



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

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT
MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION (RJMEC) HELD ON 18TH
JUNE 2019 AT PALM AFRICA HOTEL, JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN**

The 7th meeting of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) was convened in Juba, South Sudan, on 18th June 2019. The meeting was chaired by the Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC, Ambassador Lt. General Augustino S.K Njoroge (Rtd) who called the meeting to order at 10:27 am.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayers
2. Adoption of the Agenda
(Media excused)
3. Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting
(Media recalled)
4. Statement by RJMEC Interim Chairperson
5. Report from the NPTC
6. Briefing from UNMISS SRSG
(Media excused)
7. Reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:
 - i. NCAC
 - ii. CTSAMVM
 - iii. JDB
 - iv. SDSR Board
 - v. JTSC
 - vi. JMCC
8. Discussion on:
 - i. RJMEC Interim Chairperson's Statement, NPTC report and UNMISS SRSG briefing
 - ii. Reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanism
9. Date for the Next Meeting
10. A.O.B
11. Resolutions of the meeting
12. Closing Prayers

In attendance were the representatives of all the Parties and stakeholders in RJMEC namely:

For the Parties to the R-ARCSS:

1. Hon. Martin Elia Lomuro (Incumbent TGoNU)
2. Hon. Michael Makuei Lueth (Incumbent TGoNU)
3. Hon. Sophia Pal Gai (Incumbent TGoNU)
4. Amb. Stephen Par Kuol (SPLM/A-IO)

5. Mrs. Sandra Bona Malwal (SPLM/A-IO)
6. Hon. Josephine Lagu Yanga (SSOA)
7. Mr. Isaiah Hakim Garang (FDs)
8. Hon Wilson Lodiong Sebit (OPP)

For the Other South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents

1. Rev. John Okumu (Faith-based leader)
2. Mr. Mohamed Hassan Morjan (Faith based leader)
3. Ms. Mary Akech Bior (Women's Bloc)
4. Ms. Rita Lopidia (Women Coalition)
5. Sheik Vitale Aligo Samson (CSO Alliance)
6. Mr. Rajab Mohandis (CSO Forum)
7. Mr. Simon Akuei Deng (Business Community)
8. Mrs. Yar Manoa Majok (Business Community)
9. Dr. Angelina Bazugba (Academia)
10. Mr. Malish John Peter (Youth)
11. Ms. Caroline Kibos (Youth)

For the Regional Guarantors

1. H.E. Teferi Tadesse Heigyane (Ethiopia)
2. Mr. Ali Mambo (Kenya)
3. H.E. Hussein Haji Ahmed (Somalia)
4. H.E. Adil Ibrahim Mustafa (Sudan)
5. Mr. Agama W. Anthony (Uganda)
6. Mr. Sunday Edmund (Nigeria)
7. H.E. Gordon M. Yekelo (South Africa)
8. Amb. Prof. Joram M. Biswaro (AUMISS)
9. Dr. Philip Mwanika (IGAD Juba Liaison Office)

For International Partners and Friends of South Sudan

1. H.E. Hua Ning (China)
2. H.E. Lars Andersen (Norway)
3. Mr. Timothy Timmons (USA)
4. Mr. Moustapha Soumare (UNMISS)
5. H.E. Sinead Walsh (EU)
6. H.E. Janet Alberda (IPF)

For RJMEC Secretariat

1. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede, Chief of Staff
2. Dr. Thomson Fontaine, Deputy Chief of Staff (Strategy)
3. Mr. Stephen Oola, Legal and Constitution

For the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms

1. Hon. Gabriel Changson Chang, Co-Chairperson NPTC
2. Mr. Godfrey Gichira Kibara, Chairperson - NCAC
3. Maj. Gen. Desta Abiche Ageno, Chairperson - CTSAMVM
4. Gen. Gabriel Jok Riak Makol, Chairperson - JDB
5. Mr. Kanyabir Noon, Member SDSR - Board

6. Cdr. Dr. Olaw, Head of JTSC Secretariat
7. Lt. Gen. Charles Madut Akol, Chairperson JMCC

Observers

1. H.E. Dr. Ahmed Bahaa Eldin (Egypt)
2. Ms. Funmi Balogun (UNMWOMEN)
3. H.E. Seiji Okada (Japan)

Min. 01/07/19: Opening Prayers

1. The opening prayer was led by Rev. John Okumu and Mr. Mohammed Hassan Morjan, representatives of the Faith-based leaders.

