



Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC)

MINUTES OF THE 17TH MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 20th MAY 2021 AT PALM AFRICA HOTEL, JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN

The 17th meeting of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) was convened in Juba, South Sudan on 20th May 2021. The meeting was chaired by H.E Maj. General Charles Tai Gituai (rtd), Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC who called it to order at 10:50 am.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayers
2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks
3. Adoption of the Agenda
(Media excused)
4. Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting
(Media recalled)
5. Statement by RJMEC Interim Chairperson
6. Report from RTGoNU
7. Report from NTC
8. Briefing from UNMISS SRSG
(Media excused)
9. Reports and Plans from Agreement Institutions and Security Mechanisms
 - a. CTSAMVM
 - b. JDB
 - c. SDSR Board
 - d. JTSC
 - e. JMCC
 - f. DDR Commission
10. Discussion on RJMEC Interim Chairperson's Statement, RTGoNU's, NTC's, UNMISS SRSG's briefings and reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms
10. Date for the next meeting
11. A.O.B
12. Resolutions of the meeting
13. Chairperson's closing remarks
11. Closing prayers.

In attendance were the representatives of the Parties, Other South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents, Regional Guarantors, International Partners and Friends of South Sudan in RJMEC. Also, in attendance were the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms, and the RJMEC Secretariat, namely:

For the Parties to the R-ARCSS:

1. Hon. Dr. Martin Elia Lomuro (ITGoNU)
2. Hon. Michael Makuei Lueth (ITGoNU)
3. Hon. Gatwech Lam Puoch (SPLM/A-IO)

4. Hon. Sandra Bona Malual (SPLM/A-IO)
5. Hon. Wilson Lodiong (OPP)
6. Mr. Isaiah Hakim Garang (FDs)

For the Other South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents:

1. Bishop (rtd) Enock Tombe Stephen (Faith-based leader)
2. Mr. Rajab John Mohandis (CSO Forum)
3. Ms. Rita Lopidia (Women Coalition)
4. Hon. Mary Akech (Women Bloc)
5. Prof. Francis Deng (Eminent Persons)
6. Mrs Yar Manoa Deng (Business Community)
7. Prof. Pauline Riek (Academia)
8. Ms. Caroline Kibos (Youth)
9. Mr. Wani Michael (Youth)

For the Regional Guarantors:

1. Mr. Zelalem Birhan (Ethiopia)
2. Mr. Ali Mambo (Kenya)
3. Mr. Hassan Robleh Mahamoud (Djibouti)
4. Mr. Mustafa Ahmed Almubarak (Sudan)
5. H.E. James Idule- Amoko (Uganda)
6. Mr. Judah Muoh (Nigeria)
7. Mr. Machiel Van Nieverk (South Africa)
8. H.E. Prof. Joram M. Biswaro (AUMISS)
9. Dr. Aleu Garang (IGAD Secretariat)

For International Partners and Friends of South Sudan

1. H.E. Hua Ning (China)
2. Mr. Paul Klouman Bekken (Norway)
3. Mr. Willian Echols (USA)
4. H.E. Jonny Baxter (UK)
5. Mr. Guang Cong (UNMISS)
6. H.E. Marc Trouyet (EU)
7. Ms. Chelsea Sayer (IPF)

For RJMEC Secretariat:

1. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede, Chief of Staff - RJMEC
2. Dr. Thomson Fontaine, Deputy Chief of Staff- Strategy - RJMEC
3. Mr. Stephen Oola, Senior Legal and Constitutional Affairs - RJMEC

For the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:

1. Hon. Madam Angelina Teny, Chairperson SDSR Board
2. Hon. Lt. Gen. Chol Thon Balok, Co-Chairperson SDSR Board
3. Maj. Gen. Dafaalla Hamid, Deputy Chairperson, CTSAMVM
4. Gen. Santino Deng Wol, Chairperson, JDB
5. Lt. Gen. Gabriel Duop Lam, Co-Chairperson, JDB
6. Lt. Gen. Julius Tabuley, Co-Chairperson, JDB
7. Lt. Gen. Wesley Welebe Samson, Co-Chairperson, JTSC
8. Dr. Olaw Adang, Head of secretariat JTSC
9. Lt. Gen. Koang Gatkuoth Kerjok, Co-Chairperson JMCC

