

United Nations Peacebuilding Commission

Press Statement on South Sudan

New York, 31 January 2023.

1. On 31st January 2023, the Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Muhith convened a meeting on “Building Peace in Communities through local governance and community reconciliation in South Sudan” with the participation of the Government of South Sudan, as well as senior officials from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the United Nations and civil society. The meeting was convened to brief the Commission on the recent visit of the Chair (Bangladesh) and Vice-Chairs (Egypt and Dominican Republic) to South Sudan from 6 to 9 December 2022 and to present their recommendations for advancing peacebuilding priorities of South Sudan.
2. The Commission commended the visit which took place within a short period of time since the meeting on South Sudan on October 26, 2022 and welcomed the recommendations of the report by the Chair and the Vice-Chairs of the Peacebuilding Commission. While recognizing the progress made by the Government of South Sudan towards strengthening steps for peace consolidation since the signing of the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), the Commission noted the urgency of staying the course on the implementation of the outstanding provisions of the R-ARCSS, in line with the timeline set out in the Agreement on the Roadmap to Peaceful and Democratic end of the Transitional Period of the R-ARCSS adopted in August 2022. The Commission encouraged the Government of South Sudan to promote the participation of all stakeholders in the peace process. In this regard the Commission stressed the importance of ensuring that the voices of South Sudanese youth are heard and the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in political processes.
3. The Commission commended the signing of the recent 2023-2025 Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework between the United Nations and the Government of South Sudan, which places emphasis on peacebuilding and democratic transition as sine qua non for sustainable development in the country. It will help transition from humanitarian to development assistance, which will spearhead the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. The Commission noted the impacts of PBF funded projects in South Sudan and welcomed in this regard, the launch of the first Joint National Steering Committee for the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), involving Ministry of Peacebuilding of South Sudan, UN Country Team, civil society and international partners. It recommended that UNMISS and other United Nations relevant entities, and International Financial Institutions, enhance their support to South Sudan’s humanitarian, peacebuilding, and development priorities to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063. The Commission also encouraged greater engagement of relevant regional organizations including the African Union in supporting South Sudan in meeting its national peacebuilding priorities.
4. The Commission expressed its commitment, within its mandate, to accompany South Sudan in its nationally led peacebuilding efforts and encouraged the Government of South Sudan to remain engaged with the Peacebuilding Commission to further update on the progress achieved on peace and development in South Sudan, and for sharing South Sudan’s lessons with other countries.