



**Women's Consultative Meeting on the Draft Transitional
Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan Report
May 12th to 13th , 2011
New Sudan Palace
Juba, South Sudan**



**URGENT
ACTION
FUND**
FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

Executive Summary



***Our emcee Pauline Malok with the
NS WATCH***

The consultative meeting was organized in collaboration with Southern Sudan Women General Association (SSWGA), Southern Sudan Women Lawyers Association (SSWLA), and New Sudan Women Acting Together for Change (NS-WATCH), and the Southern Sudan Women's Empowerment Network (SSWEN) successfully on May 12th to 13th, 2011 at New Sudan Palace Hotel in Juba.

The Meeting provided a forum for more than 100 women from the ten states, including women from the government, Ministries, Women representatives in the Southern Sudan National Assembly, women in Civil Society Organizations and the Media. There were three delegations from each state; one from the Ministry of Social Development, one representing Civil Society, and one Parliamentarian.

The major aim of the meeting was to involve the women in the South Sudan political process and to discuss the Draft Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan from a gender perspective. We sought to identify women priorities and concerns so that these can be integrated into the permanent Constitution of South Sudan.

We are particularly grateful to our partners, UNDP-Juba, Norwegian People's Aid, Urgent Action Funds and the UN Women for their valuable support to the success of the conference.

A number of recommendations were made which we hope the South Sudan Legislative Assembly takes it into consideration.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Dr. Linda Musumba, a Constitution Lawyer for the great presentation and the gender analysis and Ms. Lina Zedriga, Director of Women Peace and Security Africa Program. Regional Associates for Community Initiatives RACI, for an excellent work on the group discussion and facilitation.

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Introduction

The official opening of the forum began at 9am at the New Sudan Palace hotel. The event commenced with remarks from the leaders of a range of women organizations. These included; Lilian Riziq of Southern Sudan Women's Empowerment Network (SSWEN), Affa Ismail of Southern Sudan Women Lawyers Associations (SSWLA), Sarah James of Southern Sudan Women General Association (SSWGA), and Dr.Olivia Lomoro for the New Sudan Women Acting Together for Change (NSWATC).

Below we provide a succinct overview of each of these speeches.

Lillian Riziq, the Director of Southern Sudan Women's Empowerment Network



Women constitute about 65% of the approximately eight million people of South Sudan. As the constitution notes, "The South Sudan 2005 interim constitution provides for affirmative action, a provision of at least 25% women's participation in public life and their representation in the Legislative, Judiciary and Executive organs". However, low literacy levels and prevailing traditional roles and expectations of women remain a hindrance to their meaningful participation in political leadership.

The interim constitution upholds the principle of equality before the law irrespective of, among other things, sex, as well as stipulating the rights to equal pay for equal work and for women to own and inherit property, and it requires the government of South Sudan to enact laws that prohibit harmful traditional practices and to provide maternity leave, allowances and medical care for pregnant women.

What has the situation been for women in the last six years?

There are high levels of poverty and illiteracy amongst women, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is a concern and domestic violence and other forms of gender based violence are rampant. Take for example a recent incidence in Rumbek where a girl hung herself after been forced to marry an old man.

Customary laws tend to be biased in favor of men. Decision makers in the customary courts, otherwise known as local courts, have generally all been men. Recently a woman was appointed to a customary law court, but on the whole, the Judges and Juries have been men.

Women fought alongside men during the war but after the war, they did not get the same recognition or positions as men. While their political participation did increase after the

war, women's participation has not been as effective as it should be. They have continued to struggle against stereotypes and the parochial mentalities of their communities. Although women participate within political parties they are generally not in decision-making positions in those parties.

What are some of the priorities in relation to women's rights?

In my opinion upholding peace and security is the first priority. The government must ensure that vulnerable women who currently live in conflict situations are safe and secure.

Economic recovery and growth is another priority, and the citizens of South Sudan need Job opportunities. Other needs will include basic services like health, water, sanitation, education and housing.

Another major concern is citizenship and nationality rights. This came up a lot at our past conference "*Mainstreaming Women's Agenda in the Post Referendum Arrangements*" held in February of 2011. Southern women have married men from the north and women from the north have married southern men. It must be recognized that the citizens of Sudan and South Sudan, despite living in one region, often have family ties in another. The separation of the Sudan into two should not compromise their citizenship or nationality rights. The freedoms of movement and associations must be upheld. At the moment it is not clear if there will be the possibility of dual citizenship for people in the South or the North.