Min. 02/07/19: Adoption of the Agenda

2. The draft agenda was adopted without any amendments.

Min.03/07/19: Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting

3. The minutes of the 6th RJMEC meeting held on 29th May 2019 was reviewed and the following comments were made:

- 3.1. proposed amendment of the Agenda to adopt the minutes of the last RJMEC meeting before proceeding with other agenda items;
- 3.2. proposed to amend bullet number 8.21 in commending the I-TGoNU for lifting the state of emergency;
- 3.3. pg. 12 on paragraph 8.15 should attribute the member who stated;
- 3.4. pg. 13 paragraph 8.22 requesting the RJMEC Interim Chairperson to clarify on what had been done in strengthening the Agenda after it was recommended in the last plenary; and,
- 3.5. members from the I-TGoNU urged to get feedback on the members who have not signed the Agreement. The Interim Chairperson further informed RJMEC Members that he had engaged and reported to the IGAD Council of Minister on the matter and that the latter was making efforts to get the guarantors to sign the R-ARCSS.

Min. 04/07/19: Statement by RJMEC Interim Chairperson

4. In his statement the RJMEC Interim Chairperson:
 - 4.1. welcomed members to the 7th RJMEC meeting by highlighting that his statement would be based on giving an update on action points arising from the 6th meeting, provide an update on the status of implementation of the Agreement and the critical pending tasks of the Pre-Transitional Period and the recurring challenges, and would conclude with recommendations for the coming period;

- 4.2. reported that the last Meeting resolved that cantonment be expedited and commence by the 15th June. He further informed members that the JMCC and the JTSC had moved forward with the cantonment planning process. The JMCC had conducted assessment visits to designated cantonment sites and that he was encouraged by the formation and training of the Area Joint Military Ceasefire Committee (AJMCC) and the Joint Monitoring Ceasefire Teams (JMCTs). The JMCC completed the training of 163 personnel in Juba who would operate the cantonment sites;
- 4.3. informed on the progress in the formation of the DDR Commission. The representatives of the Parties and stakeholders met and agreed on its restructuring and further agreed that either the Chairperson or the Deputy shall be a woman. The Parties and stakeholders had been requested to submit the names of their nominees to the IGAD Special Envoy, who will vet the suitably qualified candidates and submit them to the NPTC. The NPTC will then make the appointments accordingly;
- 4.4. further informed members that he had an opportunity to address the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU PSC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the current situation in South Sudan and on the status of implementation of the Agreement. In his statement to the AU PSC, he informed the Council on the remarkable improvement in the overall security situation since the signing of the R-ARCSS. He further appealed to the Council to persuade the AU Commission and its member states to extend the requisite support to the R-ARCSS implementation;
- 4.5. reported to members that the AU C5 Ambassadors had invited RJMEC and the Office of the Special Envoy to Addis to give details and provide a list of in-kind support that can be made available for cantonment. Since then, members of the JDB, the JTSC and JMCC were in Addis to follow-up on the assistance.
- 4.6. informed members that he had written to the Chairman of the JDB regarding the occupation of civilian centres by the military, requesting him to issue instructions to respective commanders for their troops to vacate all occupied civilian centres by 15th June 2019. Moreover, he was encouraged by the latest CTSAMVM report on the matter;
- 4.7. informed members that the Independent Boundaries Commission was preparing its report, which he expected to be completed in a few days;
- 4.8. reported to members that the Constitutional Amendment Bill 2019 had been returned to the NCAC to incorporate the six-month extended Pre-Transitional Period before the Transitional National Legislative Assembly could ratify it. Five of the six security-related laws and the Political Parties Act had been reviewed and submitted to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. However, he was informed that the NCAC members were unable to reach consensus on one key provision within the National Security Services Act as amended, which would require further discussions;
- 4.9. reported that he had reviewed and approved a new work schedule for the NCAC during this extension period, allowing them to draft the Fire Brigade Act, and to begin work on three legislations, which were intended to be worked on during the

Transitional Period. These are: the Public Finance Management Act; the National Audit Chambers Act; and the Anti-Corruption Act;

