
Peacebuilding, Reconciliation and Community Cohesion in South Sudan The Role of Youth

13 February 2016, Juba Grand Hotel, Unity Hall

In August 2015, South Sudan's warring parties signed a peace agreement to end the conflict. Implementation of the political settlement is likely to be challenging, with the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity the first of many hurdles towards achieving lasting peace. Reconciliation at national and local levels is required to heal the social, ethnic and other fractures that have been caused by conflict among and between communities. This will require the broad-based participation of South Sudanese society, and particularly the buy-in of youth, with two-thirds of the country's population under the age of thirty.

At this one-day roundtable event, speakers will discuss the role of youth in the future of South Sudan and possibilities for an inclusive approach that engages youth in peace-building, reconciliation and community cohesion.

This event is co-organized by the Chatham House Africa Programme and the British Council's Horn of Africa Leadership and Learning for Action (HOLLA) project.

09:30 – 10:00: Registration (tea and coffee)

10:00 – 10:05: Welcome and Introductions

Rosalind Marsden, Associate Fellow, Chatham House

10:05 – 11:45: How do politicians see the role of youth in peace-building, reconciliation and community cohesion?

Chair: Rosalind Marsden, Associate Fellow, Chatham House

Hon. John Gai, Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Government of South Sudan

Manasseh Zindo, Chairperson of the National Committee for Culture, Youth and Sports, SPLM-IO

Dr Lam Akol Ajawin, Chairman, Democratic Change Party

John Luk Jok, Minister of Justice (2011-2013); Nominee for Minister of Transport in TGNU, SPLM-FD

11:45 – 12:00: Coffee break

12:00 – 13:45: What are youth perspectives on peace-building, reconciliation and community cohesion?

Chair: Ahmed Soliman, Research Associate, Chatham House

Agum Rin Mabeny, Undersecretary, Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sports, Government of South Sudan

Paleki Matthew Obur, Executive Director, South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network (SSWEN)

Maal Maker, Directorate of Communications and PR, Office of the President, Government of South Sudan

Nicholas Aru, Co-Founder, South Sudan Youth for Peace and Development Organization (SSYPADO); South Sudan Committee for National Healing, Peace and Reconciliation

Edmund Yakani Berizilious, Executive Director, Community Empowerment for Progress Organisation (CEPO)

Chuol Dow, Youth Leader, HOLLA South Sudan

13:45 – 14:45: Lunch

14:45 – 16:30: How to engage youth in peace-building, reconciliation and community cohesion?

Chair: Rosalind Marsden, Associate Fellow, Chatham House

Dr Alfred Lokuji, Associate Professor in Development Studies, University of Juba

Ferdinand von Habsburg-Lothringen, Advisor to the South Sudan Council of Churches

Casie Copeland, Senior Analyst South Sudan, International Crisis Group

Peter Biar Ajak, Director, Center for Strategic Analysis and Research

16:30: End of roundtable.