

REPORT ON NINTH SESSION OF HIGH-LEVEL BREAKFAST DISCUSSION AND STRATEGIC THINKING ON THE PEACE PROCESS IN SOUTH SUDAN



ENHANCING THE ROLE AND PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN
OF SOUTH SUDAN IN PEACE & GOVERNANCE THROUGH
R-ARCSS IMPLEMENTATION

9TH SESSION REPORT | 24TH JUNE 2019

I - THE FUNCTION AND ATTENDANCE

The Center for Strategic and Policy Studies (CSPS) organized the Ninth HIGH-LEVEL BREAKFAST DISCUSSION AND STRATEGIC THINKING ON PEACE PROCESS IN SOUTH SUDAN at Pyramid Continental Hotel in Juba on Friday, 31st May 2019. The event brought together 35 renowned policy and decision makers, experts, opinion leaders and activists who are linked directly or indirectly to the peace process in South Sudan they included high-level government officials, political parties/movements leaders, civil society leaders, NGOs leaders, academia experts, prominent journalists, women leaders and representatives of diplomatic missions. The participants arrived at the venue at prime morning time and took breakfast in the main Restaurant (07:35h – 08:35h a.m) before converging in the Conference Room prepared for the discussion (08:35h to 11:00h a.m).

II – THE OBJECTIVES OF DISCUSSION

The objective of the session was to deliberate constructively and critically on the topic with anticipation to come up with well-informed recommendations for R-ARCSS implementation and the role that women of South Sudan have to play through participation in peace governance. The following were the expected outputs from Session Nine of the Breakfast Discussion:

- 1). Articulating the obligation by the parties and guarantors of 2018 R-ARCSS regarding the importance of inclusive participation of women in peace governance.
- 2). Drawing for South Sudan from pertinent experiences demonstrated by African women in the region and beyond with robust gender mainstreaming for good governance.
- 3). Augmenting prudent management of challenges and opportunities of the participation of women of South Sudan with unique role in the public sector of South Sudan.
- 4). Enhancing the networking advantages of the empowered women of South Sudan at the local, national, regional and international arenas.
- 5). Assisting in repatriating South Sudanese women refugees and IDPSs in accordance with best practices, including offering them affirmative socio-economic benefits.

Guided by the above-mentioned topic and objectives, the lead expert and moderator steered the deliberations with frank conversation on opportunities as well as challenges presented by 2018 *Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS)*. The cordial discussion came up with practical and well-informed recommendations and way forward for enhancing the role and inclusive participation of women of the Republic of South Sudan in peace governance, including engagement in developmental activities for post-war era.

The Moderator, **Mrs. Lorna Merekaje**—Graduate of University of Nairobi in Biomedical Technologies and a renowned civil/political rights activist in South Sudan—asked the participants to introduce themselves briefly. Then she highlighted the rationale of the topic and what is expected as the outcome of the discussion. After that she introduced the key speaker, Mrs Eugenia Kayitesi from Rwanda—Graduate of Makerere University in social sciences, MBA holder from the Netherlands Maastricht School of Management, Strategic management PhD candidate in Jomo Kenyatta University, Executive Director of the Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR) based in Kigali, President of Policy Institute Committee (PIC), member of Advisory Board of African Portal, Member of Board of Directors of Commercial Bank of Africa (CBA-Rwanda), Member of Rwanda Public Procurement Authority (RPPA), and capacity builder for Gender-balanced Organizational Development and Policy Research in Africa.

Mrs. Eugenia Kayitesi expressed her happiness to be in South Sudan for the first time. She started with a quote that *“In Rwanda, women and gender promotion is not a question of moral smartness, but a right.”* This right has a background in peace-building with its processes, strategies and programs. It prevents relapse into war and encourages post-conflict construction of states or communities where citizens enjoy sustainable peace. Hence, it has to be based on key pillars of reliable security, good governance, fair justice, healing reconciliation and socio-economic development. The role of women in peace governance should be evident in gender-balanced inclusive decision-making processes, including prevention, management and resolution of conflicts and peace-building through organized leadership in the public domains.



