



Report of the Two Day Consensus Building Meeting for Civil Society Members and other Stakeholders on Constitution Making Process in South Sudan

Held on 1st and 2nd February 2023
Crown Hotel

Introduction

The Revitalized Agreement on Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) is undoubtedly the only legal framework that for now provides for necessary reforms and transformation to steer the country towards peace and stability. However, since signing of the agreement, its implementation has been slow and sometimes intermittent with many challenges and extensions. This affected the timeline stipulated for the constitution making process among other reforms.

In May 2022, R-JMEC with support of Max Plank Foundation convened a workshop for parties to R-ARCSS according to section 6.7, 6.8 and 6.9 of R-ARCSS with participation of representatives from stakeholder groups. The resolution of the workshop would be used to draft a constitution making process bill which was then deliberated by parliament and signed into law by the president in December 2022.

Civil society representative held a meeting in January to deliberate on engagement in the constitution making process as well as developing clear understanding of the Constitution Making Process Act 2022. However, the big question remains as to how best can the civil society and other stakeholders meaningfully engage in the constitution making process?

Following the first consensus building meeting held on 19th Jan 2023 at UNMISS premises; a second meeting was requested to include more stakeholders. SSuDEMOP was requested to seek support from FES, UNMISS and other development partners to provide for the second consensus building meeting.

On the 1st and 2nd February 2023 SSuDEMOP with support from FES and UNMISS facilitated a two-days conversation with civil society and stakeholders to agree on how to move forward in a coordinated way and meaningfully engaged in the constitution making process. The workshop was held in a hybrid format on the first day **(58 in-person and 7 online and second day 44 and 5 online)**. In attendance were Civil Society Actors, media, person with disabilities, academia, women groups, youth groups, faith based group, private sector, professional association and university students.

The workshop was with broader objectives as following:

1. Discuss and approve the draft nomination criteria for civil society representatives and agree on timeframe for submission of CSO list of nominees to R-NCRC.
2. Discuss and adopt ways of collective engagement between civil society and other non-political actors/stakeholders.
3. Discuss and develop modalities for strategic engagement with development partners.
4. Discuss preliminary for conducting civic education on constitution and constitution making process.

Welcoming Remarks

By Merekaje Lorna, Secretary-General of South Sudan Democratic Engagement, Monitoring and Observation Programme,

Merekaje Lorna, welcomed and thanked the participants for joining the two-days' consensus building meeting. She emphasized that constitution making process as a very important process that requires participation and contributions of all stakeholders to work together for the interest of all South Sudanese. She then highlighted the objectives of the workshop and welcomed partners to give their welcoming remarks.

By Mr. Jacob Bul, Program Officer, FES

Mr. Jacob, thanked the participants and gave a brief background of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. He emphasized importance of consensus building meetings such as this which is intended for the civil society and non-political stakeholders to meaningfully engage in the constitution making process. He further reiterated continuous support of FES to civil society and other non-political stakeholders.

By Mr. Ndubisi Obiorah, Senior Political Affairs Officer, UNMISS

Mr. Obiorah, He thanked the participants for joining the two-day workshop for civil society and other non-political stakeholders to build consensus on the constitution making process. He stated that this such meeting is inline UNMISS mandate of supporting implementation of Revitalize agreement in South Sudan and constitution making process is priority for UNMISS. He therefore, reiterated UNMISS continues support for implementation of the revitalize agreement and constitution making process in South Sudan.

Session One:

This session was presented by Gasper Amule, South Sudan Law Society.

Gasper Amule, made presentation on draft nomination criteria for civil society representatives to Reconstitution National Constitution Review Commission (R-NCRC). This included discussion on timeline for submission of CSO nominees, procedure for nomination and formation of ad-hoc team to handle the CSOs nomination process. It was suggested that once CSO selection criteria is completed it would be shared with other non-political stakeholder to facilitate their nomination and if censuses is reach the ad-hoc committee that are identified from each stakeholder will jointly submit the name of nominees to ministry of justice. After his presentation an ad-hoc team made of representative from different non-political stakeholder groups (Academia, faith base, women, youth, person with disabilities and media) were identified to handle the nomination process).

