

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

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE 29<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT  
MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023 AT  
BEIJING JUBA HOTEL, SOUTH SUDAN**

The Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) convened its 29<sup>th</sup> meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in Juba, South Sudan. H.E. Amb. Maj Gen (rtd) Charles Tai Gituai, Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC chaired the meeting and called it to order at 10:05 am.

**Agenda**

1. Opening Prayers
2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Adoption of the Minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> RJMEC Meeting
5. Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson
6. Report from RTGoNU
7. Report from the PFM-OC
8. Report from NTC
9. Briefing from UNMISS SRSG
10. 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. JRC
11. Discussions
12. Review of the Resolution
13. Date for the Next Meeting
14. A.O.B
15. Chairperson's Closing Remarks
16. Closing Prayers.

**Attendance:**

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

1. Hon. Dr. Martin Elia Lomuro, (RTGoNU)
2. Hon. Michael Chiengjiek Geay Mut (ITGoNU)
3. Hon. Sandra Bona Malwal (SPLM/IO)
4. Hon. Gatwech Lam Puoch (SPLM/A – IO)
5. Maj. Gen. Bior Leek Kuareng (FD)
6. Hon. Wilson Lodiong Sebit (OPP)

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

1. Rtd. Bishop Enock Tombe Stephen (Faith-based Leader)
2. Sheik Jaralnebi Khamis Mursal (Faith-based Leader)
3. Mr. Dabek Mabior Arol (CSO Alliance)
4. Mr. Taban A. Christopher (CSO Forum)
5. Prof. Pauline Elaine Riak (Academia)
6. Mr. John Lual Akol Akol (Business Community)
7. Mrs. Yar Manoa (Business Community)
8. Mrs. Mary Akech (Women Bloc)
9. Ms. Eva Christo (Women Coalition)
10. Mr. Patrick A. Godi (Youth group)
11. Ms. Nancy Cirino (Youth group)

**For the Regional Guarantors:**

1. H.E. Jamal Abdel Majaed (Sudan)
2. Mr. Rabeh Mohamed (Djibouti)
3. H.E. Nebil M. Abdullahi (Ethiopia)
4. H.E. Maj Gen. (rtd) Samuel Nandwa (Kenya)
5. H.E. Idule Amoko James (Uganda)
6. H.E. Ibin Charles (Nigeria)
7. Mr. Rendani Nemarude (South Africa)
8. Mr. Ahmed Y. Hersi (IGAD)
9. Mr. Olubukola Arowubusoye (AUMISS)

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

1. H.E. Ma Quing (China)
2. H.E. Linken Nymann Berryman (Norway)
3. H.E. Michael J. Adler (USA)
4. H.E. Guy Warrington (UK)
5. Mr. Dionyz Hochel (EU)
6. H.E. Nicholas Haysom (UNMISS)
7. H.E. Marjan Schippers (IPF)

**For RJMEC Secretariat:**

1. Dr. Thomson Fontaine, Deputy Chief of Staff - Strategy
2. Ms. Janice James, Senior Advisor Economic and Financial Management

**For Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:**

1. Ustad Stephen Wiw (Head of Secretariat NTC)
2. Gen. Gabriel Duop Lam (JDB)
3. Lt. Gen. Rabi Mujung Emmanuel (JDB)
4. Maj. Gen. Charles Machieng Kuol (Head of JDB Secretariat)
5. Mr. Angelo Madut (Head of SDSR Board Secretariat)

6. Maj. Gen. Buda John Aban (JMCC)
7. Maj. Gen Pal Yiech Lam (Deputy Head of JMCC Secretariat)
8. Lt. Gen. Asrat Denero (Chairperson CTSAMVM)
9. Brig. Gen. Yassir Hassab Allah (Deputy Chairperson CTSAMVM)
10. Ms. Justice Ajonye Perpetua Paya (Head of Secretariat JRC)

