

PM

**Speech by the Chair Person of the South Sudan National Mine Action
Authority**

Brigadier Barach Jurkuch Barach

at

**Twelfth Meeting of the State Parties to the Anti-Personnel Landmine
Convention,**

also known as

APMBT

Geneva Norway 3-7 December 2012

Your Excellency's, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure to address you on behalf of the Republic of South Sudan.

I must first thank our hosts the Government of Switzerland and the United Nations and the organizers of the 12th MSP for their support in arranging this conference in Geneva. May I also congratulate the President on his appointment and we look forward to a productive 12 months under his stewardship. I would also like to thank the United Nations, as it is your continued effort to bring together donors, beneficiary countries and support our efforts in affected countries that remains a crucial part of implementation of the Convention.

Since South Sudan addressed you at the 11th MSP we have completed our full Article 4, 5 & 7 transparency reports and are pleased to say that South Sudan now has a baseline to fix our progress. This is the 9th of July 2011, our

independence day. I have to report however that with every two steps forward we make one back. Let me explain, as our country returns to peace and development is occurring that opens up regions that have not had contact with the rest of the world for many years we encounter unreported areas that contain AP mines and ERW. Since the 1st of January to 1st September 2012 we have cleared 105 areas from our database containing AP mines but have added 58 giving us a net reduction of 47. This is a frustrating fact but we will continue to survey and accurately map our progress and report back to you as we clear the hazards left from over 30 years of war.

In other areas we have made good progress, South Sudan now has a Strategic Plan for Mine Action, copies of which are available outside the hall and is contained as an Annex to our Transparency report. UNMAS has completed it's Co-location with the National Mine Action Authority and continues to support us with capacity building. New operators have set up in South Sudan, and I would like to welcome Danish Church Aid and give thanks to our INGO Partners, Norwegian Peoples Aid, Mines Advisory Group, Danish Demining Group, Handicap International, Swiss Foundation for Demining and Handicap International who continue to assist us and are all carrying out vital works in South Sudan to alleviate suffering caused by Anti-personnel Mines. I would like to request that donors continue to support these NGO's and also help support our national NGO's such as SIMAS, OLAVS and Osil as with out them we would not be able to reach the goals set by this treaty in 2021.

South Sudan continues to need your support and the support of the United Nations. Of course we need the continued support of donors and I hope that with the new agreements with our Northern Brothers we can once again assist in funding the efforts of clearance, MRE & Victim assistance from our own resources so adding to the generous support we already receive. South Sudan, as the youngest member of this treaty, looks to you, the fathers and mothers of the treaty to help us and support us.

Thank you and god bless.