



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

### **MINUTES OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 AT PALM AFRICA HOTEL, JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN**

The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) was convened in Juba, South Sudan, on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The meeting was chaired by the Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC, Maj. General Charles Tai Gituai (rtd) who called the meeting to order at 11:00 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 RTGoNU
7. Report from NTC
8. Briefing from UNMISS SRSG  
(Media excused)
9. Reports and Plans from Agreement Institutions and Security Mechanisms
  - a. NCAC
  - b. CTSAMVM
  - c. JDB
  - d. SDSR Board
  - e. JTSC
  - f. JMCC
  - g. DDR Commission
10. Discussion on RJMEC Interim Chairperson's Statement, RTGoNU's, NTC's, UNMISS SRSG's briefings and reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms
10. Date for the next meeting
11. A.O.B
12. Resolutions of the meeting
13. Chairperson's closing remarks
11. Closing prayers

In attendance were the representatives of all the Parties, Other South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents, Regional Guarantors, International Partners and Friends of South Sudan in RJMEC. Also, in attendance were the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms, and the RJMEC Secretariat, namely:

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

1. Hon. Dr. Martin Elia Lomuro (RTGoNU)
2. Hon. Amb. Stephen Par Kuol (RTGoNU)
3. Mrs. Sandra Bona Malwal (SPLM/A-IO)
4. Hon. Peter Mabior Riing (SSOA)
5. Mr. Isaiah Hakim Garang (FDs)
6. Hon. Wilson Lodiong Sebit (OPP)

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

1. Mr. Mohamed El-Hassan Abdel Meragan (Faith-based leader)
2. Bishop Enock Stephen Tombe (Faith-based leader)
3. Ms. Rita Lopidia (Women Coalition)
4. Mrs. Mary Akech Bior (Women Bloc)
5. Mr. Akuoch Ajang Nyanhom (CSO Alliance)
6. Mr. Rajab John Mohandis (CSO Forum)
7. Mrs. Yar Manoa Majok (Business Community)
8. Prof. Pauline Riak (Academia)
9. Mr. Malish John Peter (Youth)
10. Ms. Caroline Kibos (Youth)

**For the Regional Guarantors:**

1. Mr. Daniel Samuel (Ethiopia)
2. Mr. Ali Mambo (Kenya)
3. Mr. Mohamed Ali Mohamed (Somalia)
4. Mr. Malinga Julius Amese (Uganda)
5. Mr. Judah Muoh (Nigeria)
6. H.E. Gordon Yekelo (South Africa)
7. H.E. Prof. Joram M. Biswaro (AUMISS)
8. Mr. Elijah Osiro (IGAD Juba Liaison Office)

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

1. H.E. Hua Ning (China)
2. Mr. Paul Bekken (Norway)
3. Mr. Geoffrey Roberts (UK)
4. Mr. William L. Echols (USA)
5. Mr. David Shearer (UNMISS)
6. Mr. Alessandro Rossi (EU)
7. Mr. Micheal L.H. Deelen (IPF)

**For RJMEC Secretariat:**

1. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede, Chief of Staff
2. Ms Esther Kyewalabye, Humanitarian Advisor

**For the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:**

1. Hon. Dr. Richard K. Mulla, Member - NCAC
2. Maj. Gen. Dafallah Hamid Dafaalla, Deputy Chairperson - CTSAMVM
3. Hon. Madam Angelina Teny, Chairperson - SDSR Board
4. Gen. Johnson Juma Okot, Chairperson JDB
5. Lt Gen. Gabriel Duop Lam, Co-Chairperson - JDB
6. Lt. Gen. Julius Tabuley, Co-Chairperson JDB
7. Lt. Gen. Rin Tuony Mabor, Chairperson JTSC
8. Lt. Gen. Wesley Welebe Samson, Co-Chairperson JTSC
9. Lt. Gen Charles Madut Akol, Chairperson - JMCC
10. Lt. Gen. Koang Gatkuoth Kerjok, Co-Chairperson JMCC
11. Hon. Regina Joseph Kaba, Deputy Chairperson - DDR Commission

