



Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC)

MINUTES OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION (RJMEC) HELD ON 12TH SEPTEMBER 2019 AT PALM AFRICA HOTEL, JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN

The 9th meeting of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) was convened in Juba, South Sudan, on 12th September 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 10:37 am.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayers
2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks
3. Adoption of the Agenda
(Media excused)
4. Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting
(Media recalled)
5. Statement by RJMEC Interim Chairperson
6. Report from the NPTC
7. Briefing from UNMISS SRSG
(Media excused)
8. Reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:
 - a. NCAC
 - b. CTSAMVM
 - c. JDB
 - d. SDSR Board
 - e. JTSC
 - f. JMCC
9. Discussion on:
 - a. RJMEC Interim Chairperson's Statement, NPTC report and UNMISS SRSG briefing
 - b. Reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms
10. Date for the Next Meeting
11. A.O.B
10. Resolutions of the meeting
- Chairperson's Closing Remarks
11. 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. Michael Makuei Lueth (Incumbent TGoNU)
2. Hon. Dhieu Mathok Diing (Incumbent TGoNU)
3. Hon. Stephen Par Kuol (SPLM/A-IO)
4. Mrs. Sandra Bona Malwal (SPLM/A-IO)
5. Hon. Hussein Abdelbagi Akol (SSOA)
6. Mr. Isaiah Hakim Garang (FDs)
7. Hon. Catherine Juan Benaiah (OPP)

For the Other South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents

1. Mr. Mohamed El-Hassan Abdel Meragan (Faith-based leader)
2. Prof. Moses Macar Kawot (Eminent Person)
3. Ms. Mary Akech Bior (Women's Bloc)
4. Ms. Rita Lopidia (Women Coalition)
5. Mr. Akuoch Ajang Nyanhom (CSO Alliance)
6. Mr. Rajab Mohandis (CSO Forum)
7. Mr. Simon Akuei Deng (Business Community)
8. Mrs. Yar Manoa Majok (Business Community)
9. Prof. Pauline Riak (Academia)
10. Mr. Malish John Peter (Youth)
11. Ms. Caroline Kibos (Youth)

For the Regional Guarantors

1. Mr. Zelalem Birhan (Ethiopia)
2. Col. Ndegwa Eutychus (Kenya)
3. H.E. Shafie Nuralas (Somalia)
4. H.E. Fadul Mohamed (Sudan)
5. H.E. Brig. Gen. Ronnie Balya (Uganda)
6. H.E. Obinna Chukwuemeka Agbugba (Nigeria)
7. H.E. Gordon M. Yekelo (South Africa)
8. Amb. Prof. Joram M. Biswaro (AUMISS)
9. Mr. Elijah Osin (IGAD Juba Liaison Office)

For International Partners and Friends of South Sudan:

1. H.E. Hua Ning (China)
2. H.E. Siv Kaspersen (Norway)
3. H.E. Tom Hushek (USA)
4. H.E. Chris Trott (UK)
5. H.E. David Shearer (UNMISS)
6. H.E. Sinead Walsh (EU)
7. H.E. Jamie Christoff (IPF)

For RJMEC Secretariat:

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

For the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:

1. Hon. Henry Dilan Odwar (Deputy Chairperson, NPTC)
2. Hon. Gichira Kibara (Chairperson, NCAC)
3. Maj. Gen. Tarig Abdelkarim (Deputy Chairperson, CTSAMVM)
4. Gen. Gabriel Jok Riak Makol (Chairperson, JDB)
5. Lt. Gen. Thomas Jal Thomas (Co-Chairperson JDB)
6. Lt. Gen. Salan Alhaj Babala (Co-Chairperson, JDB)
7. Madame Angelina Teny (Chairperson, SDSR Board)
8. Lt. Gen. Wesley Welebe Samson (Co-Chairperson, JTSC)
9. Lt. Gen. Charles Madut Akol (Chairperson, JMCC)

Observers:

1. H.E. Dr. Ahmed Bahaa Eldin (Egypt)

2. Ms. Paulina Chiwangu (UNWomen)
3. H.E. Hiro Kikuchi (Japan)
4. H.E. Manuel Muller (Germany)
5. Ms. Salome Steib (Switzerland)
6. Ms. Wanjiku Nyoike (UNHCR)

Min. 01/09/19: Opening Prayers

1. The opening prayer was led by Mr. Mohammed Hassan Morgan, a representative of the Faith-based leaders and Hon. Catherine Juan Benaiah, a representative of the Other Political Parties (OPP).

