



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

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE 24<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT  
MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 AT  
BEIJING JUBA HOTEL, SOUTH SUDAN**

The Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) convened its 24<sup>th</sup> meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in Juba, South Sudan. The meeting chaired by H.E. Amb. Maj Gen (rtd) Charles Tai Gituai, Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC. The meeting was called to order at 10:50 am.

**Agenda**

1. Opening Prayers
2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Adoption of the minutes of the 23<sup>rd</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
  - a. NCAC
  - b. CTSAMVM
  - c. JDB
  - d. SDSR Board
  - e. JMCC
  - f. DDR Commission
  - g. PFM -OC
10. Discussions
11. Review of the Resolution
12. Date for the next meeting
13. A.O.B
14. Chairperson's closing remarks
15. Closing prayers.

**Attendance**

**For the Parties to the R-ARCSS:**

1. Hon. Dr. Martin Elia Lomuro (RTGoNU)
2. Hon. Michael Chiangjiek (ITGoNU)
3. Hon. Mary Nawai Martin (ITGoNU)
4. Hon. Amb. Stephen Par Kuol (SPLM/IO)
5. Hon. Gatwech Lam Puoch (SPLM/IO)
6. Mr. Malong Thiik Riny (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. Sheik Jaralnebi Khamis Mursal (Faith-based leaders)
3. Prof. Moses Macar Kacuol (Eminent Persons)
4. Hon. Amb. John Yoh Gai (Eminent Personality)
5. Mr. Akuoch Ajang Nyanhom (CSO Alliance)
6. Prof. Pauline Riak (Academia) - online
7. Mr. Patrick A. Godi (Youth group)
8. Mrs. Yar Manoa Majok (Business Community)
9. Mrs. Abuk Jervas Makuac (Business Community)
10. Mrs. Maria Gideon Gakmar (Women Bloc)
11. Ms. Riya Williams Yuyada (Women Coalition)

**For the Regional Guarantors:**

1. H.E. Gamal Abdelmageed Gassim Elseed Ahmed (Sudan)
2. H.E. Nebil Mahdi (Ethiopia)
3. H.E. Maj Gen. (rtd) Samuel Nandwa (Kenya)
4. Mr. Kabugudho Anthony (Uganda)
5. H.E. Adv. Mahlodi Muofhe (South Africa)
6. Mr. Kataps Gaius Keafon (Nigeria)
7. Dr. Aleu Garang (IGAD Mission to South Sudan)
8. H.E. Amb. Prof. Joram M. Biswaro (AUMISS)

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

1. H.E. Ma Qiang (China)
2. H.E. Linken Nymann Berryman (Norway)
3. Mr. Enrique Gallego (USA)
4. Mr. Andre Kolln (UK)
5. H.E. Timo Olkkonen (EU)
6. Prof. Nicholas Haysom (UNMISS)
7. Mr. Jan Huesken (IPF) Netherlands

**For RJMEC Secretariat:**

1. Amb. Berhanu Kebede, Chief of Staff
2. Dr. Job Akuni, Senior Advisor – Governance
3. Mr. Stephen Oola, Senior Advisor - Legal and Constitutional Affairs

**For Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:**

1. Hon. Gichira Kibara, Chairperson NCAC
2. Hon. Dr. Dier Tong Ngor, Minister of Finance and Planning (MoFPA) and Chair of PFM-OC
3. Ustaz Stephen Wiw Bichiok, NTC Head of Secretariat
4. Lt. Gen. Asrat Denero, Chairperson CTSAMVM
5. Brig Gen. Saeed Mohamed Elsheit, Deputy Chairperson CTSAMVM
6. Lt. Gen. Gabriel Duop Lam, Co-Chair, JDB
7. Lt. Gen. Rabi Emmanuel Mujung, JDB
8. Maj. Gen. Charles Machieng Kuol, Head of JDB Secretariat.
9. Brig. Gen. Angelos D. Agok (JDB)

10. Maj. Laguya Kenyi Lupai, JDB Secretariat
11. Hon. Angelina Teny, Chairperson, SDSR Board
12. Mr. Angelo Madut, Head of SDSR Board Secretariat
13. Hon. Lt. Gen. Ayuen Alier Jongroor, Chairperson, DDR Commission
14. Lt. Gen. Koang Gatkuoth, Chairperson JMCC
15. Maj Gen Ayuen Dot (JMCC)
16. Maj Gen. John Pham (JMCC)
17. Maj. Gen. Pal Yiech Lam, Deputy Head of JMCC Secretariat

**Observers:**

1. Mr. Ahmed Tawfek (Egypt)
2. Mr. Soichi Igari (Japan)
3. Ms. Rosemarie Hille (Germany)
4. H.E. Erdem Mutaf (Turkiye)
5. Ms. Lydia Minagano Kape (Switzerland)
6. Mr. Tomas Brundin (Sweden)
7. H.E. Vishnu Kumar Sharma (India)
8. Amb. Wande Aida Eriminio (MOFA)

**Min. 01/24/22: Opening Prayers**

1. Bishop Emeritus Enock Tombe Stephen and Sheik Jaralnebi Khamis Mursal led the opening prayers.

**Min. 02/24/22: Chairperson's Opening Remarks**

2. The Chairperson welcomed the RJMEC members to the meeting and introduced the newly accredited Ambassadors to South Sudan and members of RJMEC to the plenary. He recognized the attendance of Hon. Dr. Dier Tong Ngor, Minister of Finance and Planning and Chairperson of the Public Financial Management Oversight Committee (PFM-OC) who was invited to present a report on the PFM-OC.