We should make use of this transitional constitution of South Sudan and international women's rights conventions to ensure that, women's rights are prioritized in the new state. We should take advantage of the 25% affirmative action quota that the constitution already provides and make our presence felt at all levels of political leadership. We should also work to increase this percentage eventually.

A lot of work will have to be done to critically examine and improve the women's rights situation. For women to guarantee and ensure that their rights are respected and promoted by the government, many different strategies and approaches should be used and adopted. We will learn during this conference how it is done. We will need to continue to work close together and engage at different levels.

Women in South Sudan have varying levels of understanding of human and women's rights issues. On the whole, there is more awareness amongst the elite than the women at the grassroots. Many poor, rural women have never heard of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement let alone the Interim Constitution. It is written in English or Arabic, which many women do not understand, and has not been translated into local languages.

The interim constitution of South Sudan is explicit about the fact that women's rights must be obeyed. Now how do we accomplish this? This is the reason why we conducted this conference so as to learn and benefit from the experience of other countries that went through similar situation.

Afaf Ismail, Director of Southern Sudan Women Lawyers Association



Overview of SSWLA, the Director describes the work of the South Sudan Women Lawyers as based on the rule of law and good governance. The aim is to ensure that there is a rule of law, justice and equality to the vulnerable especially women.

The work of Southern Sudan women lawyers is here to provide legal aid to women and children in Southern Sudan. They formed this group after the promise of the Late Dr. John Garang that the women of South Sudan should be given **25%** which we have achieved but we continue to press on for its implementation.

Women rights advocacy, creation of jobs, health and education for the girl child is what the organization mostly stands for in cooperation with other stakeholders and women groups, we believe that GoSS and the development partners will assist to fix the gaps that are still left.

Sarah James, Chairperson of Southern Sudanese Women General Association



Overview to SSWGGA: This organization has been advocating for women's rights (right to services and participation in the state) since 1985 and was one of the key lobbying parties for women's increased representation and participation in decision-making roles which the Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan has provided for

Why is a constitution important?

A constitution is "a source of life"; central to the way Southern Sudanese conduct and regulate their affairs. Women must be part of the dialogue that takes place to ensure that their aspirations, needs, and rights are reflected in the current and future arrangements of the country.

Dr. Olivia Lomoro, Under Secretary Ministry of Health and Director of New Sudan – Women Acting Together for Change (NS-WATCH)

NS-WATCH was founded in Nairobi, Kenya and forms a coalition of professional women under the following objectives; Firstly to empower women and strengthen capacities for change, and secondly to lobby for women to gain good jobs and develop confidence. NS- WATCH has support networks in the Greater Regions of Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile, and Equatoria, Nuba Mountains and Abyei.



The key Successes of NS –WATCH include our successful lobbying of Governors in Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, and Western Bahr el Ghazal States to advocate for the inclusion of women in political life. Female MP's struggled during local elections in April 2010 to get known and build up constituencies. There is a greater need to support women to participate in genuine political decision making and their confidence to be respected in these positions.

Women's role in the Constitutional Process: Women must voice their concerns and aspirations on the content of the constitution. This role is not only for female MP's but women everywhere. Unity amongst women is critical. In terms of gender disparities in politics, there is a need to close the gap not only between men and women but also between women themselves.

Elda Muga, Norwegian People's Aid, Project Manager, Women's Right/Gender Advisor

Overview to NPA in Sudan: NPA is an International Non-Governmental Agency that operates in Africa, South America, Asia and Europe. The NPA Sudan programme works in the broad sector areas of relief, education, mine action and health.

In addition NPA supports civil society capacity building in the following areas: women's rights, media, land and resource rights, political participation, and youth.

The constitutional process is an importance process for Southern Sudan to move into the global family of nations.

Efforts to move Southern Sudan towards the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is a key part of this process to adhere to universal principles of humanity, dignity and standards that enshrines the rights of all. A key issue impacting Southern Sudan is the participation and representation of women and

children. The constitutional process in Southern Sudan needs to be transparent and reflective of realities faced by different sections of society in order to be sustained.

Mandisa Mashologu, Team Leader, Poverty Reduction and MDGs Unit, UNDP Southern Sudan Programme



As Southern Sudan attains independence the new constitution must mark a move towards democratic change. It must be noted that over 50% of voters in the referendum on self-determinations were women. The opportunity for them to exercise their right to choose the direction of their country is a significant achievement that should be consolidated and expanded.

