

## **2023 ECOSOC Meeting on the Transition from Relief to Development**

### ***Experience in South Sudan: Promoting resilience and sustainable solutions in a complex and protracted crisis***

#### **PBC Chair's remarks**

**20 June 2023**

Your Excellency Mr. Maurizio Massari, Vice-President of ECOSOC for the Humanitarian Affairs Segment,

Your Excellency Mr. Albert R. Chimbindi, Vice-President for the Operational Activities for Development Segment,

Excellencies,

I welcome the opportunity to participate in this important meeting in my capacity as the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission. Since October 2022, the Commission has supported South Sudan in its' peacebuilding endeavors, focusing on the peacebuilding architecture, viable institutions, local governance, and reconciliation.

Based on the Commission's continuing engagement with South Sudan and the Commission's recent advice to the Security Council, I would like to underline the following points:

**First**, I want to acknowledge the progress made by the South Sudanese authorities towards strengthening steps for peace consolidation since the signing of the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS). However, implementation of certain provisions related to the establishment of the unified armed forces, drafting a permanent constitution and preparation for the elections remains delayed. Therefore, the Commission continues to reiterate the importance of full and timely implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement in line with its recently adopted Roadmap, as well as the participation of all stakeholders in the peace process, as a prerequisite to advancing sustainable peace and development in South Sudan.

**Second**, in the context of complex humanitarian, security, political and development challenges in South Sudan, including food insecurity, forced displacement, and consequences of the adverse impacts of climate change, the Commission continues to underscore the need to invest in capacity and institution-building to ensure the effective delivery of and access to basic social and economic services; the urgent need for economic stability and financing.

At this outset, efficient and inclusive state institutions and governance at all levels are critical components for peacebuilding and to foster the transition from humanitarian relief to long-term sustainable development. Further, national ownership, trust-building, national reconciliation and a whole-of-society approach is a precondition to addressing the root causes of armed conflict and multidimensional crises undermining sustainable development and lasting peace.

**Third**, the vital role of civil society in advancing social cohesion, reconciliation, and building peace at national and community levels in South Sudan must be highlighted. Fostered engagement and partnerships, as well as adequate support to civil society, must be strengthened. Furthermore, the Commission recognizes the value of continued efforts towards the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and inclusion and involvement of youth in peacebuilding activities and in the transition process.

In that regard, the Commission encourages to further promote the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in the political and institutional framework of the peace process, including by fully complying with the 35% quota for women at the national and local levels, as provided under the Revitalized Peace Agreement, and as a measure of promoting the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda. Moreover, the Commission encourages South Sudan to continue promoting women empowerment.

While acknowledging that youth consist of 70 percent of the South Sudanese population, and recognizing the crucial role the South Sudanese youth can play in prevention and resolution of local conflicts, the Commission calls for improving the provision of socio-economic opportunities to address intercommunal violence, and encourages the transitional Government to continue to implement the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda at the national and local levels.

**Fourth**, enhanced partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including regional and subregional organizations, international and regional financial institutions (IFIs), the private sector, civil society organizations, and local peacebuilders, are crucial to advance efforts to bring greater coherence and impact to peacebuilding efforts in South Sudan. Further, I want to underscore the importance of continued regional engagement, while highlighting the role of the African Union (AU) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which have played a key role in supporting the efforts towards the implementation of the 2018 Revitalized Peace Agreement.

**Fifth**, adequate, timely, and sustainable technical, political, and financial support is needed to address the urgent peacebuilding and development needs and priorities of the country. The Commission notes the Peacebuilding Fund's (PBF) critical support to the implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement during the transition period, including by strengthening national democratization, justice, and accountability processes; addressing conflict related to displacement and return; and strengthening local peace and conflict prevention mechanisms. In that regard, the Commission notes the continuing demand for the PBF support in the country. Further, The Commission encourages the World Bank, African Development Bank and other international and regional partners to continue supporting South Sudan with a focus on strengthening institutional capacity as a basis for increased donor trust to catalyze more support for development as well as in the establishment of a Special Reconstruction Fund in line with the Revitalized Peace Agreement.

**Finally**, I want to reiterate the Commission's commitment to supporting South Sudan in its peacebuilding journey. I look forward to the joint ECOSOC-PBC meeting on 29 June, which will focus on ways to operationalize the linkages between peace and development on the ground, with

a view to promoting coherence and impact for peacebuilding, sustaining peace and sustainable development efforts.

Thank you.