Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank you once again for your participation in this important meeting. It has underlined the urgency of strong collective action and solidarity with the people of South Sudan.

Panellists have spoken with alarm of the brutal levels of violence meted out on civilians in this conflict and the dire need for strong protection solutions.

They have voiced deep concern on the impact of conflict on the already fragile food security situation in the country.

And they have spelled out the impacts of the rapidly deteriorating economic crisis in South Sudan, which is generating additional security risks, while increasing the risk of food insecurity, malnutrition and sickness for millions of people.

Many have also expressed concerns about the challenges aid workers face while reaching those in need of assistance.

Humanitarians are saving lives while risking their own, and attacks - such as the one in July at Terrain Hotel where aid workers were targeted – are simply unacceptable. The level of disregard for the work that they do and the principles under which they operate is untenable.

Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As noted by the Secretary-General, half of all South Sudanese need lifesaving assistance and protection; 4.8 million people are food insecure; and 2.6 million people have been forced to flee their homes. This month, the number of refuges has reached the one million mark.
We call upon leaders here today to leverage their influence over fighting parties to bring an end to the bloodshed and to redouble their efforts towards durable peace. Only by bringing an end to the violence can we sustainably stem the suffering.

I reiterate the call made by the Secretary-General and other speakers here today: civilians must be protected and humanitarian principles must be respected to help us protect and assist all of those in need, wherever they may be. Attacks against aid workers and their facilities must stop, and those who are at the front line of providing assistance must be able to do so safely and without impediment.

I would like to thank donors for their generosity to South Sudan.

Already this year, donors have given more nearly US$ 700 million dollars for the Humanitarian Response Plan, including some US$ 47 million through the Central Emergency Response Fund. But as of today, nearly three months before the end of the year, we still have a gap of more than US$600 million.

So far this year, aid workers have reached more than three million people with assistance and protection. Despite the violence, intimidation, and interference they have faced, aid workers are determined to assist women, girls, men and boys across this country who have already suffered too much.

I would like to end on a note of thanks to the humanitarian organizations, including the NGO workers, local, national and international who are on the front lines of the response - working tirelessly in difficult circumstances, to help those in need. Their efforts demand the highest levels of moral, political and financial support and to that end, I welcome the commitments expressed at today’s event. May this support continue to be scaled up so that no one in South Sudan is left behind.