**Observers:**

1. H.E. Erdem Muta (Turkiye)
2. Mr. Tobias Eichner (Germany)
3. H.E. Tsutsumi Naohiro (Japan)
4. Mr. Georg Stein (Switzerland)
5. Mr. Mohamed Elbadry (Egypt)
6. H.E. Vishnu Kumar Sharma (India)
7. Mr. Tomas Brundin (Sweden)
8. Mr. Brian Vere (Zimbabwe)
9. Ms. Fenny Hum (UN Women)
10. Ms. Catherine Waliaula (UNDP)
11. Mr. Flavio Soares Da Gama (African Development Bank)
12. Lt. Col. Taifa Kuer (Security Supervision Mechanism)

**Min. 01/29/23: Opening Prayers**

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

**Min. 02/29/23: Chairperson's Opening Remarks**

2. The Chairperson welcomed the RJMEC members to the 29<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting.

**Min. 03/29/23: Adoption of the Agenda**

3. The agenda was adopted without any amendments.

**Min. 04/29/23: Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

4. The draft minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> RJMEC meeting was reviewed and adopted with no amendments.

**Min. 05/29/23 Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson**

5. The RJMEC Interim Chairperson welcomed members and highlighted the following:
  - 5.1 the conflict in Sudan and its impact and informed of the IGAD's intervention aimed at mediation. He commended the Republic of South Sudan opened its border, and humanitarian agencies for providing crucial support;
  - 5.2 there is need to focus on the pressing issues surrounding the implementation of the R-ARCSS;

- 5.3 the RTGoNU reassured South Sudanese of delivering on its commitments, including holding elections as scheduled;
- 5.4 recommended to the RTGoNU to: a). consider settling the allowances of the NCAC national members so that discussions on the extension of its mandate to complete its work can move forward; b) undertake the redeployment of Phase 1 of the Necessary Unified Forces and proceed to Phase 2, and institute DDR programmes; c) expedite the establishment of the Special Reconstruction Fund and Board to help avail funds at this critical time; d) publish the proceeds from oil sales, in accordance with the Petroleum Revenue Management Act 2012, to improve transparency and accountability; and e) complete the drafting and submission of the CTRH and CRA legislation, following the successful conclusion of the Transitional Justice conference; and
- 5.5 appealed to the RTGoNU to inject additional impetus into the implementation of the R-ARCSS and to the Region and the international community for more support.

**Min. 06/29/23: Report from the RTGoNU**

6. The representative of the RTGoNU presented the following report to the plenary as follows:
  - 6.1. the process for restructuring and reconstituting the National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) and Political Parties Council was underway. National Elections Commission awaits the bill to be ratified by the reconstituted TNLA;
  - 6.2. welcomed the information from H.E. Dr. Riek Machar concerning the process of the SPLM/A-IO ranking of its officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) for the second level of command in the security sector. So far nominees have been received for the uniformed forces within the Civil Defense and Prisons. The army, police and national security were pending submission to the President;
  - 6.3. the High-Level Standing Committee was in the process of reconstituting the Political Parties Council;
  - 6.4. the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs convened a Transitional Justice Conference to inform and enrich draft bills for the Commission of Truth Reconciliation and Healing and the Compensation and Reparation Authority;
  - 6.5. the Presidency directed the National Transitional Committee and Joint Defense Board to expedite the deployment of Phase 1 of the unified forces, including the organisation of the second echelon of the command structures of all the security organs. Once finalized, Phase II cantonment of the armed opposition and barracking of the SSPDF will commence. Funding remained a challenge; and
  - 6.6. the principals resolved the issue of the swap of the Ministry of Defense and Veterans Affairs and Ministry of Interior between ITGoNU and SPLM/A-IO and the latter is to appoint a Minister of Interior and a Deputy Minister of Defence.

**Min. 07/29/23: Briefing from the PFM-OC**

7. No report was presented as the PFM-OC Chairperson did not attend the plenary. Also, the Committee did not submit a report to the RJMEC.

**Min. 08/29/23: Briefing from the NTC**

8. A representative from NTC reported that the Committee continued to face a funding challenge and failed to undertake its activities since the last plenary. The NTC lacks funds to implement TSA activities, DDR, to pay incentives and operating cost for the security mechanisms and to pay debts. The RTGoNU needs to avail funds earmarked for DDR, deployment, and commencement of Phase II of the NUF. Further, two institutions were removed from being under the NTC namely NCAC which will be under the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs while the JRC will be under the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs.

