



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN  
MINISTRY OF PEACEBUILDING

**PRESS RELEASE**

***Reflective Dialogue on Peacebuilding in South Sudan ends in Juba, with the official launch and adoption of a Roadmap for the development of an Integrated One South Sudan Peacebuilding Strategic Framework (SSPSF)***

**Juba, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021:** Peacebuilding Stakeholders Across South Sudan met at a one-day Reflective Dialogue on Peacebuilding in South Sudan, held on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at the Palm Africa HOTEL, Juba, South Sudan. The Ministry of Peacebuilding facilitated the dialogue conference with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It was organised to build consensus on modalities for the establishment of a Governance and Oversight Mechanism and to consider the adoption of Guidelines (Terms of References) for the development of an Integrated “One South Sudan Peacebuilding Strategic Framework (SSPSF).

The SSPSF process is expected to drive collective efforts for accelerating the implementation of critical peacebuilding provisions in the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) across all levels of the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGNou)- at the Boma, Payam, County, State and National levels; some of these priorities include: Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of former combatants, Defence and Security Sector Reform (D/SSR), Community Security and Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) control, Transitional Justice, Accountability, Reconciliation and Healing, Constitutional Making process, Electoral reforms, Recovery and Resilience, enhancing Economic and Financial Reforms, protection of the human rights of civilians, including IDPs and Refugees provisions in the 2018 R-ARCSS, as pathways to sustainable peace and development in South Sudan.

His Excellency **Dr. RIEK MACHAR TENY DHRURGON, 1<sup>ST</sup> Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan**, presided over the official opening ceremony of the event, and the launch of the SSPSF development process. Conference participants included **Hon. Angelina TENY**, Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs, **Hon. Lasuba L. WANGO**, Minister of Federal Affairs, **Hon. Ayaa Benjamin WARILLE**, Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, **Hon. Stephen Par KUOL**, Minister for Peacebuilding; **Hon. Sarah Cleto**, Governor of Western Bhar el Ghazal, **Hon. Dr. Choul Rambang**, Chairperson, South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission (SSPRC), **Hon. Gen. Ayuen Alier JONGROOR**, Chairperson, National DDR Commission (NDDRC), **Hon. Dr. Manase LOMOLE WAYA**, Chairperson, National Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (NRRRC), **Hon. Gabriel MALUAL**, Minister for Peacebuilding in Jonglei State, **Hon. Gerald Francis**, Minister of Peacebuilding in Central Equatorial, representatives from the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM), the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC), South Sudan National Youth Union (SSNYU), and **representatives from civil society, Women and Youth in Peacebuilding Networks.**

Distinguished Guests of honour from the international community and development partners included **H.E Nicholas HAYSOM**, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), representative of Ambassador Ishmail WAIS, IGAD Special Envoy to South Sudan; Mr. Arafat JAMAAL, UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator a.i, **Dr. Samuel DOE**, UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Peterson MAGOOLA, **UN WOMEN** Country Representative, South Sudan, and representatives from the World Bank **Country Office, International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the World Food Programme (WFP), UN International Fund For Agricultural Development (UN-IFAD)**, and a cross-section international development partners and members of the diplomatic and consular corps, including special Goodwill Messages by representatives from the **United Kingdom (UK)/British Embassy**.

Delivering the keynote address, **H.E Dr. Riek MACHAR TENY DHURGON**, expressed his profound appreciation to the Ministry of Peacebuilding and its development partners for bringing together national policy and decision-makers and international peacebuilding stakeholders in South Sudan, to interact and discuss ways to increase the level of commitments to the implementation of critical peacebuilding provisions in the R-ACRSS. *“The RTGNoU is made up of Thirty-five (35) line Ministries, and each ministry has a critical role to play in the implementation of the R-ACRSS; each ministry is expected to have a policy in place to ensure its mandate, roles and responsibilities as outlined in the R-ACRSS are achieved. Failure of any one of them to contribute towards the implementation of critical peacebuilding priorities in the R-ACRSS will affect or delay the process of restoring permanent and sustainable peace, security and stability in the country. Therefore, I hope that the SSPSF process will assist and reinforce all ministries, departments, agencies and national commissions in developing and operationalizing their individual policies and programmes to achieve assigned tasks and activities as outlined in the R-ACRSS Implementation Matrix of 2018. I also hope the SSPSF will assist in monitoring, reviewing and measuring what the transitional institutions and mechanisms-Ministries, Department, and Agencies (MDAs) have been doing towards peacebuilding; and finally, it will help to deepen the level of cooperation, collaboration and coordination not only across line MDA, but with international peacebuilding stakeholders in South Sudan as well”*He said.

Speaking of the potentially far-reaching impact of the SSPSF development and implementation process, SRSG **Nicholas HAYSOM**, said *“An event like today is an opportunity for all peacebuilding stakeholders across South Sudan to reflect on the ideals on which the country gained its independence, and for every South Sudanese to commit to adopt policies and programmes that can work to lay a solid foundation for sustainable peace. I believe there would be no ownership of the product of peace or peace itself unless people feel that peace is mine, and I worked for it”*.

