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Agenda item 2

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 27 March 2026

61/2. Advancing human rights in South Sudan

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and relevant human rights instruments,

Reaffirming that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Reaffirming also Human Rights Council resolutions S-26/1 of 14 December 2016 and 31/20 of 23 March 2016, in which the Council established the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, and all subsequent Council resolutions on South Sudan,

Recalling all previous General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and statements on South Sudan,

Taking note of all relevant decisions and communiqués of the African Union, its Peace and Security Council and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and relevant resolutions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights,

Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of human rights, and recalling that the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity has the responsibility to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,

Welcoming the accession by South Sudan to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa,

Emphasizing the critical importance of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, online and offline, and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association in South



Sudan, in accordance with international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recognizing, and reiterating the importance of, the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building by the international community to support South Sudan, including by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan and other bodies of the United Nations, and the continuing need to provide quality, coordinated, complementary and coherent technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights to address ongoing challenges and realize peace, stability and a sustainable improvement to the situation of human rights in South Sudan,

Expressing grave concern at the reports documented by the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan of ongoing human rights violations and abuses and international humanitarian law violations, including grave violations against and abductions of children, widespread conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detention, forced recruitment of boys and young men and aerial bombardments and attacks against civilians and medical facilities, and expressing concern at economic crimes that have obstructed peace and development by limiting access to human rights, including those relating to food, health and education,

Acknowledging the impact of the sustained challenge posed by the ongoing armed conflict in the Republic of the Sudan to stability in South Sudan, as well as to local, regional, national and international efforts to advance the situation of human rights in South Sudan,

Noting with concern the deteriorating humanitarian situation in South Sudan and the importance of coordinated efforts and rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access, and welcoming the contributions of affected and neighbouring States,

Noting with grave concern that attacks on humanitarian workers continue unabated in South Sudan, and calling upon all parties to ensure the safe, rapid and unhindered access of humanitarian assistance and protection of humanitarian workers while ensuring full compliance with international humanitarian law, in line with Security Council resolution 2730 (2024) of 24 May 2024,

Reaffirming the need to ensure the security of United Nations personnel, including members of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, and urging all parties to protect humanitarian workers and peacekeeping personnel in the country,

Noting with concern the ongoing violence and escalation of tensions in South Sudan, especially in Jonglei, Unity and Western Equatoria States, the detention and killing of United Nations Mission in South Sudan and humanitarian personnel and the arrests of senior military and political figures, and welcoming and reaffirming the need for regional efforts towards dialogue and de-escalation, including the efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and African Union and its visits to South Sudan over the past year,

Emphasizing the communiqué of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union dated 23 January 2026 and the declaration of the African Union High-level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan (also known as C5) dated 15 February 2026, in which they stated that there could be no viable military solution to the challenges facing the country, called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, affirmed that the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan remained the paramount instrument for the resolution of the conflict in South Sudan and called for its full implementation,

Recalling the Revitalized Agreement and the obligations that it imposes on all signatories as the paramount instrument for the resolution of the conflict, including the binding commitment made by the parties to ensure its full implementation, the protection of the human rights of civilians at all times and the safety and dignity of individuals and communities, emphasizing that such commitments remain crucial, given that the transitional period of the Revitalized Agreement was extended by 24 months in September 2024 owing to a lack of implementation, and recalling the corresponding commitments made by the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and key guarantor States to support the efforts of South Sudan,

Recognizing the continuing important role played and efforts made by the African Union, including its High-level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the guarantors of the Revitalized Agreement in bringing parties together to advance its implementation, the mediation efforts made in the framework of the peace process between signatories and non-signatories of the Revitalized Agreement, previously led in Rome by the Community of Sant'Egidio and now under the Tumaini Initiative, led in Nairobi by the Government of Kenya, at the request of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity, and the recent decision of the African Union High-level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan to harmonize its efforts with the Tumaini Initiative and to work closely with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to assist South Sudan in successfully concluding its political transition,

Recalling the formation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity, and recognizing that this represented a significant step forward in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and an opportunity for peace, stability and a sustainable improvement in the situation in South Sudan through, inter alia, the implementation of the commitments and obligations of South Sudan with respect to international human rights law and its obligations under international humanitarian law,

