

**TRANSFORMING EDUCATION SUMMIT
NATIONAL STATEMENT OF COMMITMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN,
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK,
19 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Secretary General António Guterres,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to congratulate the Secretary General for hosting the Transforming Education Summit and all Heads of State and Government for your national commitments. Congratulations to you all. We recognize that the global learning crisis is a compelling reason for all of us, as world leaders, to commit ourselves to the transformation of education in all our respective countries. Meeting the SDG goals will go a long way in improving the lives of the peoples of the world and safeguard our environment. SDG 4 is a key component of the SDGs, and is considered, rightly, to be the key for the achievement of the other SDGs. The Republic of South Sudan reaffirms its commitment to transform its education system to achieve the SDG 4 targets . Our report provides the detailed national commitments of our country and this statement is a summary of those commitments.

The Republic of South Sudan will ensure that its schools are inclusive, equitable, safe and healthy learning institutions. In particular, we will promote the right to education for all citizens and continue to mitigate the impacts and effects of COVID-19 on education: all efforts will be made to implement the RAPID framework for action to recovery not only to reverse the learning losses that occurred as a result of the pandemic, but to also address longer term systems strengthening to address the high level of learning poverty, with a commitment to reach the most marginalized children first. We are working to increase our preparedness to respond to and provide education in areas affected by floods, communal conflicts, the civil war and any other emergencies with a resilience approach. We will work very hard to increase access to education for as many of the 2.8 million out-of-school children and youth as possible. We will increase the number of learners benefiting from the school feeding programme which we know contribute to important education and health outcomes of learners.

Peace is the top priority in our country and we will promote Peacebuilding through Education, Global Citizenship and Human Rights Education, and Education for

Sustainable Development. These themes are enshrined in our new National Curriculum and are integrated as extra-curricular activities in schools.

We will commit to an increased focus on foundational literacy and numeracy, to help children establish the necessary, strong foundation, enabling the success of other educational priorities and a solid transition to employment thereafter. We will improve public examinations and school-based learning assessments to measure learning outcomes more accurately and inform relevant pedagogical teaching and learning practices in the classroom that work in reversing declining learning rates. We will scale up literacy programmes to promote literacy in as many of the vernacular languages of South Sudan as possible and expand it further in English, Kiswahili, and Arabic. We will increase the efficiency of instruction, including through catch up learning, targeted instruction and structured pedagogy with the focus on increasing foundational learning in literacy and numeracy. We will work very hard to increase the literacy rate of South Sudan to at least 75% by 2030. South Sudan will invest in TVET to equip youth and adults with the necessary skills for employment and entrepreneurship and implement the Higher Education Policy Framework, 2021-2030, to achieve the twin objectives of quality and massification to increase the supply of youth with skills for the benefit of our economy.

We will boost the development of a teacher training recruitment and development system, increase the number of our teachers and provide in-service training for teachers throughout the country to increase the number of qualified teachers in schools. They will need to be equipped with the relevant tools and skills to accelerate learning recovery, including on more effective teaching and learning practices with a focus on teaching the fundamentals. We will train school inspectors, head teachers, deputy head teachers and school governors to improve management, leadership and governance of schools. We will encourage twinning arrangements between our higher education institutions with their counterparts in the region and the world at large to promote research to support the achievement of the SDGs. We will also continue to improve staff pay and working conditions to improve retention.

Furthermore, the Republic of South Sudan will promote digital learning and transformation. We will provide training for teachers to use ICT to improve the quality of teaching, promote learning and improve learning outcomes for all learners. We will digitalize the new textbooks and teacher guides, and encourage teachers and learners to use open source digital learning resources. We will try our level best to ensure digital learning initiatives

benefit the most disadvantaged and hardest to reach groups of learners, including learners with disabilities.

The Republic of South Sudan commits to increase its annual budget allocation to education to 20% between now and 2030. We will also ensure budget execution and discipline to promote equity, efficiency and accountability for education finances; mobilize more finances to support transformation of education in the country, including from donors and through tax reforms.

In conclusion, the Republic of South Sudan is facing huge and multiple challenges and these challenges can only be addressed if we implement these ambitious national commitments to transform education in our country. Transformation of education in our country is imperative. We believe that a business-as-usual approach cannot be adopted in this situation. For this reason, the Republic of South Sudan has decided to demonstrate ambition, urgency and political will and leadership to achieve the desired acceleration and education transformation. We take this opportunity to appeal to the donor community for support. With increased domestic investment in education and donor support, we believe that the Republic of South Sudan can make the dreams of its children and youth come true. Let us invest in our children and youth, who are the future of South Sudan.

Thank you.