

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

**Statement of the Government of the Republic**

**of South Sudan**

Delivered by

**Hon. Ruben Madol Arol, Minister of Justice and Constitutional**

**Affairs**

**To the 40th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Geneva, Switzerland 31st January 2022**

**Your Excellency President of the Human Rights Council**

**Your Excellences members of the Troika of the UPR Working Group**

**Your Excellences members of the Human Rights Council**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

On behalf of my Government, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Human Rights Council and the UPR Troika members, for giving me the opportunity to make this statement on the occasion of my country’s second UPR cycle Review. My Government also takes this exercise as a friendly review of a member’s efforts in protecting and promoting the human rights of its citizens and other residents.

Being committed to implementing the previous accepted 203 Recommendations, my Government in 2019, presented to the UPR Branch of the Human Rights Council, an Interim Report, outlining achievements in the implementation of the accepted recommendations. At this second cycle, my Government would like to highlight the progress made in the implementation of the accepted recommendations, which include incorporation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan(R-ARCSS,2018), into the Transitional Constitution,2011; amendment of the National Security Service Act,2014; National Police Service Act,2009; Sudan Peoples’ Liberation Army Act,2009; National Prisons Service Act,2011, among others, the Political Parties Act,2012.

To promote and protect women and child rights, the Government with support from the development partners, developed a National Action Plan; established a Juvenile and Gender-Based Violence Court; mobile courts, and enhanced performances of the Court Martial, throughout the country. These accountability mechanisms have achieved a meaningful improvement in the reduction of the human rights challenges, especially in Juba, Malakal, and Wau. The Government is currently working with the development partners such as UNDP and UNIMISS to extend these mechanisms to the other parts of the country.

On accession to regional and international instruments, the Government has acceded to the International Convention on the Rights of the Child; International Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, among others, the African Charter on the Rights of the Child. My Government would also like to state that other core conventions are under final review and possible ratification.

On implementation of the R-ARCSS,2018, the Government and IGAD are at the final stages of starting a judicial reform. On implementation of Chapter V (transitional justice) and Chapter VI, (Constitutional Making Process), my Government has made meaningful progress by establishing a Technical Committee to conduct national consultation for the establishment of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing which is already at final stages of its work and drafted a Constitutional Making Process Bill,2021, which is currently before the Transitional National Legislative Assembly for enactment.

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**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Based on forgoing, I would like to state that my Government appreciates your guidance through recommendations, however, I would want to appeal to you and directly to the member countries, making the recommendations, to match their words with the necessary technical assistance and capacity building, especially to the rule of law institutions.