Noting with concern recent unilateral actions by signatories that undermine the spirit and the letter of the Revitalized Agreement and contradict previous commitments to expedite the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement during the transitional period,

Urging the parties to the conflict to prioritize dialogue as the most constructive and effective means of resolving outstanding issues and sustaining the fragile peace process, particularly those related to the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement, and urging the parties to the Revitalized Agreement to resume and advance national dialogue that is meaningful, thorough, inclusive and transparent, ensuring that all stakeholders concerned participate without preconditions with a view to building trust for the stability of the country,

1. *Welcomes and expresses its appreciation* to the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity for its continued cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan in the fulfilment of their mandates, including by authorizing travel to and within the country, facilitating meetings and providing relevant information;

2. *Also welcomes and expresses its appreciation* to the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity for its continued cooperation with the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, and acknowledges its readiness to receive the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan in 2026, allowing the Commission to hold meetings with a range of actors, including victims and witnesses in various locations, and also with senior government representatives;

3. *Notes with concern* the obstruction by the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, including restrictions on troop rotations and repatriations and interference with contingency planning, stresses that continued constructive cooperation between the Transitional Government and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan is essential to sustaining peace and stability and facilitating safe and timely humanitarian access, and therefore calls upon the Transitional Government to cooperate fully and constructively with and to give complete and unhindered access to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and to regional, subregional and international mechanisms on the ground;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing cooperation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity with the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and welcomes the field visit undertaken by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to Juba in August 2025;

5. *Welcomes* the laws establishing the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing and the Compensation and Reparation Authority, and calls upon the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity to fully operationalize these laws in a transparent, inclusive and victim- and survivor-centred manner, including through adequate budgetary

and resource allocations and safeguards for the independent and meaningful participation of civil society, with the support of the African Union;

6. *Notes with regret* that many elements of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan that are critical to guaranteeing an enduring and sustainable peace in South Sudan and promoting accountability for victims of human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law remain mostly unimplemented;

7. *Notes with concern* that no progress has been made in establishing the Hybrid Court for South Sudan, and urges the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity to work with the African Union to establish this institution without further delay;

8. *Calls upon* the parties to the conflict to take decisive steps demonstrating the political will to achieve urgent and tangible progress on implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and other efforts to further promote and strengthen the protection of human rights, tackle persistent impunity for violations and abuses, prevent further violations and abuses of human rights and ensure accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and related crimes;

9. *Calls upon* the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity to make meaningful and sustained progress under the Revitalized Agreement without delay and to take additional, related steps to develop its own capacity to investigate allegations of human rights violations and abuses, international humanitarian law violations and related crimes and to hold those responsible accountable, while also adopting effective measures to protect and support witnesses, victims, human rights defenders and others involved in trials for crimes related to human rights violations and abuses, international humanitarian law violations and related crimes;

10. *Commends* the vital role played by human rights defenders, women, including women peacebuilders and women human rights defenders, youth, the media and civil society organizations in promoting human rights, and recalls the importance of promoting the inclusive, equitable and non-discriminatory participation in governance, constitution-making and electoral and transitional justice processes of all parts of society, including minorities and persons in vulnerable situations;

11. *Expresses its deep concern* at further restrictions to democratic and civic space in South Sudan, including powers given to the National Security Service to arrest and detain individuals, with or without a warrant, repeated reports of harassment, intimidation, arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance of and other attacks, committed with impunity, against human rights defenders, members of civil society organizations, media workers and humanitarian workers and other individuals, as well as undue restrictions on the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, online and offline, and to the freedom of peaceful assembly and of association;

12. *Urges* the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity to promote, protect and respect political and civic space in accordance with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, particularly by creating an enabling environment for free and fair elections, reversing powers given to the National Security Service through the National Security Service Act 2014 (Amendment) Bill 2024 and ensuring that no citizen is detained without a warrant or harassed;

13. *Emphasizes* the need for the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity to create the conditions necessary for the planned elections in 2026 to be free, fair and conducted through an inclusive and credible process, with full respect for human rights and the rule of law, as well as for the open and inclusive participation of all actors, including the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, before and during the election period, and calls upon the Transitional Government to provide all the resources necessary to the National Elections Commission, the National Constitutional Review Commission and the National Political Parties Council in order to achieve tangible progress in preparing for elections, including with the support of the regional and international community where relevant;