According to her, women have so often faced terrible Gender-based Violence (GBV), unwanted pregnancies, STDS/HIV, stress and displacements. This makes their role very critical in peace-building at national, communal and household levels. There is no state management and progress that could be successful without contribution of women, especially in environment of peace. Women in most parts of the world are recognized for their special capability in repairing relations across divides. They could skillfully create very powerful societies and states when enabled to play their roles in the economic empowerment, good governance, reconciliatory activities and supportive healing across ethnicities and religions. Women could easily find sustainable solutions to problems when they get involved as key stakeholders, particularly in peace-building activities with accurate information on human rights abuses. That is why their participation has to be made inclusively constitutional as a national obligations and with respect for international conventions on gender equality. India, Pakistan, Israel, Palestine and Northern Ireland offers comparative good examples on this. However, Mrs. Eugenia identified the following as the barriers that block women from playing their necessary roles sufficiently for peace-building in many African countries:

- 1). Entrenched patriarchal societies where men exercise absolute authority as head of households and families; as leaders of communities and ethnic groups; and as controllers of states and nations. This patriarchal hegemony tends to limit the required economic empowerment of women, particularly when men deny them ownership of productive assets—houses, cash crops, cattle, vehicles and land.
- 2). Negative ethnic or tribal conservatism, which block women from acquiring or enjoying political status in organizations and consortia.
- 3). Lack of political will for implementing the necessary legal, institutions and policy frameworks that safeguard increased participation of women in public affairs.
- 4). High illiteracy rates and limited space of information sharing among women, which hinder their full participation in capacity-enhancement workshops and trainings. Lack of education creates burdens at home and impairs women’s ability to participate effectively in public affairs of the wider society.
- 5). Economic dependency of women on men, which squeezes the horizons for effective participation of women in public affairs beyond home chores.
- 6). Persisting Sexual and Gender-based violence (GBV) against women despite adoption of various measures nationally and internationally to address this.
- 7). Limited technical skills for gender analysis and planning, which are needed for effective women mainstreaming in all development sectors—public, private and civil society.
- 8). Inadequate funding by the government and private sector for facilitating capacity building activities and advancing living standards of women.

Mrs. Eugenia shared the lessons from Rwanda where government has demonstrated strong political will to promote women and girls rights through designed gender friendly strategic plans, policies, institutions and legal framework such as *Anti-GBV law (2008) and Child Protection Law (2011), Policies and Regulatory Frameworks enforced by Committees and Community Police across the country with raised awareness for addressing GBV and Child related abuses; Evening with Parents Policy “Umugoroba w’ababyeyi”; Gender Clubs in Secondary Schools and Higher Learning Institutions; Land law; Ministry of Gender (MIGEPROF); Gender Monitoring Office (GMO); National Women Council; Forum for Women Parliamentarians; Gender Desks in the Army, Police and Other Law Enforcement Institutions with ‘One Stop Centers’; Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe and Strong Civil Society Mechanisms; community mobilization and activism campaigns against GBV; taking care of survivors and victims of violence and all types of human rights violations as a serious matter of security for Rwanda.*



Rwanda’s gender-sensitive National Constitution (2003), article 9(4), has enshrined it unequivocally that “the State of Rwanda commits itself that women are granted at least 30% of position in decision making organs”. This has been incorporated in the Rwanda’s Vision 2050 with necessary gender mainstreaming and major priority is given for gender equality attention in developmental programs

at all levels, starting with families and ethnic communities and encompassing all sectors of society. The Government of Rwanda ratified and has been adhering to a number of international and regional instruments on gender and development—*Beijing Peace Forum Action (PFA)*, *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* and *UN Security Council Resolution 1325*. Given the aftermath of the 1994 catastrophic Genocide and its consequences, particularly on women and Children, Rwanda had viewed the above instruments as part of the solution in the post-genocide era. Since the time that its leadership availed the necessary political will to support women participation in public institutions continuously, Rwanda had been ranked 37th in 2000 regarding women representation in an elected lower house of parliament. Today Rwanda has been ranked as number one in the World following the 2013 legislative elections where women representation reached 64% in the parliament and 50% in Supreme Court with number of female judges is increasing overtime (N.B, 35% women judges have participated in GACACA courts). Also there has been significant increase by 45% for women in decision-making in the executive government positions, including local government at grassroots level with visible role of women in conflict management structures and mediation (known as *Abunzi*).