- 4.10. informed members that CTSAMVM was required to give prior notice of the intended verification of forces at a particular location. However, in a situation where a violation is alleged at any location, CTSAMVM would be granted unconditional access.
- 4.11. took note that the permanent ceasefire continues to hold across the country, whereas attention is turned to the cantonment and the training of the Necessary Unified Forces. He expressed that there is still violence and an unacceptable number of deaths linked to cattle rustling. This requires the urgent attention of the government.
- 4.12. commended on the humanitarian access that continues to improve generally across South Sudan. Furthermore, humanitarian agencies accessed the vast majority of the country without major incidents, which provides the enabling environment for the return of refugees and IDPs to their homes. However, the onset of the rainy season will have a constraining effect on reaching the people;
- 4.13. took note of the increased revenues from the opening of oil fields previously closed during the conflict amongst the benefits derived from the permanent ceasefire. However, he reiterated the need for additional reforms in the financial management system to achieve efficient use of resources and attract foreign direct investment;
- 4.14. encouraged by the ongoing discussion about the establishment of an SGBV court by the Judiciary, and the adoption by the South Sudanese Peoples Defence Forces of an Action Plan to eradicate Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) by the military. He further expressed that despite an apparent reduction in reported cases of SGBV, it remained a concern.
- 4.15. outlined some key recommendations to members; urging the security mechanisms to open the cantonment sites and ensure that all forces report to the designated sites or barracks; the NPTC to avail the requisite resources to the mechanisms without delay; Parties to step up joint confidence-building measures, from the highest political level to the grassroots; Parties to take steps to eradicate SGBV in their areas of responsibility, to ensure protection and safety of women and girls in areas under their control, and to continue accountability measures for those found culpable of SGBV violations; and
- 4.16. emphasized the sanctity of the plenary that RJMEC members are all equal and entitled to contribute to the Plenary in a cordial and inclusive spirit. He further urged all members to maintain decorum and engage each other constructively and show respect for differences of opinion.

Min. 05/07/19: Report from NPTC

5. In its report submitted to the RJMEC members, the NPTC highlighted the following issues:

- 5.1. reported on the support and facilitation of travel, accommodation and meeting expenses of all SPLM/A-IO members implementing the Pre-Transitional tasks in institutions and security mechanisms from Juba to Khartoum for the SPLM/A-IO internal consultation.
- 5.2. informed members that the Constitutional Amendment Bill had been withdrawn from the National Legislature to incorporate the 6-months extension period by the NCAC;
- 5.3. underscored further that NPTC was currently reviewing the work plan and programs of activities submitted by the security mechanisms to realign the budget to be in conformity with the 6-months Pre-Transitional Period. The budget re-alignment would take into account the increased number of forces from 75,000 to 83,000, as agreed during the joint security mechanisms workshop endorsed by the IGAD Council of Ministers in May. Cantonment sites and training centres would also be reflected;
- 5.4. informed members that the NPTC Dissemination Unit with the facilitation of UNMISS participated in the dissemination of the R-ARCSS in Maridi and that the Unit was planning for a Joint Dissemination Strategy validation workshop on 26th June 2019, where all stakeholders would be invited to participate;
- 5.5. reported that NPTC engaged chiefs and traditional leaders to identify areas and a process of healing and reconciliation based on traditional methods; and
- 5.6. confirmed that the JDB had sent a team to the proposed cantonment sites in Greater Upper Nile, Greater Bahr el Ghazal, and Greater Equatoria in order to assess the facilities and forces available. On the other hand, the SDSR-Board had sent a team to Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya to conduct data collection for the Board. Moreover, JMCC conducted a training workshop for all the AJMCC and JMCTs in Juba who would later be deployed to their respective places.

Min. 06/07/19: Briefing from UNMISS SRSG

6. In his briefing to the RJMEC plenary, the Deputy UNMISS SRSG:
 - 6.1. commended the convening of RJMEC monthly meetings in accordance with the Revitalized Agreement to meet at least once a month, which demonstrates the seriousness of the RJMEC and the Parties in remaining seized of progress in the implementation of the Agreement;
 - 6.2. informed RJMEC members on his attendance and briefings to the African Union Peace and Security Council along with the RJMEC Interim Chairperson and the Head of the AU Liaison Office in South Sudan. UNMISS underscored to the Council that the Revitalized Agreement continued to have a significant impact because the ceasefire is holding and political violence has been drastically reduced;

