

Organization: Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada

Item: Item 10: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on South Sudan

Date: 3 October 2022

Speaker: Vani Selvarajah

## **Oral Statement to the 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council from Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (LRWC), NGO in special consultative status**

Mr. President,

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada thanks the Office of the High Commissioner for its oral report.

We are dismayed by continued delays in establishing transitional justice mechanisms in South Sudan. Transitional justice is critical to achieving sustainable peace, national reconciliation and healing, and rebuilding the rule of law. This was recognized by all parties to the conflict in South Sudan through Chapter V of the Revitalized Peace Agreement, which provides for the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms, notably the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing; the Hybrid Court for South Sudan; and the Compensation and Reparation Authority.

Four years have passed since the signing of the Peace Agreement, and yet none of these key mechanisms has been made operational.

We note that the government has taken initial steps towards establishing these mechanisms and that the transitional period of the Revitalized Peace Agreement has been extended for another 24 months. We urge South Sudan to accelerate the establishment of all transitional justice mechanisms, and create an environment that respects the rule of law and human rights.

We also urge the High Commissioner to engage with the government and other partners to prioritize the promotion of inclusive and participatory transitional justice processes in South Sudan.

Thank you.