10. Hon. Lt. Gen. Ayuen Alier Jongroor, Chairperson, DDR Commission
11. Lt. Gen. Jakson Elia. H, JDB Police
12. Maj. Gen. Anthony Oliver Legge, JDB Prisons

Observers:

1. H.E. Tsutsumi Naohiro (Japan)
2. Mr. Mohamed Elbadry (Egypt)
3. Mr. Lars Johansson (Sweden)
4. H.E. Marc Trouyet (France)
5. Ms. Janika Walter (Germany)
6. Ms. Lydia Minagano Kape (Switzerland)
7. Mr. Peterson Magoola (UN-Women)

Min. 01/17/21: Opening Prayers

1. The opening prayers were led by the representatives of the faith-based leaders of both the Christian and Islamic faiths.

Min. 02/17/21: Chairperson's Opening Remarks

2. The Chairperson welcomed the RJMEC members to the 17th RJMEC meeting, and reported that the meetings were not held for the months of March and April due to the COVID-19 new SOP measures which were in place. He recongnied the new ambassador; members of RJMEC appointed to the RTNLA and newly appointed JDB member; recognised the Deputy Minister of Defence and co-chair of SDSR Board.

Min. 03/17/21 Adoption of the Agenda

3. The draft agenda was adopted without any amendent. However, the Chairperson suggested the representatives of the ambassadors to make comments and should be included in the agenda. African Diplomatic Corps to make a decision; stated that it will make it open for the any diplomatic representatives to make comments after the statement from the SRSG

Min. 04/17/21: Adoption of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

4. Members reviewed and adopted the minutes of the 16th RJMEC meeting of 4th February 2021 without any amendments.

Min. 05/17/21: Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson

5. In his statement to the plenary, the RJMEC Interim Chairperson:
 - 5.1 welcomed members to the 17th meeting after the partial lockdown following the COVID-19 lockdown and highlighted the recent progress in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), including: reconstitution of the TNLA; leadership retreats in the states; extension of the Natioanl Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC) to complete its tasks; limited progress and challenges in implementing the Transitional Security Arrangements (TSA); agreement reached on the joint Unified Command Structure; the SDSR- Board tasks still incomplete; the

Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process is still lagging behind; concerned about the obstruction of CTSAMVM national monitors and informed the President and Chairperson of IGAD for remedial actions; intercommunal violence; humanitarian challenges; the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA) has set up a committee for the establishment of the Committee for Truth Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH); and the permanent constitution workshop set for 25-27 May 2021.

5.2 recommended the following remedial measures to the RTGoNU:

- 5.2.1 complete the reconstitution of the Council of States, and the State Legislative Assemblies, and the restructuring and reconstitution of institutions and commissions at the national level, while adhering to the 35% level of women's representation and giving due attention to representation of the youth;
- 5.2.2 the reconstituted TNLA to enact the Constitution Amendment Bill No. 8 into the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (TCRSS) 2011 (as amended) and enact the outstanding security laws and other laws already amended by the NCAC;
- 5.2.3 adequately fund the TSAs in order to expedite and complete the unification of forces, and ensure a well-coordinated DDR process in conjunction with the required government ministries and agencies;
- 5.2.4 in conjunction with the state governments, address community-based violence and enhance security at the sub-national level;
- 5.2.5 provide a secure and enabling environment for humanitarian workers, IDPs, and returnees, and to lead ongoing humanitarian efforts, including the establishment of the Special Reconstruction Fund; and
- 5.2.6 ensure that the recommendations of the oil sector audits are acted upon, and that corrective action is taken where necessary.

Min. 06/17/21: Report from the RTGoNU

6.0 In his report to the plenary, the representative of the RTGoNU:

- 6.1. conveyed an apology to the members, noting that the ITGoNU members of the RJMEC were committed to work and finalise the state and government sharing as well as appointments for the establishment of the RTNLA. He further stated that it was important for the RTGoNU to finalise the responsibility sharing to be able to report to the next RJMEC meeting;
- 6.2. informed of the slight delays in resolving the differences in the appointment of the members of the Other Political Parties (OPP) to the RTNLA. This followed complaints from some members of the OPP that nominations were not made collegially. The reconstitution of the Council of States is delayed because of the OPP issues and that the RTGoNU had received nominees from the other parties;
- 6.3. further informed that RTGoNU is continuing with the implementation of the R-ARCSS; the government continued to discuss implementation of the R-ARCSS and offered 35 recommendations, which has since been approved by the RTGoNU Council of Ministers. The MoJCA is authorised to trigger the modalities of implementation of art. 1.17, Chapter V on transitional justice and Chapter VI on the Permanent Constitution;