**Min. 03/24/22: Adoption of the Agenda**

3. The meeting agenda was adopted without any amendments.

**Min. 04/24/22: Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

4. The draft minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> RJMEC meeting was reviewed and adopted with an amendment to the name of H.E. Maj Gen (rtd) Samuel Nandwa, Kenya Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan.

**Min. 05/24/22: Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chair**

5. The RJMEC Chairperson read his statement to the plenary highlighting the following critical issues:
  - 5.1. approximately 42,500 out of 53,000 Phase I NUF graduated and the process was ongoing; the Constitution-making Process Bill was passed by the Reconstituted Transitional National Legislature (RTNLA) and awaited assent of the President; implementation of the R-ARCSS entered its fifth year with sustained efforts towards peace, despite challenges; and the RTGoNU Roadmap was ratified by the RTNLA as per article 8.4 of the R-ARCSS.

- 5.2. Recommended that the RTGoNU should prioritise and fund implementation of the Roadmap tasks within the given timelines; expedite the enactment of outstanding bills; complete Phase 1 NUF graduation and redeployment, including commencing its Phase 2; fund DDR programmes and to fast track the establishment and operationalisation of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH).
- 5.3. reiterated RJMEC's call for timely and effective implementation of the Roadmap; appealed to members for their collective responsibility to monitor and evaluate the implementation and change of approach and strategy; further appealed to the RTGoNU to demonstrate the urgency, unity of purpose, commitment, extra effort and political will required to implement the Roadmap as scheduled. He emphasized the importance of the RJMEC Working Committees in identifying and flagging key priority tasks that require the RTGoNU's early attention and action.
- 5.4. concluded with making clarion a call for all to consolidate efforts, alignment of messages and actions and push for the Roadmap to be implemented efficiently and effectively, thereby creating the conditions for free, fair and credible elections.

#### **Min. 06/24/22: Report from the RTGoNU**

6. The RTGoNU representative presented the following report to the plenary:
  - 6.1. the Roadmap was ratified on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and that the *ad hoc* Judicial Reform Committee (JRC) was established and functioning. Also, all the Bills under Annex-1 were assented to by the President with an exception to the Constitutional making Bill, the Police Service Bill, and Political Parties Bill, Wildlife Service Bill and Political Parties Bill. Also, he impressed on the Rt. Hon. Speaker of RTNLA to expeditiously submit the Bills, especially the Constitutional Bill to the Presidency for assent;
  - 6.2. the parties completed allocation of the transitional national Institutions and Mechanisms. However, the implementation awaited alignment of duties and function of the Corporations, Authorities, Chambers, Bureau and Councils all of which were civil institutions not subject to political allocation;
  - 6.3. the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA) classified and enlisted sixteen (16) institutions already established by legislation and (16) sixteen more requiring legislation to be enacted and was MoJCA working on them;
  - 6.4. NCAC finalized seven (7) out of 15 bills while the remaining eight (8) is in progress. The NCAC is expected to complete revising all the Bills by the end of May 2023 when its mandate ends. The NCAC national members' salary arrears was discussed with the Minister of Finance and Planning so that it is resolved;
  - 6.5. the Rome process was not included in the Roadmap and the RTGoNU does not have the mandate to report on its status;
  - 6.6. approximately 59,948 NUF would have been graduated by the end of Phase I. So far, 27,000 were graduated in Panyier training centre in Greater Equatoria, 22,495 in Juba (included Gorom, Got-Makur, Rajaff and Lologo), 1,540 graduated in Torit (Eastern Equatoria), 2,149 in Maridi (Western Equatorial) and 1,007 in Panyier. 13,491 graduated in Pantiit and Mapel and other organised forces in Masna-Bira in Greater Bahr el Ghazal, 1,366 graduated in Muom (Bentiu/ Adok-Bar) in Unity State. Additionally, 14,000 forces were due to be graduated in Lelo (Malakal) and Tufugela. The last batch to be graduated would be 3,900 forces in Kaljak (Bentui). excessive flooding in Bentui area challenge facing graduating the forces excessive flooding;

