



JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 3RD ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY 26TH OCTOBER 2023 - RADISSON BLU JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN

WE, South Sudanese women leaders from all ten (10) states and partners gathered in Radisson Blu Hotel, Juba, South Sudan between Oct 25 - 26, 2023 for the 3rd Annual National Conference on Women, Peace and Security under the theme “Building Inclusive Democracy: Women’s Leadership and Political Participation”;

ACKNOWLEDGING the efforts of Eve Organization in collaboration with the National Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Cordaid, Women’s International Peace Centre, Plan International, Christian Aid, HealthNet TPO, AMA and PAX, in the successful organization of the 3rd Annual National Conference which brought together over 200 delegates from the 10 States of South Sudan;

RECOGNIZING the participation of and Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) officials including Hon. Angelina Teny, the National Minister of Interior, Hon. Aya Benjamin Warille, the National Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, The SPLM Chief Whip Hon. Rebecca Joshua Okwachi, Honorable Members from the Transitional National Legislative Assembly, Hon. Prof. Julia Duany, Chairperson, National Civil Service Commission, Rt. Hon. Wakila Abdu, Speaker WES Legislative Assembly, Ministers of Gender, Child and Social Welfare from the States of South Sudan, State Legislative Assembly, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mijram Choppers, the Queen of the Azande Kingdom, Her Majesty Sentina Bullen Horona, Representatives of CSOs, Youth, PwDs, Women in Uniform, Faith-based groups, Academia, Speaker of Children and Young People’s Parliament Magwi County, and the Media Fraternity;

RECALLING the resolutions of the 2nd Annual National Conference on Women, Peace and Security held from October 30 - 31, 2022 at Pyramid Continental Hotel in Juba, South Sudan and noting the progress made therein;

FURTHER RECALLING lessons learned from the 2010 elections and acknowledging potential challenges that hinder women’s effective political participation, including Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, lack of understanding of electoral laws, low level of women’s political participation, and providing mechanisms to address them such as targeted strategies;

RECOGNIZING the significance of political parties as vehicles for enhancing women's leadership and political participation and acknowledging that political parties are essential for strengthening political decision-making;

URGING the Political Party’s Council that will be reconstituted to provide sufficient information about registered parties to enable women form or join them from an informed perspective,





ACKNOWLEDGING the language barriers in policy documents such as the Political Parties Act and the Elections Act among others and the need for translation of these documents into popular versions and the various languages for better understanding at the grassroots,

SHARING insights into the constitution-making process, along with the associated challenges and opportunities for women and emphasizing the importance of a gender-sensitive constitution making process to ensure equal political representation and rights,

EXPLORING the crucial role of media in promoting women's political participation and sharing strategies for women to effectively utilize the media to amplify their voices,

ACKNOWLEDGING the prevalence of negative social and cultural norms that hinder women's meaningful political participation and further acknowledging the importance of male engagement in supporting women's political participation; and their critical role in changing negative social norms, while encouraging the implementation of measures to protect women from gender-based violence related to their political involvement,

EXPRESSING concerns regarding the safety of women with disabilities, with a focus on creating safe communities and preventing sexual and gender-based violence against women with disabilities in political processes,

ACKNOWLEDGE the existing intergenerational gap in women's leadership and commit to close this gap through mentorship and support initiatives such as involvement of young women in volunteer programs, intergenerational dialogues, school outreach programmes, and documentation and profiling of women role models to inspire young women to participate in politics,

Therefore, submit the following recommendations.

To the RTGoNU

- Expedite the implementation of the transitional security arrangement, specifically the deployment of the unified forces and payment of their monthly salaries to tackle insecurity issues that may affect the people, particularly women and people with disability and to create a safe and secure environment for elections,
- Urgently reconstitute and operationalize the Political Parties Council, the National Constitutional Review Commission and its relevant mechanisms, and the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH) to expedite the implementation of the roadmap towards an inclusive and democratic South Sudan and ensure women are included in all these bodies,
- Adopt a cooperative federalism system of governance which entails the equitable sharing of resources and political power across national, state, and county levels with emphasis on the importance of conducting extensive awareness campaigns and civic education to ensure that citizens understand and embrace the federal system of





government. Such efforts are intended to facilitate increased political participation for all segments of the population, with a specific focus on promoting inclusive engagement of women in the political sphere.

- The Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare should fast-track the finalization and passing of the Women Enterprise Fund Bill, the Anti GBV Bill, the Women's Empowerment Bill which are crucial for prevention and protection of women's rights, including violence from before, during, and after election.
- The Ministry of Interior to facilitate and provide avenues for women at national and grassroots to acquire national IDs ahead of the elections.
- Support women political participation by providing resources to facilitate their participation in political processes.
- The Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare to lead the formation of National council to handle issues related to women political participation.
- The Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare to follow up with UN Women and expedite the launch of the second generation of the UNSCR 1325 South Sudan National Action Plan (SSNAP)
- Resume the Rome Peace Initiative for an inclusive peace process and ensure South Sudanese are all united.
- Expedite the repatriation of South Sudan people who are majorly women and children from the IDPs and Refugee camps to ensure smooth resettlement in their communities.

To the Donors, UN Agencies and INGOs,

- Support and collaborate with women's organizations and provide the necessary funds to support women's participation in the constitution making and electoral processes,
- Establish a specific fund to support women during the general elections to cover civic education, monitoring of elections and establish a situation room to monitor GBV related to elections and mechanisms to swiftly respond to such incidents,
- Especially, support women candidates to campaign at grassroots levels by providing campaign funds as well as capacity building to empower the women candidates,
- UN Women to expedite the costing process of the second generation UNSCR 1325 South Sudan National Action Plan and ensure that it is handed to the Ministry of Gender for further procedures,
- Engage the RTGoNU and the hold out groups to resume the Rome Peace Initiative,





To the CSOs and Women Led Organizations,

- Intensify civic education for women on the importance of joining political participation, register as voters and ensure women vote during the general elections,
- Advocate with the RTGoNU and in particular the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) to facilitate the passing into laws the pending Women Enterprise Fund bill, Anti GBV bill, and the Women's Empowerment Bill,
- Advocate with the Ministry of Interior to ensure that women at national and grassroots aspirants and voters have avenues to process national IDs,
- Conduct Women conferences and dialogues in all the 10 states and the 3 Administrative Areas to reconcile women irrespective of their political backgrounds and create awareness on the upcoming electoral processes toward the end of the transitional period,
- Organize intergenerational dialogues to bridge the gap between senior women leaders and young women aspiring to vie for various decision-making positions and Parliamentary seats,
- Address grassroots-level challenges faced by women during election time and political participation through targeted support and capacity-building by ensuring that women understand electoral laws and frameworks,
- Further call for the sensitization of citizens, particularly women, on the importance of constitution and their active involvement.

The women of South Sudan remain seized on matters related to women's political participation in the country.

