



Institute of Social Policy and Research
RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT

**NATIONAL YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE TO THE HIGH LEVEL REVITALIZATION
FORUM DEBRIEFING REPORT
MARCH 1, 2018.
REGENCY HOTEL, JUBA-SOUTH SUDAN**



Overview

Following phase I of the HLRF that was conducted between *18th and 22nd December, 2017* in Addis Ababa; Ethiopia, which resulted to the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA), it has to be noted that the national youth have been less represented with only one youth (Koiti Emily) who seats inside the negotiation room as a delegate with no body directly backing her up in the technical team outside the hall unlike the other groups like the CSO, women and the private sector among others. However, during the phase II of the forum, one youth (Wani Michael) voluntarily represented the youth in the technical team like any other interest group

in order to advance the interest of the youth to be incorporated into the agreement.

The national youth representative to the HLRF together with other civil society representatives to IGAD organized one day debriefing forum in Juba Regency Hotel on March 1, 2018 to update the youth on the out come of the phase II HLRF that was concluded on February 16th, in Addiss Ababa, Ethopia. Succeeding the first debriefing attempt that was a fiasco in the Juba Civic Engagement center due to some security clearance related challenges.

The main speakers in the debriefing forum included the following:

1. **Wani Micheal** (*Member of technical team representing the youth CSO forum*)
2. **Dr. Koiti Emily** (*A delegate to the HLRF and representative of the youth in JMEC*)
3. **Edmund Yakani** (*CSO delegate to the HLRF*)
4. **Rajab Muhandis** (*CSO delegate to the HLRF*)

1-Wani Michael:

- He was part of the technical team that was seated outside the negation hall in Addiss Ababa during the peace process. His main role was to coordinate with other technical teams in Juba, diaspora and the delegates inside for concrete decisions on the youth representation.
- They conducted several lobby meetings with different relevant groups including diplomatic missions in Addiss Ababa Ethopia and relayed youth messages that the Youth are the victims of the war, telling them the development the youth should have done in the country if there was peace in the country.
- They visited most strategic embassies in Addiss Ababa comprising of the Rwanda embassy, as their President is the current chair of the African union. Including number of other AU officials in different occasions, they as well urged the African Union to pressure the parties for peace. For example Egypt, European Union, Algeria, South African, and many others to recall.

2-Dr. Koiti Emily

- As the official youth representative to JMEC and a delegate to the HLRF, she briefly took the youth through the general synopsis of the HLRF process.

How did the process come about?

- All reports of the Joint Monitoring & Evaluation showed over the course of the months since its signing in 2015, that little or no progress has been made by all responsible parties in its implementation.
- JMEC has reported these outcomes to TGoNU (the implementing entity) IGAD, AU and UNSC. Following this, JMEC recommended the need to revitalize the ARCSS.
- The IGAD Heads of States and Government in their 31st extra ordinary summit of 12th June, 2017 endorsed the High-level Revitalization Forum for the parties to the ARCSS, including estranged groups to discuss concrete measures to:
 - *Restore the permanent ceasefire,*
 - *Achieve full and inclusive implementation of the ARCSS, and*
 - *Develop a revised and realistic timeline and implementation schedule towards a democratic election at the end of the transition.*
- The heads of state appointed the IGAD special Envoy to South Sudan Amb. Dr. Ismail Wais to oversee the actualization of this decision and is assisted by the IGAD and JMEC secretariats as HLRF Taskforce.
- On 22nd July 2017, JMEC members were consulted as a first step in determining how HLRF should be.
- South Sudanese High-level independent experts were invited to Addis Ababa in August 2017. Among these experts, the JMEC youth representative was the only JMEC member invited to participate. Other participants included academia, independent women representatives and civil society leaders.
- The High-Level independent experts' meeting was followed by more consultations with different parties and stakeholders, inside and outside South Sudan in the region where there is significant presence of South Sudanese. The findings during these consultations culminated into the pre-forum consultation report on the forum.
- A first phase of the HLRF followed from 18th – 22nd December in Addis Ababa; Ethiopia, which resulted the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement

(CoHA). The agreement is available on both JMEC and IGAD websites. Youth were represented. The CoHA will be an addendum of the revitalized ARCSS.