**Min. 09/29/23: Briefing from UNMISS DSRSG**

9. In his briefing to the plenary, the DSRSG highlighted the following:
- 9.1 the conflict in Sudan remains a concern. President Salva Kiir's efforts as IGAD's presidential team leader to mediate the conflict are welcomed. The RTGoNU opened its borders to citizens and nationals, with temporary transit centers established for returnees. As of May 23, over 71,000 people registered to cross the border and the UN country team is working closely with the RTGoNU to address the humanitarian crisis. He commended the RTGoNU for successfully convening the Conference on Transitional Justice;
  - 9.2 the RTGoNU Council of Ministers approved a joint Taskforce on the implementation of Constitution-Making and Electoral Processes on April 28. The National Elections Act 2012 Bill was also approved;
  - 9.3 the SSP 3 billion allocation for deployment of the Necessary Unified Forces (NUF) and Phase 2 training was promising, but progress on the middle echelon ranks has been slow. Deployment of graduated Phase I NUF was delayed due to a lack of rank harmonisation, and Phase II has not started. The impasse arising from the removal of Defence and Interior Ministers and portfolio swapping remains unresolved;
  - 9.4 the R-ARCSS implementation institutions face funding constraints, and the draft national budget awaited RTNLA's consideration;
  - 9.5 the conflict in Sudan strained humanitarian response, requiring limited resources to shift from flood-response preparedness to new emergencies. As of May 19, only 27.2% of the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan had been funded. The UN and South Sudan partners launched an additional appeal for \$96 million for an emergency response plan to assist the South Sudanese;
  - 9.6 the UNSC Resolution 2677 (2023) on South Sudan urged the Secretary-General to provide a special report on R-ARCSS political developments and an independent assessment of UNMISS' efforts for civilian protection. The RTGoNU is to demonstrate progress on Roadmap provisions before the report is submitted in October 2023; and
  - 9.7 the parties need to renew commitments and redouble efforts to implement the Roadmap.

**Min. 10/29/23: Reports from Mechanisms on progress in implementation of the R-ARCSS:**

10. The following are the reports from the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:

**Report from the NCAC**

- 10.1 No report was submitted to the plenary.

### **Report from the CTSAMVM Chairperson**

10.2 the CTSAMVM Chairperson presented the following report to the plenary:

- 10.3 CTSAMVM did not receive verified reports of clashes between Parties to the R-ARCSS. Upper Nile State was relatively stable, with tensions in Fangak County due to Gen. Johnson Olony's arrival in Wau. The arrival of Olony in Juba may help stabilize the situation. However, retaliatory intercommunal violence was reported in Jonglei and GPAA, but CTSAMVM received no reports of fighting since December 2022. Intercommunal violence was reported in Warrap and Lakes States, while NAS is active in Central Equatoria State, with reports of attacks and abductions;
- 10.4 the graduated Phase I NUF was yet to be deployed, and Phase II training was far behind schedule. The JDB needed to provide the deployment plan and JTSC to provide plans for Phase II training and future plans for Cantonment Sites. The situation at Cantonment Sites and Training Centres remained unchanged due to lack of basic logistics;
- 10.5 the number of confirmed occupied civilian buildings by SSPDF or government security forces remained at 12. The SSPDF needs to address this issue, as ongoing occupation discourages civilian return to villages;
- 10.6 CTC and Board meetings were not held since April 19<sup>th</sup> due to issues with national monitors' payment. The issue was resolved in April, and the JMCO are working normally. The CTC members requested to benefit from the Japanese donation, but it was not possible due to the donation's amount and demands outside IGAD policy on duty facilitation allowance. Efforts to convene CTC and Board meetings on May 18 and 23 were unsuccessful due to non-attendance and refusal of some CTSAMVM national Board members. The matter was referred to RJMEC and IGAD for further management; and
- 10.7 two violation reports were issued: a) 2023/06 – arrest and detention on an SPLM/A-IO Officer and a civilian in Eastern Equatoria State; b) 2023/07 – NAS activities against the SSPDF and civilians in Central Equatoria State.

