



**The UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM
South Sudan**

**Media Meet and Greet
Juba Landmark Hotel
24 November 2016**

**Remarks by
Eugene Owusu
Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator &
UNDP Resident Representative**

Remarks

Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening. I warmly welcome you to our second social event for media and journalists in South Sudan this year.

- At the beginning of the year, on 20 January 2016, the United Nations Country Team hosted you at a press soirée at the Resident Coordinator's Office. It was the first social gathering with you since I joined this mission last year, and it provided a good opportunity for all of us to get better acquainted with each other.
- On 3 May, I was yet again honoured to speak before you at the World Press Freedom Day. This is a day set aside to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom and to

discuss issues pertinent to the freedom of media practitioners, who risk their lives almost every day around the world to provide each and every one of us with the information we need in order to make informed decisions and help improve our societies.

- Now, it is my pleasure to once again meet you all today.
- The United Nations Country Team is today concluding a 3 day capacity building training for 30 journalists drawn from different media houses from Juba and from the states. During this training, participants have been provided with key information on the different mandates of the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations.

- They have also established contacts with the communications focal points of the United Nations Country Team. The members of its Communications Group are with us here today, and I hope you will all use the opportunity to strengthen relations, so that we can help each other to get information and news about the activities of the United Nations out to the South Sudanese public.
- The training has also been an opportunity to touch on ethical journalistic principles, which are much needed in the context of South Sudan. As this country grows and develops, so must we all for it is our role to support the country moving towards her full potential.
- I hope that this training served its purpose and that participants will use their new knowledge to report

accurately on UN work in South Sudan. My hope is also that we continue strengthening our network in the new year and beyond.

- Through the United Nations Communications Group, who are here today, we will explore how to strengthen our relations with South Sudanese media and come together around joint forums and activities . We will continue holding periodic social gatherings, like this one, to continue our interaction.
- At that last press soiree, I discussed the role of the media. I will repeat it once again. Without the media, the marginalised will continue to live unheard. Without the media, communities will remain cut off from each other. Without the media, we cannot hold our leaders accountable.

No society grows without the watchful eye of the press. I would like to once again commend you for your hard work and the sacrifices you have had to make during your individual careers.

- I would like to give a special thanks to the people and groups that have made the training and this event successful. A special thank you to UNESCO, UN Human Rights Division, the Association of Media Development in South Sudan, UJOSS, the National Editors Forum and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and all the partners who are working tirelessly in this area.
- Once again, you are welcome to this event, and I encourage you to interact with each other. I look forward to other such events next year.

Thank you