- 6.4. that the President issued a republican Order on 14 April expressing his concern regarding R-ARCSS implementation delays and directed it must be expedited;
- 6.5. reported that in collaboration with UNMISS, the RTGoNU agreed on retreats at the state levels to improve relationships and build confidence and held discussions with the UN on how to help the Republic of South Sudan on infrastructure, capacity building, preparations for the elections, etc.
- 6.6. observed the urgent need for building and strengthening state institutions, including plans for economic recovery and revenue collection;
- 6.7. informed of activities to mark the 10th independence day anniversary and invited the international community to participate in the celebration; and
- 6.8. further informed members that he was unable to report on Chapter 2 as it is the mandate of the National Transitional Committee (NTC) and presented an apology for the absence of the Minister concerned, noting that a report from the Chairperson of NTC would be presented to the plenary during the next meeting.

Min. 07/17/21: Briefing from UNMISS SRSG

7. In his briefing to the RJMEC plenary, the UNMISS Deputy SRSG:

- 7.1. conveyed an apology from Mr. Haysom, UN SRSG for his absence as he was away from Juba;
- 7.2. commended the RTGoNU for the progress in implementation of the R-ARCSS since the last RJMEC meeting;
- 7.3. observed that the pace of implementation is slow, left a vacuum in the structure in governance and resulted in subnational tensions and conflict. Appealed for a complete formation of the government structures at the state levels in order to address the rise in communal violence;
- 7.4. raised concerns over the fresh escalation of violence in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area and voiced alarm at the renewed violence between community-based groups. Shared his concerns by the likelihood of revenge attacks, further displacement of thousands of civilians, and threats to life-saving food aid stationed in the area;
- 7.5. called on the RTGoNU to prevent a repeat of violence, to take steps to address the root causes, and fulfil its responsibility to protect civilians. Informed that UNMISS was doing everything it can to protect displaced communities as well as humanitarian personnel and supplies. Called on the RTGoNU to appoint Country Commissioners and other officials in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area and also move forward with implementation of the recommendations of the High-Level Committee on the Greater Jonglei Peace Conference;
- 7.6. observed that delays in implementing the TSAs contributed to desertion of the cantonment sites and training centres, proliferation of small arms and contributed to the insecurity at the subnational level. Urged for expedited implementation of the TSA, including graduation of the first batch of the NUF and commencement of the DDR process;
- 7.7. appealed for support to the CTSAMVM for it to effectively implement its mandate;
- 7.8. informed members that the UNMISS mandate was renewed by the UN Security Council and that it will focus on how best to support implementation of the R-ARCSS;
- 7.9. informed members that the UN Elections Needs Assessment Mission sanctioned by the UNSC was currently in Juba;

- 7.10. underscored the importance of the upcoming RJMEC workshop on permanent constitution-making process design and reported that UNMISS and its partners had facilitated dialogue among key stakeholders in preparation for effective participation in the process;
- 7.11. appealed for implementation of the other chapters of the R-ARCSS, beyond Chapters 1 and 2. Stated that its humanitarian partners were responding in a context of recurring subnational violence, including attacks against humanitarian workers and assets. Reported that the first aid worker was killed in South Sudan in 2021;
- 7.12. commended the Sant'Egidio peace talks and the agreement between representatives of the RTGoNU and the leaders of the SSOMA faction and encouraged the mediators to press on with their work;
- 7.13. concluded with recommendations, including for: i) a fully operational RTNLA and Council of States; ii) complete formation of state and county-level governments, particularly its assemblies and councils, and adherence to 35% gender provisions; iii) an inclusive engagement in the permanent constitution-making process; iv) progress on harmonization of command of the armed forces of the NUF; v) commencement of stakeholder consultations to establish the transitional justice mechanisms; and
- 7.14. reaffirmed the UN's commitment to support the peace process in South Sudan.