Rwanda has now become a success story in gender mainstreaming and social cohesion with reinvigorated partnership between various national and international organizations. The Government of Rwanda has committed itself to women empowerment so as to enable them play their roles in various sectors, including peace and security. The 1996 Ant-Genocide law had been designed to address gender-based crimes committed in 1994. Also the 1999 Succession and Inheritance Law had given women and girls equal rights as heirs for entitlement to property and land ownership. This allows couples to choose whether to blend their assets in marriage or to retain them individually. Also the 2001 Gacaca law had provided for special consideration for women victims and survivals of genocide to enjoy properties and own it equally with men. Further, the 2005 land law gave women equal rights to land ownership, including the right to consent to sale of the land.

The Government of Rwanda has been disbursing funds to facilitate women entrepreneurs by enabling them to have easy access to micro-credits. The gendered national annual budgets has enabled Rwanda to re-orient public expenditures and revenues towards the needs and interests of both men and women. Business services and skills training in business management for women and youth has been provided by different institutions such as the Business Development Fund (BDF) and the Business Incubation Centers (BIC) across the country. Rwanda has put in place Women Guarantee Fund in 2006 to facilitate women entrepreneurs and women-owned Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) without collaterals, to obtain credit from commercial banks and microfinance institutions at affordable terms.

The R-ARCSS offers opportunity to promote gender equity with public leadership positions given to women in society in order to increase their participation in governance. It provides for review of statistics of women at top positions in government institutions—presidency, council of ministers, legislative assemblies commissions, states, counties, foreign missions, judiciary, among others—and increasing the representation by at least 35% representation. This has to address historical inequalities and root causes of conflict as far as women are concerned. However, this requires a strong political will from top decision-makers. And since the war has created more trauma and negative effects on the victimized women, their special needs should always be prioritized during the post-conflict period. She recommended the following peace-building measures for South Sudan:

- 1). Domestication of gender mainstreaming with incorporation of international instruments into internal laws and regulations.
- 2). Strengthening strong collaboration between governments and civil society organizations to actively engage in gender equality promotion.
- 3). Encouraging men to support women inclusion for gender equality across sectors of society and at all levels of government.
- 4). Funding adult literacy programs for women in rural areas and in the poor urban margins, including promotion of leadership training programs.
- 5). Supporting income generating projects for rural women as well as for least advantaged women living in urban areas.
- 6). Building the capacity of both men and women to organize their actions jointly for support of gender equality.
- 7). Sensitizing the citizens continuously for active participation of women in leadership roles at all levels—local government, security, defense, media and academia—with changed traditional mindset towards gender roles.
- 8). Strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of and legal instruments of gender equality, including commitment to realization of minimum threshold of 35% affirmative action in all structure of the RTGoNU—national and local levels as well as in private, non-governmental and intergovernmental sectors.
- 9). Appointing new women into leadership and decision-making positions at all levels of government, including governors of states and top leaders of political parties.
- 10). Providing sufficient funds to Ministry of Gender and Child and Social Welfare to address issues of gender inequality across the country.
- 11). Establishing Women Enterprise Funds to assist women, especially in commercial farming and handicrafts.

Conducting Researches on the impact of availability of higher numbers of women in decision making positions in relation to the anticipated change.

Mr. Lorna Merekaje opened the floor for the participants to react on the presentation of Mrs. Eugenia Kayitesi, urging them to link their contribution with the objectives of the discussion as identified in the concept note of the ninth session. She wondered how often South Sudanese speak for the good of younger women and gender networking.