- A second phase of the HLRF was convened from *February 5th to 16th* in Addis Ababa; Ethiopia constituting of:
 - *IGAD – Mediator*
 - *Facilitators: Three ministers of foreign affairs from Ghana (woman), Algeria and Angola*
 - *IGAD Plus members*
 - *IGAD Partners’ Forum Members*
 - *Other International partners including TROIKA*
 - *Warring parties (TGoNU, Armed opposition groups, Non armed opposition groups,*
 - *Representatives of business community, FBOs, CSO, Youth, Women, Academia and Eminent personalities)*
 - *JMEC, CTSAMM*

What was discussed in phase II of the HLRF?

- The declaration of Principles (DOP) was the first item in the agenda as it opens up the spirit of dialogues. Other stakeholders including TGoNU did not append their signatures to the DOP. However, she signed it on behalf of the youth. Other stakeholders who did not sign were not comfortable with the principle number 28, which states that ***“IGAD shall take all necessary measures including those decided by the 28th Extra ordinary summit of the IGAD heads of state and government of 24th November 2014 against individual violators and spoilers”***
- The negotiation only centered on chapter I & II of the 1015 signed agreement.
- When all the stakeholders in the hall went for plenary discussions, the youth representative is suppose to present the idea of the wider youth like the rest of the stakeholders but she only presented limited ideas from a few proactive youth as most youth were not mobilized. The youth made several submissions during the plenary as it will be reflected in the general achievement later.

Edmund Yakani:

- Revitalization has complications in understanding as different people define it contrarily. However, it can mean, to create life into the agreement
- It does not focus to the entire agreement but rather chapter I&II and the time line of the agreement.
- The revitalization is to check the agreement article by article up to editing other articles where deemed necessary by the negotiating parties.
- Improve the language of the article as other articles seem to be bearing two ideas the team therefore, ended up splitting it to two or even creating new articles that are not in the agreement before.
- Chapter I & II is 80% done 20% red line for CSO-
- We pushed for no Power sharing language but rather accepted and inclusive sharing of responsibility.
- Formation of the government: TGONU- we will expand the gov't including every present person,
- Opposition-Reduce the government including us minus some of the government officials. However, these positions are negotiating positions.
- The peace has not collapsed but it is a process as it needs some times
- It needs trust and saving the interest of the South Sudanese people
- The number of states issues came up but was not discussed as yet
- The government prefers to expand the assembly from current 400 while the opposition. Prefer it reduced to 170 officially elected ones.
- The opposition desire total containment of the forces including the ones in the government. Meaning reestablishment of the forces while the government suggests not complete but rather specific cantonment of the forces as the national army may need some stand by forces to protect the nation from other issues like, cattle rustling.

Rajab Mohandis:

- The CSO team received a lot of criticism that they are doing nothing
- People questioned their basis of being in Addiss Ababa
- Many bad wishes were made to them including curses
- There was lack of trust by some individuals in the CSO composition

What has the Youth Achieved generally in Phase II of the HLRF?

- NCAC representation, which has not been there in the ARCSS but now youth will have one representative
- CTSAMM Representation maintained
- SDSR Representation maintained
- Representation of youth and persons with disabilities at all levels of government. **(Note)** a proposed percentage of 35% is yet to be captured in the different levels of government but also youth have to be constantly on the watch to ensure consistency during review different legislations for reconstitution of institutions where youth representation is needed to ensure that the new legislations capture the aspirations of young people.
- The youth pushed for the population census now not to be mandatory prior to elections not as was before. It was optional. This means that during the census, as is the case in all census, the work force relied on to enumerate are youth and at the time of the census, many will have the opportunity to be employed for the same.
- Civilian disarmament captured in the proposed text of chapter II. This is a submission that was made by the youth representative.
- It is important to note that all youth representation is restricted to those who fall in the definition of the African Youth Charter (15-35) years old. Although, it is important that the youth ensure adherence to meritocracy in the choice of their representatives at all levels of government. This task lies ahead for all youth during the implementation of the provisions of the revitalized ARCSS.