Min. 08/1/21: Reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms

i) Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Verification Mechanisms

8.1. In his report to the plenary, the Deputy Chairperson of CTSAMVM:

- 8.1.1. informed members that CTSAMVM held two meetings of the CTSAMVM Technical Committee (CTC) on 25th February and on 26th March 2021, and that the Board had not met since February due to COVID-19 restrictions. Stated that CTSAMVM convened a CTC meeting on 28th April, and prepared and submitted reports on the status of implementation;
- 8.1.2. reaffirmed that the Permanent Ceasefire continue to hold but that violent clashes occurred in Liang Area of Upper Nile State between local armed youth and alleged SPLM/A-IO personnel from Liang Cantonment site on 30th and 31st March, 17th April and 20th April. Informed that the clashes in Central Equatoria between SSPDF and NAS (Thomas Cirillo) from 17th to 29th March 2021 were verified. Reported road ambushes and insecurity on Juba-Nimule and Juba-Yei roads. On 22nd March 2021 an unknown armed group attacked Lowereng Cantonment site in Eastern Equatoria State;
- 8.1.3. reported that CTSAMVM visited and revisited cantonment sites often, and maintained contact with the site commanders. Observed that the situation in the cantonment sites remained desperate, warning that the cantonment system was in danger of collapse due to logistical limitations and that some combatants had returned to civilian communities;
- 8.1.4. further reported that the cantonment site commanders were not provided with any information on the way forward. Reported that CTSAMVM was not aware of any plans to manage the movement of personnel from cantonment sites to training centres when Phase II training eventually would start;

- 8.1.5. observed that CTSAMVM was unable to estimate the number of personnel in the cantonment sites as the site commanders were reluctant to provide the statistics;
- 8.1.6. informed that CTSAMVM visited all the training centres regularly, noting very little progress in the last few months. Most training centre commanders reported not having received any concrete instructions about graduation and the trainees lacked essential equipment such as uniforms and boots;
- 8.1.7. assessed that the conditions in training centers had declined and that no substantive training was underway at the time. The morale of the trainees and instructors had also declined;
- 8.1.8. reported that there were 14 buildings occupied; 13 by the SSPDF and 1 by the SPLA- IO – an increase of 2 since the last RJMEC meeting;
- 8.1.9. informed members of five violation reports it prepared, of which 2 had been discussed at the CTC level. These reports included (a) violence in the Moroto area from September 2020 to February 2021; (b) denial of access in Warrap and Eastern Equatoria on 11th March 2021; (c) incident in Nassir area 12th-15th March 2021; (d) detention of civilians in Mongoyo, Central Equatoria May 2019 and April 2021; and (e) clashes in the Ombasi area 17th -26th March 2021;
- 8.1.10. informed of a gender awareness course it conducted to improve the reporting and engagement skills of Sector Coordinators and MVT Team Leaders on 5th and 6th May 2021;
- 8.1.11. reported that since 1st April 2021, National Monitors had not been working and that it constrained CTSAMVM operations, and the Senior National Liaison Officers were also not working at the CTSAMVM Headquarters. This was due to funding cuts. Informed of the efforts it had made to secure further funding to address the funding gaps, including raising the matter with IGAD and RJMEC, and that IGAD formally drew the attention of the RTGoNU on the matter;
- 8.1.12. reported that National Monitors had in some cases harassed and threatened CTSAMVM International Observers and civilian staff, and that in some areas they informed military headquarters and state officials to deny access to CTSAMVM teams;
- 8.1.13. appealed to the Parties to direct the National Monitors to resume their work and stop any acts which affect CTSAMVM's operations or compromise the safety of its staff; and
- 8.1.14. underscored the financial constraints faced by CTSAMVM and appealed to stakeholders for support.

ii) Joint Defence Board

8.2. In his report, the Chairperson of the Joint Defence Board (JDB):

- 8.2.1. informed that the general situation in the country is normal with the exception of Yei, Rumbek, Torit and along Juba-Nimule road where there were isolated skirmishes involving the SSPDF and holdout groups, notably NAS;

- 8.2.2. stated that the JDB continued to provide command and control of the security mechanisms;
- 8.2.3. announced that it received a directive for the graduation of forces at the training centres but raised concerns that the TSA process had been crippled financially, thus it had largely not been able to graduate and deploy the NUFs. He informed members that the NTC has promised to release funds for the graduation process;
- 8.2.4. informed members that National Security forces, forming part of the NUFs, arrived in Yomding and Dr Garang Memorial Training Centre as planned;
- 8.2.5. reported that an extraordinary meeting of the JDB was scheduled for Saturday, 22nd May to discuss the modalities for the way forward and would only involve nationals serving in the JDB; and
- 8.2.6. appealed to the leadership of the Parties to the R-ARCSS to expedite unification of command to allow for the graduation of the NUFs.

