

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321
Email: situationroom@africa-union.org

**LAUNCH OF THE AFRICAN UNION CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE THE DIGNITY OF
WOMEN AND TO ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY IN SOUTH SUDAN**

**13 October 2016
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Statement by

AUC Chairperson, H.E. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma

Three years ago, the AU Heads of State and Government committed to silencing the guns by 2020. In August 2015, the Peace Agreement signed in South Sudan gave hope that peace would be possible for the people of South Sudan. This hope must be realized, particularly for the women and girls of South Sudan. The agreement was not just to silence the guns but to move towards a South Sudan at Peace with itself.

Today it is heartbreaking to note that over fifty thousand South Sudanese have lost their lives in this conflict since 2013. Millions more have lost their dignity and security; especially women and girls having to flee their homes to difficult spaces, being abused and their bodies used as a weapon of war. We cannot accept this pervasive and ongoing sexual violence against women, and impunity.

The women of South Sudan have made several calls to action. And in July when we met during the AU Kigali Summit, I promised them that we will join in solidarity to say no to impunity and to campaign for their dignity.

Today as the African Union launches this campaign, for peace and to restore the dignity of all women in South Sudan, I call on all Africans and all friends of Africa to join in solidarity.

I thank you.