

**Women, Peace, & Security: The Current  
Situation In South Sudan In Advancing  
Women's Meaningful Participation In  
Preventing & Resolving Conflict**

---

**SWIGO South Sudan**

# Why Women, Peace And Security?

---

- Women have voice & power to be agents of change.
- Women's agency, voice & capacities, & a real gender perspective are critical to local dialogues, better policies & more equitable peace deals.
- The WPS Agenda has a powerful transformative potential for:
  - Moving from exclusive to democratic decision-making,
  - From gender inequality to gender justice, and
  - From conflict and violence to sustainable and feminist peace.





# Current Situation in South Sudan in Advancing Women's Meaningful Participation in Preventing & Resolving Conflict

---

- The R-ARCSS signing on 12 September 2018 & the RTGoNU) formation on 22 February 2020 provided new entry points for the incorporation of women's rights into the peace agreement including an increase in the affirmative action principle from 25% to 35%.
- They provided for a Women's Enterprise Fund & for women's representative seats in key transitional institutions.
- The South Sudanese women played a major role during the High-Level Revitalization Forum (HLRF) that led to the signing of the R-ARCSS.



# Current Situation in South Sudan in Advancing Women's Meaningful Participation in Preventing & Resolving Conflict (Contd.)

---

- Women from political entities participated in the R-ARCSS process, in addition to women representing other stakeholders, like women networks (Women Bloc and Women's Coalitions), women from other CSOs organizations, (CSOs Forum, Youth, Academia, Business Community, Faith based organizations, CSOs Alliance, eminent personalities) were highly active in pushing women and civilian protections and rights issues in the agreement





# Current Situation in South Sudan in Advancing Women's Meaningful Participation in Preventing & Resolving Conflict (Contd.)

---

- The participation of women in the formal peace process (Track One) contributed to ensuring that aspects of the four pillars of UNSCR 1325 (Participation, Prevention, Protection and Recovery) – though inadequate – were addressed in the Revitalized agreement.
- Although the Agenda is now recognized nationally, but there are still implementation gaps & challenges, & priorities for action to advance South Sudanese women's meaningful participation & resolving conflict



# Current Situation in South Sudan in Advancing Women's Meaningful Participation in Preventing & Resolving Conflict (Contd.)

---

- The participation of women in the formal peace process
  - Low participation, 15% of negotiators in the peace process, and 25 % of the official delegates and the South Sudan Women Coalition
- Participation of women in informal peace process
  - Women's organizations are very active in peace-building and democratization processes (political participation, economic security, domestic violence, women's rights, etc.)





# Implementation Gaps and Challenges to Advance South Sudanese Women's Meaningful Participation and Resolving Conflict

---

- Patriarchy, inequalities, militarized masculinities & discriminatory power structures inhibit effective conflict prevention, inclusive peace, women's rights and participation.
- Inadequate resources is a barrier to women's effective work, followed by lack of trust and cooperation between government and CSOs,
- A number of CSOs and women restrictions to work on peace related issues including signatories of the Revitalized Peace agreement e.g. in the year 2019



# Implementation Gaps and Challenges to Advance South Sudanese Women's Meaningful Participation and Resolving Conflict (Contd.)

---

- Patriarchal views of men's leadership continue to hinder women's meaningful engagement in political and executive spaces.
- The shrinking of the political and civil space limits women's organizations to effectively engage at the grass roots level as well as pushing women's issues at the national agenda.
- Media coverage of women's participation in the peace process in South Sudan is limited and prominent female politicians are often not featured in key updates on women's engagement.





# Priorities for Action to Advance South Sudanese Women's Meaningful Participation & Resolving Conflict

- To realize a transformative potential of the WPS Agenda, it's time to move from verbal commitments to action: the Government, the United Nations entities, the UN Security Council, CSOs, the private sector and other actors must implement relevant commitments across all thematic areas
- There is need for tangible monitoring tools:
  - In strengthening accountability and promoting a progressive gender-perspective in preventing conflict and creating peace at the local and national levels.
  - To strengthen the effective and meaningful participation of women in peace and security matters and to bridge global and local efforts to implement a holistic and transformative WPS Agenda
  - To hold the government of South Sudan accountable and mobilize key stakeholders to move from commitments to accomplishments



**Have Always In Mind, That.....**

---

Gender Equality & Social Justice Are  
Significant Preconditions For Sustainable