- 6.7. once all the forces were graduated the parade of the various units such as army, NSS and other organized forces would be forwarded to the relevant sector for inclusion in the payroll and deployment shall be in accordance and as per the sector. The Cadets awaited their respective rank's confirmation prior to deployment. Some NUF were deployed to prevent and control the conflict between Abyei and Twic;
- 6.8. Phase II of cantonment and barracking of forces will commence after completion of graduation and redeployment of the Phase I NUF. The forces to be cantoned are expected to report with their weapons. Arrangements for the management of the weapons will be made between the RTGoNU and UNMISS;
- 6.9. RTGoNU budgeted US \$10 million for humanitarian assistance. RTGoNU formed an Emergency Taskforce comprising the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Environment and Forestry, RRC and the Ministry of Presidential Affairs. The Council of Minister of the RTGoNU directed the Ministry for Presidential Affairs to transfer the already allocated US \$2 million to the "Pool Fund" jointly managed by the relevant UN Agencies and the RTGoNU. Also, the RTGoNU signed the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2025; and
- 6.10. the CTRH and CRA legislation were in a final stage of enactment and would be completed and endorsed before the Christmas break. MoJCA completed a study visit to the Gambia and soon expected to visit South African CTRH.

**7. Min. 07/24/22: Presentation of the PFM -OC report by the Minister of Finance and Planning**

- 7.1. The Minister of Finance and Planning as the Chairperson of the Public Financial Management Oversight Committee (PFM-OC) briefed the plenary on key achievements, challenges, and recommendations of the PFM reforms based on the progress made against the eleven (11) PFM-reform priority areas. He informed that his presentation would not cover everything on the chapter and promised to prepare a thorough report in the next plenary.
- 7.1.1 Achievements: A steady progress in the non-oil revenue collection, with an increase of 38% in FY 2021/222; Term of Reference developed for Debt Stock-taking as a measure to review, verify and clear all arrears; there is ongoing work to establish Aid Management Information System (AMIS); MoFP implemented IMF – Rapid Credit Facility 1 and 2 (IMF-RCF1 and RCF2) utilization and Staff Monitoring Programme (SMP); unification of the parallel market foreign exchange rates resulting from compliance with auctioning procedures by the Bank of South Sudan; the Ministry of Petroleum carried-out cost recovery audit, initiated environmental audit, and harmonization of Human Resource Policy Manual; establishment and operationalization of Cash Management Committee by issuance of Ministerial Order to strengthen cash management; and, PFM governance structures provided technical and leadership support to the selected institutions tasked with spearheading PFM reforms, including capacity building.
- 7.1.2 The PFM-OC followed-up on the implementation of the prioritized areas with support of PFM-Secretariat and development partners. Also, other progress included implementation of Treasury Single Account (TSA), strengthened Cash Management, relocation of Loans Committee to MoFP, review, verification and clearance of all arrears, review and verification of loans and contracts collateralized or guaranteed against crude oil, strengthening the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the National Audit Chamber, establishing Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority (PPDAA), rolling out electronic payroll using biometric system, strengthening Fiscal and Financial Allocation Monitoring Commission (FFAMC), strengthening Macro-Fiscal Framework and strengthening the budget process and budget credibility.

- 7.1.3 Challenges: slow implementation of relevant provisions of R-ARCSS; lack of support by development partners; slow support towards institutional and systems strengthening, and capacity building; lack of pooling resources centrally by donors to be co-managed by MoFP; some donors chose to implement their own institutional strengthening and PFM projects, parallel to the established PFM- governance structure;
- 7.1.4 Recommendations: strengthen partnership with key stakeholders, governance systems and fast-track the implementation of PFM-Reforms; development partners to support key institutions in the implementation of PFM reforms; government, development partners and guarantors of the R-ARCSS to mobilise resources for long-term PFM project in South Sudan; called for patience as the government implements reforms with the support of development partners.

**Min. 08/24/22: Report from the NTC**

8. The Secretary for the National Transitional Committee (NTC) informed members that the NTC coordinated and facilitated Transitional Security Arrangement (TSA) the provisions of the Judicial Review Committee's office space; coordinated a meeting of Security Mechanisms' Command Structure to authorize the formation of the High-level Graduation Committee by the JTSC to prepare the graduation. The 41,846 NUF were graduated as follows: 22,239 in Juba; Central Equatoria State; 4,760 in Torit, Eastern Equatoria, Maridi, Western Equatoria and Panyiet, Jonglei State; 14,847 in Wau, Western Barh el Ghazal and Muom, Unity State. NTC planned to finalise graduation of the NUF in Malakal, Upper Nile and Bentiu in Unity State respectively. A budget of US \$ 14,430,980 million submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Planning. However, only US \$ 3,000,000 million was approved for the graduation of the NUF and released to the NTC account and further disbursed to the JTSC.
- 8.1. Challenges: Floods which delayed graduation in the greater Upper Nile region; delayed approval and release of funds for the graduation, redeployment, DDR, and the Phase II of the NUF.
- 8.2. Recommendations: The Ministry of Finance and Planning to release funds earmarked for DDR, Phase II of the NUF and to NTC to be able to pay incentives for the mechanisms and debts; and the regional guarantors and international partners and friends of South Sudan to continue supporting the NTC.