(See Presentation Attached)

Session Three:

This session focused on principles and ways of collective engagement between civil society and other non-political actors/stakeholders. (Proposal for coordination mechanisms and proposal for communication strategy between CSO and non-political stakeholders) this was prepared by two resource person namely; **Sarah Nynath and Boboya James.**

Sarah Nynath made the first presentation with an objective to propose mechanism for collective engagement, articulate goal and objective of the mechanisms for collective engagement. Her presentation was also to focused on outlining different level of coordination mechanism at both national, state and sub-national level. The presenter was expected to further outlined roles and responsibility of each level and its interlinkages (vertical and horizontal) between non-political stakeholders and finally proposed possible idea for sustainability and effectiveness of the coordination mechanism. Please **(Kindly See Attached Document)**

Boboya James, the second presenter was requested to focus his presentation on communication strategy among CSO and between CSO and non-political stakeholders including refugee and diaspora community. The presentation was to articulate goals and objectives for the communication strategy, outlined different ways of communication to be used among different stakeholders group including diaspora and refugees. And outline expected roles/responsibilities of each stakeholder, proposed different medium of communication that could be used at different level for different purpose and propose possible idea for sustainability and effectiveness of communication among CSO and non-political stakeholder including diaspora and refugees **(Kindly See Attached Presentation)**

Session Four:

This session focused on proposal for modalities for strategic engagement with development partners and proposal for information storage, management and sharing (Repository). This was prepared by two resource person namely **Jacline Nasiwa and Mela James (Kirinya)**

The first presenter was tasked to propose modalities with development partners and this will include articulating goal and objective, outline role and responsibilities of each actor and propose means for coordination. The presentation was also to propose medium for communication to share information cos and development and propose possible ideas for strategic and sustained CSO engagement with development partners. **(See Attached PowerPoint)**

Proposal for information Storage, management and sharing (Repository).

The second, started his presentation by defining repository as central location in which data/information stored, managed and used. He outlined that the repository is means for information sharing, easy access to information and centralize place for everyone to find relevant information related to CMP. He further outlined different components of repository and encourage collective engagements to enable CSOs to document their contributions towards CMP and facilitate fast access to information related to constitution making process. **(See attached PowerPoint Presentation and link to the repository <https://accessible-direction-463.notion.site/Civil-Society-Organizations-Repository-for-Constitution-Making-Process-5d0f2e19b58c4fa39c51a8282d91c24a>)**

Day Two of the Meeting

Session One:

This session focused on proposal for preliminary thoughts for coordinated and effective civic education/Engagement- David Ayuel

The presentation was intended to develop list of civic education material required, means of dissemination, outline preliminary steps require for an effective awareness creation in South Sudan considering the context and propose entry point for effective engagement, propose possible entry point for engagement with NCRC and support to CSO and non-political stakeholder’s representative. **(See PowerPoint presentation)**

Group work: The participant was divided into five (5) groups to further generate more ideas to complement the presentation.

1	<p>Group ad-hoc team: Propose timeframe for submission of nominees to ministry of Justice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of non-political stakeholder’s representative to the ministry of justice by Monody. • Other non-political stakeholders should organize themselves and prepare their representatives.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed Juma Mabor to make communication with ministry of justice.
2	<p>Group One: Effective communication and coordination among stakeholders in and out of the country.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What mechanisms is required to achieved effective coordination and communication among non-political stakeholders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create platform comprised of different representative of each stakeholder. • Identify focal person for each stakeholder. 2) What are most appropriate channel of communication and coordination among non-political stakeholders <p>Channel of communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of social media • Use of mass media • Use of social gathering • Use of churches and mosque • Use of audio, brail and sign language • Use of banner and poster • Awareness creation in market place 3) First Steps to be take <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying focal point for each stakeholders
3	<p>Group Two: Starting point for civic engagement/ education.</p> <p>1) Where is the appropriate starting point for civic engagement in South Sudan and outline the necessary steps.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What and map civic stakeholders? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct comparative study on civic education material in the region • Develop action plan for civic education awareness • Organize study tour for civic actor to learn from the experience of neighboring countries and beyond • Produce, validate and launch civic education manual on constitution making process for South Sudan 2) What are the basic principle? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusivity • Gender balance • Impartiality • Context sensitivity and specificity • Cost-effectiveness • Mutual transparency • Conflict sensitivity (do no harm) 3) What is needed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop TOR for electing resource team • Identify and select qualify and dedicated human resource • Internet • Funds • Collection of relevant material and literature on civic education
4	<p>Group Three: Engagement with Development Partners</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How best so as to make good use of scarce resource and avoid duplication?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil society should provide space and host meetings. • Organize one civil society monthly meeting to discuss progress on constitution making process • Utilize the existing human resource <p>2) What are the immediate steps to be taken?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team to prepare material for engagement
5	<p>Group Four: Repository and media engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve some components of the repository • Team has agreed to further improve on how the repository should look like and provide suggestion for its management- led by (kirinya James, Luate Satimon and Grace Wodu)

Session Two: Consensus building: Opportunity for non-political stakeholder to identify possible entry points and how their group can contribute or benefit in this joined effort?

