

HRC58 TAKEAWAYS FOR AFRICA

STAKES

The international context

- ✓ Ongoing armed conflicts in several regions of the world, including Africa
- ✓ Attacks against **multilateralism** & international institutions
- ✓ Cuts in development aid and funding to the non-profit sector

Stakes for the Human Rights Council

- ✓ **HRC58** (24 February-4 April 2025) – many country-focused resolutions
- ✓ First HRC session after the US's withdrawal, following President Trump's inauguration
- ✓ Resolutions expected on, among others: Belarus, Iran, Myanmar, Palestine, Syria & Ukraine, as well as on human rights defenders (HRDs) & the right to a clean, healthy & sustainable environment

Stakes for Africa

- ✓ Resolutions were expected on 2 African countries: Mali & South Sudan
- ✓ Debates on Sudan, Eritrea, South Sudan, the DRC, the Central African Republic (CAR) & Mali

ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

SOUTH SUDAN

- ✓ Strong civil society **push** to extend the mandate of UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan (CHRSS) (103 signatories) & advocacy in Geneva with South Sudanese HRDs
- ✓ In-session advocacy with South Sudanese & Eritrean HRDs

OTHER ADVOCACY ENGAGEMENTS

- ✓ Engagements during the HRC's "**High-Level Segment**" late February 2025 – Hassan Shire & Memory Bandera present in Geneva
- ✓ **Oral statements** on Sudan, Eritrea, South Sudan, Ethiopia's UPR, & general debates (we focused on HRD and civic space issues)
- ✓ **Side event** with South Sudanese HRDs & the Chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan (CHRSS)

ANALYSIS OF THE SESSION

- ✓ **Press releases** on the adoption of a strong resolution extending the mandate of the CHRSS as the country is facing relapse into chaos
- ✓ Read Hassan Shire's **Reflections** on HRC58

OUTCOMES: RESOLUTIONS & MORE

HRC58 RESOLUTIONS

- ✓ Main resolution on South Sudan: vital step to extend investigations and maintain scrutiny over the country
- ✓ 2nd (weak) resolution on South Sudan: focus on technical assistance & capacity-building
- ✓ Resolution on Mali: extension of the Independent Expert's (IE) mandate

OTHER OUTCOMES

- ✓ Country resolutions adopted on Belarus, Iran, Myanmar, Nicaragua, North Korea, Palestine, Syria & Ukraine...
- ✓ Thematic resolutions adopted on **HRDs** (focus: HRDs and new & emerging digital technologies) & the right to a clean, healthy & sustainable environment
- ✓ All resolutions available **Here**

THE WAY FORWARD

- ✓ Together with the HRDs present, we kept a strong focus on South Sudan, Eritrea & Sudan
- ✓ We raised the profile of Ethiopia and will continue to enhance attention to address the crisis and lack of accountability in the country
- ✓ The next session, HRC59, will take place in June-July 2025. A resolution on Eritrea is expected
- ✓ In the meantime, efforts will continue in Banjul (ACHPR83)