### **Report from the JDB Head of Secretariat**

10.8 The Head of the JDB Secretariat presented the following report to the plenary:

- 10.8.1. the JDB Chairperson and the Co- Chairperson were engaging with the NTC Chairperson on the issues of the mechanism. The parties reached an agreement on unifying the second tier of command, with a 60:30:10 ratio for the ITGoNU, SPLA-IO and SSOA respectively. However, the appointment of officers to command positions is still pending. The President awaits the Parties' lists to affect appointment;
- 10.8.2. the JDB prepared a deployment plan in collaboration with six security institutions: the South Sudan Peoples' Defence Forces, the South Sudan National Police Service, the National Security Service, the Prisons Service, the Civil Defence Service, and the Wildlife Service. Six specialized agency-based teams were formed to travel to training centres and finalize on-sight arrangements and effect redeployment; and
- 10.8.3. the Board did not received funds for its deployment budget since March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and will commence the process upon release. The training centres and assembly areas still faced dire logistics issues, including food and medicines, and empty JDB stores. The closure of the South Sudan Hotel's offices led to difficulties in day-to-day activities, with some offices

provided by the RJMEC Secretariat. Access to these offices was crucial for the security mechanisms, and officers deployed to the R-ARCSS security mechanisms had not received remuneration since 2019. The financial challenge required an immediate attention.

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

- 10.9 The Board did not submit a report since it had not implemented the pending activities as planned. Further, the Board had been receiving funding from the UNMISS, but it stopped after the political development that foresaw removal of the Minister of Defence and swapping of the Ministries.

#### **Report from the Joint Training Security Committee (JTSC) Chairperson**

- 10.10 The JTSC neither provided a report nor attended the plenary.

#### **Report from the Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC) Co-chairperson**

- 10.11 The Deputy Head of Secretariat of the JMCC reported that the Committee had not received funds for its planned activities. Some cantonment sites such as Lieng, Jekou/Turu and Mirmir were still under occupation by the SSPDF. JMCC requires funding for implementing its activities before the rainy season commences. Also, RJMEC, CTSAMVM, UNMISS and NTC need to assist the JMCC with air transport for visiting assembly points. Food and non-food items, including medicine are needed in the training centres and cantonment sites.

#### **Report from the DDR Commission Chairperson**

- 10.12 The DDR Commission submitted a report since its chairperson could not attend the meeting due to other commitments. No progress was made by the Commission due to lack of funding since its inception. The Commission, with support from France and UNMISS, planned to implement a Community Violence Reduction (CVR), a pilot project in Western Bar el Ghazal State. To that end, the DDR Commission and UNDP signed an agreement for implementing the project. The DDRC expected to launch the project in April 2023. Additionally, the Commission submitted plans and budget to the NTC for the Phase II of NUF. However, the Commission does not have any facilities to assemble the ex-combatants at the cantonment site and training centres after the graduation of Phase I NUF. The RTGoNU needs to support the Commission and to engage stakeholders to support the implementation of the CVR program to stabilize security for classical DDR program.

#### **Report from the JRC Head of Secretariat**

- 10.13 The JRC briefed the Focal Point Network for Rule of Law and Accountability, including UN Family (UNDP, UNMISS, and UNWOMEN), on the work plan for public hearings and stakeholder consultations in South Sudan and neighbouring countries. The meeting presented budget estimates, work plans, and travel schedules. Two UN agencies pledged support, with UNWOMEN offering USD 40,000 for women's participation in judicial reforms and UNMISS offered flights for five JRC members to three locations;
- 10.14 Public hearings and stakeholder consultations in States and Administrative Areas were expected to commence on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023, with joint support from UNDP, UNWOMEN, and UNMISS. UNDP has procured logistics and formed two teams. Despite the JRC's mandate extension by 12 months,



funding for the Chair and Deputy Chair ends in August 2023, requiring the JRC to finish tasks by that time unless the RTGoNU or other donors/partners intervene.

