



KENYA

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PANEL DISCUSSION ON:

“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 sustained development”

ON THE OCCASION OF THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
SUBSTANTIVE SESSION 2011

TUESDAY, 19TH JULY, 2011

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

Co-Chairs,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. It is a great privilege for me to join you in this panel discussion on “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 sustainable development.” This discussion is timely.
2. The independence of South Sudan presents new challenges and opportunities. I believe the challenge of lifting the country from relief to achieving sustainable development will require the active support of the international community and the United Nations system particularly the specialized agencies such as the FAO, WHO, UNDP, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Habitat and UNEP, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, among others. United Nations partnerships with other international and national actors including regional organizations (AU and IGAD), donors and financial institutions are also critical to the transition process.

Considering that many development initiatives will begin from scratch, the key task will be developing the human resource base of the country. What will be required is needs assessment, strategic planning, resource mobilization and implementation in support of national plans.

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3. The education system will have to be virtually built up and will require considerable investment. Another challenge will be building the health system to deal with the situation where thousands of Southerners lose their lives due to preventable diseases every year. The physical infrastructure especially roads will have to be constructed to cover the vast country. Taking into account the fact that eight in ten Southern Sudanese depend on subsistence farming, equipping them with skills for farming will be crucial. This would be an important way to enhance their ability to not only feed themselves but also boost earnings from agriculture.
4. Thankfully, despite the enormous challenges, South Sudan has abundant natural resources including vast mineral deposits and great potential for growth in the agricultural sector.. In my

view, this is the country's source of strength, which must be fully exploited.

5. I am confident the Government of South Sudan is aware of the onerous task still facing the country. The transformation process cannot be completed in the short term. Consequently, further construction will demand great effort. I hope the same courage and strength of purpose with which the Government of South Sudan undertook the reconciliation process leading to independence will help it accomplish all the work that still has to be done.

6. You will recall the remarks of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon at the independence ceremony of South Sudan on 9th July when he stated, *"Alone, South Sudan cannot meet the challenges it faces nor realize its potential. Doing so will require partnership, a full and on-going engagement with the international community and, most especially, its own neighbours."*

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7.1 estimate, that the amount of resources and investment required to establish the structural elements and the institutional framework necessary for the functioning of an effective nation state would be in excess of US\$20 billion.

8. I believe the international community and the United Nations has an important role in supporting the capacity to further the transformation of South Sudan. It is best placed to rally support in terms of resources, capacity building and other technical assistance. Nevertheless, we should not lose sight of the fact that the international community and the United Nations are not new in Southern Sudan. Their humanitarian work is longstanding. However, in view of the transition situation, it is necessary to review the context within which certain work has been carried out in the past in light of the change in focus to sustainable development.

9. As you are all aware, South Sudan is emerging from a situation that has been characterized, for much of her history by conflict, and finally reconciliation. Therefore, efforts aimed at assisting the Government of South Sudan to manage the transition must take into account the political complexities including development activities, building state institutions and sustaining peace.

10. It is important that our efforts focus on the needs of the Government of South Sudan as our goal in the transition process. In short, the international community and the United Nations must be partners in the reconstruction and development of South Sudan. Ultimately, the Government will identify the critical areas of support required. I am convinced right now is the time to launch capacity initiatives that can help enhance efforts on the ground. We should maintain the momentum. So many have placed their hopes on South Sudan. I hope this will serve as an extra stimulus for all of us to continue to play a role in the transition of South Sudan.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. There are several programmes that have been initiated in a number of sectors, which require strengthening. For instance, UNDP in concert with Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is providing support to the South Sudan civil service by availing 200 civil servants from the Inter-Governmental Authority and Development (IGAD) Member States to be deployed across national ministries, commissions and state level authorities. I believe this will greatly enhance direct transfer of skills.

12. In my capacity as Minister for Public Service in Kenya, I am overseeing a number of programmes aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Government of South Sudan in the public sector. This relationship was established under the framework of a Technical, Economic and Cultural Cooperation Agreement in 2006. This is a testimony of Kenya's commitment to supporting the capacity of the Government of South Sudan, wherever possible in the process of transition.

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13. Finally, it is my conviction that if the international community and the UN coordinate their efforts in supporting the capacity of the Government of South Sudan to manage the transition we will be able to attain our collective objective. I must stress that although there is global austerity, this should not detract us from our commitment to expeditiously assist the people of the South Sudan. They expect this from us.

Thank you.