



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**
**The 114th Session of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Council, Monday, 27th – Wednesday, 29th November 2023**

Statement of the Republic of South Sudan
General Debate (agenda item 10)
Delivered by Ambassador/ Alier Deng
Wednesday, 29th November 2023

Madam Chairperson

South Sudan align itself with the African Group statements delivered by Zimbabwe and Rwanda respectively.

South Sudan congratulates Ms. Amy E. Pope for her election as Director General of IOM, making history to be the first woman D.G. of IOM.

While we assure her of our unwavering support and cooperation, we wish her and her able team every success in fulfilling her new vision and in delivering on the mandate of the IOM.

We furthermore extend our congratulations to the new Chair for her election, and the outgoing Chair, for his able leadership.

My delegation underscores and highly commends various crises responses IOM has been implementing in South Sudan, as it ranks the second most vulnerable country globally impacted by conflict and climate change.

Although the war in South Sudan formally ended with a peace agreement in 2018, climate shocks, in form of unusually intense rains, floods, droughts have continued to contribute in significant forced mobility of people.

More than 7.8 million people in South Sudan are projected to fall short of their minimum food needs by this year (2023). This is a substantial increase from the 6.3 million people who faced food insecurity in 2022.

The floods and droughts highlight a constant threat to a country lacking the infrastructure to respond, adapt and mitigate. Over 2 million people have been internally displaced due to flooding and drought alone.

The ongoing war in Sudan has already impacted the situation in South Sudan, as I alluded to during the panel yesterday. Those who have crossed to South Sudan, coming to an already fragile situation, need urgent support, in terms of food, medicine, water, shelter, which the Government of South Sudan cannot afford to provide alone.

Climate factors, have further significant implications for peace and security in South Sudan, increasing competition between pastoralists and famers, forcing many populations to migrate to high lands, resulting in the risk of cattle raiding, causing communal conflict, displacement, and formation of armed groups between new comers and the indigenous of the high lands.

Madam Chairperson,

South Sudan needs technical assistance and capacity building, lifting of imposed sanctions, which have further hindered the capacity and ability of our government, to enable it response as a host, origin, and transit country for migrants, refugees, IDPs, returnees as well as to take scientific based decisions on climate shocks and emergencies.

We appeal to the IOM and international partners to continue making funds available for the countries facing climate shocks, hosting refugees, migrants, IDPs, and returnees, including South Sudan, and support Member States, particularly sending States, to put in place mechanisms that address factors forcing people to migrate.

South Sudan encourages IOM to explore new avenues to fill the current financial gaps. We believe that humanitarian assistance should not be seen in isolation of development, as the two are interrelated. One of the main factors for migration is underdevelopment.

We further appeal that humanitarian assistance should not be subjected to any conditionalities, earmarked or politicized, and the already existing crises should not be forgotten. Previous commitments should be honoured and fulfilled.

In conclusion, South Sudan thanks and appreciates IOM and international partners for the support they have rendered and continue to render to migrants, and to all affected populations in South Sudan, and across the globe.

I thank You Madame Chairperson