iii) Strategic Defence and Security Review Board

- 8.3. In his report, the Deputy Chairperson of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) Board:
 - 8.3.1. informed members that the Board could not submit a written report since nothing much had been accomplished since the last RJMEC meeting however, requested to present verbally;
 - 8.3.2. reported to members that the Strategic Security Assessment document was being finalized and would be presented in the next RJMEC meeting; and
 - 8.3.3. further reported that the review of all Security Policy Framework/ Security Sector Reforms was on-going. The Board was expected to convene a workshop to incorporate SSA findings into a White Paper on Security and Defence, and to develop new policies for other security sector agencies. The workshop will be facilitated by UNMISS and RJMEC and he promised to share an update at the next RJMEC meeting.

iv) Joint Transitional Security Committee

- 8.4. In his report to the meeting, the Co-Chairperson of the Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC):
 - 8.4.1. informed of the challenges facing the JTSC and that nothing had changed since the last RJMEC Plenary;
 - 8.4.2. raised concerns on the lack of political will by the Parties to implement the TSA. He reminded members that unification of forces was a task of the Pre-Transitional Period;
 - 8.4.3. observed that the lack of unified command among the Parties had slowed implementation of the TSA due to; i). serious logistical constraints resulting in desertion of both instructors and forces; ii) lack of prioritizing the TSA; iv) lack of accountability, transparency and professionalism; iv) inadequacy of resources and funding; and v) little support received from the Regional Guarantors and International Community;

- 8.4.4. reported that 75 NUF personnel had died at the training centres;
- 8.4.5. recommended for a push for political will among the Parties; prioritization of TSA; RTGoNU to avail more resources to the NTC; resume oil flow to support implementation of the Agreement; provision of food, medicine and logistical support to the cantonment sites and training centres;
- 8.4.6. informed that the new training center in Agut Makur was opened and both the government and opposition sent their forces there but warned that without food supplies, they will also desert the training centre;
- 8.4.7. appealed to the JDB to expeditiously develop a redeployment plan and graduation timetable for the NUFs; and
- 8.4.8. further appealed to the RTGoNU, regional guarantors, International Partners and Friends of South Sudan to fulfil their pledges – financially and in-kind support – for full implementation of the TSAs.

v) Joint Military Ceasefire Commission

8.5. In his report, the Co-Chairperson of the Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC):

- 8.5.1. informed of the challenges facing TSA, including: i) lack of political will from the Parties to the R-ARCSS; ii) lack of unified command to oversee the implementation of the TSA iii) lack of prioritization of TSA tasks; iv) lack of accountability and transparency as well as professionalism; v) inadequate provision of requisite resources for implementation, noting the need for medical experts at least in each cantonment site or barracks and medical insurance; vi) very little support received from the international community;
- 8.5.2. informed members that there were forces remaining in some cantonment centres amounting to 45,000 from Phase I. Observed that the training centres were deserted due to the logistical challenges which can be reversed should there be resumption of logistical supplies;
- 8.5.3. reiterated that JMCC was ready to proceed to assemble the senior forces for Phase II in Greater Bhar El Gazal- Aweil, Wau-Mapel, Greater Upper Nile in Malakal-Bilocate, Central Equatoria in Terekeka. JMCC also reported that 15 cantonment sites remained so far and that it intended to conduct screening process before transferring the forces to the training centres;
- 8.5.4. informed that the JDB and the leadership of all Parties to order the troops to cooperate with the registration and screening teams;
- 8.5.5. urged the JDB to provide command and control, including conducting site visits where and when necessary during the process to ensure full adherence to the process. Underscored that all senior commanders/officers should be accommodated in an approved place with full facilitation and incentives; and
- 8.5.6. recommended the following: convene a special meeting of the leadership of the parties to discuss the implementation of the TSA; RTGoNU to avail resources for TSA; the regional guarantors and international partners to provide the support for TSAs; and appealed to RJMEC, CTSAMVM, UNMISS and all stakeholders to closely work with the JMCC, JTSC and support them where necessary.

