



DEFEND DEFENDERS

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

UN Human Rights Council – 62nd regular session

Item 10: Interactive dialogue on the report of OHCHR on technical assistance and capacity-building for South Sudan

Oral statement

Delivered by: Rita Kanya

[Video statement]

Check against delivery

Mr. President, Mr. High Commissioner,

Thank you for your report. As we **stressed**, item 10 can be a fantastic tool to help states comply with their human rights obligations. For it to be effective, however, technical assistance and capacity-building must be complemented by scrutiny of situations.

In the current financial context, we urge states to prioritise efficiency in the use of item 10. Advisory services should go to states that demonstrate the political will to make good use of them. This means that wherever the cause of serious violations is political in nature (rather than merely due to a lack of capacity or resources) and where states lack the political will to improve their record, including by ending impunity for grave violations, the provision of advisory services is inadequate and ineffective. In these situations, the Council's role is to help create that political will by maintaining scrutiny and condemning violations.

Mr. President,

On South Sudan, our position is **clear** and **constant**: Given the gravity of the country's situation, **risks** of relapse into large-scale conflict, and the authorities' refusal to take meaningful steps towards ensuring accountability for past and ongoing violations, we consider that the Council's responsibility lies in extending the mandate of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan (**CHRSS**) and standing ready to respond to any developments.

No one will oppose technical assistance and capacity-building for South Sudan. But we wonder and ask: What will a new item 10 resolution do to address the country's human rights crisis?