

Speech by President Society of Midwives of Southern Sudan (SOMOSS)

Today, it gives me great pleasure to warmly welcome you to this End of March rally in observance of International day of the Midwife. Special welcome to Dr. Olivia, undersecretary in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Ramiz, Head of Office of UNFPA, special invitees, midwives, nurses, friends, supporters and members of the media. Welcome everyone!

This event follows a day after the historic meeting when the new Nurses and Midwives Association of southern Sudan was established and the first of many societies was also formed, the Midwives Society. I am indeed proud to be the President of this Society and Vice President of the Nurses and Midwives Association.

International Day of the Midwife is celebrated on May 5 every year around the world. This year the theme focuses on “midwives taking to the road to tackle maternal mortality” with midwives and others all marching today in many parts of the world to highlight issues relating to maternal health.

Today, I urge you as you reflect on the work of midwives to think about ways in which you can contribute to scaling up access to and the provision of quality midwifery services. Southern Sudan needs midwives now more than ever to address the many challenges with regards to the high maternal death and disability. We need advocates for midwifery and maternal health. We need the support of families and communities to help all our women and children get access to skilled care at birth and quality reproductive health care. We need support from our political leaders for more investment in midwifery services. All of the evidence globally shows that investment in midwifery services will result in great gains in reducing maternal deaths. We need the support of the media not only to constantly

highlight the needs and gaps in the delivery of midwifery care but also to bring us the real stories of lives saved and disabilities avoided through quality midwifery services. We need the support of all.

Let me therefore welcome all of you to this event and call on all your support on this day to join the cause to tackle maternal death and disability in Southern Sudan.

Happy International day of the Midwife to all