



**Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission  
(RJMEC)**

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE 23<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT MONITORING  
AND EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> JULY 2022 AT BEIJING JUBA HOTEL,  
SOUTH SUDAN**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) was convened in Juba, South Sudan on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022. The meeting chaired by H.E. Maj. Gen. Ambassador Charles Tai Gituai (rtd), Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC was called to order at 11:05 am.

**Agenda as adopted**

1. Opening Prayers
2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Adoption of the minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> RJMEC meeting
5. Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chair
6. Report from RTGoNU
7. Report from NTC
8. Briefing from UNMISS SRSG
9. Reports from Mechanisms on Progress of Implementation in the R-ARCSS
  - i. NCAC
  - ii. CTSAMVM
  - iii. JDB
  - iv. SDSR Board
  - vi. JMCC
  - vii. DDR Commission
10. Discussion – Participants
11. Review of the resolution
12. Date for the next meeting
13. A.O.B
14. Chairperson's closing remarks
15. Closing prayers.

**Members Present:** In attendance were the representatives of all 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. Mary Nawai Martin (ITGoNU)
4. Hon. Sandra Bona Malwal (SPLM/IO)
5. Hon. Amb. Stephen Par Kuol (SPLM/IO)

6. Hon. Chabur Goc (SSOA)
7. Maj. Gen. Bior Leek Kuareng (FDs)
8. Hon. Wilson Lodiong Sebit (OPP)

**For the Other South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents:**

1. Bishop Enock Tombe Stephen (Faith-based leader)
2. Mr. Dabek Mabior Arok (CSO Alliance)
3. Dr. Angelina M. Bazugba (Academia)
4. Ms. Mary Ajith Goch (CSO Forum)
5. Ms. Caroline Kibos (Youth)
6. Ms. Yar Manoa Majok (Business Community)
7. Ms. Winny Edward (Business Community)
8. Mrs. Mary Akech (Women Bloc)
9. Ms. Jacqueline Nasiwa (Women Coalition)

**For the Regional Guarantors:**

1. Mr. Mustafa Ahmed Almubarak (Sudan)
2. H.E. Markos Tekle Rike (Ethiopia)
3. H.E. Maj Gen. (rtd) Samuel Nandwa (Kenya)
4. Brig. Gen. Richard Otto (Uganda)
5. Mr. Machiel van Niekerk (South Africa)
6. Mr. Kataps Gaius Keafon (Nigeria)
7. Dr. Philip Mwanika (IGAD Juba Liaison Office)
8. H.E. Amb. Prof. Joram M. Biswaro (AUMISS)

**For International Partners and Friends of South Sudan**

1. Mr. Ma Wenjun (China)
2. H.E. Siv Kaspersen (Norway)
3. Mr. Enrique Gallego (USA)
4. Mr. Thomas Carter (UK)
5. Mr. Dionyz Hochel (EU)
6. Mr. Nicholas Haysom (UNMISS)
7. H.E. Jelte van Wieren (IPF) Netherlands

**For RJMEC Secretariat:**

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

**For the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:**

1. Hon. Gichira Kibara, Chairperson NCAC
2. Mr. James Nguen, NTC Secretariat
3. Col. Nicholas Humble Nyesiga, Deputy Chief of Staff CTSAMVM
4. Lt. Gen. Gabriel Duop Lam, Co-Chair, JDB
5. Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Rabi, JDB
6. Maj. Gen. Charles Machieng Kuol, Head of JDB Secretariat.

7. Maj. Laguya Kenyi Lupai, JDB Secretariat
8. Hon. Angelina Teny, Chairperson, SDSR Board
9. Col. Ding Lam Yuol, Ag. Head of SDSR Board Secretariat
10. Hon. Lt. Gen. Ayuen Alier Jongroor, Chairperson, DDR Commission
11. Hon. Regina Joseph Kaba, Deputy Chairperson DDR Commission
12. Lt. Gen. Wesley Walebe Samsom, Chair JTSC
13. Lt. Gen. Dr. Olaw Adiang, Head of JSTC Secretariat
14. Maj. Gen. Ajak Deng Biar, JTSC Member
15. Maj. Gen. Pal Yiech Lam, Deputy Head of JMCC Secretariat
16. Maj. Wuor Jok Guol, JMCC Secretariat

**Observers:**

1. H.E. Marc Trouyet (France)
2. Mr. Ahmed Tawfek (Egypt)
3. Ms. Watanabe Tomoko (Japan)
4. Mr. Simon Ruf (Germany)
5. H.E. Erdem Mutaf (Turkiye)
6. Mr. Georg Stein (Switzerland)
7. Mr. Samuel Doe (UNDP)
8. Mr. Henrik Herber (Sweden)
9. Amb. Dhano Obongo (MOFA)

**Min. 01/23/22: Opening Prayers**

1. The opening prayer was led by Bishop Emeritus Enock Tombe Stephen, a representative of faith-based leaders.

**Min. 02/23/22: Chairperson's Opening Remarks**

2. The Chairperson welcomed the RJMEC members to the 23<sup>rd</sup> RJMEC meeting and wished them fruitful deliberations.