Min. 02/09/19: Chairperson's Opening Remarks

2. In his opening remarks, the Chairperson: (a) welcomed members to the 9th plenary, especially the new Ambassadors from the UK, Norway, France and Germany who attended the meeting for the first time; (b) commended the Government of the Republic of South Sudan for facilitating the negotiation that resulted in the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) on 12 September 2018 (c) invited an RJMEC member to move a motion for a moment of silence to be observed in honour of the late Robert G. Mugabe, the fallen former President of Zimbabwe and pan-Africanist; (d) paid tribute to the Ambassador of the Arabs Republic of Egypt who would be leaving South Sudan in a month's time for a new assignment; and (e) wished the Ethiopian community a Happy New Year.

Min. 03/09/19: Adoption of the Agenda

3. The draft agenda was adopted without any amendments.

Min.03/09/19: Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting

4. The minutes of the 8th RJMEC meeting was adopted without amendments.

Min. 05/09/19: Statement by RJMEC Interim Chairperson

5. In his statement the RJMEC Interim Chairperson:
 - 5.1. welcomed the members to the 9th RJMEC meeting that marked one year since the signing of the R-ARCSS and acknowledged its contribution to ending the conflict in the Republic of South Sudan and progress made towards the operationalization of cantonment;
 - 5.2. reported the in-kind support that arrived in Juba from the AU Commission, Egypt and China; and appealed for further support;
 - 5.3. underlined the importance of the timely and predictable disbursement of funds for cantonment, training, and unification of the Necessary Unified Forces to be completed by 11th November 2019;
 - 5.4. urged for the ratification and enactment of the Constitutional Amendment Bill and the national security laws that the NCAC reviewed and submitted to the I-TGoNU;

- 5.5. noted that the DDR Commission has been reconstituted by the President;
- 5.6. noted that the National Dialogue is complimentary to the R-ARCSS; appealed for its fora to be used for dissemination of the R-ARCSS and that its member who is also a member of RJMEC be permitted to brief the RJMEC meetings from time to time;
- 5.7. commended the recent face-to-face meeting between President Kiir and Dr Riek Machar and also called for regular similar meetings of all the political leadership of the Parties to the R-ARCSS; and
- 5.8. recommended that the DDR Commission operationalizes its plan of action; the I-TGoNU to expedite the disbursement of additional funding for the R-ARCSS; Parties to expedite resolution of the number and boundaries of States of South Sudan; appealed for more support to the implementation of the R-ARCSS; and appealed for joint dissemination of the R-ARCSS by the Parties.

Min. 06/09/19: Report from NPTC

6. The Co-Vice Chairperson of the NPTC presented the NPTC's report, highlighting that:
 - 6.1. all the cantonment sites needed to be operationalized and endorsed the 3,000 VIP force;
 - 6.2. operationalization of cantonment and training of the Necessary Unified Forces (NUFs) would be done concurrently, and that the Republican Guards would be in the ratio of 50:50 for I-TGoNU and opposition respectively;
 - 6.3. reported that the DDR Commission was reconstituted by the President on 11 September 2019 and that some Parties had raised concerns that the number of members of the Commission does not conform to its Terms of Reference;
 - 6.4. the transitional security arrangements are dependent on funding;
 - 6.5. the NCAC has been undertaking the reviews and amendments of the national laws as per the R-ARCSS;
 - 6.6. there was an issue regarding the National Security Service;
 - 6.7. the NPTC has developed plans for dissemination of the R-ARCSS but faced the challenge of funding;
 - 6.8. during the face-to-face meeting the issue of political space, especially for the opposition was discussed and noted that without civil liberty, peace can be shaky;
 - 6.9. on the number of States of South Sudan, the NPTC realised that it does not have the mandate to resolve that issue but rather formed a Committee of each of the signatories to the R-ARCSS to deliberate on the matter to the principals to decide on it or IGAD would make a final decision on the same; and
 - 6.10. funding still remained a serious challenge and that the President had promised more funds would be disbursed for the implementation of the R-ARCSS.

