



**South Sudan Civil Society Forum (SSCSF)
Statement on the High Level Revitalization Forum
31st January 2018**

In just a few days, the warring parties and other South Sudanese stakeholders will meet in Addis Ababa for the second phase of the IGAD mediated High Level Revitalization Forum (HLRF). The fate of the peace process shall be determined by decisions taken by a small group of elites behind closed doors.

Over the course of generations, the people of South Sudan have been subjected to violence. The current senseless conflict is but the latest in a series of senseless wars that have caused untold suffering. This conflict has displaced approximately four million people — one-third of the population — including almost two million internally displaced persons and two million refugees. Women, youth, elderly and children have borne the brunt of the conflict. In addition to widespread sexual violence and unaverted famine, South Sudan has the one of highest proportion of children out of school, child soldiers and refugees in the world. The economy is at the brink of collapse with sky-rocketing inflation.

We have suffered enough. We cannot endure this suffering any longer. Our people desperately need peace. For too long our voices have been silenced and we have not been included in decision-making processes.

Civil society was invited to participate in the first round of the HLRF held in Addis Ababa in December 2017. Our representatives in the process approached their task with full knowledge of what was at stake, and did their best to represent the interests of the people. Their efforts and those of other genuine actors were rewarded with the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities (ACOH) on 21st December 2017. Hours after the agreement came into force, it was violated. Regrettably, violations continue to this day. As we enter the second round of HLRF talks in the first week of February, these violations MUST be exposed. The individuals and entities responsible for the violations must be held accountable.

We, the South Sudanese Civil Society Forum (SSCSF), a partnership of more than 40 civil society organisations and coalitions, representing the diversity of South Sudanese in terms of geography,

ethnicity, gender, age, special needs and refugee status, having met in Kampala from 21st - 24th January 2018 to discuss the role of civil society in the second round of the HLRF, recommend the following:

1. *To our people in South Sudan and all over the world:*

We must take ownership of this political process and ensure that all efforts contribute to sustainable peace. No foreign power will deliver peace to the people of South Sudan; it is up to us.

We have developed principles to ensure that decisions about governance and security arrangements will serve the interests of the people, and we shall pursue those principles on your behalf:

Principle One: Inclusivity: Decision-making processes and institutions should be representative of South Sudan in all its diversity without prejudice to gender and demography.

Principle Two: Integrity and Good Faith: The warring parties must approach the peace process with a spirit of compromise and determination to abide by their commitments.

Principle Three: Nation-Building and National Identity: Transitional arrangements in South Sudan should reinforce a national identity to ensure that our differences will never again be used to divide us. South Sudan must find strength in its diversity.

Principle Four: Rule of Law and Accountability: Transitional arrangements must foster respect for rule of law and fundamental human rights. Parties who fail to abide by their commitments should be held accountable.

Principle Five: Capacity: Governance and security arrangements should meet minimum standards of efficiency and effectiveness. Decisions about the size and structures of governance and security should take into consideration the economic conditions of the country.

Principle Six: Citizen Participation: The process should provide for meaningful citizen participation in decision-making processes at all levels. Decision-makers should consult with concerned populations before making decisions that will affect them.

2. *To the negotiating parties in the HLRF:*

We urge you to continue to demonstrate the commitment you showed in signing the CoHA in the last round of talks. However, peace has never come by signatures alone. We urge you to do more to ensure that your forces strictly abide by the terms of the ACOH and hold any individual within your forces and affiliates who violate ACOH accountable. In this regard, we call on you to:

- Issue clear directives to field commanders to cease all hostilities and refrain from any unauthorized movement of forces.
- Allow CTSAMM to work effectively without interference or restrictions.
- Immediately release political prisoners, prisoners of war, activists, child soldiers, abducted women and children, as per the terms of the agreement.
- Withdraw recent statements declaring that NGOs are not mandated to report violations of the ACOH and publicly reassure civil society organizations that they have the right to monitor the agreement and submit reports to the appropriate authorities.

- Guarantee civil society the space to meaningfully engage citizens in initiatives for sustainable peace and to raise awareness on the HLRF process, including suspending the current practice of requiring civil society organizations to obtain approvals from the National Security Service prior to conducting meetings or events.

3. *To all participants in the next round of HLRF talks:*

As you enter this next phase of talks, keep in the forefront of your minds the dire situation that our citizens face; the mother whose child has been conscripted to fight on the frontlines, the sons and daughters who have watched their mother raped, the soldiers who fought for decades to liberate South Sudan only to die in a senseless war, and the many thousands facing famine with little hope of surviving the next months.