**Min. 09/24/22: Briefing from UNMISS SRSG**

9. The SRSG and head of UNMISS delivered his statement as follows:
  - 9.1. the ratified Roadmap offered a much-needed opportunity for completing South Sudan's transitional timetable and called for consistency. He welcomed the passage of critical bills and urged for the finalization of the National Elections Act. He applauded the directives of the President that the Parliament continue working until important bills related to the Roadmap were passed. Further, he urged South Sudan to promote women's participation in governance and leadership positions;
  - 9.2. it is essential that deployment plans for Phase I NUF were finalized and implemented so that the NUF could contribute to intercommunal harmony; Phase II NUF should receive adequate logistical and political support and urged the plenary to appeal to the RTGoNU to commence DDR without delay;
  - 9.3. UNMISS is readiness to explore together with the RTGoNU how to support NUF in line with the country's vision for security sector transformation.



- 9.4. subnational violence has continued to drive humanitarian need in South Sudan, with 8.9 million people in need of assistance. The humanitarian situation was compounded by bigger collective challenges like climate and flooding;
- 9.5. the militarization of the Nile River is a serious concern and urged for application of national and international laws to deter extortions and abuse of those using the River;
- 9.6. ethnic fracturing, clashes, and displacement in northern Jonglei and Upper Nile, as well as intercommunal violence around the Abyei area and ongoing cattle-raiding and migration-related conflicts must be condemned. UNMISS is ready to continue to prioritize the protection of civilians in their efforts to mitigate the effects of subnational violence and the RTGoNU needed to work hard to meet its obligations;
- 9.7. the activation of investigation committees to address and investigate the causes of subnational conflicts is a welcome development and urged the committees to conclude their work and share their findings in a timely manner;
- 9.8. the government needs to tackle the challenges of insecurity holistically, including by opening up civic and political space and inculcating a culture of non-violent debate and dispute resolution;
- 9.9. the IGAD, AUMISS, UNMISS commissioned a trilateral taskforce together with RJMEC, to coordinate support to the RTGoNU in the permanent constitution-making and elections processes;
- 9.10. the parties to engage with a renewed sense of urgency and to treat the benchmarks as critical deadlines to attract donors support politically and financially and RTGoNU should reconstitute the Political Parties Council, the National Elections Commission and the National Constitutional Review Commission, including establishing the Constitutional Drafting Committee.

**Min. 10/24/22: Reports from Mechanisms on progress in implementation of the R-ARCSS:**

**Report from NCAC**

**10. The Chairperson of the NCAC reported the following to the meeting:**

- 10.0.1. the Committee completed review of the Petroleum Act, 201, and the Petroleum Revenue Management Act, 2013 and submitted the two bills to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs on 16 August 2022. The NCAC also completed the review of the National Elections Act, 2012 and the submission of the bill to MoJCA was delayed as the women and youth, at the last minute, requested the Committee to consider providing for reserved geographical seats instead of the current proportional representation seats. The NCAC had also made considerable progress in the review of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2009, hosted a stakeholders' forum to review proposed amendments and expected to submit the bill to the MoJCA at the end week of November 2022;
- 10.0.2. the Committee commenced the review of the National Revenue Authority Act, 2016, held consultations with key stakeholders and called for submissions on proposed amendments from Parties to the Agreement and Stakeholders;
- 10.0.3. the NCAC encountered delays by parties and stakeholders in responding to requests for submissions or information necessary for its work and urged for timely responses to enable them meet tight deadlines. Also, there is lack of financial support for the NCAC national members. All parties and stakeholders urged to continue supporting the work of NCAC.

### **Report from the CTSAMVM**

- 10.1. The Chairperson of the CTSAMVM informed the members that 42,494 Phase I NUF graduated in Greater Equatoria and Jonglei States: 13,628 forces graduated in Wau (Greater Bahr el Ghazal) and 1,500 at Muom Training Centre (Unity State). graduation dates for Upper Nile State and Kaljak Training Centre in Unity State were not confirmed.
  - 10.1.1. Tension between the Parties in Unity and Upper Nile States lessened to some extent. Upper Nile State and northern Jonglei State were tense as result of repeated clashes between SPLM/A-IO, Agwelek forces and the armed youth. Mir Mir, Liang and Jekou Cantonment Sites in Unity and Upper Nile States designated for SPLM/A-IO were still occupied by SSPDF and/or its affiliates. SSPDF needed to withdraw and allow SPLM/A-IO forces to re-occupy the areas;
  - 10.1.2. the permanent ceasefire significantly held. Violations of the R-ARCSS involving SSPDF and SPLM/A-IO soldiers were reported, including incidents reportedly perpetrated by elements of National Salvation Front (NAS) in Central Equatoria State. CTSAMVM concluded investigations of the violation reports on the killing, looting of property and arrests of SPLM/A-IO soldiers and a civilian by SSPDF in Ikotos, Eastern Equatoria State and well as the harassment of civilians and SGBV by SPLM/A-IO in Kimba Payam, Morobo County, Central Equatoria State; and
  - 10.1.3. continued violations occurring against civilians due to limited control by the Parties on their military personnel, and armed groups under their control and influence, are concerning. The graduation and deployment of NUF is critical for the peace process.

