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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 2: INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN
SOUTH SUDAN

SOUTH SUDAN: EXTEND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MANDATE TO SAFEGUARD RIGHTS DURING ELECTIONS

UN Human Rights Council
Fifty-fifth regular session
26 February – 5 April 2024

Mr. President,

We thank the Commission for its update.

We remain concerned that the underlying conditions that led to the establishment of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan (CHRSS) in 2016 are yet to see adequate progress. The causes of conflict and atrocities are still intact. We urge this Council to renew the Commission's mandate without any restrictions so that it may continue to exercise all its functions including that of collecting and preserving evidence of violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law for purposes of facilitating accountability in the future.

Preparations for South Sudan's elections are taking place amidst shrinking civic and political space characterised by arbitrary detentions of political opponents, absence of basic freedoms of movement and association, censorship of independent media, harassment of civil society actors, an upsurge of ethnic conflicts in Abyei and Greater Pibor Administrative Areas, as well as in Jonglei, Warrap, Upper Nile, Western Equatoria and Central Equatoria States. International scrutiny of the human rights situation in the country is needed now more than ever.

It is essential that the Commission is allowed to continue its documentation at this critical juncture to serve as an early warning mechanism and provide international oversight. The Council should urge the Commission to redouble its efforts and establish early warning and response mechanisms to document and highlight rising human rights violations.

The government's failure to investigate or prosecute crimes under international law¹ as

¹ [South Sudan: "Do you think we will prosecute ourselves?" No prospects for accountability in South Sudan - Amnesty International](#)

provided for in Chapter V of the 2018 Peace Agreement, continues to undermine efforts by victims and survivors for justice. The Commission's work is central for preventing the perpetuation of these violations.

The Human Rights Council must extend the Commission's mandate in full during this election period which is likely to be followed by an uptick in human rights violations.

Thank You.