The various conflicts that have afflicted Southern Sudan have caused severe underdevelopment, mass displacement and women have suffered disproportionately with limited access to justice and poor social services.

UNDP support to GoSS has been predicated upon a strong commitment to supporting and advocating for women's rights.

The new constitution of South Sudan must readily address gender equality issues, bring international human rights to Southern Sudan, and guarantee empowerment of the poorest and most marginalized.

Mama Lucie Luguga, UN Women Programme Manager



Overview to UN Women: In January 2011 UNIFEM became UN Women. The change represents not only a name change but houses a conglomeration of different UN bodies dedicated to the advancement of the rights and issues impacting women such as the Southern Sudan Constitution and working with women at the grassroots. So, what are some of the issues that we need to consider?

What issues impact women in the constitution?

This workshop should help to strategize for women by pointing out gender equality issues and look at ways to incorporate these into the constitution.

How do we send this message to the women at the grassroots that they should also engage in this constitutional process?

There is a greater need to support grassroots mechanisms to allow women to advocate for their rights together. It is difficult to get gender equality and women's issues onto the agenda. Even fewer women are on the constitutional review committee. Too many men around the table are drawing out the voices of women. There is a need for women to be united in common purpose.

Dr .Linda Musumba presentation

Dr Musumba provided a gender analysis of the Interim Constitution of South Sudan (2005). She began by noting that with the dawn of the new nation of South Sudan, there was an opportunity to bring equality for the sexes. She argued that we should bring the best practices from around the world and then express these in the language, style and pace that best suits Southern Sudan whilst also empowering women. She said that when Southern Sudan ratifies the ICSS on July 9th 2011,



L-R Dr. Linda and our interpreter Mr. James

this will usher the people of Southern Sudan into a new political, constitutional, legal, social, and economic dispensation that is without precedence. We must ask whether the ICSS will empower or disempower? Right now the word “woman” appears only twice in the ICSS, “women” seven times and “gender” ten times. She reviewed the articles where these appeared and then noted that in other countries the passing of the constitution is only the first step in the journey. New social, political and economic opportunities will arise that women must be prepared to take advantage of. She closed by arguing that civic education for women was vital to sensitize women of Southern Sudan of their rights, responsibilities and obligations.

Hon. Betty Ogwaro, Deputy Chairperson Constituency Fund Development Committee SSLA



This speech focused on the legislative process. This assembly has a range of powers including; constitutional powers, self-regulated powers and powers that must be fought for. Article 57 of ICSS provides for the establishment of Southern Sudan Legislative Assemblies (SSLA). Article 57 and 59 underscore the independence of the legislature from the control and direction of the executive. The Assembly has

constitutional powers to impeach the President, Vice President, Governor and Deputy Governor and censor Ministers. Hon. Achan continued by explaining to the women that the Draft Constitution of the Assembly is currently tabled in the Parliament for discussion. She went on to explain the Parliament procedures with regard to this Constitution. Her goal was to explain to the women where the entry points are to take action as the Constitution is passed. In particular she noted that —The Constitution handed to the Assembly on Saturday of May 5, 2011 is the Amendments Bill 2011 (The transitional Constitution of the Republic of Southern Sudan, 2011). The presentation is considered as the first reading of the bill and now it has been referred the Clusters Committee, which are a group of specialized committees clustered according to the functions which they represent. She noted that the committees. The Committee stage in the deliberation process is at the core of legislative politics, the fate of the bill hangs on the decision of the committee. At this stage, the committee may conduct a public hearing and grant any person/groups that may have an interest the opportunity to present his/her views on it. At the moment it is the opportune stage for the public to contribute or give their opinions to the relevant clusters.

She went on to describe the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and final process when the President assents to the bill. She closed by stating:

“The time is now for all the women to make their interventions, suggestions to the clusters of the various sectors. As time given for the committee to bring the bill back to the house is 6th of July, I can tell you that if you do not make your recommendations now, it will be too late by July 2nd 2011.”

Hon .Jema Nunu Kumba the Minister of Housing and Physical Infrastructure (GoSS)



We should get the view of the women from this consultative workshop, I don't think, it would be possible to get all the views from the women in the grass roots but I urge you women to take the views from this participants.