**Observers:**

1. Mr. Maki Okusa (Japan)
2. H.E Dr. Mohamed M. Kadah (Egypt)
3. H.E Urban Sjostrom (Sweden)
4. H.E. Marc Trouyet (France)
5. H.E. Manuel Muller (Germany)
6. Ms. Joane Holliger (Switzerland)

**Min. 01/14/20: Opening Prayers**

1. The opening prayers were led by the representatives of the faith-based organizations of both the Christian and Islamic faiths.

**Min. 02/14/20: Chairperson's Opening Remarks**

2. The Chairperson welcomed members to the 14<sup>th</sup> RJMEC meeting since the last plenary that took place in January 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

**Min. 03/14/20 Adoption of the Agenda**

3. The draft agenda was adopted without any amendments.

**Min.04/14/20: Adoption of the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

4. Members reviewed and adopted the minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> RJMEC meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 without any amendments.

**Min. 05/14/20: Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson**

5. In his statement to the plenary, the RJMEC Interim Chairperson:

- 5.1 welcomed the members to the plenary and commended the commitment of the Parties and all stakeholders of the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). Despite the challenges faced, the two-year anniversary since the signing of the Agreement on 12 September 2018 was an important milestone to note;
- 5.2 commended the decision by H.E. President Salva Kiir to revert the country to ten states in February 2020, which paved the way for the formation of the Revitalised Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) in February and the establishment of the Council of Ministers on 17 March 2020. He noted that nine out of the ten state governors have been appointed with the SPLM/A-IO position of the Governor of the state of Upper Nile remaining outstanding;
- 5.3 raised concern on the delay in dissolution, expansion and reconstitution of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) as per Article 1.14.2 of the R-ARCSS, despite an appeal by the IGAD Heads of State and Government during their 36<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary meeting held on 14 July 2020 for this to be done by 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020. He informed the plenary that the Former Detainees (FD) are the only Party that have submitted their nominees to the NCAC. He therefore urged that the TNLA be expanded and reconstituted without any further delay;

- 5.4 further raised concern on the unification of forces and their reorganization into the Necessary Unified Forces (NUF) which was behind schedule. He noted that the unification of forces was a Pre- Transitional task which was carried forward into the Transitional Period. Furthermore, he observed that although tens of thousands of troops reported to the cantonment sites and training centres, the conditions in which they existed were austere, with numerous reports of troops leaving them in search of food. He cited his visit to a training centre where he witnessed a morale that was commendable, with evidence of the spirit of unification, comradeship, a sense of *esprit de corps* that should be capitalised upon, and not be left to fade;
- 5.5 recalled the connection between the unification of forces on the one hand and redeployment and graduation plans for the NUF, and preparations for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) for ex-combatants on the other hand. He further noted the lack of progress in the recent months, despite RJMEC continued appeal on the matter. Also, he cited the pending Strategic Defence and Security Review Board's (SDSRB) White Paper on defence policy, which he noted that when complete would help the overall security architecture in South Sudan;
- 5.6 noted with concern the community-based violence that had become the main cause of insecurity in the states. He commended H.E. President Salva Kiir for forming a High-Level Committee to address the issue of community-based violence in Jonglei State and Pibor Administrative Area, under the leadership of H.E. Dr James Wani Igga, Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan, noting that further grassroots dialogue initiatives be developed country-wide at the local level to help identify the drivers of community-based conflicts to inform their resolution and transformation;
- 5.7 offered specific recommendations to the members to consider the following: urging the Parties to urgently resolve the impasse in Upper Nile state and appoint a Governor; prevailing on the Parties to immediately reconstitute the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) and the Council of States; further urging the RTGoNU to expedite and complete the unification of forces, produce the plans for the redeployment of the NUF, conduct comprehensive DDR, and to finalise the SDSR Board's White Paper on defence policy; prevailing upon the non-signatory groups to join the peace process and adhere to the terms of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (2017) and the Rome Declaration and Resolution (2020); encouraging the RTGoNU and state authorities to initiate dialogue at the grassroots level across the country to better understand the drivers of community-based conflict, thereby taking steps to improve humanitarian access and civilian protection; urging the implementation of the Resource, Economic and Financial Management provisions envisaged in Chapter 4, including the Economic and Financial Management Authority, the Anti-Corruption Commission and the National Audit Chamber; supporting efforts to fast track the establishment of the Hybrid Court of South Sudan and engagement with RTGoNU on complementary transitional justice mechanisms, particularly in light of their ability to deal with human rights violations, including women's rights violations; and urging that the RTGoNU embark on all aspects of the crucial constitution-making process without any delay.

