
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

SUBSTANTIVE SESSION, GENEVA 2011

SPEAKING POINTS FOR 19 JULY MORNING SESSION, 11 A.M. O 2 P.M. JUBA TIME: THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN SUPPORTING THE CAPACITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH SUDAN TO MANAGE THE TRANSITION FROM RELIEF TO DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING THE STATE.

[Check against delivery]

General Gier Chuang Aluong, Minister of Interior, Government of South Sudan

1. South Sudan has achieved many successes during the CPA period. However, much needs to be accomplished to move from relief to development so that every citizen in South Sudan can live in peace and harmony after decades of war.
2. Building the new state of South Sudan is a priority for the Government of South Sudan and its people. Foremost among priorities for state building is strengthening the rule of law in South Sudan. As the Minister of Interior, this is a role that I have enthusiastically taken upon myself with the assistance and participation of the United Nations and our international partners.
3. The criminal justice system in South Sudan has made a good start including development of several laws, legal awareness and legal aid for the people, common law oriented judiciary, and enforcement and protection of the people by a professional police. However, these institutions are in their infancy and need to be nurtured to become robust rule of law institutions that can withstand internal and external challenges.
4. Moving a traumatized people and militarized forces to a confident citizenry and a professional police service is a daunting task. This will take many years. We have started our work by training up to 20,000 police personnel within the past 5 years. We have also constructed over 50 police stations and prisons. This is a continuing process.
5. South Sudan's police forces are undergoing the transformation to an organized police service and require support in this period of transition. Many of the police officers are from a military background and need training in police work to be able to serve the public and gain the confidence of the people.
6. Further, the reintegration and capacity development of former combatants is essential in managing the transition to post-conflict, and international assistance in this regard is critical. Reconciliation between many fractured communities affected by generations of conflict is only just beginning; and service delivery across all sectors requires dramatic improvement.
7. One of the main priorities of the current government is also to ensure that efficient, accountable and transparent systems are still established and strengthened at the state and local level. In this regard, I am paying great attention to strengthen policing capacities at the state and local level so that local communities feel protected.
8. To entrench training capacities within South Sudan, we have also started two main training centers for the South Sudan Police Service: one in Rajaf for new recruits, and another one in Kapuri for Officers. I look forward to strengthening these training centers with the assistance of United Nations and international partners.
9. With these brief opening remarks, I look forward to a robust discussion on this important subject.