This session provided opportunity for different non-political stakeholder group (Academia, faith base, women, youth, person with disabilities and media) to share their thoughts and suggestion for further engagement of their constituency in this join efforts. The representative of each stakeholder group expressed commitment to work together as non-political stakeholder. They acknowledged that this will strengthen the voices of nonpolitical stakeholder in the CMP, other such as faith base were then requested to relay the information to back to their constituency as to strengthen the efforts.

Way forward

1. An Ad-hoc team comprising of different stakeholders was form to to receive credentials, short list and provide final list of the nominees to R-NCRC. **(Dut Ngor- Academia, Moses Monday-CSOs, Koang Pal-Media, Peter Milir- Youth, Zabib Musa- Women, Mandela Issac and Rebort Kamal-PWD, Bishop.Peter Amadi -Faith based group and Gasper Amule).**
2. Ad-hoc committee should develop draft letter to accompany the names nominees to R-NCRC. Gasper Amule offered to host the ad-hoc committee for their meeting at South Sudan Law Society and finalist its obligation.
3. It was agreed that a roundtable civil society and development be organize to discussed better modalities of engagement and coordination of support to the CMP. To kick start preparation for this conversation. A team of eight (8) volunteer to be part **(Wani Steven, Gasper Amule, Jackline Nasiwa, Lona James, Gift Emmanuel, Juma Mabor and Lorna Merekaje)**
4. A team of volunteers were identified to jointly synthetize the outcome of the consensus building meeting into an action plan **(Merekaje Lorna, Jackeline Nasiwa, David Ayuel, Juma Mabor and Abraham Deng).**
5. It was agreed that names of the nominees for stakeholder’s representative be submitted to ministry of justice and constitutional affairs 6th Feb 2023. **(Juma Mabor was assigned to make appointment with minister of justice).**
6. The participant proposed the them under which the non-political stakeholder will engaged towards a **“Citizen Driven Constitution”**
7. Focal point person for non-political stakeholders were identified from among the participant to facilitate easy communication with their constituency **(Peter Milir-Youth, Abraham Deng-Academia, Mandela Isaac and Rebort Kamal -PWD, Bishop. Zachariah Manyok - Faith**

based group, Koang Pal-Media and Zabib Musa- women).

8. Conduct mapping of non-political stakeholders for easy communication and coordination. A further suggestion to include of the participant of the consensus building into already existing WhatsApp group formed by civil society and other partners for purpose of CMP. There was a suggestion to use South Sudan constitutional forum.
9. There was a suggestion one person who will follow up with ad hoc team (**Gift Emmanuel**).
10. **David Ayuel and Juma Mabor** were tasked to continue developing the strategy for engagement with security agency for purposes of creating enabling civic space for better engagement during constitution making process.

Closing remark:

By Gerang Yach-UNMISS- Political Affairs

Thanked and appreciated the participants for their tangible in the two-days consensus building and he further reiterated UNMISS support for implementation of the revitalize agreement and constitution making process in South Sudan.

Merekaje Lorna, SSuDEMOP

Lorna Merekaje, thanked the participants. She mentioned that the previous consensus building meeting generated different action points and of which is regards to civic space and how can it be enhanced? And in that regards, SSuDEMOP is planning an engagement conversation with security authority/agency. She emphasized that civil society organization/actors consider faith based and academia is part of them. However, CSOs do not quite understand the bureaucracy of both academia and the faith based group. Therefore, she appreciates the other non-political stakeholders for participating on behalf of their constituency (academia and faith based group, media PWD) this will strengthen relationship between CSOs and non-political stakeholders.

She further said that SSuDEMOP is planning create another opportunity to engage with academia separately and faith based group with an objective to further strengthen relationship and design working modalities for engagement. She concluded by wishing everybody a pleasant weekend.