To resolve the crisis, you must open your hearts, seek compromise and prioritize the interests of the people of South Sudan. If we replicate models that have failed in the past, such as the single-minded focus on power sharing, the HLRF will join the long list of failed peace processes in the history South Sudan.

BEWARE #SouthSudanIsWatching!

For more information and media interviews, please contact;

Taban Kiston Santo

E-mail: tabankiston@gmail.com

Tel: +211-955-364-003

Ayak Deng Chol

E-mail: ayakcholalak@gmail.com

Tel: +211-92-7672-217

List of organisations and coalitions.

1. Africa Youth Action Network (Ayan)
2. #Anataban
3. Africa Women's Right Empowerment Institute (Awore Intstitute)
4. Aftaboss online Platform
5. Association Media In South Sudan (Amdiss)
6. Catholic Radio Network (CRN)
7. Community Empowerment For Progress Organisation (CEPO)
8. Church Leaders Initiative For Peace (CliP)
9. Crown The Woman
10. Centre For Inclusive Governance, Peace And Justice (CIGPJ)
11. Forum For Democratic And Accountable Governance (FODAG)
12. Dialogue And Research Initiative (DRI)
13. Eve-Organization For Women Development
14. Human Rights Initiative (HRI)
15. Institute For Economic And Accountancy (IEA)
16. Peace Development And Collaborative Organisation (PDCO)
17. Civil Society Coalition on Security Sector Reform
18. Civil Society Coalition on The Universal Periodic Review.
19. Abiemcien Youth For Development Organization
20. Action For Peace And Development
21. Adult Literacy Initiative
22. Aguok Community Association
23. Aid Support Community Organization
24. Alel-Thok Community Organization Centre
25. Anika Women Association
26. Arise Socio-Cultural Foundation
27. Assistance Mission For Africa
28. Atem Wel Society
29. Aweil Capacity Building And Empowerment Initiative
30. Aweil Development Organization
31. Aweil Window of Opportunity And Development Agency
32. Aweil Youth Association
33. Awiel Jadid Youth Association
34. Bul Youth Development Association
35. Center For Democracy And Development
36. Change Agency Organization
37. Churches And Christian Relationship
38. Civil Society Human Rights Organization
39. Coalition Of State Women And Youth Organization
40. Community Aid Organization
41. Community Care Organization
42. Community Development And Relief Agency
43. Community Empowerment And Development Agency
44. Community Empowerment For Local Leaders Organizations
45. Community Empowerment For Rural Development
46. Community Enlightenment For Development Organization
47. Community Initiative For Rural Development
48. Community Network For Progress Association

49. Community Organization For Peer Educators
50. Community Organizing Program – South Sudan
51. Community Peace Building And Protection Association
52. Community Rehabilitation And Development Foundation
53. Community Relief Organization South Sudan
54. Community Skills Development
55. Consultative Center For Empowering Women
56. Crown The Woman
57. Dark Organization For Relief And Development
58. Denos Youth Agency
59. Disabled Association For Rehabilitation And Development
60. Disaster Management Truth
61. Duk County Youth Association
62. Eastern Equatoria Disable Association
63. Eastern Equatoria State Youth Dialogue Forum
64. Eastern Vision On Rehabilitation And Development Agency
65. Food And Agriculture Development Agency
66. Food Security And Children Activities Development
67. Forum For Peace And Unity
68. Friends For Justice In South Sudan
69. Gift Of Hope For Women Development
70. Gogrial Development Organization
71. Grassroots Women Network
72. Green Light Agency For Development
73. Group Of Noble Character Society
74. Hope Restoration For Sudan
75. Hope Revivers Group
76. Horyok Youth Association
77. Hummingbird Action For Peace And Development
78. Integrated Community Development Agency Service
79. Islamic Women Association
80. Itwak Women Group
81. Jonglei Students Drama Club
82. Justice And Peace
83. Kere-Gbaya Association
84. Kind United For Education And Community's Health Organization
85. Kueng Community Development Agency
86. Lakes State Young Women Entrepreneurs
87. Law Awareness Group
88. Light South Sudan Organization
89. Liwolo Women Development Association
90. Location Of State Women And Youth Organization
91. Lozoh Women Development Organization
92. Lukluk Women Self Support
93. Machar Kunyuk Society
94. Mada Women Development-South Sudan
95. Maridi Service Agency
96. Mother And Child Care Organization

