

MISSION TO SOUTH SUDAN

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The mission to South Sudan took place on 3 and 4 July 2018. It engaged authorities, communities and other stakeholders on the following:

- Joint AU-UN support to peace process in South Sudan;
- The issue of sexual and gender based violence;
- Support and safe return of internally displaced populations;
- Implementation of the agreement and role and leadership of women in transition and in the upcoming elections;
- Need for accountability, protection of civilians, dialogue and reconciliation.

The joint UN-AU delegation met with the President of the Republic of South Sudan, H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit and Government Ministers. The delegation conveyed the unified position of the African Union and the United Nations in support of the peace process and protection of human rights. It further engaged with civil society organizations and women's organizations. The delegation referred to the recent visit of the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) to Malakal in April 2018 and met with local government officials and the Ceasefire Monitoring team on the ground and stressed the African Union's concerns regarding the dire conditions of the population due to the ongoing conflict and reaffirmed the AU's call for the cessation of hostilities. The mission advocated for an impactful participation of women in the peace and reconciliation process in South Sudan and in the formation of a women's coalition for peace.

The joint UN-AU visit helped to reinforce the messaging for peace and for a lasting solution to the crisis. The joint UN-AU delegation visited Wau and Malakal, where we engaged with displaced populations in Protection of Civilians and IDPs sites. In IDP camps in Wau, women complained about the lack of justice and inclusive strategies to address sexual-based violence. They called on the African Union and the United Nations to continue efforts to find a resolution to the enduring conflict and to support women's participation in the peace process. Local women's organizations further called for enhanced support and funding for their activities related to the prevention of violence and conflict. The South Sudanese leadership, including H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit, listened to the messages we echoed from women leaders, refugees and those affected by the conflict and our joint call for peace. H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit reaffirmed his support on the role of women in the implementation of the peace process and personal commitment to ensure that women are full partners in democratic institutions