Having the inputs from the participants, Ms. Lorna Merekaje summarized the discussion by urging women and men of South Sudan to read and understand R-ARCSS document keenly without compromising gender inclusivity. They should monitor and evaluate continuously the progress in the implementation of 35% as a right for women and not a charitable project from men. This should be supported by domestication of international legal instruments on gender mainstreaming. Men should be brought on board to work jointly with women on the balancing fulfillment of gender equality. Literacy and skills training should be intensified to uplift professional competence of women of South Sudan at all levels of governance and with active role and participation where right cadres are put in right places. Maternal Health and psychosocial support must be taken as a priority with centers established in different parts of South Sudan to provide the necessary services. Sensitization of communities should remain to be key in protecting women and empowering them, especially through benefits from Enterprise Fund. There should be National Women Forum too established in South Sudan for this purpose. In short, women should be included in top decision-making positions at all levels of governance in South Sudan. This should be seen at the top level of Presidency, Council of Ministers, National Legislature, National Commissions, Judiciary and States Government. The IGAD should organize conferences for women to articulate their rights and interests in R-ARCSS, including sanctions for the parties that renege on the agreed 35% for women.



III– THE PILLARS OF ACTION POINTS AND WAY FORWARD

Session Nine of the *HIGH-LEVEL BREAKFAST DISCUSSION AND STRATEGIC THINKING ON THE PEACE PROCESS IN SOUTH SUDAN* was successful in its timing and level of objective deliberations on the topic. The presentation by keynote speaker, the rejoinders by moderator and contribution by the participants were geared towards harnessing the participation of Women of South Sudan in peace governance through R-ARCSS implementation. This is summarized into these key pillars:

- 1). Availing the necessary political will at the highest level for harnessing collaborative roles of women and men through inclusive participation for the good of their nation and state.
- 2). Mainstreaming the space for gender equality and affirmative action as a right protected by the law in an environment of comprehensive peace, security and health.
- 3). Promoting socio-economic and political development through well-funded educational capacity-building and entrepreneur opportunities for both men and women.
- 4). Committing to good governance as exemplified by fair justice and non-violence for all without fear or favor across the sectors of society and government.
- 5). Synchronizing of gender-based support for youth in urban and rural areas to grow into maturity in a spirit of networking solidarity for leadership succession.
- 6). Basing critical decisions on gender to research, monitoring, information sharing, and evaluation of public institutions in accordance with merited representation.

Based on these pillars and garnering the recommended way forward by the expert and the discussants during the high-level engagement harnessing the role of women to contribute effectively to peace governance, the following analytical action points were identified for dissemination and consolidation of 2018 R-ARCSS implementation for the good of the citizens with gender-balanced justice:

S/N	LEADERSHIP	CITIZENS	STAKEHOLDERS	GUARANTORS	PARTNERS
1.	Avail necessary political will to guarantee active and inclusive role of women of South Sudan as they participate actively in peace-building and governance.	Support the availed political will for inclusive harnessing of women's roles in South Sudan with active participation in peace-building and governance.	Press for real political will to be availed for harnessing women's roles and active participation in peace and governance in South Sudan.	Persuade the leaders to avail political will of harnessing women's roles and active participation in peace and governance in South Sudan.	Support South Sudanese to avail political will that harnesses women's active roles in peace and governance via public institutions.
2.	Adopt favourable decisions for mainstreaming gender equality in public institutions with more space and affirmative action of at least 35% share for women.	Embrace the favourable decisions that mainstream gender equality with affirmative action of at least 35% for women participation in governance.	Partake in the decisions that mainstream gender equality with affirmative action of at least 35% for women participation in governance.	Encourage the decisions that mainstream gender equality with affirmative action of at least 35% for women participation in governance.	Support the decisions that mainstream gender equality with affirmative action of at least 35% for women participation in governance.
3.	Ensure that there is sufficient fund for gender-based capacity building through relevant educational and professional training and management, especially for women and youth across all parts of South Sudan.	Demand and contribute funds that facilitate gender-based capacity building through relevant educational and professional trainings and management, especially for women and youth of South Sudan.	Lobby for fund for facilitating gender-based capacity building, education and training of women and youth of South Sudan to take their equal positions in society and governance.	Assist in fundraising for gender-based capacity building, education and training of women and youth of South Sudan to take their equal positions in society and governance.	Contribute fund for gender-based capacity building, education and training of women and youth of South Sudan to take their equal positions in society and governance in all sectors.
4.	Promote gender-sensitive social, economic and political developmental projects in South Sudan with good entrepreneur opportunities offered for women and youth with special attention to the returning IDPS and refugees.	Support gender-sensitive social, economic and political development in South Sudan with good entrepreneur opportunities offered for women and youth, and with special attention to the returning IDPS and refugees.	Ensure the adoption of gender-sensitive social, economic and political development in South Sudan with relevant entrepreneur opportunities offered to women and youth, IDPS and refugees.	Share best practices on gender-sensitive social, economic and political development for South Sudan with relevant entrepreneur opportunities offered to women and youth, including IDPS and refugees.	Assist in timely realization of gender-sensitive social, economic and political development in South Sudan with relevant entrepreneur opportunities offered to women and youth, including IDPS and refugees.
5.	Inculcate the principles of good governance, fair justice and non-violence across South Sudan with safeguards of gender-balanced participation of women and youth in public institutions.	Uphold the principles of good governance based on justice and non-violence with safeguards of gender-balanced participation in public institutions of South Sudan.	Enhance the principles of governance, justice and non-violence with safeguards of gender equality in public institutions of South Sudan.	Provide good guidance on governance, justice and non-violence as core principles to be safeguarded as a public priority for ensuring gender equality in all sectors of South Sudan.	Help in safeguarding good governance, justice and non-violence as core principles to be prioritized for ensuring gender equality in all sectors of South Sudan.

6.	Synchronize gender-based support for youth in urban and rural areas so that they learn to grow into maturity together in a spirit of networking solidarity that can overcome the challenges of leadership succession in the public sector of South Sudan.	Back-up the synchronized gender-based support for youth in urban and rural South Sudan so that they grow into maturity in a spirit of networking solidarity that can overcoming the challenges of leadership succession.	Contribute to synchronizing gender-based support for youth in urban and rural areas to enable them grow into maturity with a spirit of networking solidarity for overcoming the challenges of leadership succession.	Press for synchronization of gender-based support for youth in urban and rural areas to enable them grow into maturity with a spirit of networking solidarity for overcoming the challenges of leadership succession.	Assist in the synchronization of gender-based support for youth in urban and rural areas to enable them grow into maturity with a spirit of networking solidarity for overcoming the challenges of leadership succession.
7.	Support research, monitoring, information sharing and evaluation of public institutions to ensure that women and youth of South Sudan, especially the competent and innovative ones, are put in the right offices where decisions are made.	Provide data for research, monitoring, information sharing and evaluation of public institutions, especially those where women and youth are employed on merits of competence to lead in decision-making.	Generate data for research, monitoring, information sharing and evaluation of public institutions, especially where women and youth are employed on merits of competence in public decision making.	Encourage South Sudanese to do research, monitoring, information sharing and evaluation of public institutions, especially where women and youth are employed on merits of competence for leadership.	Support South Sudanese to do research, monitoring, information sharing and evaluation of public institutions, especially where women and youth are employed on merits of competence for leadership.

ABOUT THE CENTER

South Sudan Center for Strategic and Policy Studies (CSPS) was established in July 2011 with aims of participating in the development of the country through applied research to enhance the debate on governance, nation and state-building in South Sudan, with the purpose of adding objectivity, critical thinking, nurturing strategic thinking, progressive and well-informed leadership.

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