### **Report from the JDB**

- 10.2. The Chairperson of the Joint Defence Board expressed concerns about insecurity due to inter-communal violence, especially in Abyei, Twic Mayardit and Eastern Equatoria. In Greater Upper Nile, this is attributed to the Kitgwang group. The Board and the Parties to the R-ARCSS are committed to observe the CoHA. The NUF graduated in Greater Equatoria, Greater Bah el Ghazal, and in Panyier Training Centre: Juba 22,495, Maridi 2,149, Torit 1,540, Panyier 1,007, Wau 13,491 and Muom 1,366. Malakal graduation date was set for 21<sup>st</sup> November and Bentiu (Kaljak Training Centre) for 24 November 2022. After the NUF graduation, deployment follows. The principals shall also embark on the unification of the middle and low echelons of the command. 750 personnel of the VIP Protection Force had been temporarily deployed to contain the situation between communities of Abyei and Twic Mayardit. Food was dispatched to the remaining centres within the previous two months while other were being dispatched to the cantonment assembly areas and only few quantities of food items were left in the JDB stores. The challenges include lack of medical logistics and supplies in the training centres and cantonment and assembly areas; ongoing armed inter-communal violence; lack of arms and uniforms for the organized forces; deplorable facilities in the training centre and lack of remuneration and incentives to the NUF personnel. In conclusion, the JDB recommended the following: the RTGoNU to expedite release of the remaining funds earmarked for the completion of NUF activities; trust and confidence-building among and within the Parties to be strengthened; there is need for the RTGoNU to provide arms and uniforms; and there is need for support towards accommodation of the personnel under ITGoNU involved in the implementation of TSA.

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

- 10.3. The Chairperson of the SDSR Board reported on the development of the Security Sector transformation Roadmap (White Paper on Defence) which was supported by UNMISS. This was the only document that remained to be finalised. The Security Sector Assessment, Revised Defence Policy and Security Policy Framework were complete. Further, UNMISS committed to support the



remaining workshop to be able to harmonise the documents with an expectation to be finalized by December 2022 and the Board selected Mr. Angelo Madut as the new Head of the SDSR-Board Secretariat, who was also a member of the Board representing the Youth group since it was reconstituted in 2018.

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

- 10.4. The JTSC Leadership did not attend the RJMEC meeting and neither did the Committee submit a report to the plenary.

#### **Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC)**

- 10.5. The JMCC Deputy Head of Secretariat stated that the Commission was assessing and verifying 15 new cantonment sites agreed previously in Phase I. Further intends to organize the forces from all cantonments and barracks in a military formation and ensuring supply of food and non-food items, including medical services were in place before transporting the forces to training centers. The JMCC submitted a budget to the NTC through JDB and expect to conduct an assessment and verification of the cantonment sites as well as to construct shelters, stores, pre-positioning of food and essential items to be verified in training centers. The challenges faced by the Committee included inadequate funding, shortage of food to all cantonments /barracks, difficulties in transportation and occupation of Lieng, Jekou/Turu and Mirmir cantonment sites by the SSPSF while majority of the cantonment sites in Greater Upper Nile region were submerged under water due to floods. In conclusion, the JMCC recommended that some forces in the conflict affected areas; contested cantonment sites and the other affected areas with floods need to be relocated to a conducive environment; NTC to avail funds through the JDB; 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.

#### **DDR Commission**

- 10.6. The Chairperson of the DDR Commission informed members that the Commission was working on Community Violence Reduction (CVR) and that it conducted an assessment with the help of UNMISS. The budget the Commission submitted to the NTC for the ex-combatant. He recommended that the NTC should prioritise DDR; the international community to support the DDR and its pilot project; and stakeholders to support the implementation of the CVR program to stabilize security for classical DDR program to pick up.

#### **Min. 11/24/22: Discussions on Statements and Reports**

- 11.0. Members welcomed the statements of the RJMEC Chairperson, RTGoNU the SRSG, institutions and mechanisms. In addition, they raised the following matters during the discussions:
- 11.1. **AUMISS**: commended the report of the PFM-OC and that of the RTGoNU. Highlighted that the key problem is lack of funding and transparency especially to the mechanisms. The member asked about the guarantee that the mechanisms would not suffer as previously. He requested to be informed as to when the RTGoNU establish the SRF and earmark the requisite US \$ 100 million. He also wanted to know the total number of forces expected to graduate in 2022, those occupying civilian centers and how weapons would be managed when collected;