Representation of the women in the public life is 25% but women remain the minority since 2005 in the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly , we proposed and it was accepted, we told the technical committee to include 30% representation during the interim period, so I don't know if it is there as a law, we women should remind them to give what belongs to the women, we women need representation and it cannot happen if we are just

seated, we need to lobby from different levels including the president ministers, and members of parliament.

When I was in the assembly, we were in the minority and we did not make it. I suggest that legislators draft laws that authorize the President to suspend governors who dishonestly break the law and pose a threat to national security. I hope this will be done in clusters of national assembly.

She ends by urging the women and the civil society organizations at large to “ be united and advocate for women matters such as education so that they don't lag behind.”

H.E John Luk Jok the Minister of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development (GoSS)



Chairpersons and honorable participants I am pleased to be part of this discussion on the transitional constitution of South Sudan. It is important that women gathered to discuss on their life, it is notably important so that your concerns are fixed in the constitution and you carry on the message to those who have not shown up.

We are discussing the constitution, what is a

constitution? How do we understand a constitution?

A constitution forms law society, defines the relationship of government, legislative, executive and judiciary. The current constitution is developed after the end of a very long conflict through the CPA after being discussed by different bodies entitled to make laws.

South Sudan constitution had evolved from various situations and the CPA articles to make up the contents of the constitution. Women you are sitting here today, what are your concerns about the constitution?, it is a process to make one which has to be accomplished in steps because it is important in giving remarks, we have been in war, but a document lead to peaceful settlement. Everything has been affected by war, people are coming back to build the nation in the context of the constitution.

In terms of the context of the draft constitution of 2005 is drawn from the CPA, what is going to be done in three months is not writing a new constitution but making amendments which are driven by developments. Somebody can ask why we need to amend the constitution. There are three reasons, last year we organized general elections in Sudan, secondly the Southern Sudan legislative assembly in 2005 was appointed with a composition of 70% SPLM, 30% to NCP and other parties. Executive democracy setting, presidential elections, establishments of national assembly necessitated the review of the interim constitution. Thirdly the referendum, through which the citizens of South Sudan had a legitimate right given by the CPA protocols and the constitution to choose in an election and vote to secede or unite with the parts of Sudan. After voting for secession, all powers of the national government of Sudan will be considered as no effects for independence of South Sudan on July 9, we will become independent country with comparative powers.

For the President, ministers will have powers and execute their duties to appear like other countries, the other stage of amendments will be after independence for the following reasons;

- National security
- State of emergence laws
- Southern Sudan political parties

The transitional constitution will have to be adopted first by the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, it will not come into law before amendments, if amended before July 9 as agreed then we shall have a new constitution.

Part 2: Group Feedback

At this stage of the conference the women gathered into groups. They worked on questions clustered around varying topics. The women had to answer these questions and report back to the group.

Group .1

The key questions were:

- What are the key Issues that affect women's basic needs and basic rights in the family, community, state, and workplace?
- How can we best address these issues in the Constitution?
- What institutions work on these issues?
- What are the most likely challenges and obstacles in addressing these issues?
- What are ways to address these obstacles?
- Develop appropriate messages and propose messengers to deliver your advocacy packages.

Key issues that affect women's basic needs and rights were listed in two clusters;

Culture



This group of women looked at early marriages as a deterrent cultural practice which relates to traditional customs, norms and values of the society. Often the girls are treated as a source of wealth to the family so as to give hand in marriage and fetch heads of cattle.

Secondly the women discussed the lack of decision making power in families (marriage, daughter's education, etc.). In many of the families men still determine the future of its members despite the fact that some women today are bread winners. This should have qualified them to actually hold stake in decision making in their families which is not happening.

Domestic violence - Indicators across Southern Sudan depict that husbands inflict violence on their wives as a form of authority in the family unit. Reports clearly illustrate that some women are so often harassed and beaten with no due consideration of their rights.

Insecurity- Sudan having experienced civil strife's/tribal conflicts from time to time has expose the female sex to vulnerabilities of rape, sexual harassments, famine, poverty, health complications and deaths.

Shelter- Being members of weaker sex, women have been challenged to undertake heavy responsibilities such as to that of constructing their own housing units. In this





case, widows, old women cannot find proper facilities in which to dwell.

Women hold burdens of health complications physically and psychologically but unfortunately they get less medical attention sometimes where the health facilities are inaccessible or the resources are not available.

No right to choose their own partners-The community still holds to the tradition and the young girl is given out without deciding for herself the future partner for her life.

