

**Statement of Hon. Joseph Africano Bartel, Undersecretary
of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of
the Republic of South Sudan at the 14th IDDRSI Platform
Steering Committee and 8th General Assembly Meetings
held on 20-22 July 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Hon. Ministers
Executive Secretary
Head of Delegations
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and gentlemen

Good Morning

I bring you greetings from Hon. Josephine Napwon Cosmos, Minister of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of South Sudan who is unable to attend this important meeting because of pressing issues in the country, however, she expects that the objectives of this 8th IDDRSI Platform General Assembly will come out with recommendations that will enhance and consolidate the path to resilience and sustainability for the region to adapt to the climate shocks.

South Sudan has just marked its 11th Independence anniversary. The decades of the liberation struggle coupled with humanitarian and economic crisis, Climate Change impacts and of late COVID 19 have negatively impacted the livelihoods of our people.

Hon. Ministers

The Government of South Sudan would like to highlight the following;

1. 6 out of 10 states of South Sudan were flooded since 2019 to date. The devastating floods have displaced and disrupted the livelihoods of over 800,000. These floods are attributed to Climate Change. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, these impacts are projected to worsen since the world temperature has risen by 1.2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. We will be experiencing recurrent floods, droughts, heat waves, excessive temperatures and the invasion of exotic species and appearance of new diseases. Therefore, South Sudan has no option but to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of Climate Change.
2. On the floods, the ministry is closely working with the Netherlands' Embassy that is funding the construction of dykes in Jonglei State.
3. The floods have not only affected the livelihoods of our people but have also affected the oil fields thus contaminating water bodies and polluting the soils and grazing lands. Many oil fields have been affected therefore, a comprehensive Environmental Audit of all the Oil fields in the country will be conducted. In this regard, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Petroleum, have selected three environmental firms through a

competitive bidding process to carry out this exercise and soon these firms will be awarded contracts to conduct the audit.

4. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry has developed the National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPA), First National Adaptation Plan (1st NAP) and Second Nationally Determined Contributions (2nd NDC). The NDC implementation will require USD 100 billion. The government will be able to raise USD 20 billion by 2030 and the remaining USD 80 billion is to be provided by the international community. In addition, the Ministry is currently implementing two projects under the NAPA;

- Strengthening the capacity of government and communities in South Sudan to adapt to climate change
- Watershed Approaches for Climate Resilience in Agro-Pastoral Landscapes Project

5. The Ministry is also in the process of installing an early warning system to forecast and predict extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and heat waves. This system will alert our citizens such that they take precautions and prepare for any eventuality. Since these floods are going to be frequent, the only remedy for our people in the affected areas is to relocate from the floodplains to higher grounds and areas. The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, in collaboration with the international community, are to provide the necessary assistance to

the affected population such that they settle and rebuild their livelihoods.

6. South Sudan commends the declaration on deforestation and land use. The government has planned in their 2nd NDC to plant 100 million trees in 10 years. In our efforts to curb deforestation, South Sudan intends to generate 3000 megawatts of power from hydro, solar, wind, geothermal and natural gas.

7. In the area of agriculture and food production, South Sudan plans to engage the agriculture sector in introducing smart agriculture technology as identified in Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan (CAMP).

8. In the area of livestock, the Ministry of Livestock and fisheries has developed a National Rangelands Management Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2031) focusing on herd improvement, health and safe pastoralism, support services including; research and extension, feed and rangeland and value addition , gender, climate change and land tenure.

9. The Ministry of Health with support from WHO, UNICEF, Health Pool Fund (HPF), and other partners, has launched a National COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign in ten states including 3 Administrative Areas. The vaccinations are also reaching 26 IDP sites and 22 refugee sites. As of 25 May 2022, 764,980

eligible people are fully vaccinated representing 5.6% of the population, the least % in the Region

To mitigate and adapt to climate shocks, South Sudan,

- a. Call upon the international community and the development partners to work with the government and people of South Sudan to restore peace in the country.
- b. Call for investment, strong partnership and collaboration among the member states, donors and private sector in order to enhance resilience and sustainable development.
- c. Call for financial support, capacity building and technology transfer for it to embark on green development trajectory.

Finally, as the world is struggling to recover from COVID-19 amidst continuing crises, realistic recovery policies can reverse the negative impacts of the pandemic on the livelihoods and move countries to a path of resilience and sustainability.

I thank you.