Min. 07/09/19: Briefing from UNMISS SRSG

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

- 7.1. observed that the recent face-to-face meeting between President Salva Kiir and Dr Machar was critical; and acknowledged the signing of an Agreement between Transitional Government of Sudan and the Opposition groups in Juba as a significant step to the restoration of stability in the Republic of Sudan;
- 7.2. informed members of the result of the recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) as having a positive outlook. He attributed the improvement to better security resulting from the signing of the R-ARCSS;
- 7.3. reported improved humanitarian access across the country and that there had been no deaths of humanitarian workers reported since the past year;
- 7.4. encouraged by the number of rapprochements undertaken at the sub-national level which stood at 130;
- 7.5. reported a number of spontaneous return of 530,000 South Sudanese who had returned to their homes from both inside and outside the country;
- 7.6. noted that: challenges still remained, particularly with cantonment of forces; political space is critical for the future; prospect for a referendum was not a very good one; political appointments for 12 November 2019 required planning; and non-signatories, especially National Salvation Front (NAS) allied to Gen. Cirilo in the Equatorias and South Sudan United Front (SSUFs) in Aweil; and
- 7.7. preparation needed to be underway for election, including the opening of political spaces that allow political activities and bodies to be active towards election.

Min. 08/09/19: Reports from Agreement Mechanisms

a) National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC)

8.1. In his report, the Chairperson of the NCAC:

- 8.1.1. reported the completion of the Fire Brigade Service Bill, 2019 and that the NCAC was reviewing the Public Finance Management and Accountability Act, 2011; National Audit Chamber Act 2011; and the Southern Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009;
- 8.1.2. reported budgetary challenges in terms of delayed disbursement of the approved budget, and that the NCAC was in consultation with the NPTC to address this challenge; and
- 8.1.3. that the NCAC was preparing to receive a list of nominees from the respective Parties relating to the appointment of members to the reconstituted Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA).

b) Ceasefire and Transitional Monitoring Verification Mechanisms (CTSAMVM)

8.2. In his report, the Deputy Chairperson of the CTSAMVM:

- 8.2.1. informed members of a number of violations, including the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGVB) and reported abductions;
- 8.2.2. commended the JMCC for the launch of cantonment and registration of forces;
- 8.2.3. reported that CTSAMVM Technical Committee (CTC) observed the arrival of new forces from SPLA-IO and SSOA at some cantonment sites;
- 8.2.4. reported logistical challenges and shortage of food in the majority of cantonment sites;
- 8.2.5. observed additional arrival of logistics from the African Union Commission, China and Egypt;
- 8.2.6. informed the members that a checklist had been issued to the CTCs for the assessment of protection needs of civilians at the cantonment sites; and
- 8.2.7. that three (03) buildings were vacated by SSPDF and a further four (04) new buildings were occupied by SPLA-IO.

c) Joint Defence Board (JDB)

8.3. In his report to the RJMEC, the Co-Chairperson of the JDB:

- 8.3.1. provided an overview of all the security mechanisms and presented a summary of the funds it received in US Dollars (USD) and South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) from the I-TGoNU as follows: USD 6.5 million (i.e. USD 2 million and USD 4.5 million) and SSP 210 million;
- 8.3.2. provided a breakdown of the agreed Phase I of the NUFs size of 83,000; reported that several forces have reported to the 25 cantonment sites and 10 barracks, and that registration and screening had begun;
- 8.3.3. acknowledged in-kind donation of 40 containers for storage of weapons from CTSAMVM, but noted that they were not enough;
- 8.3.4. reported that eligibility criteria for training of NUFs, training curricula and syllabi had been finalized by the JTSC and that the latter had embarked on a comprehensive assessment of the training sites, including mobilization of the specialist instructors;
- 8.3.5. clarified that on the issue of the Tiger Battalion, the matter had not been resolved by the technocrats as yet;
- 8.3.6. concluded with an appeal for more funding, in-kind support for transitional security arrangements and continued cooperation from Local Governments regarding the ongoing cantonment process.

d) Strategic Defence and Security Review Board (SDSR -Board)

8.4. In her report, the Chairperson of the SDSR Board:

8.4.1. informed the members that the SDSR Board undertook Strategic Security Assessment (SSA) and examined military and non-military challenges that affect the Republic of South Sudan; developed a security policy framework which clarifies the responsibilities of the various security agencies in responding to the security challenges defined in the SSA; and developed a revised Defense Policy and outlined a vision for the various security agencies, including vision for their modernization; and

8.4.2. reported the tasks accomplished during the month of August to include: (a) Focused Group Discussions held with religious leaders that sought their views on Security Sector Reforms as well as their aspiration for the future security sector in South Sudan; (b) a high-level focused group discussion held with the leadership of the organized forces; (c) a two-day SDSR workshop convened; (d) a meeting convened of the SDSR Working Group on the SSA documents (e) held a Board meeting and discussed the national interests of South Sudan in relation to the security sector policies and reforms.

i) Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC)

8.5. In his report to the plenary, the JTSC Chairperson:

8.5.1. outlined the mandate of the JTSC and highlighted the tasks accomplished by the Committee and those ongoing and planned activities;

8.5.2. highlighted challenges, to include cantonment or barracking to enable the Committee to screen the forces; Training centres for NUFs were not ready due to resource constraints;

8.5.3. appealed to the NPTC to release funds; requested that JDB direct unit commanders to assemble their forces for cantonment; urged for immediate training of instructors; further appealed to the I-TGoNU to avail engineering equipment required for cantonment; and

8.5.4. reiterated the commitment of the JTSC to peace and implementation of the R-ARCSS.

e) Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC)

8.6. In his report, the JMCC Chairperson:

8.6.1. reported the tasks it accomplished, including: the formation and deployment of nine (9) teams to cantonment and barracks sites; reported also that JMCC had commenced registration of forces in both cantonment and barracks. Also recommended that the JDB and NPTC should consider the issue of accommodation and facilitation of senior officers and how their logistics could be managed;

- 8.6.2. acknowledged receipt of in-kind support such as: 30,000 bags of rice from China; tents, toilets and kitchen from the AU Commission; and 300 tents, 3,200 military uniforms and medicine from Egypt;
- 8.6.3. acknowledged the role of the South Sudanese citizens, civil society and stakeholders in supporting the JMCC in time of need; and
- 8.6.4. informed members that their major priorities were registration and screening of forces.

Min. 09/09/19: Discussions on statements and reports

- 9. During the deliberations which followed the statements and presentation of the reports:
 - 9.1. members welcomed and took note of the statement of the RJMEC Interim Chairperson, report of the NPTC, briefing from UNMISS and reports from the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms;
 - 9.2. the representative of the *Women Coalition* commended the face-to-face talks between the President and Dr Machar; raised concerns regarding the protection of women and children around cantonment sites; appealed that measures taken to address violation is critical to be included in reports; welcome the appointment of a female Deputy Chairperson of the DDR Commission and noted the absence of women in the rest of the Commission; appealed for facilitation of NCAC representatives to enable them perform their functions;
 - 9.3. a representative of the *Civil Society* expressed sympathy in the tasks being undertaken by security mechanisms and the NPTC for undertaking a national duty under difficult circumstances that require availability of resources; wondered whether the set targets would be met, including the formation of the RTGoNU; expressed concerns regarding the risk of food supplies running out at the cantonment sites; on dissemination, he observed that the content keep changing with implementation and that required frequent updates; and appealed to the Parties to be more focused on confidence-building and reconciliation;
 - 9.4. the representative of the *Business Community* also appreciated the meeting of President Kiir and Machar; noted that the exchange rate influenced the prices in the market; noted that the market was unstable because the Bank of South Sudan was unable to get hard currency from the oil proceeds; dissemination of the R-ARCSS needed to be done better and that the Civil Society should be more involved in the process; acknowledged the work done by the institutions and mechanisms of the Agreement; and appealed for the Chairperson of NPTC to attend the plenary;
 - 9.5. a representative of the *Academia* acknowledged progress as reported in the last two plenaries; cautioned about talking about the two principals only; the security sectors must be assisted now and not tomorrow; appealed to the international community to support the R-ARCSS; observed that dissemination had been going slow and appealed for the use of various media to disseminate the Agreement;
 - 9.6. the representative of the *Women Bloc of South Sudan* appealed for expeditious implementation of critical tasks of the Pre-Transitional Period;

