

ECOSOC Coordination and Management Meeting 21 July 2020

Consideration of report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of integrated, coherent and coordinated support to South Sudan [E/2020/65]

Introductory statement by Dr. Olushayo Oluseun Olu the Country Representative of WHO and Resident Coordinator ai (5 minutes)

Madame President, Distinguished Members, I send you greetings from Juba, South Sudan. On behalf of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alain Noudéhou, I would like to present a few points on the current situation in South Sudan.

- Since the signing of the Revitalized Agreement in 2018, significant steps towards the peace process has been made, with a sustained reduction in conflict-related violence throughout the country, although intercommunal violence has increased recently. The Presidency comprising the President and the five Vice-Presidents were sworn in on 22 February and Cabinet formed on 13 March 2020. Also, the number of states has reduced from 32 to 10 states and 3 administrative areas; and Governors are now appointed for all except Greater Upper Nile state.
- However, some key pre-transitional tasks such as the transitional security arrangements, redeployment of a unified force and reconstitution of the Transitional National Legislature are yet to be accomplished.
- Further, human rights violations and abuses and protection threats persist in the country, though the overall number by armed groups has decreased. There have been cases of conflict-related sexual violence, forced recruitment, supply routes disruptions through ambushes affecting freedom of movement and killing of humanitarian workers.
- Humanitarian needs remain high with 7.5 million in need of assistance in 2020, as a result of cumulative effects of years of prolonged conflict and chronic vulnerabilities. Also, nearly 4 million people remain displaced by the crisis- 1.7 million internally and 2.2 million as refugees; and conditions remain unsustainable for voluntary returns.
- South Sudan experienced several shocks in the past twelve months including flooding; invasion of desert locusts; and now the COVID-19 pandemic. This has dented the previously optimistic economic outlook with rising food prices and loss in oil revenue.
- Though the economic situation remains challenging, the economic recovery which began in 2018, continued throughout 2019. Nevertheless, in 2020, the collapse in oil prices and the several shocks resulted in a widening budget deficit that is undermining Government's capacity to deliver peace dividends and may put the R-ARCSS at risk.
- We have strengthened our dialogue with national partners to ensure national ownership of the recovery process at both the national and local levels. On 2 July, the United Nations and the Government held a consultative meeting to review the 2019 results, agree on the 2020 UNCF and Government priorities. Today, Government held a high-level partners' meeting with development partners.
- Further, our shared commitments under the Partnership for Recovery and Resilience gained considerable traction in 2019 through delivery of \$213 million worth of assistance, a 23% increase over 2018. We want to acknowledge the active participation of World Bank and AFDB in the UNCT, providing significant funding on a partnership basis through innovative modalities.
- In conclusion, the UN remains an important partner to South Sudan, and the Government has expressed its appreciation of the significant contribution by the UNCT. The UNCT will continue these efforts in 2020.

I thank you for listening.