97. Mother And Child Care Organization
98. Mubadiroon Organization For Future Generation
99. National Rehabilitation And Development Corps
100. National Relief And Development Corps
101. National Women Empowerment And Rehabilitation Organization
102. New Initiative For Community Education
103. New Page For Peace Development
104. New Sudan Women Federation
105. Nile Hope Development Forum
106. Nzara Community Development Association
107. Nzara United Youth For Peace And Development
108. Organization For Nonviolence And Development
109. Organizational Development Consultancy Agency South Sudan
110. Orphans Care Organization Agency
111. Paliet Aduangtok Community Empowerment And Development Agency
112. Pearl For Peace And Development Organization
113. Purpose Service Foundation
114. Relief Aid For Disaster Reduction Agency
115. Remebering the One We Lost (ROW)
116. Rural Agriculture Development Organization
117. Rural And Urban Areas Youth Development Agency
118. Rural Community Network Organization
119. Save Community Foundation
120. Self Help Women Development Association
121. Society Of Saint Vincent De Paul
122. Solidarity Women Organization
123. South Sudan Health Environment Developmental Programs
124. South Sudan Law Society
125. South Sudanese Network For Democracy And Elections
126. South Sudan Youth Forum On The High Level Revitalization Forum
127. South Sudan Youth Association For Peace And Development (Ssypado)
128. South Sudan Domestic Election And Monitoring Program (Ssudemop)
129. Soweto Community Based Organisation (Scbo)
130. Support For Peace And Education Development Program (Spedp)
131. South Sudan Young Leaders Forum (Sslyf)
132. South Sudan Action Network On Small Arms (Ssansa)
133. South Sudan Human Rights Society For Advocacy
134. South Sudan Land Alliance
135. St. Mary Association
136. Standard Action Liaison Focus
137. Sudanese Women Action Network
138. Sustainability Of Women Living Positive
139. The Children Foundation Centre
140. United Bahr El Ghazal Development Agency
141. Unity Cultural And Development Centre
142. Unity State Human Right Education
143. Universal Intervention And Development Organization
144. Upper Nile Youth Mobilization For People And Development Agency
145. Upper Nile Youth Development Association (Unyda)

146. Voice For Change
147. Voice Of Women For Peace And Faith
148. Wake Up Women Development Association
149. Warrap Agriculture Development Agency
150. Widows And Orphans' Development Agency
151. Women And Youth Development Agency
152. Women And Youth In Peace Building Association
153. Women Can Do It Organization
154. Women Care Organization
155. Women Development Group
156. Women Empowerment Group
157. Women For Change Association
158. Women For Enhancing Peace And Development
159. Women Initiative For Development
160. Women In Development And Recover Group
161. Women Organization For Training And Promotion
162. Young Men Christian Association
163. Young Women Christian Association
164. Youth Friendly Service Association
165. Teen Confront Organization
166. National Youth Dialogue Platform
167. Institute For Social Policy And Research
168. Advance South Sudan
169. Okay Africa Foundation
170. National Disable Organization
171. Lafon County Peace Makers Network
172. Youth Technology And Development Organization
173. Women Aid Vision
174. South Sudana Development Agency
175. Change Agency Organization
176. Women Association
177. Youth Initiative For Development Organization
178. Kaikai Women Development And Youth Association
179. War Widows & Orphan Association
180. Union Of Persons With Disability
181. Skill For Peace And Development
182. Support Peace Initiative And Development Organization
183. Torit Youth Voice
184. Moonlight Development Organization
185. St. Monica Agency For Peace & Development
186. Generation Initiative Organization
187. Community Live Saving
188. Atek Kilwak
189. Eastern Equatoria Youth Forum
190. Inetrgrated Effort For Community Development
191. South Sudan Youth Initiative For Change
192. Yellow Page Organisation
193. Unist Charitable Organization

194. South Sudan Women Voice For Good Leadership
195. South Sudan Rural Development Initiative
196. Bidaya Community Farmers Organization
197. Rivial Miracle Healing Centre International Church
198. Art And Design For Cultural Restoration
199. Ark For Humanity Organization
200. Lafon Youth Peace Network
201. Prime Africa Organization
202. Impact Relief Development Organization
203. Community Foundation Support For Peace Education And Rehabilitation
204. Itwak Women Group
205. Humanitarian Development Agency (HUDA)
206. Any Step With Blessing
207. Youth Empowerment Service (YES)