**Min. 03/23/22: Adoption of the Agenda**

3. The proposed agenda for the 23<sup>rd</sup> RJMEC meeting was adopted without any amendments.

**Min. 04/23/22: Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

4. It was agreed that since the 22<sup>nd</sup> RJMEC meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 had no quorum, its draft minutes could neither be reviewed nor adopted.

**Min. 05/23/22: Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chair**

5. In his report to the plenary, the RJMEC Chairperson welcomed the news that a draft Roadmap was presented to the President on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022. He also welcomed the appointment of members to the *ad hoc* Judicial Reform Committee (JRC).
  - 5.1. He briefed the Plenary on the status implementation of the R-ARCSS and pointed out the main challenges that include, among others, slow progress in the constitution-making process, stalled graduation and redeployment of Phase I of the NUF; and funding constraints experienced by the RJMEC and CTSAMVM Secretariat following the US Government's withdrawal of funding. Recommended the following:

- 5.2. the RTGoNU to fast-track the process for the consideration and adoption of the agreed final Roadmap.
- 5.3. the RTGoNU to urgently set the date for the graduation and redeployment of the unified forces and the commencement of phase 2 and the DDR process.
- 5.4. the RTGoNU to seriously address the increasing incidences of community-based violence across the country.
- 5.5. the RTGoNU to urgently institute mechanisms for fast-tracking procedures for the import and customs clearance of relief materials and visa renewal processes for humanitarian workers to improve access to those in dire need.
- 5.6. all partners and friends of South Sudan to continue supporting RJMEC and CTSAMVM and the full implementation of the R-ARCSS; and
- 5.7. the RTGoNU to allocate adequate funding for the implementation of the Agreement, including to the nationals within the mechanisms, service delivery, livelihoods, and constitution-making process in the 2022/23 budget.

**Min. 06/23/22: Report from the RTGoNU**

6. In his report to the meeting, the RTGoNU representative:
  - 6.1. informed the members that the RTGoNU had made a commitment to develop a Roadmap that would be owned by the President and it would be his responsibility to direct on how the RTGoNU could proceed going forward. The RTGoNU decided to focus on Chapters I, II, V and VI of the R-ARCSS;
  - 6.2. reported that the Presidency would convene an extended meeting for the representatives of the Parties to the R-ARCSS to receive and deliberate on the draft Roadmap and make their contributions were necessary with the expectation that it would be owned by the Parties to the Agreement;
  - 6.3. observed that it was incorrect to attribute delays in the implementation of the Agreement to an expression of lack of political will, noting it is a misconception of the progress and efforts made by the RTGoNU. He reminded on the efforts made after the signing of the R-ARCSS whereby the opposition felt insecure in Juba and the government created a safe environment for them;
  - 6.4. reiterated that the development of the draft Roadmap, and the continuation of the holding of the Permanent Ceasefire and that South Sudan being generally peaceful is a testimony of no return to war;
  - 6.5. informed that the Roadmap focuses on the timelines to implement the critical tasks of the Agreement and that some RTGoNU representatives in the RJMEC would leave the meeting to join the discussions on the Roadmap with the principals;
  - 6.6. informed that the Political Parties Bill was ratified by the TNLA. He further informed of his engagement with the Chairperson of the NCAC, questioning whether the Committee had another mandate outside the R-ARCSS, stating that the issue was based on the interpretation of the provisions of the R-ARCSS and that Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA) shall receive the draft amendment without making amendments;

- 6.7. clarified on the community-based conflicts interpreted as a violation of the R-ARCSS and that the RTGoNU was not doing its work in controlling such insecurities. He stated that the conflicts existed for generations but the only difference is that the communities are now using rifles. Following graduation and redeployment of the forces, and the arms embargo lifted, the country would be able to control such insecurity. The issue of cattle raiding was a matter that needed to be resolved amicably between the communities and the government;
- 6.8. welcomed the SSOMA (Hon. Pagan and Gen. Malong) members in joining the RTGoNU and the R-ARCSS. Reiterated that the Rome talks was a government initiative, with the focus of bringing the holdout groups into the R-ARCSS. Underscored that the absence of SSOMA had made the key organs such as RJMEC and CTSAMVM, to be negatively perceived and judged; and
- 6.9. reported that the CTRH was in progress and that it would take time since there were about 26 activities to be done before establishing it. Further informed members that consultation for Compensation Reparation Authority had been done, expert analysis and recommendations given. Additionally, RTGoNU was ready to cooperate with the AU Commission on the Hybrid Court for South Sudan, however, he reminded the plenary that it wasn't within the jurisdiction and the responsibility of the RTGoNU; and reiterated the readiness of the government to present the roadmap in the next RJMEC plenary.

