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**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 26TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP (31ST OCTOBER – 11TH NOVEMBER, 2016)**

**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF SOUTH SUDAN ON 7 NOVEMBER, 2016**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA DELIVERED**

**BY ALEXANDER BEN-ACQUAAH**

I thank you, Mr. President.

Ghana warmly welcomes the presence and participation of the delegation of South Sudan in the 26th UPR session.

Ghana appreciates South Sudan’s efforts in making a constitutional provision to promote affirmative action that allows women to participate equally with men in public life and the right to equal pay for equal work. Ghana notes that South Sudan has taken proactive initiatives to ensure that children are not recruited into the national army and militia groups operating within the country.

Preliminary United Nations investigations into the recent fighting and its aftermath revealed that violations and abuses of human rights, as well as violations of international humanitarian law, had been committed, possibly amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Such violations included extrajudicial and targeted killings, abductions and enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, massive displacement of civilian populations, the destruction of means of livelihood through the deliberate burning and destruction of homes and crops as well as the looting of livestock.

Ghana urges the government of South Sudan to conduct independent investigations into the abuses and hold perpetrators to account.

We encourage South Sudan to expedite action on the formation of the Transnational Government of National Unity in accordance with the IGAD-brokered peace deal.

Ghana recommends to South Sudan to ratify the following treaties:

1. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); and
2. The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

I thank you, Mr. president.