



**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations**

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Statement

by

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to the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan

United Nations Security Council

12/15/2020

New York

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At the outset, permit me, on behalf of Niger, South Africa, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (A3+1), to thank Mr. David Shearer, (Special Representative of the Secretary General), Mr. Mark Lowcock (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs) and H.E. Dang Dinh Quy, (Chair of the 2206 Sanctions Committee), for their comprehensive presentations.

Mr. President,

The A3+1 welcomes the recent positive developments in the South Sudan peace process. In particular, we commend the parties to the Revitalized Agreement (R-ARCSS) for their resolve to complete the formation of the Revitalized Transitional Government (R-TGoNU) and to address the issues surrounding the establishment of the Revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly and the Council of States.

These developments are testimony to the strength of dialogue in the quest for lasting peace and sustainable development, as well as the Transitional Government's (R-TGoNU's) commitment to set aside differences and fully implement the Revitalized Agreement (R-ARCSS).

As we have underscored previously, South Sudan is a maturing democracy and is determined to confront the trials of these unpredictable times, especially in light of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. We therefore look forward to the convocation of the national conference in Juba for all communities of the Upper Nile State to address outstanding issues and finalize the appointment of their governor.

We also reiterate the importance of ensuring that the 35% minimum quota for women in institutions of the Transitional Government (R-TGoNU) is observed. Further, we applaud the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangement Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMVM) and the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) in meeting these benchmarks with a 41% and 35% proportion of women respectively.

Mr. President,

The peace process is at a very crucial stage and it will benefit from the inclusion of those parties who remain on the periphery. Accordingly, the A3+1 calls on the non-signatories to the Revitalized

Agreement (R-ARCSS) to capitalize on the current momentum, resolve their differences and join the peace process.

Despite the positive developments, South Sudan continues to be confronted by multifaceted challenges, as reflected in the Secretary General's latest report (S/2020/1180). The A3+1 notes with concern these challenges and shares the following perspectives.

In terms of security, we welcome the maintenance of the ceasefire and the overall decrease in political violence prevailing throughout the country. These developments are essential to guarantee the advancement of the peace process. However, we note deficiencies in the pace of implementing security sector reforms and urge the authorities to advance these initiatives to tackle intercommunal violence in areas such as Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, Unity, and Upper Nile. We also call on the international community to provide support in this regard, especially to facilitate the full operationalization of the unified forces, which are cantoned in various training sites and awaiting graduation and deployment.

On the socio-economic and humanitarian front, we are very concerned about the dire humanitarian situation, which has been further compounded by the pandemic; the adverse effects of climate change which has resulted in devastating floods that have affected more than 1 million people; the deteriorating economic situation, catalyzed by plunging oil prices; and the grave violations of human rights. We stress the importance of respecting international law, including adhering to international humanitarian and human rights law, and the Status of Force Agreement (SOFA).

Equally, protection of civilians, especially the groups made most vulnerable, including women and children, remain paramount. In this context, we applaud the operationalization of the South Sudan's first Gender Based Violence and Juvenile Court. This is a landmark decision and highlights the Transitional Government's (R-TGoNU's) commitment to end impunity for gender-based crimes and hold perpetrators accountable in South Sudan.

Finally, the A3+1 notes with appreciation the responsiveness of humanitarian partners to South Sudan and encourages the international community to continue contributing to South Sudan's Humanitarian Response Plan to achieve the \$1.9 billion target.

We also call for the lifting of unilateral coercive measures in light of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to enable the Transitional Government's (R-TGoNU's) ability in meeting the people's needs.

Distinguished Colleagues,

Our contemporary realities require us to strengthen our assistance to South Sudan. The COVID-19 pandemic is a monumental obstacle and complicates the work ahead. However, South Sudan is showing its commitment to achieving the aspirations of its people. To ensure lasting peace in the country, the Revitalized Agreement (R-ARCSS) must be implemented comprehensively and in a timely manner.

In conclusion, the A3+1 stands in solidarity with the people and government of South Sudan and we reiterate our appreciation and support for the meaningful efforts of UNMISS, IGAD, the African Union, the European Union and the Community Sant' Egidio to bring durable peace and stability to the country.

I thank you!