- 6.3. further presented an update on the sub-national level rapprochement activities between the Government and opposition forces, which stood at approximately 113 since the beginning of the Revitalized Agreement;
- 6.4. briefed members on the joint visit by David Shearer, the UNMISS SRSG, and some members of the implementation mechanisms, including representatives of the SSPDF, NPTC, RJMEC, SPLM/A-IO and SSOA (SSNMC) who traveled to Maridi and participated in the peace and reconciliation meeting;
- 6.5. underscored that the meeting of Western Equatoria stakeholders brought together members of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of government, as well as the Opposition from the four states of Western Equatoria. In the final resolution, the stakeholders agreed to strengthen cooperation between state authorities and opposition groups that are part of the Agreement, assist the NPTC to implement the security arrangements, form peace committees at state and county levels to oversee implementation of the Agreement, undertake peace dissemination activities and provide a conducive and safe environment for voluntary returns. He echoed that these grassroots rapprochement activities were directly leading to a local commitment to peace;
- 6.6. echoed that the improved security situation was giving displaced families the confidence they need to return home. And further elaborated an observation made in the last RJMEC meeting, related to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), which was working with UNHCR to monitor spontaneous returns as well as provide assistance to returnees to rebuild their lives, in line with international humanitarian principles for safe, dignified and voluntary returns. On June 2nd, humanitarian partners and UNMISS facilitated the return of 84 IDPs who expressed their will to move from Juba PoC site to Uror county;
- 6.7. observed that UNMISS support involved air assets, while the humanitarian partners provided a return package to the returnees. On the other hand, the local authorities in Government and SPLM/A-IO controlled areas received the returnees in their respective areas. It should be noted that this was the second voluntary relocation facilitated by UNMISS from the Juba PoC site to the Greater Uror area in 2019. He commended the Parties for taking a step to begin to operationalize Chapter III of the R-ARCSS that would make rapid progress indirectly assisting the displaced population and those in need;
- 6.8. noted that progress remained slow and the suffering of the people continued, stating that more than 4 million South Sudanese remained displaced inside and outside the country. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classifications (IPC) released on Friday 14th June by the Government, in collaboration with the FAO, WFP and UNICEF, showed that an estimated 6.96 million South Sudanese would face acute levels of food insecurity or worse (IPC Phase 3, 4, and 5) by the end of July 2019;
- 6.9. recapped to members that the benchmark of the R-ARCSS remained pending with only five months remaining. He further expressed the need to move beyond the ceasefire and take irreversible steps in implementing the Agreement in order to actualize the promise that it holds for the people;

- 6.10. called for a roadmap on the implementation of key Pre-Transitional tasks with clear, agreed objectives and timelines. The Parties and implementation mechanisms needed to focus on and accelerate their efforts on the essential and critical pending tasks; and
- 6.11. expressed the need for the I-TGoNU to meet its financial commitment to release funding pledged for the implementation process.

Min. 07/07/19: Reports from Agreement Mechanisms

i) National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC)

- 7.1. In his report to the Plenary, the Chairperson of the National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC):
 - 7.1.1. informed members that NCAC had handed over the National Security Services Act 2014 (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and the Political Parties Act, 2012 (Amendment) Bill 2019 to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs in conformity with the requirements of Article 1.8.1.3 and 1.18.1.2 of the R-ARCSS;
 - 7.1.2. informed members that on the National Security Service Bill, the NCAC were able to reach consensus on all issues with an exception to that of “Arrest with Warrant” (section 55 of the Act). Some members strongly urged deletion of the section while some equally argued for the retention of the section. The NCAC members who advocated for deletion of the section argued that it is the function of the National Police to arrest suspects;
 - 7.1.3. further, they were of the view that the primary function of the National Security Service role is to gather information and hand it over to the law enforcement agency, which is the Police. In this regard, only the Police ordinarily should have powers to arrest and the National Security could only arrest in emergency situations. On the other hand, the Committee members who supported retention of the section argued that the gathering of the information or intelligence could require the arrest and interrogation of the suspects by the National Security Services and that the requirement of a warrant meant there were enough safeguards through the oversight of the Judiciary to ensure there was no abuse of these powers by the security services;
 - 7.1.4. observed that since neither side could garner the two-thirds majority required for the adoption of the contested provisions, the Committee deferred the Section (section 55 of the Act) as an unresolved issue and pointed this out in the explanatory note accompanying the Bill to the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs and further to the RJMEC and NPTC Chairpersons;
 - 7.1.5. reported that the Committee received the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (Amendment) Bill No. 6, 2019 from the Minister for Cabinet Affairs for the purpose of incorporation of the 6-months extension of the Pre-Transition Period that was agreed by Parties in May and subsequently endorsed by the IGAD Council of Ministers meeting on 7th May in Juba;

- 7.1.6. informed members that the Committee began consultations on the drafting of the National Fire Brigade/ National Civil Defence Service Act, held meetings with the National Fire Brigade Services and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management for the purpose of gathering information on, among other key issues, the distinction between the National Fire Brigade Services as stipulated under the Constitution and the R-ARCSS and the National Civil Defence Services in line with the Council of Ministers Resolution Number 96/2012; and
- 7.1.7. stated that the Committee began preliminary discussions with various institutions on the review of economic and financial sector laws provided for in Chapter Four of the R-ARCSS during the Pre-Transition Period. These laws include; the Public Finance Management and Accountability Act, 2011; National Audit Chamber Act, 2011 and the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2019.

ii) Ceasefire Transitional Monitoring Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM)

7.2. The Chairperson of the Ceasefire Transitional Monitoring Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM) in his report to the RJMEC 7th meeting:

- 7.2.1. reminded members that CTSAMVM is an independent, neutral and impartial body whose reports are based on evidence which enables CTSAMVM to command the confidence of all Parties. He further reiterated CTSAMVM's commitment to supporting the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement with neutral, independent and impartial reports;
- 7.2.2. reported that since the last RJMEC meeting the security situation remained the same and that the ceasefire was holding throughout the country with no reported incidents of violations between the Parties. However, he reported on tension in several areas such as Twic which suggested that the incidents were a result of intercommunal differences, and that ambushes by the NAS forces of Gen. Thomas Cirillo in Central Equatoria were reported on 22nd and 24th of May 2019;
- 7.2.3. informed members that CTSAMVM Technical Committee (CTC) met in June to discuss among others the key issues of the cantonment, denial of access and vacating of civilian facilities, and the current investigations. He further informed the members that the outcomes of the meetings of the CTC and the CTSAMVM Board of 13th of June were published on CTSAMVM's website.
- 7.2.4. reported that the CTSAMVM has assessed 20 of the 35 cantonment sites selected by the JDB and found 17 to be suitable, 1 not suitable and 2 are disputed. CTSAMVM will continue to assess the remaining selected sites and urged Parties to resolve the disputed sites amongst themselves and move to the cantonment sites without delay;
- 7.2.5. noted that in their observations, most cantonment sites lacked food, clean water and medicines. On behalf of the CTC, the Chairperson called upon the NPTC to provide the necessary logistical support whenever the Parties operationalize cantonment and consideration of the protection of women and children as part

of the cantonment process. The CTC committee agreed to hold a joint field visit to the cantonment area near Pibor;

- 7.2.6. reported that there has been considerable improvement since the last RJMEC plenary with only one new instance of denial of access by the SSPDF. Access to all the SSPDF 5th Division units continued to be permitted with an exception to only the SSPDF 3rd Division in Aweil and SSPDF Special Forces Unit in Mankien but plans were underway to address the matter.
- 7.2.7. informed members that regarding the occupation of the civilian buildings, CTSAMVM observed that there were 54 occupied buildings, 2 buildings occupied by the SPLM/A-IO and 52 by the SSPDF. There were no new reports of occupied buildings while 20 civilian buildings were vacated - 3 by the SPLM/A-IO and 17 by the SSPDF.
- 7.2.8. further informed members on the current investigation on previously mentioned alleged ambushes by the NAS forces of Gen. Thomas Cirilo in Central Equatoria along with other alleged ambushes by the same group in April in Yei River area. The investigations include alleged violence against civilians in Yei River area by the SSPDF in March 2019 and alleged allegations of SGBV, and incidents of violence against civilians in Wiro Payam, Amadi State on March 2019 and in Shirkat Juba area on 12th May;
- 7.2.9. participated in the recent training workshop held by the JMCC for the AJMCCs and JMCTs and took note of the JMCC visits to different cantonment sites in which CTSAMVM provided logistical and liaison support as well as providing the master ceasefire maps whenever the JMCC needed support. CTSAMVM reiterated its commitment to working closely with JMCC and the new AJMCCs during the implementation of the cantonment plans;
- 7.2.10. expressed that the tasks to be undertaken by CTSAMVM during the 6-month extended period include: 1) verification of the forces at cantonment sites and activities at cantonment sites, including registration of personnel, weapons, and equipment accountability, screening and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR); 2) verification of the Necessary Unified Forces, their training and deployment; (3) continued verification of the permanent ceasefire, including allegations of SGBV, allegations of the use of child soldiers and their recruitment, allegations of denial of humanitarian access and other violations of the Peace Agreement; and (4) producing reports about the status of implementation of Chapter II of the R-ARCSS and promotion of CTSAMVM monitoring and verification activities at a broader level;
- 7.2.11. commended the Parties on the improved access in the verification of forces and a reduction in the number of occupied civilian buildings. He informed members further that the National Monitors have been deployed with an exception to Leer where CTSAMVM faced accommodation challenges. Parties have taken some steps and seemed to be committed to implementing the tasks of Chapter II of the Peace Agreement just over one month into the extended Pre-Transitional Period.