#### **Min. 11/29/23: Discussions on Statements and Reports**

11. Members welcomed the statement of the RJMEC Chairperson and reports from the RTGoNU the SRSG, Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms. In addition, they raised the following matters during discussions:
  - 11.1 **RJMEC:** The RTGoNU to respond to critical issues raised in most reports from both the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms such as on funding gaps, election legal framework yet to be operationalised, and the constitution-making process. Took note of the statement made by His Excellency the President of the Republic that there will be no more extension of the R-ARCSS and that elections would be held in December 2024 as scheduled.
  - 11.2 **JDB representative:** The report read by CTSAMVM was procedurally wrong because it was not discussed by the CTSAMVM Board since the CTC meeting did not take place due to some administrative concerns.
  - 11.3 **JDB Co-Chairperson:** Due to the conflict in the Sudan, there was an influx of returnees and refugees from the north, border crimes, including human trafficking which called for a strategy on the redeployment of the NUF to the border. The middle command echelon of the forces should be finalised within two weeks. The RTGoNU was requested to provide food items within a week so that the NUF could be deployed as planned. It was agreed that Phase II of the NUF would commence after the NUF redeployment.
  - 11.4 **EU:** The EU member states fully supported the statement of the SRSG on the need to adhere to the timelines. The EU regards 2023 as a make-or-break year for the RTGoNU to fully implement the R-ARCSS. The Constitution-making process, electoral legislation, and its implementation, setting up the necessary institutions and structures, as well as the environment to support robust political competition, require tangible measures. The longer the catastrophic conflict in Sudan takes, the more significant security, economic and humanitarian consequences for South Sudan. The work of the CTSAMVM is indispensable. It is deeply regrettable that at the CTC level, they were unable to approve the CTSAMVM monthly reports for a second time. The stakeholders from all signatory parties should reach an agreement to enable CTSAMVM to become operational. Reiterated their support to both RJMEC and CTSAMVM in view of the implementation of the R-ARCSS.
  - 11.5 **CSO Forum:** In the last meeting, incomplete unification of forces was one of the key issues that was raised as a huge threat to the safety and security of the citizens. Commended the steps taken so far by the RTGoNU and urged for funding of the security mechanisms, NCAC and JRC, including supporting humanitarian needs of returnees and refugees. The national members in the mechanisms should not be boycotting the CTC and CTSAMVM meetings.
  - 11.6 **Sudan:** The security situation in Sudan is concerning, particularly due to displacement, deaths, and destruction of physical infrastructure. The conflict is affecting South Sudan with widespread atrocities, criminality, and human rights violations having significant humanitarian consequences. A humanitarian ceasefire agreement was signed in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023, and the United States and Saudi Arabia are expected to support it to achieve its humanitarian goals. In spite of the ceasefire agreement, it was violated.



