



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

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**Statement**

by

**H.E. Inga Rhonda King**

Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
to the United Nations

**Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan**

United Nations Security Council

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New York

Thank you, Mr. President,

I have the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of Kenya, Niger, Tunisia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (A3+1).

We also thank SRSG Nicholas Haysom, Ms. Wafaa Saeed, Director of Coordination of OCHA and H.E. Pham Hai Anh, on behalf of the Chair of the 2206 Sanctions Committee, for their detailed presentations, and welcome the presence of the distinguished Representative of South Sudan. We also note that this Council has been receiving periodic written reports from the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) for which we are grateful.

Today's meeting emerges exactly one month following the visit by members of this august Council to South Sudan. We extend our gratitude to all those who made the visit a success, especially the warm hospitality of the people and government of South Sudan, Ambassador Quy and his team, as well as the support of UNMISS and the Secretariat.

Further, we appreciate the opportunity to obtain first-hand experience of the situation on the ground, and to engage directly with relevant stakeholders, including H.E. President Salva Kiir, members of the Reconstituted Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) and the Council of Ministers, UNMISS, diplomatic missions and civil society representatives, including women groups and religious leaders.

Mr. President,

The A3+1 welcomes the ongoing progress in South Sudan, and recognizes existing challenges and opportunities, most of which are reflected in the Secretary General's latest report *S/2021/1015*. We also offer the following perspectives.

First, the advances on the political front during the last three years following the signing of the Revitalized Agreement (R-ARCSS), are promising. In this respect, we urge all relevant stakeholders to continue with the full implementation of the Revitalized Agreement (R-ARCSS) and underscore the importance of the principle of inclusivity in representation in governance institutions, including the minimum 35% quota for women participation, along with youth representation.

We also commend the government for the reconstitution and appointment of members of the state assemblies in various regions, as well as the Council of Ministers for the review and adoption of the Constitution-Making Process Bill 2020/2021. The adoption of this Bill is a first and significant step. We encourage the authorities to make headway in fully operationalizing the TNL-A in order to ensure that the permanent constitution making process can move forward and other critical legislations are enacted.

Second, we are pleased that the permanent ceasefire continues to hold but note worrying incidents of ethnic and inter-communal clashes in some parts of the country and tensions amongst factions of the SPLMA-In Opposition. It remains incumbent that security measures are strengthened and enhanced, specifically advancing with transitional security arrangements, including the unification of the armed forces and graduation of the Necessary Unified Forces (NUF), as well as DDR.

Third, the security challenges cannot be delinked from the prevailing socio-economic and humanitarian difficulties. The dire humanitarian situation has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the adverse effects of climate change, which has resulted in devastating flash floods that contributed to new mass displacements, waterborne diseases and increasing food insecurity. These challenges underscore the deeply enmeshed root causes of South Sudan's crises, and the need for urgent, yet durable responses and solutions. Accordingly, we applaud the continuing efforts of the government in tackling these underlying issues and the support provided by the international community.

The aforementioned also leads us to repeat our call for the full respect of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, and compliance with the Status of Force Agreement. We commend all humanitarian partners, agencies and their workers for their efforts in delivering assistance to those in need and urge the government to ensure their protection so that they can conduct their work in a secure and safe environment.

Similarly, we call for consideration of the lifting of all sanctions and other unilateral coercive measures in light of the COVID-19 pandemic to enable the Government to meet the people's needs.

Mr. President,

South Sudan's transition is at a very important stage and it will benefit tremendously from the inclusion of those who remain on the periphery. The A3+1 therefore looks forward to the non-signatories resolving differences and joining the peace process.

We also reiterate our full support for the meaningful work of IGAD and the Sant' Egidio Community to assist in this regard.

Having recently commemorated its tenth anniversary of independence, South Sudan continues to demonstrate its commitment to achieving the aspirations of its people. Undoubtedly structural problems linger, and challenges lie ahead. As the country transitions to peace, accelerating and scaling-up implementation of the Revitalized Agreement (R-ARCSS) remains key, especially advancing decisively on security and transitional justice arrangements.

In the area of transitional justice, we are satisfied that the Cabinet approved the establishment of the Hybrid Court and believe it is of utmost importance to assist the country with Chapter V, vis-à-vis Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations. Establishment of truth-seeking mechanisms and providing reparations for victims will help to reconcile and unite the South Sudanese people.

The continued engagement and support of the international community, regional organizations and South Sudanese partners, in particular, the United Nations, the AU and IGAD, are also crucial in carrying forward the common objective of helping South Sudan to close important gaps that conspire against its peace, sustainable development and stability.

We particularly take this opportunity to reiterate our support for and commend UNMISS' instrumental role in supporting South Sudan's long-term stability and socio-economic development. To be very clear, the Government holds the primary responsibility for protecting civilians. Nevertheless, we cannot overlook the significant and complementary role that UNMISS has played in the areas of

protection and security. We also remain confident that UNMISS will be able to implement its three-year strategic vision. This can however only be achieved if UNMISS is made to be fit for purpose, including giving concrete support towards the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement (R-ARCSS).

In closing, Mr. President, Kenya, Niger, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirm our commitment to continue accompanying the sisterly nation of South Sudan in its journey towards lasting peace, sustainable development, stability and prosperity.

I thank you!