**7. Min. 08/23/22: Farewell Presentation of the Ambassadors whose tenure of Mission in South Sudan ended**

**7.1. H.E. Siv Kaspersen, Ambassador of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in the Republic of South Sudan:**

- 7.1.1 thanked the Interim Chair for the opportunity to speak to the plenary despite having mixed feelings having known that the assignment would be challenging, due to the lack of political will to implement the Peace Agreement. She narrated that the potential for a better future for the people of South Sudan was so huge however, had seen more the suffering of its people. She further encouraged the Parties to find common grounds, showing sense of urgency and continue implementing the Peace Agreement, and underscored that Norway had been in the country for 50 years and reiterated its continued support to the government and people of South Sudan and wished them the best.

**7.2. H.E. Jelte van Wieren, Ambassador of Netherlands to the Republic of South Sudan:**

- 7.2.1. addressed the Plenary in his capacity as the co-chair of the IPF, informed that it was his last address to the plenary since his tenure in South Sudan had come to an end. He regretted that the Parties had not implemented critical tasks which they were meant to undertake such as the unification of forces and the passage of critical bills needed to facilitate the holding of elections. He expressed concern that Parliament continued to pass bills without the SPLM/A-IO. He welcomed the announcement of the draft Roadmap but decried the lack of political space for civil society and other political parties;

7.2.2. expressed sympathy for the RJMEC's and CTSAMVM's loss of funding from the US Government but pointed out that all donors need to see the impact for their financial support. He emphasized the need for more information about the impact of the withdrawal of US funding so that the IPF and other donors could consider how to assist.

7.3. The Interim Chairperson thanked the Ambassadors for their work in South Sudan and support to the RJMEC and wished them well in their endeavors.

**Min. 08/23/22: Report from the NTC**

8. The Secretary for the National Transitional Committee (NTC) informed members that:

8.1 the NTC coordinated and facilitated a meeting of the Security Mechanisms' command structure in Bilpam and they agreed on drawing the list of the lower echelons of the command structures of the NUF. After the meeting, the NTC received the list of the lower echelons and submitted to the Presidency. The NTC also facilitated the JDB's planned trip to Ayod, Jonglei State to ease reported tension between the SSPDF and SPLM/A-IO. After the trip, the JDB had reported that the tension was deescalated and calmness returned to Ayod;

8.2 the NTC convened an emergency Board meeting and recognized unintended delay of the graduation of the NUF due to shortage of funding. It was agreed to fast-track the graduation of the NUF and that the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning be urged to immediately release the budgeted \$14,430,928 million for graduation, redeployment, DDR and Phase II of NUF;

8.3 the main challenge faced by the NTC included the lack of funding. He urged the Ministry of Finance and Economic planning to release the funds earmarked for the pending activities, and appealed to the regional guarantors and international partners and friends of South Sudan to continue supporting the NTC on the remaining critical tasks and activities of the TSAs.

**9. Min. 09/23/22: Briefing from UNMISS SRSG**

9.1 The SRSG and head of UNMISS delivered his statement as follows:

9.1.1 he briefed the UN Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council on the situation in South Sudan, highlighting that the end of the transition period was fast approaching and the window of opportunity to implement the key benchmarks was closing.

9.1.2 he acknowledged progress reported and the presentation of the developed roadmap to the President. Voices from diverse groups were actively seeking participation in the development of the roadmap, and encouraged the inclusion of all parties going forward;

9.1.3 commended the nationwide consultations on the CTRH, the resumption of work of the NCAC and the establishment of the *ad hoc* JRC;

9.1.4 underscored that the revised National Development Strategy and the Strategic Economic Development Roadmap required under Chapter 4 of R-ARCSS is an initiative to utilise the resources of the country for long-term stability and prosperity of its people;

- 9.1.5 commended the completion of the reconstituted transitional legislature at national and state levels and reiterated the need to urgently resolve the procedural issues that resulted in the Parliamentary boycott of the SPLM-IO that impacting the implementation process;
- 9.1.6 shared concerns of no progress since the April agreement of the unified command structure of NUF. Further delays may increase tensions between the different groups with undesirable consequences;
- 9.1.7 condemned the subnational violence that resulted in high civilian casualties, compounded by cycles of cattle rustling, abduction, revenge killings, and conflict-related sexual violence. In 2022, more than 80% of civilian casualties attributed to intercommunal violence committed by community-based militias;
- 9.1.8 reported serious humanitarian crises with an estimated 8.9 million people in need, including over 2 million women and 4.6 million children in Unity and Jonglei States,
- 9.1.9 observed that flooding worsened food security and causing displacements. Condemned antagonism towards humanitarian workers which hindered services to some of the most vulnerable people;
- 9.1.10 noted that government intervention in conflict hotspots was needed to de-escalate violence and to act, with restraint, against perpetrators, including on cases of SGBV. Commended the efforts in Yei by the SSPDF in organizing the joint special mobile court that resulted in conviction of soldiers for cases of SGBV; and
- 9.1.11 called for an inclusive roadmap with clear benchmarks and realistic timelines that would serve to recommit all South Sudanese parties to their own peace agreement and allow the international community to align its support with priority benchmarks.