- 11.7 **Women Bloc:** The conflict in Sudan is affecting implementation of the R-ARCSS. The humanitarian situation of the refugees and returnees are dire. The RTGoNU and UNHCR need to expedite provision of emergency supplies, especially medical facilities for women and children. Allegations of child abduction, including family separation have been reported. The RTGoNU needs to research how it would accommodate and allocate land to the returnees without a place to stay.
- 11.8 **IPF:** Congratulated the African Union and all African members on the Africa Day, commended the RTGoNU for its continued diplomatic engagements on the Sudan conflict, through pushing for ceasefires and mediation. The RTGoNU and humanitarian community are managing the crisis and providing support to refugees and returnees. To ensure security and safety, the RTGoNU needs to deploy adequate policing capacities to the affected areas and to keep momentum in its peace process so that the crisis in Sudan does not distract from the democratic transition in South Sudan. The Transitional Justice Conference was commendable given that TJ process is a crucial component of the R-ARCSS, with the potential to heal the nation, restore social cohesion, and address the accountability gap.
- 11.9 The implementation of the R-ARCSS is a joint commitment and responsibility that the RTGoNU has to ensure sufficient capacities and funding were devoted to the agreement institutions mechanisms, including participation in the working groups. Many donors had shown financial and political support but urged the RTGoNU to be on board to prevent mechanisms like CTSAMVM from being derailed. With the remaining 14 months, the RTGoNU should speed up the adoption of essential bills, particularly in relation to the constitution and elections. The process must ensure that it meets the quality and inclusivity that allows people to express themselves and feel included and heard.
- 11.10 **OPP:** Lack of funding has always been a major challenge. The graduated NUF are still in training centres without being deployed. The member asked to be informed about who were responsible and in-charge of the NUF in the cantonment centres. Additionally, Phase II of the NUF should have started in 2022. There are reported insecurity and criminality in some areas of the country. This requires the RTGoNU to prioritise and be strategic in implementing all the pending tasks as highlighted in the Roadmap before elections. The current situation in Sudan has affected basic supplies such as food stuff from Khartoum.
- 11.11 **JMCC:** Asked the JDB whether there were any ongoing discussions on the 3 Brigadier Generals that had been arrested in December 2022 since it was reported by CTSAMVM in their last report.
- 11.12 **JMCC Co-Chairperson:** Clarified a comment made by the SRSG that the delayed deployment of the forces was not caused by the issue of ranking as stated in his report. He observed that the mechanism made progress in screening, organising the forces in the training centres and in graduating the forces. However, the challenges pertained to lack of agreement on unification of the second command and middle echelon. Other factors included lack of funding to redeploy the forces, food items and other logistical supply, and closure of offices of the mechanisms.
- 11.13 **FDs:** Asked the following questions: (a) whether mechanisms had received funding from the Ministry of Finance; (b) why the Chairperson of the NTC never attends the RJMEC plenary to clarify on the critical funding issues; and (c) priorities of the JDB. Deployment of the NUF is more important than the ranking of the lower echelon which would have solved the issue of forces being unified. Asked the CTSAMVM chairperson to clarify who the JMCO are, and the

Senior Liaison Officers indicated in their report when the R-ARCSS recognises the Senior National Representative.

- 11.14 **RTGoNU:** When the R-ARCSS was being negotiated, concessions were made. It was not intended that the Government of South Sudan would fully fund the implementation of the entire Agreement alone. The government was made to fail by not being supported despite being a young nation affected by war that broke out two years after independence. Apart from oil revenue, which was also dwindling, and after payment to the Sudan of over \$ 3.5 billion for the Financial Transitional support, Sudan has been taking 28,000 barrels a day to date while the government only had 101,500 barrels a day to run the country. The economic system is struggling, fragile with scarce liquidity. Implementation of the TSA is very critical, yet the RTGoNU does not have funds.
- 11.15 The National Election Commission Bill is before the RTNLA. South Africa agreed to assist the RTGoNU with funding of the CTRH. The RTGoNU established a Technical Coordination Taskforce on constitution-making and electoral processes. In their discussions with the NCRC, the Commission confirmed it has a draft constitution. Also, the NCRC intends to incorporate the outcomes of the National Dialogue. The RTGoNU also intend to convene a conference on federalism whose outcomes will be incorporated in the Permanent Constitution. Additionally, RTGoNU was in preparations for convene an economic conference that would help government to get expertise on how to manage the economy, and the relationship between the state and the national government.
- 11.16 The election activities such as having a budget, offices were being managed. By the end of June, RTGoNU would commence establishment of NEC offices in the States, operationalised by end of June 2023. The SPLM/A-IO was addressing the issue of ranking of middle echelon internally. He informed that the NTC Chairperson cannot attend the RJMEC plenary since he was a Senior Presidential Advisor and that he was represented by Ministers from both Parties and the Secretary General of the High-Level Standing Committee for the implementation of the Agreement.
- 11.17 **SPLM/A-IO:** The situation in Sudan which was unfortunate as it had direct impact on the peace and stability in South Sudan. Sudan needs to find ways to end the war amicably. On the issue of returnees and refugees, the RTGoNU was making extra efforts to repatriate and resettle the people from the borders to their areas. The Minister of Petroleum is making commendable progress in implementing Article 4.8 of the R-ARCSS, to ensure transparency and accountability within the oil sector. However, the RTGoNU needs to clarify the fate of the Petroleum Act and the Petroleum Revenue Management Act. The Political Parties Council and NCRC were not reconstituted. Census is critical.
- 11.18 **RTGoNU:** The RTGoNU is required to restructure and reconstitute the commissions. The RTGoNU has taken seven months to reconstitute the Commissions because of negotiations regarding whether the Commissions, despite being civilian institutions, should be shared. Since the NTC was established, it had never submitted a budget, yet they reported today a 90 billion SSP budget for Phase II and 3.6 billion SSP for the deployment of forces. The Ministry of Finance and planning on the other hand had only agreed to add 50 billion SSP for the implementation of the Transitional Security Arrangement.
- 11.19 The Ministry of Finance stopped taking overdraft from the banks while the Ministry of Petroleum stopped selling crude oil. The reforms processes are meant to improve the economy. The Council of Ministers cleared the Finance Management and Accountability Bill and the Petroleum Revenue Management Bill. The Petroleum Bill was halted because it was too

