



27th Human Rights Council- 24 September 2014
Panel discussion on the human rights situation in South Sudan

Mr. President,

Femmes Africa Solidarité and the World YWCA submit this joint statement expressing concern about the grave human rights violations and acts of violence perpetrated against women, in particular massive killings, rape and other forms of sexual and gender based violence.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms the ongoing fighting between the two parties and the large scale, widespread and systematic violations and abuses of human rights.

Since 15 December 2013, over million people in South Sudan have left their homes, as many as 400,000 people have fled to neighboring countries, of which over 50% are women, and violence against women and girls had already been assessed to be happening in critical epidemic amounts. In addition, lack of access to schools, hospitals, and extreme poverty further marginalizes South Sudanese women.

We commend the African Union, IGAD and the United Nations, for brokering an inclusive and multi-stakeholder peace process and their commitment to restore peace and security in South Sudan. Yet as we speak today, the fighting in South Sudan still continues despite the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement on 25th August, 2014.

Mr. President,

The women and young women of South Sudan urge all parties to respect the ceasefire agreement and stop all hostilities and commit to participation in the peace process to ensure the conflict resolution.

We stress on the need to end impunity and lack of accountability for Sexual and gender-based violence by punishing perpetrators and to engage both men and women in prevention and dialogue.

We call for South Sudanese women, including young women, to be granted official status as critical stakeholders in their own right to participate in the ongoing peace talks, and the Integration of the recommendations made by Women's Agenda for Peace and Sustainable Development into the Peace negotiations and agreement.

We further call for both parties to the conflict to adhere to the Kampala Convention and international human rights and humanitarian law.

Finally, we urge for the government of South Sudan to fully collaborate with UN human rights mechanisms and bodies and make full use of the Council's tools in order to complement the efforts of the African Union Commission of Inquiry.

Thank you