

We are grateful for the opportunity to address the VNR and RSS for its bold steps and commitment to presenting its first report. Here are our questions:

- What has the government put in place to ensure international support aligns with the government's vision without imposing contrary agendas?
- How can South Sudan enhance capacity building for the government and NGOs to address climate change and peaceful coexistence?
- How can the government and international partners support women and girls in achieving SDGs 3, 5, and 16?

We also would like to provide several recommendations:

Goal 1: The government should develop an updated strategy to combat the economic crisis with World Bank support and organize economic aid packages to improve livelihoods.

Goal 2: The government should collaborate with international partners to create a comprehensive agricultural strategy as 7 million suffer from food insecurity, while farmers struggle with climate shocks and insecurity.

Goal 5: The Government is urged to implement the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa alongside the Revitalized Agreement including enhancing women's leadership, addressing gender-based violence, providing safe spaces for survivors, and ensuring justice by enacting Anti-GBV and Family laws while providing psychosocial support.

Goal 13: South Sudan should accelerate the implementation of its National Adaptation Programme of Action for climate change. This effort is part of its global obligation to mitigate climate change effects, and the government is urged to seek global support to help citizens adapt.

Goal 16: The Revitalized Peace Agreement should be fully implemented. Prioritizing peace consolidation and security improvements is essential to avoid conflict during elections or a return to war. Supporting local peace initiatives, strengthening conflict early warning and response systems, and making governance reforms inclusive for diverse populations and women are crucial.

Thank you.

We are grateful for the opportunity to speak on the VNR for the RSS and commend RSS for its bold steps and commitment in presenting its first report. For now, we have the following questions for the government:

- What has the government put in place to ensure international support aligns with the government's vision without imposing contrary agendas?
- How can South Sudan enhance capacity building for government and NGOs to address climate change and peaceful coexistence?
- How can the government and international partners support women and girls in achieving SDGs 3, 5, and 16?

We also would like to provide several recommendations:

SDG 1: South Sudan faces an economic crisis that impedes citizens' rights. The government is recommended to develop an updated strategy to combat this issue with World Bank support and organize economic aid packages to improve livelihoods.

SDG 2: Approximately 7 million South Sudanese suffer from food insecurity, while farmers struggle with climate shocks and insecurity. The government should collaborate with international partners to create a comprehensive agricultural strategy, build farmers' capacities, and expand food aid distribution.

SDG 5: To promote gender equality, the Government of South Sudan is urged to implement the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) alongside the Revitalized Agreement. This includes enhancing women's leadership participation, addressing gender-based violence, providing safe spaces for survivors, and ensuring access to justice by enacting Anti-GBV and Family laws, while providing psychosocial support services.

SDG 13: South Sudan should accelerate the implementation of its National Adaptation Programme of Action for climate change. This effort is part of its global obligation to mitigate climate change effects, and the government is urged to seek global support to help citizens adapt.

SDG 16: The Revitalized Peace Agreement is not fully implemented. RSS institutions need capacity and governance support. Prioritizing peace consolidation and security improvements is essential to avoid conflict during elections or a return to war. Supporting local peace initiatives, strengthening conflict early warning and response systems, and making governance reforms inclusive of South Sudan's diverse population and 35% women quota is crucial.