No rights to land-Women are denied ultimate ownership of property or right to inherit property. To the extent that, women who desire to buy and own a property say land is denied.

No right to divorce- The women are facing difficulties with beastly husbands and they have to live with it. No wonder the pain they go through, the customs and norms of the society cannot permit them.

No right to education-the girls are regarded a source of wealth in some cultures, there is absolutely no opportunity for the girls to acquire education that will empower them for a bright future.

Women's disparities in the workplace

Sexual harassment - there still exist cases of women who are asked to give in for sex to get a job. And those that may appear not attractive enough are segregated not for the employment.

Lack of equal pay or equal positions - in Some offices the women are paid less wages or salaries and they cannot have better opportunities just like their male counterparts.



Lack of respect for women in positions of authority - even senior women are not able to make decisions and taken seriously.

Discrimination in the workplace - Women should be employed because of their qualifications not appearance.

Right to maternity leave - Women are not paid any salary or an allowance during maternity leave though is a matter of their right.

What are the women recommending?

1. First we desire to see the enactment of State laws to protect women against cultural rigidities and violent behavior that keep the women left behind should be enforced to hold the perpetrators accountable.
2. Advocacy campaigns are required to create awareness that will assist the women to defend themselves from cases of abuse. It may make men also understand that women are humans to achieve this motive both the men and women will need to be educated on human rights. In addition, the Women need to network. “Instead of women promoting themselves they demote themselves and men win”. Stop competing with one another.
3. The women also demanded that the women parliamentarians ensure that women issues are perfectly included in the constitution. The women emphasized that Gender Ministries should be given sufficient funds to deal with women’s needs. They called upon all the Women in the civil service to stress this to ensure funding for women’s activities in the region.
4. They also call upon law makers to facilitate the implementation of laws because we have laws in the constitution but they are not implemented. To ensure that this happens we need what is in the constitution to actually be implemented and follow up.
5. Compulsory free girl-child education is a law but it is not implemented. We humbly request for it’s implementation so as to ensure that girl- child education is prioritized to empower the women.
6. Ensure there is a right to inheritance if the husband dies. Identify the institutions that can work on these issues of women in all levels need to be involved, women lawyers, women in parliament, women in civil society, grassroots, charity, youth, community leaders.
7. Appoint more women into decision-making positions, recommend one another. Women should also go out and campaign for effective networking and unity of purpose. There is a need to increase women in parliament and those who will speak out in the parliament.
8. Public policy initiatives must target women’s quality of life in Southern Sudan. Childcare in the workplace must be addressed.
9. More women’s dialogues at the grassroots level. Women need to be very specific and clear otherwise all we get are vague responses. Who is going to send this

message for us- women in parliament, in executive, civil society, we are all responsible.

10. The language in the Constitution needs to be specific. Under 18 years of age is not a “marriageable age”. The language should be precise and clear as possible so that these things will be implemented. The constitution should expressly provide for education, empowerment, and microcredit for rural and illiterate women as the 25% only caters for already educated women.
11. Need for political empowerment, increased access to justice, access to health services, etc. Without all of these things women’s empowerment will not be complete. Need constitutional protections against corruption and the right to corruption free services because women bear the brunt of corruption when there is corruption in the funding for social services?
12. We would like to see the women to have the ability to forbid men from taking another wife. The personal is political.
13. Need for social welfare to the child. Women are not able to serve as a witness to another person (in questions of nationality, etc.); this should be changed. Women should have the right to be free from all forms of violence. Need to stop discrimination against HIV-positive women.
14. Women are taxed but the taxes are used by the men. Women pay most of the taxes in the market but it is always the men who receive the money which should have gone to fund women’s activities.
15. The ICSS only talks about primary education and secondary school but should also be inclusive of university studies where they should admit more young women and become preferable in their admission system.

Challenges

A series of challenges were raised by the women in this group.

1. Lack of implementation even in the government there is a problem. We’re good at talking but let’s work on implementation.
2. Lack of financing for women’s activities. We would like to see the government giving skilful training to the rural women and create easily accessible micro-credit schemes that are directed to improve their living conditions.
3. Lack of awareness. They is need to create awareness campaign about the constitution and human rights education which are not in place

4. Lack of capacity building, women need to be trained to effectively work to develop their own capacity and create something for themselves. Get involved and get into decision-making positions, and learn how and why decisions were made

Group 2

The questions in this section were as follows:

- What are the existing State/national/institutional women coalitions and grass roots initiatives?
- Can you map their participation, passion, knowledge base, on the constitution and constitution-making process?
- How can they be involved proactively in the process?
- What are the obstacles to engage their full participation?
- How can we overcome these?