General challenges of Phase II

- Inadequate knowledge of the agreement articles by some party members
- The chosen chapters for the revitalization informed atmosphere in the room, as the parties seem to be struggling for power and to balance the power struggle to party and the individual interest.
- Youth not adequately mobilized and organized to exploit their consequential participation in the peace process. If organized.

Available opportunities:

- The Youth Organizations Coalition (YOC) can be a platform for helping youth achieves their interest in the HLRF.
- The youth have a representative as a delegate in the HLRF as well as a youth representative to the civil society technical team to whom submissions can be made.
- Females youth can as well fight for the portion in the 35% of the women affirmative action
- There is still enough time for the youth to organize themselves as more weeks are still left for the next phase to kick off.

Queries raised by the youth during the forum:

- What was the mood of the parties? Did you see any sign of hope to bring about peace from them?
- What was the reaction of the embassies that the CSO met in Addiss Ababa?
- Were there government or opposition members in the technical team?
- Why did the revitalization only deal with chapter I&II?
- What has the team agreed about the time line as per now?
- If the time line is not well defined it will definitely give some loopholes for the agreement to collapse.
- That others fear the DOP, how will peace come now?
- What was the position of the youth in Addiss Ababa on the 10 states?
- Has the CSO taken some responds in terms of how long the talks may need to take as the situation is already in a serious need of peace?
- People who are already sanctioned should not be part of the peace talks.
- What steps have the CSOs taken for the parties' accountabilities on the agreement?
- What is the root cause of the collapsed of the agreement?
- How are we going to let the youth that are in the grass root know what we are doing in the urban settings?
- The youth should be united so that they can be taken seriously like the women.
- Why should there be four vice Presidents? What are they gonna do?
- Who delegated Wani Michael and Koiti Emily to represent the youth in the HLRF?
- Was there any ethnic representation of the CSOs and the youth in Adiss?

- What criteria have you developed for the youth of the three regions to come together for discussing youth issues?
- How can the youth eradicate the issue of the power sharing struggles within the parties?
- Who is supposed to organize the youth together for a common agenda?
- What was the stand of the youth when the parties were fighting for power?
- What are some of the issues that they have agreed upon?
- What is driving the region to have interest in the country? And what is CSO doing

Group Discussion Questions

1. What are your recommendations on the transitional arrangements
 - a) Transitional cabinet
 - b) Transitional legislative Assembly
 - c) Number of States
2. Cantonment of forces. How should it be done?
3. How can the youth participation in governance be enhanced?

Group presentations

Group I

Question 1: One President and two vices including 20 Ministries with all deputy Ministers that should comprising of; Ministry of Mining and Petroleum, Education Sport and culture, Gender and social development, Cabinet Affairs, Finance and Economic planning, Justice, Information Telecommunication, Tourism, wildlife and forest, Defense and National Security, Housing and Infrastructure among others.

Question 2: Security to be handed to the hands of the police and the national security and all other forces in the country should cantoned and deployed to 25kms away from city centers.

Group II

Question 1:

- 32 Ministries to be maintained as it is in the current agreement in order to accommodate all political forces

- Maintain the 400 MPs to avoid powers struggling in the event that the TNLA composition is reduced
- Maintain the current 32 States

Question 3:

- Increase the number of youth delegates in Addiss Ababa
- Improve communication between delegates in Addiss Ababa and back home in Juba
- Creation of youth platforms eg whatsapp groups, face books, radio talk shows, etc
- Youth empowerment through capacity building trainings
- Engagement with warring parties to be strengthen
- Creation of youth monthly forum to address youth issues.

Group III:

Question 1:

- A President with Four (4) Deputies
- Maintain the 32 Ministries with 1% youth representation and 20 deputies
- 400 +20 Members of parliament.15 from the opposition and 5 from the government with 2% youth representation

Question 2:

- 32 States to remain during the transitional period till referendum is done for it
- Partial cantonment to be done in the states that have cases of cattle rustling and revenge killing
- Forces to be separated or put separately in between by the RPF
- The transitional period should be for only one year.