viii) Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission

8.6. The Chairperson of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Commission presented the Commission's report as follows:

- 8.6.1. commended the NTC for approving the workplan of the DDR Commission and now awaited its funding and operationalization. He also commended UNDP, UN Women, Japan and CTSAMVM for their support to the Commission. Noted that the DDR Commission conducted field visits to the cantonment sites, and that it now has access to the barracks;
- 8.6.2. informed that it failed to go to Upper Nile due to the challenges that CTSAMVM was facing with National Monitors;
- 8.6.3. highlighted challenges facing the Commission including limited logistics for the establishment of transit facilities before graduation to receive the ex-combatants from the cantonment sites, barracks and training centres; lack of DDR support in the current UNMISS mandate; lack of ICRS activation; lack of screening of all forces; and lack of public dissemination of approved documents;
- 8.6.4. appealed that before the graduation of forces, the Commission should be provided with resources to adequately prepare for its activities, and that UNMISS could consider support for the DDR programs, where possible;
- 8.6.5. underscored the need for DDR to have a facility in Juba or Torit before graduation and also in Wau- Mapel for ex-combatants. Urged UNMISS and SDRS-Board to provide support for the ex-combatants; and
- 8.6.6. concluded with making an appeal to the SDRS Board to assist the Commission with the requisite facilities for transit; appealed for funding; and, urged all security mechanisms to coordinate and support the Commission in all its activities.

Min. 09/17/21: Discussions on Statements and Reports

9. During the discussions, the RJMEC members:

- 9.1. welcomed the statement of the RJMEC Chairperson, the UNMISS SRSG and reports presented by the Agreement institutions and mechanisms; commended all the institutions and mechanisms of the Agreement for the progress made so far in the implementation process of the peace agreement;
- 9.2. a member congratulated the RTGoNU for progress in Chapter I and the Permanent Constitution making-process workshop, commended those parties that met the 35% women quota in the RTNLA; observed the need for adherence to regional balance and national diversity of the country; appealed for the 35% participation in the restructuring and reconstitution of Commissions and Institutions at the national level;
- 9.3. a member requested that the Republican Decree for the reconstitution of the TNLA should be made available to the public; noted that the reports from the security mechanisms were worrisome; and urged that the NTC should regularly report to the plenary;
- 9.4. CTSAMVM reported that it had prepared 49 violation reports, 14 of them are SGBV related; and that the gender quota from IGAD was being worked on and that it was liaising with the member states on the matter;

- 9.5. A member noted that the 35% is a responsibility of individual parties, the parties should have a criteria on the type of persons/women they want; informed of a fundamental problem related to the appointment; on the strength of the dollar, he observed that some unscrupulous traders were unduly charging the citizens – a situation that the ministry of trade needs to address; that the Ministry of Finance may not be able to finance an increased salary structure, noting that there are challenges facing the economy. On intercommunal violence, he observed that was very complex and can only be addressed when forces are unified, the security organs properly armed and the community habits are also changed; committed to take the message to the Presidency level to enable a meeting of the mechanisms to be convened to address the issues of TSA;
- 9.6. a member indicated that: the reports sent mixed signals and that there should be a focus on the performance of ministries; there was need to create security throughout the country as opposed to focusing solely on Juba; UNMISS should provide more security in the countryside to ensure its stabilization; and that future reports to RJMEC could include the performance of the ministries.
- 9.7. a member requested for an update on the oil and non-oil revenues, including issues raised in the General Audit Report; informed that displacement in Lainya, Kajo Keji may impact return process; informed of conflicts in the states between the Executives; reported that some parties in the OPP appeared marginalized and appealed to RJMEC and IGAD to address them; advocated for PWDs to be represented at all levels, including RTNLA; appealed to the RTGoNU to establish the Youth Enterprise Fund; and wondered how the RTNLA would compensate for the lost time;
- 9.8. on the issue of the National Monitors, a member wondered why internationals continued to be paid while the nationals were not, noting the issue could have been made clear at the start of the implementation of the R-ARCSS and not in the middle; that CTSAMVM reports should be verified and countersigned by the National Monitors and wondered whether there was any guarantee of the credibility and authenticity of the reports; asked about guarantee of the security of staff without the National Monitors; and noted the implications of the armed embargo undermining procurements of firearms. On the JTSC's report, he observed that the representative presented his own position and the non-paper circulated was not signed by the members. He informed that reviewed laws were yet to be presented to RTNLA; appealed for reorganization of the army from bottom-up; and recommended that for the forces to be organized before graduation;
- 9.9. a member observed that there is no provision in Chapter 2 based on percentages share of NUF and that there was misinterpretation of the provision of Art. 2.2.5 of the R-ARCSS on unification of the forces, particularly on the issues of command;
- 9.10. the JTSC representative wondered whether there is food embargo; wondered where the uniforms are obtained from; opined that there is an abundance of arms in the country; reported that the redeployment plans are in place; numbers of unified forces should be equal – 50:50;
- 9.11. a representative from the OPP further expressed his disappointment on the issue that transpired within the OPP, were the list of the agreed OPP members to the TNLA was sidelined and replaced by a list submitted by the Umbrella of Political Parties, noting it was a violation of the R-ARCSS. Members appealed to the RTGoNU to balance regional diversity within the TNLA with representation on gender, youth and the minority groups, including those living with disabilities. Parties must be reminded on the violation and be able to rectify it. On the same note, informed that some previously elected MPs were missing in the new appointments;

