leaders and members of the Monitoring and Verification Teams, to ensure that gender-based violence cases are investigated, and to include women from the region (specifically, the eminent African women of the Friends of South Sudan group) in

the reconciliation process.

- IGAD to appoint a gender expert to the mediation team to ensure that women organizations get frequent updates and also provide inputs to the peace process, and that the needs of women are adequately captured and reflected in the final agreement.
- Both conflicting parties should welcome consultation and engagement with women's groups and organizations, to ensure that the issues and priorities of South Sudanese women are incorporated in the peace negotiations.

Endorsed by:

- EVE Organization for Women Development, South Sudan
- Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE), Uganda
- Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)
- SERVITAS Cameroon
- YWCA Zambia
- Young Women's Leadership Institute (YWLI), Kenya
- Collectif Senegalais des Africaines pour la Promotion de l'Education Relative a l'Environnement (COSAPERRE), Senegal
- International Governance Alliance (iGA), Kenya
- Echoes of Women in Africa Initiative (ECOWA), Nigeria
- Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre (MHRRRC)
- Vision Spring Initiatives, Nigeria
- African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)
- Young Women's Christian Association, Malawi
- Nnabagereka Development Foundation (NDF)
- Research and Advocacy Unit (RAU), Zimbabwe
- Women's Empowerment Link (WEL)
- World YWCA, Geneva
- International Centre for Sexual Reproductive Rights (INCREASE), Nigeria

- Coalition for the Defense of Sexual Rights (CDSR), Nigeria
- Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN), Uganda
- Young Women's Christian Association, South Africa
- Coalition on Violence against Women (COVAW), Kenya
- Young Women's Christian Association, Liberia
- Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA)
- EIMAN
- NGO Coordinating Council, Zambia
- ALDEPA, Cameroun
- FEMNET, Senegal
- NGO Gender Coordination Network, Malawi
- Nigerian Women Trust Fund, Nigeria
- Vision Organization
- Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) - Sancharika Samuha Nepal
- Tears of Women, Kenya
- Association Dea Dia, Serbia
- Rwanda Women Network
- WILPF/DRC
- African Women's Active Nonviolence Initiatives for Social Change (AWANICH)
- Indigenous Information Network, Kenya
- African Indigenous Women's Organization
- Women Peacemakers Program, The Netherlands
- Women and Law in Southern Africa
- Civil Society Media Leadership Program, Liberia
- Center for Peace Education
- WE Act 1325

- Voice for Change, South Sudan
- Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO), South Sudan
- Support the Empowerment of Women and their Rights for Development Organisation (STEWARD), South Sudan
- Hawa Society for Women, Sudan
- Sierra Leone Association of University Women (SLAUW), Sierra Leone
- Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), Sierra Leone
- Women's Forum, Sierra Leone
- Saathi, Nepal
- 1325 Action Group, Nepal
- Synergie des Femmes pour les Victimes de Violences Sexuelles (SFVS), DRC
- Media Advocacy Group, Nepal
- IFDH-NGABO, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ipas Africa Alliance, Kenya
- Permanent Peace Movement (PPM)
- Middle East and North Africa Partnership for Preventing of Armed Conflict (MENAPAC)
- Solidarite Femmes Parlementaires du Burundi (SOFEPA)
- Fountain-ISOKO, Burundi
- Burundi NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security
- Project Education South Sudan (PESS), South Sudan
- WiLDAF/FeDDAF – WASRO/BSRAO, Togo
- The Angie Brooks International Centre (ABIC) on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace & Security, Liberia
- Ugandan Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Uganda)

Appendix VIII:



NGO WORKING GROUP ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

777 United Nations Plaza New York, New York 10017

TEL: (+1) 212.557.7298

WWW.WOMENPEACESECURITY.ORG

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by Rhoda Misaka
At the UN Security Council Open Debate
on Sexual Violence in Conflict
25th April 2014

Madam President, UN Secretary-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Security Council at the debate on women, peace and security from a civil society perspective. I speak today on behalf of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security.¹ I am also here in my capacity as a founding member of the South Sudanese Diaspora Association, and member of EVE Organization for Women Development. EVE is an organization based in Juba, South Sudan and is committed to empowering women and raising awareness about women, peace and security issues, including sexual and gender-based violence during conflict.

I speak here today with a heavy heart, as I continue to receive reports from my family, friends and my organization in South Sudan that the violence in our country has continued to increase. Women in the UNMISS IDP camp in Bor, which was attacked last week, are traumatized and devastated, and say they feel like they are sitting there waiting to die. I am here with you in the Security Council today, but I live in fear of what will happen next in my country, and to my family. Last week in Bentiu, hundreds of men, women, and children were killed, and men are being pushed to rape women of different ethnicity.

