



National Statement of the Republic of South Sudan

Delivered by

Hon. Deng Deng Hoc Yai,

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at

**70th Session of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commission
for Refugees**

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

7th to 11th October 2019

Check against the delivery!

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

The Republic of South Sudan would like to associate itself with the statement made by Zimbabwe on behalf of the Africa Group. In addition, we take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Mr Boudjemaa Delmi, for his election as the Chair of the ExCom for 2019. We also want to thank and congratulate High Commissioner Filippo Grandi for his leadership, commitment and continued support to all refugees around the world at this extremely difficult time. We want to convey our sincere gratitude and deep appreciation also to all the countries that have stood with refugees, in particular Uganda, Kenya, the Sudan, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo for hosting our citizens.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Our President, H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, is committed to peace. For this reason, he is determined to implement the Peace Agreement fully in close consultation with the IGAD Heads of State and Government. I am delighted to inform you that the Government has made significant progress, including assembling, cantonment and amendment of the laws relevant to organized forces. The plan for screening of the opposition forces who are in cantonment areas as well as incorporation of the Agreement into the Constitution is in progress. We have also been disseminating the Agreement to ensure it is understood by the citizens. The President has promised to form the new Government by 12 November 2019 in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement. Given that lack of sufficient finances is the major obstacle to implementation of the Agreement, we appeal to the international community to contribute finances and technical support for implementation of the Peace Agreement.

The Government is also supporting the National Dialogue Initiative. I am delighted to announce that all the local and regional conferences have been convened and the National Conference, and the last one, is scheduled to take place in Juba from 2nd - 10th December 2019. The Conference is expected to address national issues of concern and broker a national consensus on the way forward.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

South Sudan is implementing the 1951 Convention and Protocol. Our country is hosting over 300,000 refugees. They are enjoying complete freedom of movement; they are provided with ID cards, Convention Travel documents and Asylum certification. In addition, refugees have access to free primary and secondary education in public schools. Moreover, the Government provides birth registration certificates and is also committed to providing safe and secure accommodation for refugees. Furthermore, the Government is encouraging self-reliance through donation of agricultural land to refugees as well as granting refugees the right to seek employment. All these measures demonstrate our solid commitment to the Convention, to providing protection and to delivering services to refugees. As we continue to promote peace in our country, we are aware that many South Sudanese refugees, especially those in our neighboring countries, will return voluntarily. Therefore, we need the support of UNHCR and the international community to implement the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

The government of South Sudan is doing its best to return the country to calm and peace which is already being felt by the citizens. As a result, over 200,000 refugees have returned home spontaneously and are rebuilding their lives as you heard from the High Commissioner for

Refugees in his opening address. In this regard, we want to thank the UNHCR South Sudan Office for their commitment, cooperation and support to our returning citizens and the rest of of refugees in our country.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

In conclusion, we must double our efforts to end statelessness. The Government of the Republic of South Sudan has made a commitment to do its part. Today, South Sudan has submitted its fives pledges to the UNHCR. In brief, we promise to end statelessness in South Sudan by 2024.

Mr Chairman Distinguished Delegates,

Finally, we concur that the plight of refugees will continue to be a challenge unless we address the root causes of the forced migration. Addressing the root causes requires that we work in partnership and raise the level of our collective ambition. Therefore, we call upon the international community to double its efforts to address the root causes, especially to support the African countries to tackle violent extremism; to enhance security; to maintain political stability; to promote the rule of law; to foster economic recovery; to address the issue of youth unemployment and poverty; to tackle climate change; to increase food production and security; and to eradicate diseases. Africa can rise and Africa will rise. Together, we can achieve the Africa we want. Together, we can achieve the SDGs. Together, we can transform our world. So, let's do our best and pray that God will do the rest!

Thank you, Chair.