#### **10. Min. 09/23/22: Reports from Mechanisms on progress in implementation of the R-ARCSS:**

##### **Report from NCAC**

10.1 The Chairperson of the NCAC reported the following to the meeting:

- 10.1.1 the Committee completed the review and amendment of the *Public Finance Management and Accountability, 2011 (Amendment) Bill, 2022* and submitted it to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022.
- 10.1.2 the review of the Petroleum laws (*Petroleum Act, 2012* and the *Petroleum Revenue Management Act, 2013*) continued with a consideration of the outstanding issues.
- 10.1.3 stakeholders' validation forum for the Petroleum laws was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022.
- 10.1.4 NCAC commenced review of the National Elections Act, 2012 expected to be completed early August. The Parties and stakeholders to the Agreement to expeditiously submit their views to enable NCAC to identify the scope of the amendments. The process of convening an experts' forum on the national elections law was scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022;



10.1.5 the NCAC chairperson had consultations with the Government Chief Whip and Chairperson of the SPLM Parliamentary Caucuses, Hon. Rebecca Joshua Okwaci in the TNLA, accompanied by various Committee heads. The consultation resolved to have more consultations to create greater understanding of the work of NCAC. From the meeting he was further informed that the dispute over amendments to the *Political Parties Act, 2012 (Amendment) Bill, 2022*, had been referred to the principals for a decision on the way forward;

10.1.6 underscored that budgetary support for the work of the NCAC remained a challenge particularly the lack of financial support for the national members.

#### **Report from the CTSAMVM:**

10.2 The Chairperson of the CTSAMVM reported to the Plenary as follows:

10.2.1 informed members that, the US Government demobilized and withdrew its logistical support to CTSAMVM effective 04 July 2022, at the critical time when the mechanism wanted it most, especially Air Transport;

10.2.2 underscored the tension between the Parties in Unity and Upper Nile States had subsided. CTSAMVM remained concerned about the continual occupation of Mir Mir, Liang and Jekou Cantonment Sites in Unity and Upper Nile States respectively by SSPDF and/or its affiliates;

10.2.3 raised concerns with the current tension in northern Jonglei state due to suspicious movements and activities of the SSPDF aligned to Kit-Gwang elements (SPLM/-IO defectors). Illegal checkpoints, arrests and over taxation along the Nile in Upper Nile State was likely to provoke hostilities from other party signatory armed forces and undermined the peace process;

10.2.4 informed members that the status of Permanent Ceasefire was holding in most states of South Sudan with an exception of inter-communal violence in Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria states. There were isolated incidents of reported violence perpetrated by suspected elements of National Salvation Front (NAS) in Mundri County of Western Equatoria State and Yei/Lainya County in Central Equatorial State;

10.2.5 reported that the CTSAMVM conducted an induction workshop to include SSOMA into the CTSAMVM monitoring structures for the National Monitors of South Sudan United Front (SSUF/A) and Real SPLM/A in Rome, Italy from 20-30 June 2022 facilitated by the Community of Sant'Egidio. The National Monitors of the two Parties are expected to join CTSAMVM on 15 August 2022. CTSAMVM had been in contact with Sant'Egidio probing them to engage the leadership of NAS to re-join the Rome peace process;

10.2.6 highlighted that CTSAMVM teams had visited Cantonment Sites and Training Centres and observed that whereas many trainees had gone back in anticipation of graduation at the end of June as earlier announced by RTGoNU and that most of



them had left due to delayed graduation coupled with poor living conditions and logistics challenges;

- 10.2.7 informed members that CTSAMVM had concluded investigations of the following violation reports: i). CTSAMVM final report into the clashes in Unity State; ii) violations in Nasir County, Upper Nile State between Feb-May 22; iii) killing of 3 civilians and illegal detention of civilians in Kajo-Keji County; iv) illegal recruitment and training in Tambura County by NSS. However, the reports were yet to be discussed and endorsed by CTSAMVM Technical Committee (CTC) and CTSAMVM Board meetings;
- 10.2.8 expressed concerned about the re-occurring security and humanitarian challenges in Eastern Equatoria State caused by clashes between migrant armed cattle keepers and local natives, which had left many civilians displaced, many lives and properties lost. He urged the RTGoNU to find a lasting solution to the problem and tensions; and
- 10.2.9 shared concerns about Warrap State where SSPDF was reportedly disarming armed civilians, and reported that violations against civilians continued due to limited control by the Parties on their military personnel, and armed groups under their control.