What are the women recommending?

1. We have to train and educate our women; work with women in various organizations- involves them in all levels like during the liberation struggle, elections, referendum. Etc.
2. The final draft of the constitution could be in simple and more accessible English and Arabic versions
3. Replicate success. Learn from neighboring countries knowledge and experiences and also engage strategic placement of radios; church, mosques, market, etc. where there is no radio coverage. Women can educate themselves, seek for the information.
4. Educated women will have to educate those without education, even those working in the farms on top to that human rights education will also need to be taught to the women.

The key institutions which will assist to disseminate the message on constitutionalism are;

Women's caucus at State Assemblies (WCSA), (Civil Society Organization) CSOs, Church organizations, (Community Based Organization) CBOs, faith-based organizations, YWCA, Women in Business Organizations and trade unions, Women NGOs, Women in police, army, health sector, UN women, UNICEF, UNDP, etc. Women

in (South Sudan Legislative Assembly) SSLA; Women's Association; Women's Union; Business and Trade Union; Media, South Sudan Women lawyers association; Women's Lawyer's Association; South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network

A few women participated in the process had access to the draft constitution and they are the Women who shown up in this conference but these were identified channels to reach all the women;

1. Dissemination of the Constitution.
2. Media
3. Faith-based Organization
4. Workshops and Conferences
5. Press Statements
6. Education
7. Lobbying and Advocacy
8. Grassroots meetings
9. Translating Constitution
10. Radio and movie dramas



HE. Ambassador Sitona
Abdella

Challenges

Literacy, insecurity, tribal conflicts, logistics, bad roads, Women are not educated on these processes. Some areas are not accessible in the rainy season, Political party manipulation, Lawyers are not utilized- female lawyers were not involved in the process.

Accesses to radios are an obstacle- how can we make sure radios are reaching women? Radio coverage is not universal in South Sudan.

Provision of financial and logistical support; translation into languages and simple English; involvement of female lawyers in the process; make enough copies so that we can have access; networking across the board at the State and national level through Media campaigns.

Group 3

The questions posed here were:

- What are CSOs currently doing to advance women's participation in the Constitution-making process?
- List the key CSOs and decision-makers
- What are their priorities with respect to women and the constitution-making process?
- How can they be engaged to focus more on women and the constitution-making process?

Have a look at the Civil Society Organizations behind the women agenda



Robert Lado Chairperson of the Land Commission

Mr Lado gave a speech defining the role of civil society organizations, especially women's groups, in building a new nation

Here are well known women organizations in South Sudan, Women General Association; SS Women's Empowerment Network; SS Women's Lawyers Association; New Sudan Women Acting Together for Change New Sudan Women' Federation, YWCA, ; Diar, Voice for Change, Women's Justice Umbrella, Sudanese Women's Empowerment and Investment, Upper Nile Women's Welfare Association, Feminity Empowerment Foundation for South Sudan (FEFSS).

The CSO's and decision makers? Who they are? What they do?

Decision Makers- All Parliamentarians; SS Legislature; Women's Caucus in Assembly; Specialized Committees for Gender, Human Rights, and Information.

Women's Constitutional Priorities- Create awareness about the draft constitution among women; ensure issues relating to the girl child are included in the constitution.

Civil Society Organizations – They need capacity-building at various levels, funding (economic empowerment) and technical supports.

Group 4

The final questions here were:

- What are the next practical steps that need to be taken to have the women's issues included in the constitution making process?
- Count down to the July 2011 what are the issues of women now?
- Draw a time line and map critical/key steps that the women of South Sudan need to take to have their concerns included in the Constitution.
- What are the next practical steps that need to take to have the women's issues included in the constitution-making process?
- Countdown to the July 2011 what are the issues of women
- Draw a timeline and map critical/key steps that the women of South Sudan need to take to have their concerns included in the Constitution.

Practical steps that need to be taken include the women issues in the constitution

There are many acts that go through parliament so even if the Constitutional review continues, women in the parliament should continue to push these issues.

Create awareness through radio, forums, TV, in the market, etc.

There should be an assessment of how things have been done- was the 25% done well?

