

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10th March 2023

We congratulate the Government of South Sudan for the Ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)

We, the Coalition of Civil Society on the Ratification of Maputo Protocol in South Sudan (CCORPs) have since the 24th February 2023 are ecstatic about the signing of the Maputo Protocol by His Excellency the President of the Republic of South Sudan after the Protocol was passed by Parliament on 16th October 2017. This is a remarkable achievement that cannot go unnoticed.

Our sincere gratitude goes to the President of the Republic of South Sudan, His Excellency, Salva Kiir Mayardit for publicly expressing his commitment to the protection and fulfillment of the rights of women and girls in South Sudan by appending his signature to the instruments of ratification of the Maputo Protocol. We cannot hide our tears of celebration to Her Excellency Mama Rebecca Nyadeng De Mabior, the Vice President for Gender and Youth Cluster for her continued leadership in championing and supporting efforts towards protecting women and girls in the country. Further, we recognize Her Excellency's stewardship in convening the first ever International Women's Conference where the Maputo Protocol was at a top agenda for women, peace and security deliberations.

We also thank the Right Hon. Speaker of Parliament, Mama Nunu Kumba for her critical role in ensuring that the copy of the Maputo Protocol was handed over to the President for his signature. We cannot forget the Parliamentarians who were a critical part of this journey, for passing a motion for the ratification of the Protocol 8 years ago and their continued support in championing for this progressive treaty. When the Protocol was tabled in Parliament, the instrument was passed without delay. We appreciate you.

The Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Hon. Aya Benjamin Warille and the entire team made sure that in every forum national, regional and international, the need to ratify Maputo Protocol was at the top of their agenda. We are forever grateful for your continuous leadership and commitment to work with women and for women. We also wish to thank the following Ministers and their respective Under Secretaries who ensured they accompanied us throughout this journey, namely

- Awut Deng Achuil - Minister of General Education and Instruction.
- Beatrice Khamis Wani - Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.
- Angelina Teny - Minister of Defense and Veterans' Affairs (as she then was).
- Nadia Arop Dudi - Minister of Culture, Museums and National Heritage.
- James Hoth Mai - Minister of Labour.

Our gratitude also goes to the donors who pulled together the much-needed resources to facilitate the campaigns towards the ratification of the Maputo Protocol in South Sudan. We are forever grateful to Equality Now who kick-started our first steps on this journey; and to DCA, Amplify

Change and Cordaid, who joined us along the way and Equality Now finished this race with victory.

Finally, all the civil society organizations who tirelessly joined the bandwagon, and aptly formed the Coalition of Civil Society on the Ratification of Maputo Protocol in South Sudan (CCORPs), we will continue to celebrate your efforts in achieving this historic milestone. Your tireless efforts have put our country on the map of Africa and on a roadmap towards protecting the women and girls of South Sudan. The 2023 International Women's Day celebrations came early for women and girls in South Sudan.

The Maputo Protocol is here to protect women and girls of South Sudan. Signed by the members of the Coalition of Civil Society Organizations on the Ratification of Maputo Protocol in South Sudan (CCORPS).

About STEWARDWOMEN:

STEWARDWOMEN is a women-led organization founded in March 2009 and registered with the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission as a not-for-profit organization. The organization was founded to address the problems of violence against women, including sexual and gender-based violence, community insecurity and conflicts, and poor governance. STEWARDWOMEN is the Secretariat for the Coalition of Civil Society Organizations on the Ratification of Maputo Protocol in South Sudan (CCORPS).

For further clarification, email us at stewardwomen@gmail.com