- 11.2. **South Africa representative:** Highlighted the need to discuss how best members could demonstrate support to the implementation of the R-ARCSS versus only expressing how it ought to have been done. He underscored the need to invite other Ambassadors not members to RJMEC who could be of support to the process. He reiterated that the people of South Sudan wanted to have credible elections in that regard RJMEC should be able to discuss the needs for credible elections, noting that it is expensive and needed thorough discussion;
- 11.3. **CSO Alliance:** Asked about the IMF loan to the Republic of South Sudan and the amount given in Nov. 2020 to be US \$52 million. Questioned on what happened to the US \$334 million given in 2021 to the Government by the IMF. He requested to be informed to the construction of the road to Bahr el Ghazal and the funds used. He further questioned if the Government had a plan to revise the salary of the civil servants and the soldiers who receive to date \$20 a month unlike the Members of the Parliament who increased their salary to \$2,000 a month;
- 11.4. **Women Coalition representative:** Thanked the MoFP for the report and asked a question about the plan the Ministry has on the salaries of NUF and other soldiers who seemed to be in trauma having overstayed in the training centres without a clue on their remuneration. She requested to be informed on the strategy by the government to establish the Women and Youth Enterprise Fund. The member raised a concern about insecurity in Juba. Lastly, she expressed a concern on the mental health issues as among the most forgotten diseases that are affecting citizens, citing an incident of a soldier who committed suicide due to hardship. In that regard, she urged the govt to form a unit within the Juba Teaching hospital for mental health;
- 11.5. **Women Bloc representative:** Requested to get clarity on the meaning of Anti-Corruption Commission and if the Commission was functioning;
- 11.6. **Business Community:** Asked the Minister of Finance and Planning on salary arrears for 2022, observing that the President had allocated some of the crude oil for the payment of salaries. She requested to know if the government still intended to allocate oil barrel or repay;
- 11.7. **Minister of Finance and Planning and Chairperson of the PFM-OC:** Informed the plenary that in the budget of FY 2022/23, the deficit was huge nearly to 30% which was a big challenge to the Government. The R-ARCSS is budgeted in the FY 2022/2023 budget and the MoFP would focus to see to it that it is implemented. However, he expressed challenges on how the RTGoNU could implement the critical priority areas, R-ARCSS and at the same time meet the development strategy. He requested the Minister for Cabinet Affairs to respond on the establishment of the Special Reconstruction Fund (SRF). Funding expenditure was transparently reported to the public and that some funding given had certain conditions and the Auditor General was working on it. On the US \$ 334 million, the fund was not a loan from the IMF but rather the SDR allocation which are given to countries for certain projects to which some were to be implemented by the Central Bank. Also, the RTGoNU paid all the domestic salaries of the public servants with an exception to the those working outside the country whose salary would be paid. Regarding the harmonization and improvement of the public servant salaries a docket/ proposal was prepared and expected to be discussed and endorsed by the RTGoNU Council of Ministers. Further, the RTGoNU has working on verting the names of the contractors for the services rendered before the payments are rewarded.
- 11.8. **RTGoNU representative:** The initiative of the 30,000 barrels a day was following the President's visit to China. The RTGoNU approved 10,000 barrels a day with an expectation that once production improved, it would increase to 20,000 barrels a day. However, two things happened, the first consignment which was availed was supposed to be used to open an escrow account in China, and that account would be communicated between the two governments. Unfortunately, production did not increase, and never even reached the 20,000 barrels, so effectively the resolution of the Council was dissolved. Also, the Chinese companies expected production of oil to increase from 20,000 to 30,000 barrels a day. However, the company failed to submit the agreed revenue hence

the Bhar el Ghazal road remained as it was. In that regard, it ought to have been reverted to 20,000. Reported that the Republic of Sudan has been lifting the oil and has not paid the Republic of South Sudan the excess of US \$137 million as part of the TFA. He commended the work done by the newly appointed Minister, who for the first time managed to earmark a budget for the R-ARCSS as well as improving the management of funds in the Ministry.