The sexual violence we have experienced in South Sudan is indicative of the larger systemic crisis throughout the world, in countries such as Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, the DRC, Syria and Myanmar. I want to acknowledge the work of civil society groups who are not present here, but are fighting every day to prevent, document, and respond to such crimes. I am also deeply honored to acknowledge the civil society groups who are here today, including Ms. Naw K'nyaw Paw, another women's human rights defender who is working with sexual violence survivors in Myanmar.

Today, we call on all relevant actors, including Member States, the Security Council, United Nations, and non-state actors, to take a greater role in the prevention and treatment of this atrocity and threat to international peace and security. I will discuss six areas of serious concern related to the situation in South Sudan and sexual violence in all conflicts, including in those situations that are not in the focus of the international community.

Ending Impunity

The Security Council, Member States and the United Nations must take on leadership roles and actively advocate for ending impunity, and promoting investigation, documentation and accountability. At this moment in South Sudan, mechanisms are being erected to investigate atrocities, including the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism of the Cessation and Hostilities Agreement. In addition, the African Union Commission of Inquiry is currently in South Sudan and will be investigating sexual violence in conflict as part of its mandate. In all cases of conflict, in all such mechanisms, sexual violence in conflict must be on the list of violations to be documented. Without documentation, there will be no accountability.

In South Sudan, women are discriminated against in laws that do not meet internationally accepted standards of human and individual rights. Weak judicial systems lead to low rate of arrests and convictions. Security and judicial professionals should receive stronger training on sexual and gender-based violence. Alleged perpetrators must be prosecuted, including those with command responsibility, and women should be active agents in judicial processes and sectors.

Comprehensive Services for Survivors

We call on Member States and UN agencies to ensure survivors of sexual violence can access, in a timely manner, non-discriminatory and comprehensive health services. These include, as referenced in Security Council resolution 2122, the full range of sexual and reproductive health services, HIV awareness and response, and access to safe abortion in

¹The NGOWG is comprised of Amnesty International; Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights; Femmes Africa Solidarité; Global Action to Prevent War; Global Justice Center; Human Rights Watch; The Institute for Inclusive Security; International Action Network on Small Arms; International Alert; International Rescue Committee; Refugees International; International Women's Program of the Open Society Foundations; Social Science Research Council; Women's Refugee Commission; Women's Action for New Directions; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

accordance with international humanitarian law. Equally important are psychosocial, legal, livelihood assistance and other multi-sectoral services, and appropriate services specifically for adolescent girls.

In South Sudan, survivors of sexual violence face many barriers to all these services. One challenge is that survivors do not report abuses early enough due to fear and stigma. They also face systemic barriers such as poor infrastructure, and the lack of health and psychosocial services. It is vitally important that the humanitarian community receive additional technical and financial resources to meet the specific needs of women and girls. In turn, the humanitarian community must ensure that the needs of women and girls are met when services are provided.

Prohibition of Amnesties

Ceasefire agreements and peace agreements must not provide amnesty for sexual violence, as is stipulated in numerous Security Council resolutions. This in turn must not be undermined in subsequent post-conflict mechanisms, including legislative and constitutional provisions. Amnesty provisions make accountability for sexual violence crimes impossible, breach international law, and do nothing to deter perpetrators of sexual violence.

Women's Meaningful Participation in Peace Negotiations

All women must have the opportunity to participate, and to have their views and needs represented, in decision-making processes. This requires outreach to women who have been marginalized, including young women, indigenous women, those who are displaced, and those with disabilities. Many of these groups are at increased risk of being targeted for conflict-related sexual violence.

Although there are six women in the formal negotiations in South Sudan, as a result of heavy advocacy by women's groups and the international community, women are still under-represented in the peace process. Seats at the peace table should not be reserved only for parties to the conflict. This is why my organization has developed a statement to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), with signatories from across South Sudan and Africa, calling for women's networks and organizations to be part of the peace process.

Mission Mandates

The Security Council has long recognized, most recently in its resolution 2122, that UN mission mandates should include strong and comprehensive language on all aspects of the women, peace and security agenda. Following armed attacks in the UNMISS camp in Bor, we have received reports from women living in the camp, who do not feel safe and are requesting more protection and evacuation. Given the UNMISS mandate, and the large number of women seeking refuge in UNMISS compounds and IDP camps, UNMISS must take full measures to guarantee the rights of South Sudanese women and ensure their protection. In this vein, the Security Council should urge UNMISS to ensure vetting, pre or post-deployment training and sensitization of all troops on gender-based violence and protection.

In addition, we recognize that UN bodies and international humanitarian organizations need unhindered access to conflict areas. The denial of access cannot serve as an excuse for perpetrators and governments to avoid their accountability for crimes of sexual violence.

Root Causes

In South Sudan, all we want is peace. The prevention of conflict and its underlying causes must be given priority, rather than waiting until it is too late. The proliferation of arms and light weapons adds to the insecurity of girls and women. We therefore call on the Security Council and all actors to focus on gender-sensitive disarmament and conflict prevention, including early warning. Member States should ratify and fully implement the Arms Trade Treaty, particularly in relation to the prevention of gender-based violence.

