**STATEMENT READ BY AMBASSADOR NJABULISO GWEBU OF SWAZILAND AT THE TWENTY SIXTH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP SESSION FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN- 7 NOVEMBER 2016**

Vice President, Swaziland warmly welcomes the delegation of South Sudan and thanks them for the submission of their comprehensive report.

My delegation would firstly like to reaffirm its recognition of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005, as well as the Agreement on Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) of 2015, as the blueprints agreed to, for the achievement of national reconciliation, accountability, healing and a lasting climate of peace; for South Sudan.

Chair, my delegation notes with concern that current civil strife continues to affect the security of civilians, impairs their human rights and also impedes government's development efforts and delivery of essential services.

It is often the most vulnerable that are disproportionately affected by war and conflict, and in this regard, my delegation applauds the Government of South Sudan for establishing the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare; with the mission of promoting and protecting human rights of women and children, the elderly and persons with special needs.

The government of South Sudan has enormous challenges towards improving the standard of education and development prospects for its citizens, due to the exceedingly high illiteracy rates among women and girls. We therefore encourage the government to intensify efforts to change entrenched cultural perceptions, increase funding for universal primary and alternative education; especially for girls and women; so as to fulfil the 25 % affirmative action quota for the participation of women in public affairs.

We wish South Sudan a most successful UPR and implementation of outcomes

I thank you .