IBERIAN MUN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Officer Report 2019

*The crisis in South Sudan*

South Sudan, the youngest country at 8 years old, has been subject to a brutal humanitarian crisis and Civil War from its early years of development. Over 11.9 million people are in need of some form of aid due to the political conflict and economic difficulties that South Sudan faces. What had begun as political infighting in 2013 spread into violence in the streets, leaving millions of innocent civilians displaced, at threat to disease and starvation, victims of crime and violence, and subject to sexual attack (specifically young women). Massacres and ethnic cleanses have become widespread in the country, causing misery and mass suffering.

The conflict extended beyond its borders, involving nearby states such as Uganda and Egypt. The UN has been actively involved in the conflict as a part of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

The former president and the opposition leader Riek Machar met the president in the capital, Juba, in the beginning of September to provide force for the implementation of the newly arranged peace agreement. David Shearer, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMISS, stated regarding a meeting that “My hope is that this meeting will be the first of many between the leaders that will build the confidence and trust that lays the foundation to establish a Revitalized Government of National Unity on 12 November.” The revitalization of peace talks and the November 12 deadline are seen as essential elements for the establishment of long-lasting peace in the country.

Since the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) on 12 September 2018, violence has been less prominent. Due to inefficient and slow implementation of the agreement, uncertainty remains surrounding maintenance of peace and security in the country. Violence between different communities and ethnicities is a significant issue, as well as physical confrontations between the government and opposition forces in certain areas.

A few member states have expressed optimism toward the situation in South Sudan, referencing the signing of the R-ARCSS and the slight reduction in violence in the country. Nevertheless, many are still apprehensive, citing the violence that still exists and severe human rights violations.

The people of South Sudan are suffering from the political and social unrest within the country. The existing programs that provide aid to the country are of great help, although more is needed to ensure the peace, safety, and wellbeing of all. Programs ensuring the supply and facilitation of access to resources are vital, along with measures to control the conflicts that persist. Although peace talks have been entertained, it is not yet enough.