**SOUTH SUDAN YOUTH HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION**

1. **Challenges facing young people in South Sudan:**
* Insecurity
* Limited access to basic education,Technical,Voactional,Educational and Training (TVET)
* High rate of unemployment and underemployment
* Limited access to health services and life skills mainly in reproductive health,alcohol,and substance abuse
* Gender inequality
* Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs)
* Fragmentation of youth structures and limited participation of youth in decision-making processes
* Limited engagement of youth in culture,arts,and sports
* Limited participation of youth in voluntary service/community development
1. **Examples of discrimination against young people in the exercise of their rights:**
* Youth representation in the annual UN General Assembly is denied of any support
* Internships positions are not provided (if any, on a discriminatory basis) for young people.
1. **Policies and programs aimed at supporting young people in South Sudan:**
* World Program of Action for Youth (WPAY) (A/RES/50/81).One of the priorities of the WPAY is to support the participation of youth in decision-making. In particular, the program invites governments to strengthen the involvement of young people in international forums through the inclusion of youth representatives in their national delegations to the General Assembly.(A/RES/52/83,54/120,56/117,58/133,59/1448,62/126,64/130).
* The South Sudan Youth Development Policy (SSYDP) recognizes empowerment as a multi-dimensional process that enables young people participate and gain control over their own life. It conceives empowerment as a process that fosters power in which young people acting on their own will take decisions pertaining to their own life, their communities, and in their society by acting on issues that they define as important.

 The policy underpins service providers, other stakeholders and the youth themselves shall become accountable for youth empowerment. While stakeholders cannot give young people power, they can provide the opportunities, resources and support (creating an enabling environment) so that young people become involved themselves in decisions and actions thereby determining their functions, the well-being of themselves and society.

1. **Youth Involvement in the implementation of the policy:**
* Take part and contribute in the development of peace, security and protection from any kind of conflict, gender dissemination,abuse,violence and exploitation;
* Develop their knowledge,experiences,skills,positive attitudes and become healthy and productive citizens;
* Make decisions on matters affecting their life and bring about positive change on the standards of living in South Sudan;
* Participate and contribute to community development, acquire knowledge and skills, and generate a sense of commitment to the goals of local and national development initiatives;
* Promote gender equality in all walks of life; and
* Take part, contribute and demand services, good governance, democracy and rule of law from all relevant service providers, the government and other stakeholders.
1. **Measures to be taken at the international level to support realization of youth rights:**
* The UN Youth Fund (UNYF) should be revitalized for the benefit of many developing countries across the world.

*Contributed by Joseph Kenyi Samuel, President,UNA-South Sudan Email:unass.juba@gmail.com Mob.:+211954354936*