- 9.7. the representative of the *Youth* commended the face-to-face meeting between President Kiir and Dr Machar and noted that he had expected that the meeting could have resolved the outstanding issues; appealed for release of funds for the mechanisms of the R-ARCSS; expressed concerns about the occupation of the new civilian centres by some forces; appealed for enactment of all legal provisions before November 12; noted that civic space still remained a challenge; and reminded Government on its national strategy for silencing the gun in the entire country;
- 9.8. the representative of the *SPLM/A-IO* commended the NCAC on legislative reforms but noted that there was disagreement on the National Security Service Act; questioned the procedure of the DDR reconstitution, including selection criteria which was supposed to have been done by the NPTC and wondered why women representation in the Commission did not adhere to the 35% women presentation. On the violation reported by CTSAMVM, he confirmed it and noted that the organization does not condone such violations; reported that SPLM/A-IO had not occupied any civilian centre; and reiterated the need for open political space in the country;
- 9.9. another representative of the *Civil Society* welcomed the meeting between the President and Dr Machar and noted he had expected a resolution on the number of States; opined that the NPTC members did not speak with one voice and some continued to advanced their various Parties' positions; cautioned against making political decisions on security matters without inputs from technical experts; and appealed for international support to the institutions and mechanisms of the Agreement;
- 9.10. a representative of the *I-TGoNU* clarified that President Kiir and Dr Machar are not the only principals to the R-ARCSS as there are other three signatories; observed that refresher training would be required for the NUF training as they are not recruits; dissemination of the R-ARCSS was a process and that there were some constraints, including restriction of mobility; reported that the members of the TNLA were sent on recess to disseminate the Agreement; noted that the reconstituted DDR Commission is a provisional body; clarified that the 35% women representation is applicable in the Executive of RTGoNU; and that dissemination of the R-ARCSS would require informing the security organs for the purpose of security of the exercise;
- 9.11. a *representative of the SSOA* also commended the face-to-face meeting of the President and Dr Machar; appealed to IGAD to bring the holdout groups to be part of the Agreement; appealed for timely disbursement of funding; and that the NPTC should expedite resolution of the number of States of South Sudan;
- 9.12. the *co-chairperson of the JTSC* questioned the rationale for the NPTC's disbursement of SSP 10 million to the National Police and yet there is no unified police force at the moment. In response, the NPTC noted that there was an error in allocating the said fund to the Police as the money was supposed to have been allocated to the JDB;
- 9.13. the co-chairperson also wanted to know whether it was possible to have a review of the budget for implementation of the Pre-Transitional tasks, particularly should there be a definite number of the forces in cantonment;

- 9.14. the *RJMEC Chairperson* recommended that a communique would be essential to communicate outcomes of meeting between the Parties to the public;
- 9.15. the *Deputy Chairperson for the SDR Board* recommended that IGAD and the RJMEC needed to do more to accelerate the success of the R-ARCSS;
- 9.16. the *co-chairperson of the JTSC* wondered to what extent the SSPDF has been barracked;
- 9.17. all South Sudanese should be able to have a say on the dissemination of the R-ARCSS, including more involvement of the Civil Society outside Juba;
- 9.18. the *Ambassador of the United Kingdom* sought clarification on the status of the Tiger Battalion;
- 9.19. the *Ambassador of Egypt* informed members of the delivery of military uniforms, tents, medical supplies for cantonment, and his country's plan to deliver more in the next coming days, and pledged Egypt's continuous support to the R-ARCSS;
- 9.20. the *deputy chairperson of the NPTC* observed that should there be any errors related to the reconstituted DDR Commission, a Party has the right to bring them to the attention of the RJMEC and NPTC. He also observed that the reconstituted DDR Commission will continue into the Transitional Period;
- 9.21. the *NPTC deputy chairperson* observed that the key determinants for the formation of the RTGoNU include the number of States and unification of forces; and
- 9.22. the member further observed that the outcome of the face-to-face meeting between President Kiir and Dr Machar would have been communicated to the public in a communique.

Min.10/09/19: Date for the next meeting

10. Members proposed 23rd October 2019 as the date for the 10th monthly meeting. This was to be confirmed by the RJMEC Secretariat and communicated to the members.

Min.11/09/19: A.O.B

11. There was no any other business presented for the attention of the members.

Min.12/09/19: Resolution of the meeting

12. The draft resolution was circulated to all members, reviewed and adopted with amendments. Accordingly, the RJMEC Secretariat was tasked to incorporate all the changes and share the final resolution with the members as soon as it was ready.

Min.13/09/19: Chairperson's Closing Remarks

13. In his closing remarks, the RJMEC Chairperson:

- 13.1. underlined the urgency of putting our acts together to complete all critical tasks within the remaining two months; underscored the need for the predictable flow of resources to the security mechanisms so that cantonment training and unification of forces; urged the Parties to resolve the number of states and boundaries in a realistic manner; highlighted the importance of joint dissemination by all stakeholders; emphasized the significance of the face-to-face talk of the political principals in breaking political deadlocks and congratulated all members for the cordial and productive manner in which the discussions were conducted.

Min.14/09/19: Closing Prayers

14. The closing prayers were led by the representatives of the faith-based organization and the representative from the OPP.
 - 14.1. there being no any other business, the 9th RJMEC monthly meeting was adjourned at 16:51 pm.