#### **Report from the JDB**

#### **10.3 The Chairperson of the Joint Defence Board:**

- 10.3.1 informed members that the Board through the heads of the respective military and security institutions, continued to exert commendable command and control over all forces across the country, except for non-aligned parties that did not sign the R-ARCSS;
- 10.3.2 shared concerns on the incidences of insecurity due to inter-communal violence that took place in some parts of country, especially in Tonj, Eastern Equatoria, and Twic Mayardit. Nonetheless, other than the reported cases, the overall security situation was relatively stable and that the Board, the Parties to the R-ARCSS were committed in observing the CoHA which was still largely holding;
- 10.3.3 underlined that after the successful unification of the command at the highest level, the Parties were working to affect the unification of the middle and low echelons, and reported that the Board was awaiting the release of funds for the implementation of graduation. Some food items had been received and being distributed to the Training Centres in Upper Nile and Bahr el Ghazal. However, more food items acquired from Uganda was expected to reach Juba within a few days;
- 10.3.4 underscored that among other challenges faced was the continuous delay in the graduation of Phase I of the NUF as well as delay in provision of uniforms;

- 10.3.5 emphasized that the urged main aspects of the remaining TSAs be given a priority: graduation of the NUF, unification of the middle and lower echelons. The NTC needs to expedite release of funds for remaining funds earmarked for the completion of NUF activities;
- 10.3.6 further recommended for trust and confidence-building among and within the Parties be strengthened to mitigate discontent and emergence of new political-security dynamics. Also, recommended on the provision of uniforms to the agencies that had not yet received; and
- 10.3.7 reiterated that the national stability of South Sudan strongly hinged on, among others, the country's ability to harness a sustainable security sector reform process. Leaders and planners should be guided by the desire to achieve the bigger picture; and commended the support from the leadership of the Parties, and especially to the RTGoNU.

#### **Report from the SDSR Board**

- 10.4 The Chairperson of the SDSR Board thanked UNMISS on agreeing to support the Board to convene a workshop to do the final approval of the Revised Defence Policy and also the starts of looking at the roadmap for the transformation of the security sector and acknowledged the support of the RJMEC on the White Paper.

#### **The Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC)**

- 10.5 The Head of Secretariat of the JTSC informed members that they had nothing to report, and were continuing to wait for budget for graduation since the plan for graduation and deployment had been submitted to the NTC.

#### **Report from the JMCC**

- 10.6 The JMCC Deputy Head of Secretariat reported as follows;
  - 10.6.1 preparation for Phase II of NUF was underway particularly for organising the forces from all cantonments and barracks in military formation and ensuring supply of food and non-food items, including medical services were in place before transporting the forces to training centers. Measures were also being put in place for when resources become available;
  - 10.6.2 JMCC had submitted the various budget requests to NTC through the JDB. The Committee was expected to conduct an assessment and verification of (15) cantonment sites as well as reconstruct shelters, stores, pre-positioning of food and essential items to be verified in training centers;
  - 10.6.3 challenges faced by the Committee included inadequate funding for the activities in cantonments and barracks, shortage of food to all cantonments /barracks and difficulties in transportation;

- 10.6.4 JMCC planned to visit all sites for readiness and provide command and control over all forces. It further plans to do the following: i). arrange accommodations for all senior officers in designated locations before transportation of forces from cantonments/barracks to training centers; ii) prepare for means of transportation of the forces from cantonments/barracks to training centers
- 10.6.5 JMCC expected NTC to provide food and non-food items, including medicines before transportation of forces to training centers, and CTSAMVM and UNMISS to provide necessary facilitation to the peace mechanism teams for the visiting of the forces in their assembly points; and
- 10.6.6 NTC needed to provide funds through the JDB to implement all activities as recommended.

#### **DDR Commission**

10.7 In his report, the Deputy Chairperson of the DDR Commission stated the following;

- 9.7.1. DDR had continuous engagements with local and international stakeholders through meetings to disseminate and advance ongoing initiative of Community Violence Reduction (CVR) program. Following the decision reached to put the pilot project's locations in Western Bahr el-Ghazal (Wau), the DDR team visited the area in May 2022 and conducted CVR assessment. Funding for conducting the assessment was provided by UNMISS. The team has completed data collection and embarked on analysing the data;
- 9.7.2. the CVR technical team had met and finalized the analysis of data collected from Western Bahr el Ghazal state and surrounding counties from Warrap and Northern Bar el Ghazal State. The team composed of DDR Commission and UNMISS was now working on pilot project proposal to be submitted to donors for funding;
- 9.7.3. DDR Commission decided that DDR ex-combatant in all the training centres should be profiled and transported to their counties and states before graduation. The budget for profiling, package and transportation was given to NTC Chairperson on 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2022 who also submitted it to the Ministry of Finance on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The Commission still lacked funding.

