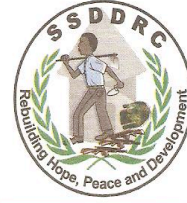**GOVERNMENT OF SOUTHERN SUDAN**
(GOSS)
SOUTHERN SUDAN DEMOBILIZATION, DISARMAMENT AND
REINTEGRATION COMMISSION (SSDDRC)
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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release – Juba, Southern Sudan 25 March 2011

In the anticipation of the birth of a new nation, the Southern Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC) wishes to re-state its position in some key matters and highlight a way ahead. A Technical Committee is currently preparing new DDR Policy outlines, composed of South Sudan People's Army (SPLA) and SSDDRC senior officers.

Southern Sudan DDR Commission renews its commitment to continue leading the DDR program beyond the formation of a new country, the Republic of South Sudan, on 9 July 2011. The current DDR program was an integral part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 and it was designed for one country and two systems. In the emerging new situation of a new Republic and new Government, the indisputable benefits of a successful DDR process for the stability and development of the country still remain, probably stronger than ever.

The previous approach to DDR was not sufficiently based on the realities on the ground in Southern Sudan. The "one size fits all" principle has not served the beneficiaries or the receiving communities appropriately, particularly across the great variety of regional differences of the South. The majority of communities is heavily affected by the past conflict and struggles to cope with the hard realities themselves. These communities were supposed to absorb 90,000 ex-combatants besides returnees and refugees. Therefore it is recommended to favor community-centered approaches to both reintegration support and community security.

SSDDRC stresses its commitment to continue working with all stakeholders and anticipates a renewed, better and more effective DDR for Sudan in 2011 and beyond.

DDR in Southern Sudan – brief background
Southern Sudan DDR activities begun on 10 June 2009. The first and current phase targets approximately 34,000 Special Needs Groups such as elderly and disabled former combatants and women associated with armed forces (WAAF). The next phase will focus on active SPLA soldiers.

The ongoing DDR program in Sudan is part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in January 2005 between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan (GoS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement (SPLA/M) ending one of

Africa's longest and most devastating civil wars. DDR is designed as a government-led and -owned program for 90,000 combatants and WAAF from the SPLA in Southern Sudan.

The SSDDRC is responsible for leading DDR in Southern Sudan. UNMIS is the lead organization providing support to the SSDDRC with Demobilization and UNDP provides lead support with Reintegration. The main implementing partners (IPs) are GTZ International Services, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). These IPs themselves subcontract partners if required. Child DDR is a separate DDR design under SSDDRC and supported by UNICEF.

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South Sudan DDR in figures
Eligible DDR participants so far demobilized (as of 18 March 2011)
11,944

in the following regions: Central Equatoria, Lakes, Western Bahr El-Ghazal, Lakes, Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria.

Eligible DDR participants so far
    8,435 registered into reintegration program
    1,786 begun reintegration training program
    4,692 completed reintegration training program
    (all reintegration figures as of 25 February 2011)

States with ongoing reintegration trainings of Phase 1: Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Western Bahr El-Ghazal, Lakes and Northern Bahr El Ghazal.

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