- 11.9. **Norway representative on behalf of the Troika:** Troika unequivocally supports the peace in South Sudan underscoring that the South Sudanese people deserved to reap the dividends of peace and should be enabled to hold those in power accountable. Troika is committed to work with their partners in the country that shared their commitments to achieving goals. However, the Troika is concerned that the government was not making enough progress on implementing the Peace Agreement despite being promised in August that there was political will and that things had changed hence the Agreement needed to be accelerated. Unfortunately, there is no sufficient evidence on the progress made. In spite of the fact that some steps have been taken such as graduation of the NUF, there is minimal progress made across majority chapters. They strongly urged that the perpetrators inciting violence must face consequences for their actions. However, the RTGoNU has not taken meaningful action to meet the commitment.
- 11.10. The recent graduation of the forces is commendable, however, the RTGoNU must ensure that they start providing security for all South Sudanese irrespective of their ethnicity or political identity. The passage of the Constitution-making Process Bill is an important step that would require an open civic and political space, and allocation of sufficient funds. The Troika looks for sustained actions and a sense of urgency in dealing with the hardship facing the people of South Sudan.
- 11.11. **Norway representative:** There is unacceptably high-level of sub-national conflict across the country. Her first visit was to Malakal to follow up on the violence that had displaced thousands of and blocked humanitarian assistance. The reports about ongoing mobilization and new clashes were taking place, are concerning. In that regard, the RTGoNU has the primary responsibility to protect its citizen and is expected to do more while prioritising Upper Nile State and areas where violence is persistent.
- 11.12. **UK representative:** Requested for an update on the progress of the enabling legislations, such as the Political Parties Bill and National Elections Bill which needed to be urgently passed and enacted. There are benchmarks set out in the Roadmap under chapter 4 to be completed by end of November 2022, which were unlikely to be completed, e.g., the audit of the Government accounts since independence, and the urgent priorities within the Roadmap timelines. He requested for further update on the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority and the transparent management of all revenue. Lastly, the humanitarian needs in South Sudan remain dire and further compounded the conflicts and flooding. The government needs to do all it can to resolve subnational conflicts when they arise so that humanitarian needs are not exasperated and to ensure that perpetrators of violence are held to account.
- 11.13. **FDs:** UNMISS failed to support CTSAMVM in implementing its mandate to monitor and verify the violations and intercommunal fighting in Upper Nile. It appeared that UNMISS recently visited the warring parties (Kitwang group) in Upper Nile without CTSAMVM monitors despite having been requested since July 2022 when the clashes started. He wondered why UNMISS declined to support CTSAMVM and whether they intend to implement CTSAMVM mandate. Also, there was need for clarity from the JDB on who was responsible for the safety and security of civilians, citing confusion in the areas controlled by SSPDF or SPLM/A-IO whereby when any of the two forces move, they are accused of violation.
- 11.14. **China representative:** Thanked the Interim Chairperson for the opportunity and that being his first meeting to attend. Despite challenges, significant progress has been made in the peace process, including the graduation of the first batch of the NUF. His visits within Juba, to Wau, Bentiu and

other areas in the last two months since arrival made him witness inseparable efforts of the RTGoNU, all the relevant parties and the important role played by the RJMEC in the peace process. China is a staunch supporter, participant, and contributor of South Sudan's peace process, including continued support it provides to the R-ARCSS and the RTGoNU. China is ready to continue working with other international community to bring peace and stability to the country. Bilaterally, the RTGoNU and China has made progress in developmental projects. All the signatories of the R-ARCSS need to implement the Roadmap seriously and to the international community to be patient and to play a constructive and practical role in supporting the peace process.

- 11.15. **EU Delegation representative:** The EU is committed to continue supporting to the R-ARCSS. The Constitution-making process needs to be transparent to allow CSOs and citizens to participate and have democratic discussions and opinions hence the need to open the civic space. It is also important for the RTGoNU to guarantee security and address the subnational violence.
- 11.16. **JDB:** The unified forces and the unified command oversee the security of the people under the umbrella of the JDB and that there was no difference between the JDB and the command of the army. On the issue of violation, the RTGoNU is responsible for the security of its citizen. On the side of the SPLM/A-IO, two civilian centers they occupied are to be vacated. Both the SSPDF and SPLM/A-IO are unified however when it came to responsibilities the parties, the principals still had some responsibilities which could not be interfered with by the security organs. On the side of the occupied civilian centres by the SSPDF, CTSAMVM had been asked to verify physically who were part of the soldier who occupied the former barracks during the Sudan time and later taken as civilian centres.
- 11.17. **SDSR Board:** The JDB was responsible for the command and control hence it should not be challenging to safeguard the security of citizens. The member endorsed the contribution by the South African Ambassador thus the plenary should be a forum and platform to discuss on how best the peace process could be supported and not vice-versa.
- 11.18. **JMCC:** informed members that it was too early to inform the members on the number of the forces for Phase II.
- 11.19. **IPF:** There is need to incorporate the reality of what was faced by the citizen both in Juba and outside Juba which worsened. Humanitarian support has regressed while more funding is needed. He wondered what strategy the RTGoNU has in place to mitigate fighting in future and what the partners and RTGoNU could do to minimize and prevent a fighting and spoiler to the peace Agreement;
- 11.20. **Business Community:** The member raised concern on the report of the PFM-OC, that the mechanisms seemed to have been underbudgeted or not mentioned. She asked the representative of the RTGoNU to share the obstacles and challenges of funding, observing that despite the R-ARCSS being extended, the remaining months were fewer. Further, thanked the Chair and RTGoNU for their reports and further expressed serious concern on the little priority given to support the DDR Commission. Also, it is challenging that Phase II was expected to have begun while there was no plan to redeploy the forces that graduated.
- 11.21. **Youth Representative:** Commended the reports from the mechanisms and appealed to the RTGoNU to align its budget to the Roadmap.
- 11.22. **Sudan representative:** Commended the reports and contributions from all the members. He underscored that the meeting was important in addressing the challenges that may appear in the implementation of R-ARCSS. The Republic of Sudan considered the graduation of the forces as a good step and its finalisation and redeployment is urgent. Funding the mechanisms is critical. Sudan continues to support to the Republic of South Sudan and the implementation of the R-ARCSS.

