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**40th Session of the UN Human Rights
Council**

**Oral Statement: Item-4 ID with
Commission on South Sudan**

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Mr President,

The Lutheran World Federation highly commends this interactive dialogue with the Commission on South Sudan, and thanks the government for its collaboration. We note the progress with the signing of the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan by the Government of South Sudan and the main parties to the conflict in September last year. LWF also thanks the regional bodies such as IGAD and African Union for their recent initiatives inviting other armed groups who have not yet signed the revitalized peace agreement to join the peace process.

Mr. President, while LWF lauds the Government of South Sudan for its recent efforts at consolidating peace in the country, issues related with civilian human rights abuses in particular, allegations of rape of women, and sexual and gender based violence continue to be prevalent.

For this reason, LWF calls on the Government of South Sudan to investigate and prosecute cases of rape, sexual and gender base violence.

We also call on the Government to swiftly implement all the provisions of the signed Revitalized Peace Agreement in a timely manner, and together with IGAD and the African Union to accelerate the establishment of the transitional justice provision of the accord with all the three core bodies, including the commission on truth, healing and reconciliation, the hybrid court for South Sudan, and the compensation and reparation commission, and ensure the voices of survivors of human rights abuses and atrocity crimes are represented in setting up these transitional justice institutions.

Finally, we urge all armed groups who have not yet signed the peace agreement to lay down their arms and respond to regional efforts by joining the peace process, and for the international community to provide technical and material support to expedite the implementation of the peace process to realize lasting peace with justice in South Sudan.

I thank you Mr. President.