



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

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Statement of South Sudan

Delivered by Mr. Alier Deng Ruai Deng

Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to congratulate you for your election as chairperson of this session, wishing you all the best. My gratitude and appreciation to the outgoing Chair, Ambassador Katharina STASCH of Germany, for the excellent work accomplished. South Sudan aligns itself with the African Group Statement.

We commend the IOM Director General, Ms. Amy E. Pope, Deputies, and the whole IOM team for the excellent work done by the IOM in fulfilling its humanitarian mandate worldwide, including in my country South Sudan, by protecting and rendering lifesaving emergency relief, health care, clean water, nutrition, education, inter alia, to populations forced to migrate and displaced due to economic pressures, climate extremes, conflicts and other factors.

South Sudan has been a transit and destination for migrants. It has been also a source, as a significant number of its citizens had sought refuge in the neighbouring countries and some had migrated mainly to Europe, USA, Canada and Australia, due to the mentioned factors.

As I speak, South Sudan is currently facing unprecedented floods in its recent history. Since May 2024, estimations put the number of people displaced by floods around 1.4 million across the country, with livelihoods including farmlands and livestock wiped out.

UN agencies (WFP-FAO-UNICEF) had issued a warning a few days ago on the alarming humanitarian crisis that will be unfolding in South Sudan in the coming year (2025). They further estimated that more than seven million people will face some of the highest levels of hunger, including 2.1 million children. This catastrophe has been exacerbated by the ongoing conflict in Sudan.

Prolonged seasoned floods, excessive heatwaves, and droughts have since killed livestock, led to crops failure, exacerbated the humanitarian situation, increased the percentage of South Suda’s population living in poverty, and therefore displaced many and forced others to migrate.

We greatly underscore the current constructive cooperation and partnership between the IOM and the Government of South Sudan. Through this constructive cooperation and partnership, the IOM had just launched “Fragility Index”, aimed at capturing and analyzing the socio-economic and political landscape in South Sudan, as well as to examine various dimensions of vulnerability, including economic, security, environmental and societal fragility within the country. This development will ensure that interventions are evidence-based and aligned with the specific needs of communities across the country, promoting sustainable recovery and resilience.

South Sudan calls upon the international actors, and donors in particular, not to overlook the impact of climate change, while grappling with other crises, facing the world today.

They must prioritize providing the needed funds and resources to the IOM, without any prior conditionalities, influence or interference, to enable it to continue implementing its humanitarian mandate.

South Sudan would highly appreciate any technical assistance and capacity building granted to it by the IOM, to enable it to adapt, mitigate and manage floods, and other natural disasters, as well as on how best it could benefit from its diaspora.

We reiterate our unwavering support to the notion that migration of people should not be seen under any circumstances as a negative phenomenon but rather a positive one, and if it is better managed it could be an asset and investment that will benefit the country of origin, the receiving or resettlement country, and the entire world.

Let us all regulate safe pathways for migrants, embrace zero tolerance for migrants, to making migration work for all.

In conclusion, South Sudan is committed to continue working in partnership and constructive cooperation with the IOM, and its able team present in the country, who have been risking their lives on the ground to render the needed humanitarian assistance to our affected population.

Thank you