



**Opening Statement by H.E. Mr. Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil
Vice-President of ECOSOC**

Integrated Support to South Sudan: Capacity Building and Core Governance Functions

24 July 2012, New York

Distinguished guests,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this briefing on the Integrated Support to South Sudan: Capacity Building and Core Governance Functions.

You may recall that just a little over one year ago South Sudan became an independent country. Immediately after independence, ECOSOC considered the situation there and adopted resolution 2011/43, requesting the first report on the implementation of integrated, coherent and coordinated support to South Sudan by the UN system.

Today, the time has come to take stock of the situation. Despite remarkable progress in some areas, living conditions for the majority of the population remain harsh, poverty is endemic and less than half of the population has access to basic health care. Key political issues remain unresolved, including oil revenue-sharing. However, such setbacks should not hamper development activities in a country that desperately needs international assistance.

The UN system has been very active on the ground in providing support in a coherent and coordinated manner and finding new tools to ensure coordination both within the UN system as well as with regional partners such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union.

We know from lessons learned from other countries emerging from crisis or conflict that prioritizing the building of capacity of local authorities from the outset is key. In line with this view, the UN system has put much emphasis on capacity building with very specific and innovative types of operations, including the strengthening of local civil services functions. These issues are elaborated in the report of the Secretary-General that will be introduced shortly and will also be discussed by our two guest speakers.

We have the privilege of having with us today, the Deputy Minister of Finance of the Government of South Sudan, Ms. Mary Jervas Yak. Ms. Yak will share with us the assessment of the work of the UN in her country, perspectives for future development and how her Government is adapting to the evolving situation.

[Our second speaker is the Assistant Minister of the Kenyan Public Service, Honorable Aden Sugow. Mr. Sugow will speak about the role of the Kenya and regional organizations such as IGAD in dealing with the critical shortage of capacities needed for core governance functions and to secure sustainable peace.]

We also have with us the Team Leader of the Democratic Governance Unit of UNDP South Sudan, Ms. Amanda Serumaga. UNDP played an important role in preparing the report of the Secretary-General and we are very grateful for their assistance. Ms. Serumaga will speak about the coordination mechanisms in place in South Sudan as well as the program to mentor local civil servants.

[It is my hope that the information provided by our guest speakers will be useful in drafting a resolution that the Council may consider on South Sudan – depending on the status of the resolution]

Distinguished guests,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is now my pleasure to invite Ms. Yak to take the floor. Ms. Yak, you have the floor.

Thank you.