We need to do a peaceful demonstration to ensure the 30% is included in the Constitution. What have the 25% done- we should tell them.

There are many women that people don't know and from the capitals we should all one day party about what women are doing- call the press, acknowledge them, etc. There is no one who hasn't contributed- women even voted 52% of turnout in the referendum. How many women fed, hid, and supported men during the struggle?

Recommendations

1. Monday May 16th- we gave women our recommendations to do follow up.
2. Every Thursday- we agreed to go visit the women in national and state Assembly.
3. Give feedback, analyze, and disseminate this information to the rest of the people.
4. Last week of June- only women can do it better to bring the new baby of Southern Sudan ahead of celebrations for the Independence Day.
5. Organize a get together function in recognition of women's contribution towards the constitution.
6. All the women resolved to invite ten women into their homes to tell them about the Constitutional Process and the resolutions of the Forum.
7. There should be a specific review of the different constitutional sections for gender analysis.
8. The women need Support in business and so as to empower them in the markets.
9. The history of women in the movement is not discussed and yet it should been done, we should not forget them.

Part 3: Concluding comments and Draft recommendations

Draft Recommendations

1. All the participants of this conference resolved to invite ten women into their homes and educate them about the Constitutional Process and the Resolutions of the Forum.
2. Women need to bring a case to court on why free compulsory primary education is not being provided. The words will just remain on paper unless we press and pull for it. We need to make the constitution work for us.
3. Participants resolved to have a committee in Juba and at the State levels, a proposal that calls for establishment of special committee to iron out gender and constitutional issues.
4. To have Coordinators in each State of WES, NBeG, WBeG, Lakes, Unity, CES, Upper Nile, Warrap, Jonglei, EEQ- coordinators selected to inform the women and take the message to the counties, payams, and Bomas so as to Link with other organizations.
5. Dialogue with policy makers; building alliance with women at the grassroots level and coordinated by a Member of Parliament representative from the area.
6. Delegation to the Conference- One civil society, One ministry of Gender, child and Social Development; One Member of Parliament.



L-R: Madam Angelina Teny and Madam Julia Duany gave a huge support and valuable advice to the women at the conference

The conference ended by creation of the South Sudan Women Coalition and produced the South Sudan Women's Protocol.

The South Sudan Women's Protocol to the Constitution Review Process

Preamble:

Appreciating the affirmative Action for the promotion of Women's participation at all levels is enshrined in the Review Transitional Constitution of the Republic of Southern Sudan;

Realizing however that the Review Transitional Constitution has not honored the pronouncements of the Presidential 30% Affirmative Action,

Aware that the Constitution review process for the Republic Of South Sudan is in very advanced stage;

Noting that the provisions are quite silent in reflecting the concerns of the women and girls of South Sudan;

Concerned that omission of women and girls specific clauses in the draft Constitution is a gross act of negligence;

Recalling that women and men equally sacrificed and committed their lives to the independence of South Sudan;

Disturbed that the Transitional Constitutional Review process has not put the 18 years minimum age for marriage

Noting further that the inclusion of these concerns is very critical for stability, peace, reconciliation and development of South Sudan;

Noting that our maternal roles and women specific challenges require specific attentions to address them;

Therefore, We the women from all the States of South Sudan present at the New Sudan Palace deliberating in a two days consultative meeting to share our concerns and aspirations for the Constitution humbly propose as follows:

- 1) That the current 25% representation is moved to 30% in compliance with the Presidents pronouncements and commitments;
- 2) That gender-specific pronouns are either not used or when a gender-specific term is needed, both genders are included; ;
- 3) That the draft Constitution be simplified and translated into the local languages, immediately, and massive civic education be undertaken;
- 4) That interim measures and affirmative steps to ensure gender parity of at least 30% includes all sectors (education, statutory body appointments and judicial appointments);
- 5) That the application of international laws and legislations such as , UN Security Council Resolutions1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, The AU Protocols on Human and Peoples, Rights, The Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality, The Optional Protocol thereof etc) on Women, Peace and Security form part of the laws applicable in Independent South Sudan forthwith;
- 6) That the age of majority and the minimum age for marriage is expressly put at 18 years and the Parliament should enact criminal laws to address non-compliance with this law;

- 7) That women shall be accorded full and equal protection of rights and dignity and that right shall extend to full political and economic participation and the state shall take affirmative measures, including through quotas and economic support to rectify past discrimination and ensure future equality.



A cake to celebrate our new coalition!