Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: Submission of the National DDR Commission in the Republic of South Sudan to the Secretary General on Resolution 73/32 on the Role of Science and Technology in the context of International Security and Disarmament

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1. Summary of Submission

The Government of the Republic of South Sudan supports Resolution 73/32 and believes that the global effort to fight the nuclear, biological and chemical weapons scourge is important and affects the lives of South Sudanese at home and especially in the diaspora. However, our specific concerns are more limited and urgent, i.e. the threat from continued proliferation of small arms and their inadequate control and destruction.

South Sudan needs direct support from the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs and its regional Africa office, which has so far never reached out to us, as a government in need of assistance. As Chairperson of South Sudan's National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission I have always found this surprising. We face many embargos relating to arms but I was not aware of an ideas embargo.

Specifically we would like the role of science and technology to be in assisting:

a. South Sudan to collate weapons for proper control of arms and its management;
b. To educate the public on the danger of weapons and its proliferation;
c. To assist in building the capacity of the Ministry of Interior and the local administrators to provide law and order, which must lead to the end of proliferation of small arms;
d. To sign international treaties and commit to them in letter and spirit;
e. To help us build bilateral and international relationship with the neighbouring countries and sort out issues of rebellions and arms trade;
f. To support the acquisition and use of the most advanced technologies as currently used by other countries to catch up with the rest of the world in handling global issues competently;
g. To assist in the regulation of small arms in South Sudan, which pose a clear and present threat to the population.
2. Contextual analysis: Political, Social and Economic context of South Sudan:

South Sudan, a land of 644,329 square kilometers, is bordered by the Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Central African Republic. It got its independence from Sudan on 9th July 2011 after protracted bitter conflict between the Southern Part of the former Sudan and then Sudan government based in the northern part of the country. This protracted conflict killed over two million South Sudanese, displaced over four million, decimated the already scanty infrastructure, shattered the economy and weakened the social support systems. In this scenario, the DDR programme in South Sudan is being planned and implemented in a context of a fragile South Sudan, with a weak economic base, poor social infrastructure and indeed weak institutions, which requires robust capacity building.

3. DDR IN SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN

In South Sudan, the commission to deal with the DDR issues was established in 2006 by the presidential order. However, the same body had earlier existed in different forms; as an NGO and as Interim DDR in the liberated areas of South Sudan during the liberation war. From its inception, the changes the commission went through gave it the turbulence and criticism it got from DDR experts and international community.

Under one Sudan, the South Sudanese wanted to be given a special consideration in dealing with the DDR Programme, yet the international community needed to see equity, professionalism, fairness, transparency and accountability. The South Sudanese felt, their social, economic and financial situation was not equal to that of northern Sudan, hence the need for special consideration. This was never seen, and contributed to the delay in the DDR work, which started in June 2009, almost four years after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

According to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in 2005; 180,000 soldiers were to be disarmed from both the Northern and Southern Sudan, taking 90,000 soldiers from each side. Through lack of support for the South Sudanese governing structures over the last 14 years and through an attempt by the UN peacekeeping mission to control all DDR spending in the country without reference to national institutions, the process largely failed. When political life broke down again in 2013 and again in 2016, the proliferation of small arms throughout South Sudan made violence a cheap method to resolve the problems that arose, and caused the deaths of many innocents.

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1 National DDR Strategic Plan 2012 – 2020, 6
4. NDDRC is planning to update National DDR Policy to incorporate, among others, the following:

- DDR linkages to security sector transformation;
- Reinsertion and reintegration dealt with in a more comprehensive and intertwined manner;
- Focused DDR programming for different armed groups;
- Delivery through and with community structures and community reintegration approaches;
- Piloting a national public works programmes;
- Ensuring the Government leads the DDR Programme and allocates needed resources to achieve the programmes objectives with support and guidance from the international community and supporting actors such as the UN office of Disarmament Affairs.

These are lessons learned after two separate DDR programmes implemented in the Republic of South Sudan.

5. Role of Science and Technology in the context of International Security and Disarmament:

Officially, the UN defines disarmament as one process within the bigger DDR effort as follows; “Disarmament is the collection, documentation, control and disposal of small arms, ammunition, explosives and light and heavy weapons of combatants and often also the civilian population. Disarmament also includes the development of responsible arms management programmes.”

In its entirety, DDR, is “a process that contributes to security and stability in a post conflict recovery context by removing weapons from the hands of combatants, taking the combatants out of military structures and helping them to integrate socially and economically into society by finding civilian livelihoods.”

The Role of Science and Technology in the context of International Security and Disarmament under the current situation of South Sudan is far too advanced as it deals with cyber security and nuclear disarmament to which South Sudan needs to be helped. The main concern of Disarmament and international security lie at the heart of international community to achieve sustainable development and to save the current and future generations from the horrors of war.

As highlighted by the first committee and I quote “nuclear proliferation remains a critical issue, chemical and biological weapons pose a constant threat including from non state actors, cyber security threats have emerged in recent years, including as a

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2 Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation Standards (IDDRS)
3 Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation Standards (IDDRS) pg. 7
mean for covert attacks. And an arms race in outer space arms as a realistic possibility for perhaps the first time.⁴

As a country, we are ready to help the international community with fighting the vice and make the world free from the horrors of war, as we are part of the international community.

We understand and feel the pain that this brings world over. Many of our global citizens suffered from this and we vow, as a country to do all that is possible to stand and support the world body in cleaning the world of this destructive menace.

However, our specific problem in South Sudan at the moment is not really this notion of international security and disarmament, rather it is small arms proliferation, which affects the communities that are not aware of the dangers of weapons.

Our country is still struggling with concepts such as international security and disarmament, which Europe and the western world is conversant with centuries ago. The challenge mentioned above might come to our society with time, but as it is, we are requesting support in the following areas:

h. South Sudan to be helped to collate weapons for proper control of small arms and its management.

i. Educate the public on the danger of weapons and its proliferation

j. Build the capacity of the ministry of Interior and the local administrators to provide law and order, which must lead to the end of proliferation of small arms.

k. Sign international treaties and commit to them in letter and spirit.

l. Build bilateral and international relationship with the neighbouring countries and sort out issues of rebellions and arms trade.

m. Build the country and make it nice for the people to enjoy

n. Support to acquire and use the most advanced technologies as currently used by other countries to cope up with the rest of the world in handling global issues competently.

o. The small arms in South Sudan are more necessary, which pose a threat to the population.

p. The local feuding communities use much of these small arms to disrupt and cause chaos in the country leading to instability and turmoil.

⁴ https://www.un.org
References:

1. National DDR Strategic Plan 2012 – 2020, 6
2. Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation Standards (IDDRS) 6
3. Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation Standards (IDDRS) pg. 7