#### **Min. 11/23/22: Discussions on Statements and Reports**

- 11. Members welcomed the statements of the RJMEC Chairperson, RTGoNU and the SRSG and commended the SRSG on the renewal of the UNMISS mandate. In addition, they raised the following matters during the discussions:
  - 11.1. **AUMISS**: commended the support of the Scandinavian countries in the liberation of the African countries and wished them well, thanked the RJMEC Interim Chairperson for his statement and recommendations made, encouraged by the statement of Prof. Haysom, and took note of the reports of the NTC and RTGoNU. He observed that the long-awaited roadmap needed to be presented;

- 11.2. furthermore, he reiterated the continued support of the AU with respect to the mechanisms affected by the withdrawal of support from the US government. Underscored the need for a thorough analysis of the TNLA rules and regulations so that the opposition returns to Parliament. The challenges in the cantonment and training centers to be addressed, the DDR to be handled with care and international community needs to support the Commission;
- 11.3. **USA:** Since the signing of the R-ARCSS the US has provided over \$145 million in support for the two mechanisms and separately, contributes to UNMISS which supports implementation of the Revitalized Agreement, including support for the work of CTSAMVM and RJMEC. The US recognises the important role that both organizations played and will continue to play in helping to hold South Sudanese leaders accountable for the commitments that they made to advance political, economic, and security sector reforms. Their efforts had been instrumental in sustaining South Sudan's permanent ceasefire and in advancing formation of the national unity government. It is disappointing that despite the tireless work of the organizations and significant international engagements, including through the UNMISS, South Sudan's leaders had effectively stalled the peace process implementation by failing to fully unify the nation's security services as well as delayed in approving the majority of legislation required to facilitate elections.
- 11.4. On humanitarian assistance, the US government provided \$1 billion per year to support lifesaving humanitarian assistance to the South Sudanese people; services to have been done by the government of South Sudan from the revenue generated from the nation's resources which was, however, disappearing into non-transparent contracts and poor financial management. The US was further providing an additional \$175 million to help mitigate the growing food insecurity crisis magnified by Russia's unjust and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and \$70 million for other humanitarian assistance needs in South Sudan.
- 11.5. On inter-communal violence, he observed that the government's failure to implement the peace agreement, to act immediately to address violence impacting civilians and hold those responsible accountable, and to provide a safe space for civil society actors and journalists to participate in the political process being among issues that made U.S. government financial support to CTSAMVM and RJMEC untenable. The US will have continuous diplomatic support for the full implementation of South Sudan's peace agreement and for full cooperation by all parties with both CTSAMVM and RJMEC. It is also committed to work with UNMISS and regional partners, including the AU and IGAD.
- 11.6. **EU Delegation representative:** Emphasized reports of atrocities in Leer and Koch counties. The mechanisms needed to elaborate on the impact on their activities giving the current financial constraint. He welcomed the Presidential commitment to the roadmap underscoring that its drafting must be timely and inclusive. The representative endorsed the RJMEC Interim Chair's statement that a roadmap cannot be negotiated for months. The EU had earmarked \$5 million US dollars in its annual action plan;
- 11.7. **Norway representative on behalf of the Troika** noted that the Troika is committed to continue their support to the RJMEC and the Interim Chairperson. The role of the RJMEC and the team remained vital to the R-ARCSS in securing a peaceful, democratic and prosperous future for South Sudan. The end of the peace process was getting closer, however,

were yet to see substantive progress of any chapter of the R-ARCSS. The representative was deeply concerned that the graduation of the first cohort of the NUF had not taken place. The unification of the command structure was an important step forward. The Troika remained concerned that the government had not yet set out plan for activities to be implemented by the end of the Transitional Period and not yet included inputs from other Parties to the Agreements. The unified government needed to set out credible plans towards free and fair election. The roadmap should therefore include specific actions, realistic time scales and a critical path of activities. Further, there must be an inclusive consultation on the content of the roadmap. The statement made by Parliament after the unilateral decision to amend the Political Parties Act was concerning. Such matters required dialogue to resolve them.