14. *Welcomes* the report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan¹ and its presentation to the Human Rights Council during the enhanced interactive dialogue held at its present session, while expressing concern at the findings in the report and at its overall assessment regarding the current situation of human rights on the ground, and encourages the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity, all parties to the conflict and other actors to engage with the Commission with a view to implementing the recommendations made in the report and to respect their obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law in all circumstances;

15. *Calls upon* the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity to tackle the impunity and economic crimes driving conflict and human rights violations and abuses, to implement the core provisions of the Revitalized Agreement and to prioritize the prevention of human rights violations and abuses, including by holding perpetrators of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence to account and ending the recruitment and use of children in armed forces and groups in violation of applicable international law;

16. *Takes note* of the additional conference room papers published so far by the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, strongly encourages the Commission to share future conference room papers with the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity in a timely manner in advance of publication, and encourages continued information-sharing and dialogue with the Transitional Government as appropriate;

17. *Reaffirms* the importance of the mandate of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, with continued emphasis on the need to establish the facts and circumstances of, to collect and preserve evidence of and to clarify responsibility for alleged violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes in South Sudan, and notes that, given that the Hybrid Court for South Sudan, the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing and the Compensation and Reparation Authority have yet to be fully functionally established, as called for in chapter V of the Revitalized Agreement, there remains a need for a mechanism for the monitoring of, reporting on and collection of evidence regarding alleged violations and abuses of human rights in South Sudan;

18. *Notes* the relevance of the work of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan to the mandate and functions of the chapter V mechanisms, once they have been established in accordance with the Revitalized Agreement, welcomes the passage of legislation establishing two of the transitional justice mechanisms and urges the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity to fully operationalize both in a transparent manner, encourages ongoing consultation and engagement with civil society and victims on legislation and the selection of commissioners for the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing, and urges the Transitional Government to establish the Hybrid Court for South Sudan, in cooperation with the African Union, without delay;

19. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, composed of three members, for a further period of one year;

20. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan to present a comprehensive report on the situation of human rights in South Sudan to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-fourth session, to be followed by an enhanced interactive dialogue, which should also include the participation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and civil society, and that the report and an easy-to-read version of it be made available on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner in an accessible format;

21. *Also requests* the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan to present its latest report, in combination with an oral update on its work, to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session, followed by an interactive dialogue;

22. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to provide all the administrative, technical and logistical support and personnel necessary to enable the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan to carry out its mandate, and in particular to support the Commission's investigative and evidence-collection functions, including, inter

¹ A/HRC/61/25.

alia, the use of computer software, forensic investigation capabilities and access to witness and victim protection and support services, including psychosocial support services;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all the resources necessary to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to provide the administrative, technical and logistical support necessary for the implementation of the provisions of the present resolution;

24. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan to work collaboratively with the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity and the African Union, including its Peace and Security Council, the Intergovernmental Authority for Development, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and its Country Rapporteur for South Sudan, relevant organs and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations, and other relevant national and international judicial and law enforcement institutions, as well as other key regional stakeholders, on the issue of human rights in South Sudan, including by sharing its reports and recommendations, exchanging other information and offering briefings as appropriate;

25. *Urges* international and regional partners to continue to coordinate their support for the timely implementation of all outstanding provisions of the Revitalized Agreement, including technical resources and predictable funding mechanisms;

26. *Calls upon* States and other stakeholders to continue to support efforts to further improve the situation of human rights in South Sudan by providing additional technical assistance and capacity-building to the country, with a focus on the operationalization of transitional justice provisions as agreed to in the Revitalized Agreement, including the chapter V institutions, and calls upon the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity to take meaningful steps that enable technical assistance to be effective;

27. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

*51st meeting
27 March 2026*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 25 to 4, with 18 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Against:

Burundi, China, Cuba, Ethiopia

Abstaining:

Angola, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Malawi, Mauritius, Pakistan, Qatar, South Africa, Viet Nam]