In conclusion, he urged all peacebuilding stakeholders across South Sudan to commit to work together in developing the SSPSF. *“In this regard, I am pleased to declare the commitment of UNMISS towards the SSPSF development process. This effort is certainly consistent with the UN Security Council Resolution and mandate, which includes support to enhance national capacities to achieve sustainable peace, constitutional making, managing unity and diversity, and for the conduct of a peaceful, violent free, fair, transparent and accountable democratic election in the near future. Therefore, I offer the Government of South Sudan, and in particular, the Ministry of Peacebuilding, the surety of our support as a partner, and as a partner of the people of South Sudan”* he concluded.

In a similar manner, **delivering her statement of commitment to the SSPSF development process, Hon. Angelina TENY**, Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs said, *“The development of the Strategic Framework and Policy Documents for peacebuilding must include support for integrating DDR and the priority needs of other Security Sector Institutions as pathways to peacebuilding.”***Hon. Lasuba L. WANGO**, Minister of Federal Affairs, also reiterated *“I expect the Strategic framework and Policy development process to capture the element of devolution of resources across the country.”*The Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, **Hon. Ayaa Benjamin WARILLE**,

stressed that “ *the Ministry of Peacebuilding must engage and include women, youth and the venerable groups of our societies in the consultative process of development of the peacebuilding strategic framework and policy documents*”.

Several Goodwill messages were also delivered by representatives from the Office of the **IGAD Special Envoy** to South Sudan, who reiterated IGAD’s commitment to the ongoing peace process in South Sudan. He said, “*as one of the moral guarantors of the ongoing peace process in South Sudan, IGAD certainly welcomes the process of development of a one South Sudan Peacebuilding Strategic Framework (SSPSF) which is expected to complement ongoing efforts to accelerate the implementation, of critical activities in the R-ACRSS; and to enhance the level of collaboration and coordination amongst national and international peacebuilding actors in the country. IGAD will continue to work with the Ministry of Peacebuilding to successfully develop and support the implementation of the SSPSF*”.

Delivering his Goodwill Message on behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in South Sudan, Mr Arafat JAMAAL, UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator a.i, said “*this reflective dialogue today, clearly demonstrates the Government of South Sudan and its people determination to owe a shared vision for peace, inherent to its culture and social system.*” In this regard, he stressed, “*the UNCT is committed to supporting the process of development and implementation of the SSPSF.*” The World Bank representative, **Mr. Daniel Balke**, delivering a goodwill message, said, “*Many societies and countries are increasingly aware that there can be no development without peace, and no peace without development; this statement is clearly emphasised in the World Bank’s Country Engagement Strategy/Note for Fiscal Year 2021 to 2023 for South Sudan, which is aimed at bolstering the Government of South Sudan’s efforts to strengthen its national institutions for peacebuilding. The Bank is therefore committed to the process of development of the SSPSF to help deepen the level of collaboration across government ministries, department and agencies to scale up peacebuilding interventions*”.

**Dr. Samuel DOE**, UNDP Resident Representative South Sudan, contributing to the interactive discussions, thanked the Ministry of Peacebuilding for the evolving partnership and expressed UNDP’s continued commitment to support the ministry in facilitating the development of the SSPSF. He said, “*UNDP’s main investment interests in supporting peacebuilding interventions in fragile and conflict affected-states is anchored on three strands: first, to enhance the culture of peace in societies by providing assistants to states and national governments in setting up institutions, structures, and processes that can elevate peacebuilding for conflict prevention and management within the state governance system; second, UNDP can assist in strengthening the relationships between the Federal/Central Government, states and counties under one “Political Umbrella”; third, UNDP is keen to support transitional justice, accountability and reconciliation processes as pathways to peacebuilding in fragile and conflict-affected states (FCSs),*” he concluded.

Other speakers at the event collectively affirmed that the implementation of the R-ARCSS is taking place against the backdrop of harsh realities. And that it requires enhancing the level of trust and confidence between parties to work together and the need to adopt a coherent and well-coordinated approach amongst national and international peacebuilding stakeholders. They agreed that overcoming the vast, complex and multiple challenges requires a transformative and collaborative approach. In this regard, they hope that an integrated one South Sudan Peacebuilding Strategic Framework (SSPSF) will serve as a tool for taking stock of progress and identifying opportunities to address important challenges that are critical for long-term conflict prevention and management, peace, security, stability and sustainable development in South Sudan.

Following the formal statements by cabinet ministers and heads of national commissions, and the delivery of goodwill messages from representatives of international peacebuilding stakeholders and development partners, and the subsequent interactive dialogue sessions, the participants unanimously

endorsed and adopted the Guidelines/Terms of References for the establishment of a Reference Group and the Inter-Ministerial Technical Advisory Committee for the development of an integrated “One South Sudan Peacebuilding Strategic Framework (SSPSF).

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