Finally, we remind Member States of the importance of creating space and support for independent civil society. Local women's rights groups often have the strategic and political knowledge to end sexual violence, and are usually the first to respond to survivors. All too often, civil society is the only voice to address ongoing sexual violence in forgotten and neglected conflicts.

I leave you with the story of Sarah, who was interviewed by our organization in Bentiu, where her uncle was killed in front of her, her mother was burned, and Sarah herself was raped. She also told us of ten other women who were shot because they refused to be raped.

Members of the international community, we need you to work with us in South Sudan. Do not forget our country, our people, our women.

Thank you for your attention.

**SOUTH SUDAN WOMEN'S POSITION ON THE CURRENT HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND
POLITICAL TURMOIL IN THE COUNTRY – SOUTH SUDAN HUMANITARIAN CONFERENCE
19 – 20 May 2014; Oslo – Norway.**

WE ARE TIRED OF WAR – GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

Since December 15th 2013, the most vulnerable citizens of the Republic of South Sudan have continued to suffer savior impact of the current crisis. Statistics indicate that more than one million South Sudanese citizens have been forced out of the comfort of their homes, over 900,000 are internally displaced and almost 300,000 have fled to neighboring countries: Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya. Yet more millions of South Sudanese citizens are already at risk of severe food insecurity and could face famine in the nearest future.

The threat of famine, communicable diseases and other public health concerns among the displaced population is real; and women, children and the elderly are often most hit by such catastrophe. It is indeed a grime reality that as the fighting between the two parties intensify, the magnitude of human right violations and atrocities committed against civilians population by forces form both sides continues to escalate; as the Cessation of Hostilities agreement between the two parties fails to hold, more innocent live are being lost, more women a raped and many children defiled and robbed of their innocence and childhood.

This conference comes at a time when citizens of South Sudan (women) need the support and meaningful intervention of our international friends. As we expect different actors and states represented in this conference to pledge their support for humanitarian assistance in South Sudan and brainstorm on how to create a conducive environment for better access to humanitarian assistance and protection, as South Sudanese women we call for the following;

1. Respect the signed re-commitment on Humanitarian access in the cessation of hostilities agreement signed on 6 May 2014 and give necessary protection and facilitation to ensure access to Humanitarian Aid.
2. Commitment of the two conflicting parties to the agreement to resolve the crisis signed by the principals on 9 May, 2014 to a substantial peace process.
3. Protection of women and children both within and outside the PoCs; and provision of decent social amenities for IDPs, Refugees and survivors. This can only be realized through

facilitation and support to local efforts and initiatives.

4. Provision of adequate funding for civil society organizations and women organizations in particular for programmes designed to provide psychosocial support for women and children affected by the crisis and survivors of rape and defilement
5. Strengthen local protection mechanism and plan a comprehensive security sector reform, monitoring human rights violations and enhance aid delivery to help restore livelihood and development programs in the states which are relatively calm.
6. Funding should be provided for women organizations to ensure their effective participation in the ongoing peace process
7. Broad based support for healing and reconciliation initiatives, justice, accountability and protection for survivors/witnesses must be given priority in any quest for accountability Support

For more details contact the focal persons: Ms. Rita Martin, Director of EVE Organization for Women Development at infor@evesouthsudan.org or +211955572888 and Ms. Lona James Elia, Executive Director, Voice for Change at lwillal2000@yahoo.co.uk or +211955022367

Appendix X :

Prayer for South Sudan

By Elise Kant, December 2013.

Lord of all,
We come to you
Feeling scared,
Helpless
And angry

We can see our sisters
In the beautiful country
In the newest one
With their head held high
But we hear their cry
For a country bleeding

Lord of all, we are scared
For the future
of this country
We hear and see things we have seen before Things
that we pledged we never wanted to hear or see
again Yet, they do

Lord of all, we feel helpless
How to stop this violence
This hate,
This power play
Things we do not want, we did not chose, Yet, they
do

Lord of all
We are angry
Because of what is happening
To our brothers and sisters
Things that are so far from your plan with us Yet,
they happen

We pray to you

For all who are scared,
For all who lost
Loved ones
For all
Who see their dream of South Sudan
Vanish, perish

We pray to you for all
Who cry
Who are hurting
Who are angry
And who fear tomorrow

We pray to you for all
Who keep the hope alive
Amidst war and destruction
We pray to you for all
Who continue to do what needs to be done

We pray to you for all mothers and fathers Who want
to protect their children And who feel threatened

We pray for peace
For no more violence

We pray to you
That we find strength to raise our voice, To use
our brains and creativity to the fullest To help this
nightmare to stop

We pray
United in you

Amen