enormous and put the Oil and Gas Commission under the Minister of Petroleum which the Council felt should be independent and treated as a Commission. Additionally, the Council recommended that the Nile Pet which was under the Presidency also be an independent institution and not under the Ministry of Petroleum. The recommendations were written and will be forwarded to the RJMEC Interim Chairperson and the Chairperson of the NCAC to remove the two Commissions from the Petroleum Act and have an Oil and Gas Act.

- 11.20 **Academia:** Asked why partners were not funding the R-ARCSS and what do they want the RTGoNU to do to enable them to assist with funding. The removal of a female minister and replacing her with a male minister is contrary to the 35% participation of women in executive positions.
- 11.21 **Youth:** The critical issue impacting the Agreement is no longer about political will but on how to fund the R-ARCSS. The RTGoNU needs to confirm whether the activities for the implementation of the Agreement have been incorporated in the national budget.
- 11.22 **JDB Co-Chairperson:** The graduated NUF are still under the JDB despite the challenges faced on food and logistical support. On alleged crimes committed by the unified forces in training centres, the member wanted more clarity on when such alleged atrocities were committed. Phase II NUF would commence after redeployment of Phase I. The Agreement mediated by Sudan referenced a deployment of Unified Command structure and the middle command. Once deployed, the forces will be under a Commander-in-Chief (CiC), under the army of South Sudan. The delays in TSA were not caused by the rank inflation within the SPLA-IO but the structure and allocation of positions. Rank inflation was an issue among all the forces of the warring parties, and it is therefore the responsibility of each party to address the issue. The RTGoNU is expected to allocate the peace fund in the national budget. Once the budget is approved, they expect funds would be availed for the TSA.
- 11.23 **JDB- representative:** Arms embargo is not lifted. The international community needs to take the issue of arming the forces before being deployed as a critical challenge facing the South Sudan national army.
- 11.24 **JRC:** RJMEC should consider under its protection cluster to have on board agencies such as the UNHCR and WFP. The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs should urgently look into the affairs of the Sudanese refugees and the returnees, and to have an immediate urgent humanitarian response assessment.
- 11.25 **NTC:** The challenge on funding was an issue of liquidity which needed to be resolved by the President. The NTC 's budget was submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Planning. The SSP 3.6 billion budget that was submitted was not for redeployment but for emergency food for the forces under the current training and those in cantonment sites. The Minister of Peacebuilding is the Secretary of the NTC who sits with advisors to discuss the NTC report before it is presented to the plenary. The Head of the NTC Secretariat represented the Committee.
- 11.26 **RJMEC Chair:** Requested for clarification on the funding for redeployment of the NUF.
- 11.27 **IPF:** There is lack of transparency and information to the public. Clarified that partners have been supporting and funding different projects in South Sudan.
- 11.28 **Sweden:** The international community was accompanying the Government of South Sudan in supporting specific projects. The goal of the international community was to help South Sudan to be on its feet by supporting peace, democracy, and prosperity. In 2021, Sweden supported South Sudan with \$17 million U.S. dollars, the same figure in 2022. The support on health projects, education, sustainable livelihood of peace, democracy was related to the peace process

in alleviating suffering, survival, and dignity. The international community will remain engaged in support of the RTGoNU and the implementation of the R-ARCSS and swift implementation of the benchmarks.

