



WOMEN'S PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES FOR SOUTH SUDAN
Gender Symposium Summary
Washington DC
11 to 13 December 2011

From 11 to 13 December 2011, women's civil society representatives and members of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (RSS) met to define key priorities. The new nation holds significant promise – the promise of peace, prosperity and equality. Leveraging women's human and intellectual capacities is key to addressing short and long term challenges. The women developed 37 specific recommendations guided by the following five overarching themes that can be applied to all of the sectors addressed in the International Engagement Conference (IEC):

- **Women's Participation:** Women, as equal citizens, must participate fully in all public decision-making and the RSS must continue to implement the 25 per cent quota for women at all levels of government.
- **Legal and Policy Framework:** The RSS should put in place the necessary legal and policy frameworks to enhance women's protection and secure their rights, such as rights to land, inheritance and property.
- **Earmarked Spending:** The UN must meet its commitment of allocating a minimum of 15 per cent of programme funds to women's empowerment and gender equality. International partners and the RSS should make and implement similar commitments.
- **Capacity Development:** The RSS and international partners should support capacity development of and provide adequate financing for the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MoGCSW) and women's civil society organizations and networks.
- **Gender-Responsive Security:** Community security is a pre-requisite for development and women's empowerment. The specific security threats faced by women and girls must be addressed proactively.

The 37 specific recommendations developed at the Gender Symposium target the six areas of focus of the IEC. The women prioritized the following four recommendations for urgent action by the RSS and international community:

1. **Double national functional literacy rates amongst women to 25 per cent by 2014.**
2. **Establish a Women's Bank with start-up capital of a minimum of USD10million, providing women with accessible, low-interest loans, using social collateral instead of physical assets.**
3. **Women must receive 25 per cent of all investment in agriculture and commercial livestock, increasing their food productivity, their entrepreneurship, and access to markets.**
4. **Ensure half of the resources in the Community Development Funds, financed through oil revenues, is allocated to women's health, education, economic and physical security.**