

Double Tree Hilton Oyster Bay Hotel

Dar El Salam (Tanzania)

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**PGA Regional Africa Parliamentary Workshop to promote Universality
and Implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapon Convention
and Implementation of UNSCR 1540.**

South Sudan Report

Let me start by apologizing on behalf of the Speaker of the Republic of South Sudan, Hon. Anthony Lino Makana, and the rest of the accompanying Delegation, who could not make it due to some urgent matters which needed his attention back home. I would also like to thank the Organizers of this Workshop for inviting us and giving South Sudan the opportunity to participate in this workshop.

Introduction:

The Republic of South Sudan is a Landlocked Country in East Central Africa and is about 619,745 sq. km. Despite the vast area, South Sudan is sparsely populated estimated at 12 million with over 60 different major ethnic groups.

South Sudan is an Agricultural country with over 90% of the citizens depending on farming, fishing and herding to meet their food and income needs. South Sudan also contains many natural resources such as petroleum, iron ore, copper, gold, zinc, silver and chromium ore. Many of these resources remain untapped.

South Sudan got its Independence in July 2011 from Sudan and signed to UN on the 14th July 2011. In December 2013 violent conflict broke out which had been

on going creating mass migration into neighbouring countries and insecurity. Fortunately, a Revitalised Peace Agreement has now been signed by the warring parties on the 12th of September 2018

South Sudan is bordered by six countries, Sudan to the North, Ethiopia to the East, Kenya to the South-East, Uganda to the South, the Democratic Republic of Congo to the South West and the Central African Republic to the West.

The Parliament of the Republic of South Sudan is a Bicameral System with the Upper House or Council of States consisting- of 50 members and The Transitional National Legislative Assembly made up of 400 members.

There is a Women Parliamentary Caucus with about 110 female parliamentarians. Membership is for all the Female members of parliament, irrespective of their Political Affiliations.

Status of South Sudan to UNSCR 1540 and Related Treaties

The UNSCR 1540 recognizes the threat posed by the acquisition of WMD by non-State actors. That was why South Sudan submitted its initial reporting in August 2013 acknowledging the need for future implementation of the Resolution. Shortly after that, Conflict erupted and no follow up was done regarding the Resolution. They have not yet requested for assistance to accede to the Resolution.

Despite the conflict, South Sudan has acceded to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions to the use of Certain Conventional Weapons to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects in May 2015. This is one of the principal instruments of International Humanitarian Law and was seen as important especially with the conflict in the country.

In August 2017, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of South Sudan resolved to approve membership to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). This was reported during the Twenty Second Session of the

Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention which took place at the Hague in December 2017. This again, has yet to be followed up.

Other related Treaties and Conventions to which South Sudan has not signed up include The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, Chemical weapons Convention, Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty etc.

Challenges to the Implementation of the UNSCR 1540:

Although South Sudan has not yet acceded to UNSCR 1540, South Sudan may experience challenges which may impede the implementation of the Resolution. The most important challenge is the insecurity at the borders especially South Sudan being a landlocked country. There is a lot of tension at the borders e.g. South Sudan with Kenya, Sudan, Uganda and DRC which needs to be addressed. Last week there was confrontation at the Turkana and Kapoeta border where lives were lost. Cross Border circulation of WMDs, related materials and criminal activities usually takes place at these insecure borders.

Other challenges include the following:

- Lack of awareness of the UNSCR 1540. Although the Resolution has been around since 2004, not many parliamentarians are aware of its existence. There is also a need to know which related treaties should be prioritized.
- Current conflict in South Sudan. This has set many activities and programmes on hold. Thankfully the Peace Agreement has now been finalised, we will be able to move on.
- In South Sudan Youth make up about 70% of the population. These young people are mainly unemployed leading to their frustration and channelling their energy to negative destructive behaviours.
- Lack of involvement of Women in Security issues. Women are not given the chance they deserve when it comes to Security although most of the insecurity affects women.

Recommendations:

South Sudan has the political will to accede and implement UNSCR 1540. There is a need for the Parliament of South Sudan to ensure the accession. After Accession:

- South Sudan should have cross border networking with other countries who have progressed very well in the implementation of the resolution such as Senegal, Togo, Malawi etc. and possibly to have exchange visits
- There is need to strengthen the oversight role of parliamentarians by building their capacity regarding the Resolution so as to advocate and lobby for its budgetary increase and to work together with civil society organizations.
- Enact the relevant laws and ensure their implementation. Parliamentarians are representatives of people and have an oversight role over the Executive.
- Security should be addressed together with social policies. In South Sudan the youth make up to 70% of the population and most of them are unemployed.
- Involving women in all Peace and Security issues. This should be taken up seriously by the Region.

Conclusion:

Although South Sudan has not progressed much in terms of UNSCR 1540 and the related Treaties, it has the political will and will soon be able to catch up with the rest of the Continent.

Thank you

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