- 11.8. On chapter IV, public financial management reforms are critical as the methods of ensuring that more South Sudanese could benefit on the countries resources and to promote enduring sustainable peace. The government needed to avoid backsliding, for example, on monitoring financing which risks causing inflation and undermining exchange rate before. Also, RJMEC needs to refocus and concentrate its efforts on ensuring that the Parties implement the most critical outstanding issues, one being the security sector reforms and the NUF as the backbone of the R-ARCSS.
- 11.9. *Academia*: Consultations on the new roadmap for the R-ARCSS should be inclusive of all civic groups and stakeholders. In particular, women's voices that have always been discounted by political parties in decision-making and appointment should not be overlooked. Equally, the CSOs should be given an opportunity to present their opinions to enrich the roadmap because of their key role in engaging the civil populations. The SSPDF has done well on the court martial in Yei for holding the perpetrators accountable and called for more investigations to establish reasons for increased magnitude of S/GBV incidences that undermine the women peace and security agenda. On the constitution-making process, the Bill would need to be widely disseminated to the civic population to ensure inclusivity of voices and representation of all groups in the constitution-making institutions and during public consultations.
- 11.10. *RTGoNU*: Appreciated the statement by the outgoing Ambassadors and wished them well reiterating that they would be remembered by their tangible support to Republic of South Sudan. The Troika, EU, and IPF were not partners to the R-ARCSS to date despite being called and requested to sign the R-ARCSS. The roadmap which was still a zero-draft that would be subjected to many revisions, opinion and discussions. The roadmap was a document for South Sudan which would require the involvement and opinions of everyone. Millions of funding was spent to South Sudan by the Partners without the knowledge of the government of South Sudan. NGOs need to be transparent and submit to the government their financial statements on what was received from partners. On the Hybrid Court, he wondered whether the Agreement was for accountability or peace. The plenary needs to be realistic by focusing on pushing for peace, rule of law and order first before embarking on the accountability.
- 11.11. Appreciated the involvement of the Saint'Egidio on the process to mediate SSOMA group (non-signatories). Despite being part of the first delegation in the talks, he couldn't continue participation after being sanctioned by both the USA and EU. He further expressed that it

was only Gen. Cirillo that had at least signed the CoHA, and called for Pagan Amun and Gen. Paul Malong to sign the CoHA and R-ARCSS;

- 11.12. Registered his disappointment on the withdrawal of support of the US Government and called for their return in supporting the mechanisms. On the Parliamentary boycott of the SPLM-IO, the members of RTNLA governed by the rules and regulations of the Parliament and not parties. Despite the boycott the RTNLA still had the quorum to continue with its proceedings and passing the Bills tabled. He called upon the SPLM-IO members of Parliament to end the boycott before the rules and regulation of the Parliament are applied in unseating them and reappointing new members. The TNLA ratified the Constitutional Making-process Bill without the members from the SPLM-IO. The appointment of the MPs to the Specialised Committees was based on the credibility, expertise and background. The delays in disbursement of the funding to the mechanisms by the Ministry of Finance and Planning are concerning, noting that something was not clear between the NTC and the MoFP. The NTC needed to have given an ultimatum and timeline to the Ministry of Finance for the implementation of the activity to be achieved.
- 11.13. *SDSR Board*: The rules and regulation of the Parliament was as per the R-ARCSS. RJMEC needs to take the statement by Hon. Makuei seriously and requested for her protest to be registered that Ministers, and members of Parties cannot make statements and walk away without listening to the responses from their counterparts. The RTGoNU report presented was one-sided because the CoMs had not yet discussed and endorsed it. The roadmap had been prepared by one party and the opposition were looking forward in being part of it. Appreciated the support of the US to the mechanisms, and in the humanitarian affairs. However, the USA Government needs to reconsider its decision since RJMEC and CTSAMVM were not the guarantors of the R-ARCSS and failure should not be placed on the mechanisms but rather the guarantors and implementors. Underscored the need to have the mechanisms in place for accountability and progress. Indeed, the USA was entitled to its decision, however, called on its efforts in prevailing on the parties to implement the R-ARCSS.
- 11.14. On the boycott of the SPLM-IO, when the R-ARCSS was negotiated, the reason for having the NCAC was to review, amend legislations and incorporate any relevant reforms into conformity with the Agreement so that no party would have a mandate to change the text of the revised bills or laws as identified by the R-ARCSS. The Agreement did not give a leeway for its institutions to review nor amend what had already been agreed by parties within the NCAC. Further, the Bill passed by the Council of Minister were only subject to ratification. On the issue of the roadmap, some articles in the R-ARCSS were left out while their critical for implementation. Lack for political space to the opposition whereby media companies publishing and printing media materials for the SPLM-IO were threatened and others had to close and leave the country. RJMEC members needed to look into it and for CTSAMVM to monitor further the media/ state media and their treatment.
- 10.1. US representative underscored the irony of calling NGOs to provide financial accountability when South Sudan was unable to fund the essential services to the civic population. Further, raised concerns and disappointment on the action of the Minister of Information and representative of the ITGoNU for refusing to discuss and respond to the questions of other



members to be amongst the reasons of US Government withdrew its support to the mechanisms;