- 9.12. an RTGoNU representative informed members that the government had made a decision to postpone swearing in of the appointed MPs in order to resolve the issue of the violations observed in OPP and SSOA;
- 9.13. members raised concerns on the very limited progress that had been reported on Chapter II by all mechanisms. Informed that two principals directed the Chair of NTC to direct: i) the JDB to proceed and to discuss the unification of command and decide on the positions to be allocated among the Parties and the JDB to present the outcome to chair of the NTC who will present to the principals; and ii) the JDB to complete the process of organization in the training centres to ensure the NUF are graduated. The graduation will be undertaken under the unified command, noting arms embargo was not a precondition for the graduation;
- 9.14. a member informed of the lack of coordination between the security mechanisms stating that the disagreement and delay of a unified command structure and ranks was caused by the Opposition who had not met its promise. The member requested JDB to clarify on the agreed structure. He committed to inform the Presidency on the challenges concerning Chapter II for a resolution and to urgently convene a meeting to address this stalemate.
- 9.15. on the issue of 35% women quota, a member observed that there were many Parties that did not fulfil the minimum threshold and that RJMEC should engage all the Parties on this matter and request the Presidency to delay the swearing in of the TNLA; express concern about the reference that there are no women in the Parties; that the NTC chairperson should be invited to present their report to RJMEC plenary; expressed worries about the report from CTSAMVM about the eminent collapse of the training centres; and urged that RJMEC members to visit the training centres and cantonment sites;
- 9.16. recommended that the National Constitutional Review Committee (NCRC) should be reconstituted to preside over the process of the permanent constitutional making process;
- 9.17. a member expressed dismay on the contradictory statements from the security mechanisms as TSA is a cornerstone of the R-ARCSS; expressed concern about disparity between the forces where some receive salaries and others do not; recommended that the RTGoNU should reach out to regional guarantors for support and appealed for an extraordinary session of RJMEC to be convened to focus only on TSA;
- 9.18. a member observed that the slow progress in implementation of the R-ARCSS was an inconvenience and testing the good will of the international community and wondered whether there are elements in the R-ARCSS which are critical to look at, citing the ongoing violence at the subnational levels.

Min. 10/17/21: Date for the Next Meeting

10. Members suggested that the date for the 18th RJMEC monthly meeting be on 24th June 2021 and was to be confirmed and communicated to the members by the RJMEC Secretariat.

Min. 11/17 /21: A.O.B

11. A member suggested that the politicians should also be invited to participate in leadership workshop.

Min.12/17/21: Resolution of the Meeting

12. A draft Resolution of the 17th RJMEC monthly meeting was circulated to all members, discussed and feedback provided. The RJMEC Secretariat was tasked to incorporate all the changes and to share the final Resolution with all the members.

Min.13/17/21: Chairman's Closing Remarks

13. The RJMEC Interim Chairperson thanked the members for their attendance and participation at the meeting and also thanked the Minister for Cabinet Affairs who promised to refer the matter of the TSA to the presidency for further guidance.

Min.14/17/21: Closing Prayers

14. The representatives of faith-based organization led the closing prayer. There being no any other business, the 17th RJMEC monthly meeting was adjourned at 17:15 pm, Juba time.