



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

**Speech of H.E. Hussein Abdelbagi Akol the Vice President of  
the Republic of South Sudan and Head of the Delegation to  
the 77<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly, September 22, 2022.**

**Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Fellow Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my distinct honour to address the 77<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly today on behalf of H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan. I wish to congratulate the President-elect, His Excellency Mr. Csaba Kőrösi of Hungary, on being chosen to lead the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly. The Government of South Sudan welcomes his Theme of “**Solutions**

**through Solidarity, Sustainability and Science”**. We stand to support sustainable policies and positive social transformations.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

We commend the Secretary General for convening Transforming Education Summit which successfully concluded this week. I am pleased to report that South Sudan is committed to transform its education system through increasing its budget allocation for education to 17.5% of the national budget. This investment in education will enable us to build more schools and improve teachers’ pay and hence set the country on track to achieving SDG4 by 2030.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Revitalized Peace Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan signed on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 between the Government and the opposition groups ended the internal conflict in South Sudan. The parties are committed to the implementation of the Peace Agreement, which

has improved the security in South Sudan. Owing to relative peace, the internally displaced and the refugees have been voluntarily returning home, although more formal reintegration remains a challenge due to limited resources. However, the government is doing whatever is possible to resettle the internally displaced persons and the refugees.

On the same note, I am pleased to inform you that the command structure of the National Unified Forces has been established. This is a major leap towards transformation and regularization of the forces. Since the unification of the command structure in April 2022, there has been de-escalation in clashes between South Sudan Peoples' Defense Forces and the SPLA-IO. In addition, graduation of the First Batch of 53,000 National Unified Forces was successfully graduated on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, 2022.

I am equally pleased to inform you that the parties to the agreement have agreed on a Roadmap to complete the remaining tasks in the peace agreement, which will pave way for a peaceful, free, fair, and credible election at the end of the transitional period in 2025.

## **Fellow delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Through thoughtful and targeted actions, South Sudan has been able to contain the spread of covid-19. The health effects of the pandemic in South Sudan have been surprisingly less pronounced than expected, marked by very low morbidity and fatality rates. As of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022, only 17,513 confirmed COVID-19 cases including 138 deaths have been reported since the start of the pandemic. The current vaccination campaign continues to be effective with the coverage of 45% (entire population over the age of 18).

## **Excellencies,**

Despite this positive health news, the pandemic has had negative effects on the economy, starting with dramatic declines in domestic production and revenue collection, followed by a rising cost of living. These economic consequences are far-reaching, severely weakening, for example, human capital formation, especially in education, as the lockdown deprived school-age children of learning opportunities.

## **Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In April 2016, South Sudan ratified the Paris Agreement that seeks to solidify a global response to the threat of climate change by keeping global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius. South Sudan has strategized to build on nature-based solutions, green infrastructure and foster socioeconomic recovery pathways centered on climate change and natural disasters.

Recently, it became evident to us that climate change is real, the impacts of climate change and global warming have since manifested in various part of South Sudan. Seventy to eighty percent of South Sudan has been affected by floods for the last three years in a row.

## **Excellencies,**

The Government of South Sudan, in its analysis of food insecurity between the periods of February to March 2022, estimated 6.83 million people (55.3% of the population) are facing acute food insecurity. 2.37 million people are on Emergency level. The severe food insecurity is worsened by combinations of shocks

including flooding, prolonged draught, physical insecurity, and the effects of COVID-19.

**Excellencies, distinguished delegates,**

South Sudan is surrounded by countries afflicted by conflict. As part of obligation to promote peace and stability in the region and beyond, South Sudan successfully mediated the armed conflict in Sudan which resulted into the signing of Juba Peace Agreement in 2020 in Juba. South Sudan stands ready to mediate the current conflict between the army and the **Forces of Freedom and Change** (FFC) in Sudan so that Sudan can finally enjoy lasting peace. Recently, South Sudan also offered to mediate tensions between Egypt and Ethiopia over their disagreement for the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). we further demonstrated willingness to mediate the internal conflict in Ethiopia between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Forces (TPLF). The Republic of South furthermore availed itself ready to mediate border issue between the Republic of Sudan and The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

By participating in bringing regional peace and stability, South Sudan has demonstrated its ability as a reliable partner in quest for regional and international peace and security. Further, the republic of South Sudan is contributing one battalion of Peace keeping Forces to be part of the East African Forces to bring peace in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The current war between Russia and Ukraine is very unfortunate and devastating to the lives and livelihood of the citizens of both countries and beyond. The war has led to a severe humanitarian crisis where millions are in dire need. This war has not only affected the two warring parties, but it has far-reaching effects on global economy. From the moral point of view, South Sudan Government is calling on the Russia and Ukraine to cease all forms of hostilities and resolve the dispute through diplomatic and constructive dialogue to avert further consequences.

### **Excellencies,**

The Government of South Sudan appreciates the critical humanitarian and technical support made by member states in this forum and it looks forward to its continuation.

To mitigate effects of flooding on the population and livelihoods, South Sudan is donating ten million dollars to the WFP to alleviate the suffering of the affected displaced communities. However, we need the support of the international community to reach all the floods and draught affected areas and communities. The President of the Republic of South Sudan will call a conference of all the humanitarian organizations in South Sudan to coordinate humanitarian activities. The government of South Sudan is committed to providing security and protection to the relief workers.

Together, we can save our planet by playing our roles and by supporting each other to mitigate effects of climate change and to come up with alternative methods and solutions based on available protocols.

Finally, the implementation process of the Revitalized Peace Agreement is facing numerous challenges and sanctions imposed by international partners on individuals and entities are disservice this course. As we make progress in the implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, we are calling upon the International



community and UN in particular to revise individual and targeted sanctions, arms embargo imposed on South Sudan to enable successful completion of the remaining provisions of the peace agreement outline in the New Roadmap.

Thank you all.