- 7.2.12. expressed the remaining financial challenges for CTSAMVM as previously reported, which has negatively impacted on CTSAMVM monitoring and verification capabilities; and
- 7.2.13. appreciated NPTC in agreeing to pay the costs of travel and accommodation for the Party representatives traveling from Juba for the recent CTC and Board meetings as well as the support demonstrated by donors. However, urged NPTC to disburse funds on time.

iii) Joint Defence Board (JDB)

7.3. In his report, the Chairperson of the Joint Defence Board:

- 7.3.1. informed members that the general security situation in the country is relatively calm. He, however, shared preliminary reports on some security concerns in some areas of Mundri, Terekeka and Bahr el Ghazal. The JDB Chairperson condemned the attacks and regretted any losses that might have been caused and promised to give updates once the Board received full details of the situation. He informed members that all security institutions were monitoring closely the situation to ensure continuity of the calmness;
- 7.3.2. informed members that after receiving an allotment of USD 2 million from the NPTC, the JDB directed all security mechanisms to immediately commence their work as planned. It further directed all the forces to render all necessary support towards the implementation of the Transitional Security Arrangements;
- 7.3.3. informed that 180 monitors (JMCTs and AJMCCs) had been successfully trained under the auspicious of JMCC;
- 7.3.4. further informed members that a joint team comprising the JDB, the Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC) and the JMCC held a meeting with the AU C5 Defence Attachés (Algeria, Chad, Rwanda, Nigeria and South Africa) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 12th June 2019 and briefed the latter on the logistical needs, training support and capacity gaps in the implementation of the Transitional Security Arrangements, with specific focus on cantonment of forces and the training of the Necessary Unified Forces;
- 7.3.5. the JDB Chairperson commended the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan for his strategic role in the efforts towards lasting peace in South Sudan;
- 7.3.6. emphasized on the need for the provisions of resources towards implementation of the Transitional Security Arrangements. Further cautioned that without needed support the security mechanisms would not be able to achieve much during the extended 6-month Period with only 5-months left; and
- 7.3.7. he urged the NPTC, RJMEC, IGAD and the wider international community to rescue the situation.

iv) Strategic Defence And Security Review Boards (SDSR -Board)

7.4. RJMEC members took note of the SDSR- Boards report that:

- 7.4.1. the Board conducted an extra-ordinary meeting on the 3rd June 2019 and discussed the financial allocation for the Board and the proposed management of the finances. The Board proposed and agreed to have a sub-account to be jointly co-managed by the NPTC and SDSR – Board for the purpose of transparency, accountability and easy tracking of expenditure upon approval by the NPTC;
- 7.4.2. the Board created teams to commence the review of the policies; and
- 7.4.3. the Board and the Secretariat had planned to undertake strategic security-focused group discussions in the neighboring countries, a process that was however delayed due to some logistical challenges encountered. The team was, however, expected to travel after a week.

v) Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC)

7.5. In his report, the Head of Secretariat of the JTSC:

- 7.5.1. informed RJMEC members on the activities held since the 6th Plenary, including attending a meeting organized by the office of the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan with the AU C5 Defence Attachés in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on budget and areas for support. The AU C5 pledged to assist the security mechanisms with logistics and capacity building;
- 7.5.2. reported on the specific plans from June to October as follows: from 23rd – 30th June, the Committee was expected to finalize assessment of training centres, training of instructors between 1st to 7th July 2019; deployment of instructors to be undertaken between 7th – 14th July; selection of forces for training from 7th – 21st July. Further, JTSC would commence training of forces from 1st August onwards, and the forces would be expected to graduate on the 1st October 2019; and
- 7.5.3. recommended that the NPTC should: avail offices and working materials for the JTSC; avail the necessary resources for the recruitment of the experts and advisors for capacity building of its members, and expedite the cantonment and barracking of forces.

i) Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC)

7.6. In his report, the JMCC Chairperson:

- 7.6.1. reported on the engagement with the stakeholders especially senior commanders to withdraw all forces occupying civilian centers. He informed members that the JMCC formed three teams to go to the three greater regions to assess, verify and establish cantonment sites, and the teams would also handle demilitarization;