- 10.2. **NTC Secretary:** The challenges faced by the NTC were not the issue of lack of planning by the Committee but the failure of the Ministry of Finance and Planning to avail funding to the NTC. Underscored the need for the Constitution-making Process to be prioritized as it is an integral part of all systems ahead of election and that RJMEC mandate should be respected. The R-ARCSS has been violated yet they had not been addressed;
- 10.3. **Youth representative:** At the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting the plenary, members were still discussing about the unification of forces, which is concerning. There is dire economic situation with the inflation of a dollar that had reached 600 SSP while many people were paid less than \$100. DDR needs to be total and a nationwide process;
- 10.4. **CSO Forum:** The statement by the RTGoNU representative to the Partners was worrying, noting the government of South Sudan has role and responsibility to its people, including in resolving inter-communal violence. The implementation of the R-ARCSS wasn't subject to renegotiation and further condemned the attack of the civic space and media companies. On the issue of the Nile Water, she questioned on the government's plan in mitigating the floods affecting people, underlining that the voices of the CSOs were not accommodated and yet the government had signed MoU with the Arab Republic of Egypt. She further questioned on the intentions to dredge the Nile;
- 10.5. **Women Coalition:** The country was at a crossroad with regards to the roadmap. The Women Coalition submitted its views to the constitution-making process as requested. She commended on the work done by the CTRH that had moved around the country in collecting views of the people, and suggested the NCAC do the same. Expressed concern on the violation by the govt in reaching the 35% of women appointments in government. She shared concerns on the boycott of some RJMEC members to the plenary which was the only platform allowing all stakeholders to engage in political discussions, and appealed to the US government to reconsider its support.
- 10.6. **RTGoNU Representative:** It was the responsibility of the government to see that the South Sudanese people were not suffering. The RTGoNU needs to have a forum to discuss the reports and roadmap before being presented to the RJMEC plenary, and underscored the need for the US Government to reconsider its decision in supporting the R-ARCSS. Inter-communal violence was a violation of the R-ARCSS and hence the need for the RTGoNU to take action;
- 10.7. **FDs:** Welcomed the report of CTSAMVM whose hands were tied and further commended the support of Japan to the CTSAMVM National Monitors, but questioned the Guarantors' support of the RARCSS.
- 10.8. **RJMEC Interim Chair:** clarified to members that the discussion brought by the Women Coalition would be given the platform and further that a lot needed to be done on trust and confidence building. He asked RJMEC members to be more positive when the roadmap was shared by the RTGoNU and that it would take into consideration the views of the people.



**Min. 11/23/22: Date for the Next Meeting**

11. The date for the next RJMEC meeting would be communicated by the Secretariat.

**Min. 12/23/22: A.O.B**

12. There was nothing raised under this agenda item.

**Min. 13/23/22: Chairperson's Closing Remarks**

13. He thanked members for attending the meeting and for the frank and open discussions.

**Min.14/23/22: Closing Prayers**

14. The representative of the faith-based organizations led a closing prayer. There being no other business, the 23<sup>rd</sup> RJMEC monthly meeting was therefore adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 15:36 hours.

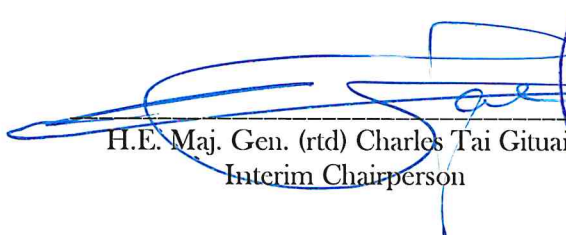
**Min. 15/23/22**

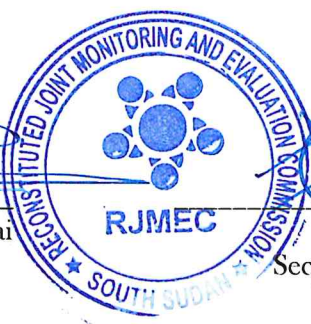
15. Adoption of the minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> RJMEC meeting

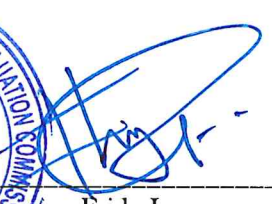
15.1.1. Proposer: Enrique Gallego

15.1.2. Seconder: Mrs. Yar Manoa Majok

The minutes are hereby proposed, seconded and adopted by the aforementioned, as the true record of the meeting.

  
H.E. Maj. Gen. (rtd) Charles Tai Gituai  
Interim Chairperson



  
Frida Lyaruu  
Secretary to the Plenary