

## **Closing Remarks – Day 1 of Symposium**

### **Gen. Lazaro Sumbeiywo**

Ladies and gentlemen – congratulations on making this evening a start to the important process of hearing about and discussing ideas. Not proposals, not negotiations, not a final decision: ideas for the future of South Sudan.

Let me try and offer a summary of some of the most critical ideas shared by the experts this evening.

The first thing is to remind you of something the Bishop said at the beginning: authority is underwear; we should not show it. So now let us try to put some clothes on – and our resource persons have shown us some of the options in the wardrobe.

Let me echo a message from the presentation by Rina and David: there is no one size fits all solution. Not in South Sudan and not anywhere else. And I might add that the solution cannot come from us: it can only come from you.

Another important idea is that we need inclusivity - it will make our process stronger. We heard that inclusivity is an investment worth making. And that we need to consider multiple paths to peace. Peace is both negotiations but it is also broader than negotiations. It is also a way to have a broader constituency, a broader backing for peace.

As professor Haysom told us, we need to find a bridge to peace but also a bridge that goes in one direction only: towards permanent and sustainable peace, which I would also note is the theme of this symposium. And as professor Adebo said, you are bound together in one country, you must live together.

Suliman reminded us that reconciliation is not a political decision.

Tomorrow we will be able to discuss more, with these resource persons and in smaller groups. This is an informal process – to discuss, not to present positions. We are not negotiating. We are in discussion. We are seeking ideas. Thank you very much.