- 11.23. **OPP:** He expressed his concerns over the lack of command and control of the newly graduated forces (SSPDF, SPLA-IO, SSOA) observing that happened in Panyume of looting properties of returnees by SPLA-IO soldiers. He cited the incident that happened in Lokwiriri where 7 people were murdered and demanded for a response from the RTGoNU and the JDB.
- 11.24. **RTGoNU representative:** Commended the reports from the mechanisms and took note of the challenges theyr faced. He, however, questioned the role of the NTC in a situation that showcased the lack of coordination. In that regard, he called on the NTC to convene a meeting with all the mechanisms to discuss and agree on the way forward.
- 11.25. **RTGoNU representative:** The Republic of South Sudan has personnel deprived of basic needs such as education hence untrained and a huge number of them have guns. The only means of revenue is oil which is still being exploited by the Republic of Sudan. Further that 60% of the revenue from the oil was also being looted and the remaining 40% was either not disbursed to the government on time or also reduced. South Sudan is also losing tax on goods and services. Therefore, it needed experts to support the RTGoNU in policy formation and sharing of the best practice in tax collection. MPs increased their salaries while they dodged raising the issues of salary increment of the civil servants which raised more questions from the public. New sources of revenue are required for the country. There is also need to improve the time spent in the plenary by aligning on what needs to be discussed instead of discussing and listening to the same reports from the mechanisms.
- 11.26. **RJMEC Interim Chairperson:** Reiterated the importance of listening to the reports shared by the institutions and mechanisms as per Article 7.8 of the R-ARCSS and urged the RTGoNU to be more transparent in sharing information so that the civil population would be informed on the activities implemented which would minimize concerns being questioned.
- 11.27. **NTC Secretary:** The challenge within mechanisms was not lack of coordination but rather an issue of lack of funding from the NTC which depended on getting funds from the Ministry of Finance and Planning.
- 11.28. **SPLM/A-IO representative:** Expressed difficulties to respond on the issue of lack of political will which had pitched frustration on the members. He informed on the bills presented in Parliament, those discussed and pending. That the Political Parties Act was passed and assented to by the President. The Constitution-making Process was passed and awaited assent. The other bills passed were the National Police Service Bill and Wildlife Service Bills and the Roadmap passed on the 16 November 2022. The Civil Defence Bill has not been presented to the RTNLA. The National Security Service Bill, Petroleum Bill, Petroleum Revenue Bill, National Elections Bill were not yet in the RTNLA. Floods are beyond the capacity of South Sudan affecting both the people and oil wells.
- 11.29. **SDSR-Board:** Wondered about the status of the Agreement between the ITGoNU, Kitgwang and the Agwelek groups, including the process of harmonising the two groups to stop fighting, and the strategy of the RTGoNU to conduct the Constitution- making Process.

#### **Minute 12/24/22: Review of the Resolution**

12. The draft Resolution of the 24<sup>th</sup> RJMEC Plenary was jointly reviewed as adopted. The RJMEC Secretariat was tasked to circulate the final version with all the members.

#### **Min. 13/24/22: Date for the Next Meeting**

13. The RJMEC Secretariat was to communicate the date for the next RJMEC meeting.



**Min. 14/24/22: A.O.B**

14. There was nothing raised under this agenda item.

**Min. 15/24/22: Chairperson's Closing Remarks**

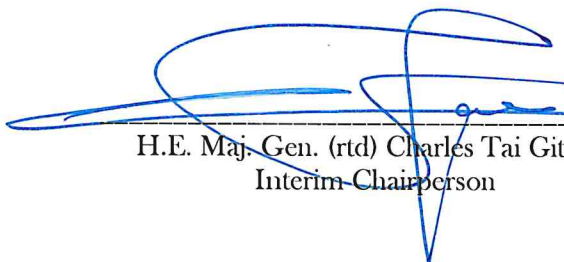
15. The Chairperson thanked members for attending the meeting and for the frank and open discussions. He urged the members to be punctual and come early in the next meeting so that the meeting could start as plan at 10:00 am and finish on time before lunch time. Finally, he called on the JTSC to attend the plenary and present a report to the Commission as per Article 7.8 of the R-ARCSS.

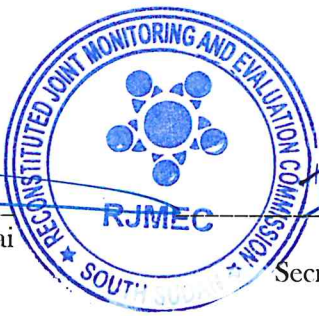
**Min.16/24/22: Closing Prayers**


16. The representative of the faith-based organizations led a closing prayer. There being no other business, the 24<sup>th</sup> RJMEC monthly meeting was therefore adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 16:15 hours.

**Min.17/24/22: Adoption of the Minutes**

17. The minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> RJMEC meeting are adopted as follows:
- 17.1. Proposer: Hon. Dr. Martin Elia Lomuro
- 17.2. Seconder: Hon. Gatwech Lam Puoch
18. 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