

14 January 2016

To: H.E. Salva Kirr Mayardit, The President of the Republic of South Sudan and Commander in Chief of the SPLA

**Call for the appointment of a female Speaker to the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) and the implementation of the 25% women representation in the TGONU**

The Consortium of Organizations for Women of South Sudan was formed in January 2014 in response to the December 2013 conflict. It is a coalition of more than 15 different organizations and women's groups in South Sudan. The consortium was represented in the peace negotiation through its representatives in the CSOs delegation. The Consortium aims to *mobilize, connect and coordinate the efforts of women's organizations, individual women activists and organizations supporting women programs at various levels (local, state and national) within South Sudan and abroad to ensure that women's national issues and priorities are presented and advocated for in a coordinated manner.*

The Consortium congratulates the SPLM party under your leadership for the successful conclusion of the party's Convention on the 9 January 2016.

We further commend the Parties to the Agreement to Resolve the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS) for the consensus reached on the selection of ministerial and deputy ministerial portfolios for the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) on the 07 January 2016. We recognize the progress made so far in the implementation of the signed peace agreement, however; we call for genuine commitment to the priorities of development, stability and sustainable peace in South Sudan.

The women of South Sudan welcome the provisions set forth in the peace agreement that support the participation of women in the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGONU); specifically, the mandated 25% women representation in the TGONU, the inclusion of women in the commission of Truth, Reconciliation and Healing, the Women Enterprise Fund, reparation for victims, and the guarantee of addressing gender-based crimes and sexual violence through the transitional justice mechanism. These provisions if properly implemented will result in healing of grievances of South Sudanese women who have faced extreme violence during the more than 20 months of conflict. Fulfilling the aforementioned provisions will contribute to lasting peace in South Sudan.



### ***Women's Meaningful Participation in Government***

As women of South Sudan, we constructively dare TGONU under your leadership to show legitimate commitment to attain balance in the government:

The consortium urges the President in the spirit of the transitional constitution of the Republic of South Sudan by fulfilling provision in Chapter 1: Provision 11.4 of the ARCSS: stipulates that, "the selection of the Speaker of the TNLA, who hails from Equatoria, shall be conducted once the expansion of the membership is complete."

The Executive branch of government is comprised of all men; therefore, balance will be achieved by appointing a female for the position of the Speaker of the parliament. Equatoria has a number of qualified honorable members who are capable of holding the position of the speaker. If need be, the consortium can provide a list of qualified Honorable for the position

The consortium calls on the President to ensure that the TGONU fulfills the minimum representation of women according to the signed peace agreement point 10.5.2 that states, "the GRSS shall nominate no fewer than four (4) women to the Council of Ministers, and the SPLA/M in Opposition shall nominate no fewer than three (3) women to the Council of Ministers." Provision 10.5.4 stipulates that, "in accordance with the TCRSS provision on the participation of women in the executive, no fewer than two (2) of the Deputy Ministers shall be women." Furthermore, the signed peace agreement calls for appointing qualified women in these positions based on merit and including national diversity and regional representation.

South Sudanese women will continue to lead the call for peace and affirm our rights of participation, inclusion and consultation of decision-making processes at every level of government, including ambassadorial positions on issues that impact our lives as stipulated in UNSCR 1325. By adhering to the 25% minimum for women representation according to the signed peace agreement and provisions made in the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (TCRSS), the TGONU will not only comply with international standards and set precedence for other nations participating in peace processes, it will honor commitments not only in words but also in action and support efforts to restore peace.

**Call for the appointment of a female Speaker of the parliament and implementation of the 25% women representation in the TGONU**

**Signed on behalf of the Consortium:**



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**Members of the Consortium**

EVE Organization For Women Development  
University of Juba – Working Women Association  
Women representatives – Islamic Council of South Sudan  
End Impunity Organization  
Voice for Change  
Magwi Action for self-reliance Association  
South Sudan Democratic Elections Monitoring OP SSUDEMOP  
Women and Child Development Program  
Jaalle Women Association  
Women Union – Central Equatoria State  
Lomuthuk Women Association  
Sudan Christian youth Ministries  
Window for Sudan  
SSUNDE  
Women Leadership Centre  
FAWE – South Sudan  
Young Women Christian Association – South Sudan  
Gender Equity Women Leadership Program

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CC: H.E. Former President of Botswana Mr. Festus. G. Mogae  
Chairperson of Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC)  
- Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A IO), Gen. Taban Deng Gai  
- Lead – SPLM Leaders (Former Detainees)  
- Acting Secretary General of the SPLM Party  
- AU Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security, Ms. Bineta Diop  
- Executive Director UN Women, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuk  
- The members of the Troika – the Governments of Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States  
- UNMISS - SRSF Ellen Margrethe Løj  
- South Sudan Country Representative UN Women – Ms. Izeduwa Derex-Briggs

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