- 11.29 **RJMEC:** Informed members that the purpose of the RJMEC was to highlight the issues of concerns to the implementation of the critical tasks of the R-ARCSS and further receive clarifications from the RTGoNU.
- 11.30 **RTGoNU:** As per the RTGoNU report of the process of reconstituting the NCRC and PCP was underway and would be completed by the end of June. The NPTC had a budget of \$280 million U.S. dollars. The government contributed before NPTC was closed, \$84 million U.S. dollars, of which \$ 81 million U.S. dollars went to the security sector and out of 13 billion SSP, 9 billion SSP also went to the security sector. The government of South Sudan received both financial and in-kind support from different countries such as Japan that contributed \$ 1 million U.S dollars for the NPTC overhead, Nigeria \$279,000 U.S dollars, while China - food items, Egypt – military uniforms, AU equipment. However, his concerns of funding were on the direct funding for the implementation of the R-ARCSS and not that availed to the humanitarian agencies. For example, on the funding of the Transitional Justice Conference, the RTGoNU only received \$25,000 from partners and had to fund the entire conference by bringing in all its governors, Commissioners, etc while choosing to support international institutions.
- 11.31 **RTGoNU:** On the Sudan, the President and the RTGoNU were keen and in consultation with IGAD, the African Union, and other world leaders on how to end the conflict. The conflict is not only affecting South Sudan but all the neighbouring countries such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Chad, Eritrea, etc. The RTGoNU earmarked \$10 million U.S. dollars for humanitarian activities, of which the Ministry already received 1 billion SSP to cater for the returnees and refugees. From the beginning the RTGoNU had a budget earmarked for peace and all its activities starting at \$ 5 million and had been increased to \$50 million U.S. dollars this year. The institutions moved to the other Ministries would not be catered for by the NTC but the Ministries. The \$ 3.6 million was budgeted for all activities including redeployment and not for food only as reported. Arms embargo was very political and should not be raised in the RJMEC forum. Going forward, the Ministries for Cabinet Affairs and Peacebuilding will manage the NTC funds. The RTGoNU is grateful for the partners' support.

#### **Min. 12/29/23: Review of the Resolution**

- 12 The draft Resolution of the 29<sup>th</sup> RJMEC Plenary was jointly reviewed and adopted. The RJMEC Secretariat was tasked to circulate the final version to all the members shortly after its finalization.

#### **Min. 13/29/23: Date for the Next Meeting**

- 13 It was agreed that the 30<sup>th</sup> RJMEC plenary meeting would be held on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

#### **Min. 14/29/23: A.O.B**

- 14 There was no AOB.

#### **Min. 15/29/23: Chairperson's Closing Remarks**



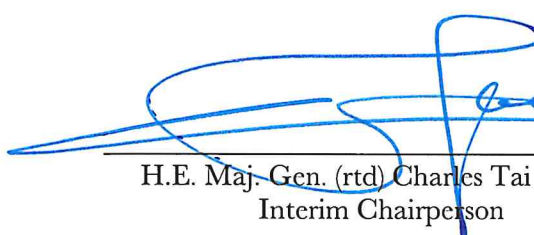
- 15 The Chairperson thanked members for coming early to the meeting and their participation. He reiterated the need to expedite implementation of all the critical tasks to allow the country and the people of South Sudan to embark on elections at the end of the Transitional Period. More importantly, the need to focus on kickstarting the constitution-making process, unification of forces, and the election process. Additionally, operationalisation of the legal frameworks that were passed, reconstitution of the Political Parties Council to see parties start registration and campaigns for the coming elections.

**Min.16/29/23: Closing Prayers**

- 16 The representatives of the faith-based organizations led the closing prayer. There being no any other business, the 29<sup>th</sup> RJMEC monthly meeting was adjourned at 14:30 hours.

**Min.17/29/23: Adoption of the Minutes**

- 17 The minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> RJMEC meeting are adopted as follows:
- 17.1. Proposer: Ustaz Stephen Wiw, Head of the NTC Secretariat
  - 17.2. Seconder: Hon. Sandra Bona Malwal, SPLM/A-IO representative
- 18 The minutes are hereby proposed, seconded, and adopted by the undermentioned as the true record of the meeting.



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

Frida Lyaruu  
Secretary to the Plenary