- 7.6.2. on the collection of long-range weapons, the team is preparing to visit different cantonment sites, which would be followed by the collection of weapons. The teams were, however, compiling their report detailing the number and the location of cantonment sites and barracks. Forces were ordered to move to the sites as soon as cantonment sites are fixed;
- 7.6.3. informed the RJMEC members that CTSAMVM had provided a report on the 20 cantonment sites which they had visited and verified with readiness to revisit with the JMCC members. CTSAMVM was ready to assist with clear maps. However, submission of weaponry, equipment, and ammunition had reportedly not yet started;
- 7.6.4. reported on screening for recruitment into army, police, national security, and other services were on-going. JMCC was working on the registration and screening forms to be used for registration in the cantonment sites;
- 7.6.5. informed members that JMCC, JDB, and all Parties were visiting sites to disseminate the provision of the Permanent Ceasefire to all forces, allies and affiliates to ensure compliance. On the other hand, Parties were coordinating to ensure that they cease recruitment and training of late recruits;
- 7.6.6. reported that JMCC received \$535,000 USD from the JDB for the beginning of the cantonment process. The money could be used for field visits, training of the AJMCC and JMCTs and establishment of the cantonment sites. Further informed members that the Committee received three vehicles (Hardtop 3-doors, Toyota Hilux and Regius) as well as office equipment such as computers, printers, Thuraya, etc.;
- 7.6.7. training and deployment of AJMCCs and JMCTs had been completed with a total number of 163 personnel from the three Parties to the Agreement. The team was trained on an overview of Chapter II of the Agreement, International Humanitarian Law (Law of Armed conflict), Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), eligibility criteria for cantoning, screening, and unification of forces, overall objectives and Terms of Reference for the JMCC, AJMCC and JMCTs, civil rights education, screening and registration of forms;
- 7.6.8. JMCC, JDB, CTSAMVM, NPTC, and other peace partners were working to ensure acts of violence, revenge, vengeance and retribution were avoided by all means;
- 7.6.9. acknowledged arrival and receipt of food donated by Sudan to Renk; these comprised sugar, oil, onions, salt, dura, beans, including tomato paste;
- 7.6.10. highlighted the challenges of funding for JMCC activities. It should be remembered that JMCC received funding from NPTC which have not released

additional funding to accomplish the critical Pre-Transitional tasks such as cantonment, screening of forces as scheduled on time. He urged NPTC to disburse funding for biometric registration in the sites as well as food for immediate assembly and cantonment of forces; and

- 7.6.11. reiterated the commitment by most security mechanisms that continues to work and meet regularly despite the meagre funding availed by the NPTC and encouraged them to should continue with the same spirit, commitment and cooperation that would allow the mechanism to achieve the objective of the security arrangement and serve South Sudan in peace and dignity.

Min. 08/07/19: Discussions on statements and reports

8. During the deliberations which followed the statements and presentation of reports:

- 8.1 members welcomed the reports of the Agreement institutions and mechanisms and the progress as reported and urged them to expedite implementation of all pending tasks as time was of the essence. They also welcomed the statement of the RJMEC Chairperson, the briefing by UNMISS on the humanitarian situation and the report of the NPTC on the status of the implementation of activities of the Pre-Transitional Period;
- 8.2 members acknowledged that the general security situation remained stable in most parts of the country, with all Parties adhering to the permanent ceasefire. They further expressed concern over the ongoing activities of NAS forces allied to Gen. Thomas Cirilo in and around the Yei River area;
- 8.3 representatives of the Civil Society commended the Judiciary of South Sudan in its efforts to establish an SGBV Court and also the SSPDF for its adoption of an Action Plan to eradicate SGBV by its forces and urged all Parties to take steps to eradicate SGBV in their areas of responsibility and enhance the protection and safety of civilians, especially women and girls. The Civil Society representative urged that the culprits involved in such cases should be brought to book;
- 8.4 the representative of the Women Coalition questioned whether the NPTC Sub-committees should be restricted to NPTC members as membership of NPTC is restricted to the Parties only and suggested that it would be appropriate to include other stakeholders as members of the Sub-committees; and called on the NPTC to support women organizations to run dissemination activities for the Revitalized Peace Agreement.
- 8.5 the representative of the Civil Society further noted that the NPTC should build on what has been done in the process of healing and reconciliation; thanked the Parties to the R-ARCSS for their commitment to resolve the matter of the combatants vacating civilian centers by themselves adding that such was a sign of working together; that the Civil Society supports the R-ARCSS and hope for its success; and that the Parties should inform their members and institutions to support the Civil Society in their efforts to support the implementation of the Agreement;

