

SPEECH OF THE HON. MINISTER DURING THE NATIONAL WORKSHOP UNDER THE UN WATER CONVENTION

His Excellency Vice President and Chairperson of Economic Cluster

Your Excellency Sonja Koppel Secretary of UN Water Convention

Honorable Ministries

Distinguish Ladies and Gentlemen,

All protocols observed

Greetings to you all

On behalf of Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation and on my own behalf I would like to take this opportunity to welcome each and every one of you to this very important workshop happening here in South Sudan for the first time.

I would like to thank the UN Water Convention Secretariat for accepting to deliver this workshop to South Sudan, so that we understand it fully before we acceded as a nation.

I would like to thank our focal points both in the ministry and from our key stake holders who worked tirelessly to ensure that this workshop is conducted successfully.

I would like to express my appreciation to everyone in their own capacities for the contribution they have made for the successful contribution of this workshop.

Guest of Honors Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

Allow me to highlight few points to shed light of why we opted to accede to the UN Water Convention and be a part to it.

First and foremost, South Sudan is in the heart of Nile basin whose waters are all of transboundary nature, not only that but South Sudan lacks key national and transboundary water management and governance instruments which could facilitate the allocation of water resources to our stakeholders. Therefore, being part of this global convention will open for us huge opportunities beyond measure. It was in this context that we feel it is necessary for us as a country to be part of this Convention.

Secondly, when we read through the Convention document, we discovered that the convention gives us most of the requirements we need for managing and governing transboundary resources. In this respect being in it will support in some of the most critical issues we faced in this endeavor.

Thirdly, Nile basin is a complex and sensitive basin which lacks basin wide legal framework which can be use by all countries in the governance and management of its water. The attempts to have that is the Cooperative Framework Agreement is still in the process, therefore this global community gives us the opportunity to contribute in the management of this common resources. But we have a challenge here in the implementation as well as understanding the provisions of the Convention.

Guests of honor, distinguished ladies and gentlemen

I therefore call upon the development partners and donors agencies in the country to support in building capacity of our staff who are indirectly and directly involved in the implementation of this convention to ensure all the South Sudanese citizens in three levels of the government, where we can add value to our existing knowledge of transboundary water management and governance.

I appeal to the international organizations and non-government and organizations to contribute for the development of our staff who are in the front line of the implementation of this convention to ensure that they are up to the stage of the international levels.

I call upon the civil society and community base organizations and the media fraternity to support in educating our people to know the content of the convention and identify their role so that they can participate effectively in the implementation of the convention.

I appeal to the regional and international experts present here to give as much knowledge as you can, so that we are fully educated about the convention. I call upon the Convention Secretariat to add more support for staff in conducting national workshops to educate us more, because the faster way people understand, the easier they respond.

I call upon our technical staff from this workshop to ask many questions as possible, seek clarifications about all areas with challenges and in this way, it will be easy for you to implement.

Guest of Donor, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Before I conclude, I would like to say that we in the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation as a government, we will do our best to offer moral support to the team working in this Convention to ensure that we succeed in the process. As a government we will do our best to contribute what we have, to educate our people about the UN Water Convention. We shall also take this process to the higher authority to make sure that South Sudan accedes as soon as possible as expected.

Once again, I appreciate for accepting the invitation, up to this juncture I declare the workshop is officially open, I wish you a fruitful deliberation.

Thank very much.