- 8.6 a representative of the business community requested the NPTC to always make funding as part of their main report. Besides, it should indicate where the funds are coming from and the NPTC reports should indicate who is funding what between the government and the partners;
- 8.7 the youth representative called on the plenary to issue directives on withdrawal of troops from civilian centers that were still occupied especially the schools and health centers; called on the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan to conduct an engagement with disadvantaged groups on the peace process and underscored the necessity for the NPTC report to be more detailed especially on funds; and that NPTC should clearly highlight funds received, funds utilized and funds available;
- 8.8 The African Union representative called on all stakeholders who made pledges towards the R-ARCSS implementation to honor them in a timely manner. He also called for operationalization of the resolution of the 67th Extra-ordinary Council of Ministers Summit held in Juba. He asked the RJMEC Chairperson to raise the matter during the 68th Council of Ministers Summit in Addis Ababa;
- 8.9 A representative of the SPLM/A-IO welcomed the contribution of the AU C5 to offer support to the implementation of the R-ARCSS and referred to it as an African solution to African problems. He also commended the armed forces from both the opposition and SSPDF for the ceasefire that was holding across the country. He further called for the release of Dr. Riak Machar the SPLM/A-IO Chairman and Commander-in-Chief to participate in the peace process as a free man. More so, he informed the meeting that the two (2) civilian centers that had been reported to be occupied by SPLM/A-IO were vacated. On that note, the RJMEC Interim Chairperson asked CTSAMVM to verify that fact and report on it accordingly;
- 8.10 From the International community, the Norwegian Ambassador commended the Parties for progress so far made in the implementation of the R-ARCSS and welcomed the extension of the Pre - Transitional Period. He called on the Parties to ensure that the extension should not delay the start of the Transitional Period. He noted that the TROIKA was in the process of completing its agreement on capacity building which would involve USD \$ 28 million and increase support to CTSAMVM;
- 8.11 The Norwegian Ambassador further welcomed the presidential pledge of USD \$ 100 million towards the implementation of the R-ARCSS. He called for transparency and accountability to help avoid any misuse or waste of resources. On SGBV, he noted that SGBV continued to be a concern not only in South Sudan but also in many other countries including Norway, and welcomed action plans put in place by the SSPDF and SPLM/A-IO to reduce SGBV cases in South Sudan;
- 8.12 The representatives of I-TGoNU and NPTC clarified that funds for dissemination were being solicited and that the NPTC was working on a comprehensive strategic plan and road map for dissemination, which would be shared to everyone to understand once it is ready. They, therefore, called for patience to allow NPTC to accomplish this task and rollout the road map. They noted that the dissemination process is headed by the NPTC;

- 8.13 The NPTC Deputy Chairperson: told members that the sources of funds were only two; the Parties and the Partners; promised to follow-up with all those that had pledged and report back in the next RJMEC monthly meeting; called on IGAD to fully operationalize the decision on Defence Attachés; and informed the members that all the Agreement mechanisms would work under one roof in the hired offices which were being furnished and that he would report in the next meeting on the progress. The Deputy Chairperson further called on the Parties to speak with one voice and keep engaged with the aim of moving forward;
- 8.14 Representatives of I-TGoNU requested for an update regarding the members who had not signed the Revitalized Peace Agreement. They indicated that those that had not signed the agreement should not be attending the RJMEC monthly meetings. In response, the Interim Chairperson of RJMEC informed them that the members who have not signed still recognize the Agreement and they continue supporting the Agreement institutions. He noted that he would defer the matter to IGAD for further interpretation on this matter. He encouraged the Parties that had issues with some parts of the Agreement to write to IGAD Council of Ministers and raise the matters;
- 8.15 The representatives of I-TGoNU also requested for clarification by the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan on the procedure being followed in the reconstitution of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Commission and called for an urgent meeting between the NPTC and IGAD Special Envoy on this matter;
- 8.16 On the reports of denial of access to CTSAMVM, the I-TGoNU requested for full and clear information to always be submitted indicating where, when and who denied CTSAMVM access as this would make it easy for appropriate and timely intervention;
- 8.17 On the matter of National Security Service being mandated to arrest with and or without a warrant of arrest, it was noted that this was an issue to be handled by the NCAC and if it cannot be finalized, then the NCAC should know the next step of action;

Min.9/07/19: Date for the next meeting

- 9.0. 24th July 2019 was proposed as the date for the next meeting and it was noted that the RJMEC secretariat would keep the members informed of any developments.

Min.10/07/19: A.O.B

- 10.0. There were two matters raised:

- 10.1. The I-TGoNU representative raised concerns over the decision by the Interim Chairperson to limit members' contributions to four minutes. He felt that members were being put under pressure by the time limit and that this practice should not continue in the future. In response, the Interim Chairman noted the concern but stressed that this was his way of asking members to organize themselves before making their contribution so that they don't repeat themselves and take up valuable time. He, however, indicated that he would use his discretion when he felt that more time was warranted, but that would be on a case by case basis.

- 10.2. The SDSR representative apologized for not presenting their Report earlier but requested for a few minutes to highlight parts of the one-page report submitted earlier. He stressed that the Board was facing several logistical issues, which he believes should have been tackled by the NPTC. He questioned whether the NPTC was sufficiently transparent and urged them to improve their transparency in the future.

Min.11/07/19: Resolution of the meeting

- 11.0. The draft resolution was circulated among all members and discussed. Members gave their amendments and the RJMEC Secretariat was tasked to incorporate all the changes then share the final resolution with all members.

Min.12/07/19: Closing Prayers

- 12.0. The closing prayers were led by the representatives of the faith-based organizations.
- 12.1. There being no any other business, the 7th RJMEC monthly meeting was adjourned at 3:47 pm.