**Min. 06/14/20: Report from the RTGoNU**

6. Hon. Dr. Martin Elia Lomuro, Minister for Cabinet Affairs of the RTGoNU, presented the report of the RTGoNU to the Plenary as follows:
  - 6.1 that the establishment of the Executive of the RTGoNU, the Presidency (Article 1.5) commenced with the appointment of the First Vice President on the 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2020, followed by the Three (3) Vice President, two (2) of the ITGoNU and one (1) Vice President of the Former Detainees (FDs) and concluded on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020, with the

appointment of the Vice President of SSOA. The Presidency then commenced its meetings in conformity with sub-article 1.9.6.1 of the Agreement to ensure the spirit of collegial collaboration and decision-making on critical issues of the Agreement. Two (2) Presidential Advisors, prescribed under sub-article 1.6.2.6, and one (1) Presidential Advisor on Security were also appointed through two different decrees in February and March 2020 respectively;

- 6.2 that the Council of Ministers was established as per Article 1.10) of the RTGoNU on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020;
- 6.3 informed members that it was agreed the R-TNLA should be expanded and reconstituted upon establishment of the state Government structures in accordance with the responsibility-sharing ratio provided for in the R-ARCSS. On the Council of States, the Parties to the R-ARCSS had resolved to maintain the fifty (50) members as per the decision of the Presidency of the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020;
- 6.4 representatives of the Parties to the R-ARCSS agreed on the structure of state governments, the identity of the Ministries and their allocation according to the responsibility sharing ratio provided under Article 1.16.1, sub-articles 1.16.1.1 to 1.16.1.4, of the R-ARCSS as follows: six (6) Governors to (CES, EES, Lakes, NBS, Unity and Warrap) of the ITGoNU were appointed by a Presidential Decree No. 51/2020 of the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020, along with two (2) SPLM/A-IO Governors to (WBS and WES). Subsequently, the Governor for Jonglei was also appointed in mid-July by a Presidential Decree No. 57/2020. The Deputy Governors were expected to be appointed in later days. He also informed members that the two principals, H. E. President Salva Kiir and H.E. Dr Riek Machar, First Vice President had been engaging to find an amicable redress to the impasse over the appointment of the Governor of Upper Nile state;
- 6.5 stated further that the Parties to the R-ARCSS agreed on: five (5) Advisors for each state, making a total of 50 Advisors, and that each state shall have the same advisory portfolios; seventeen (17) Ministries per state, making a total of one-hundred seventy (170) Ministries in the ten (10) States; six (6) State Commissions in each state, a total of sixty (60) Commissions in the ten (10) States, and that each state shall have the same Commissions. A Commission shall have a total of five (5) persons; the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and three (3) members.;
- 6.6 reported that it was further that in each state ITGoNU would have 30 Chairpersons (3 per state), 30 Deputies (3 per state) and ten (10) members in the ten (10) states. The SPLM/A-IO should have 20 Chairpersons, 20 Deputies and 50 members in the ten (10) states. SSOA would have 10 Chairpersons, 10 Deputies and 20 members in the ten (10) states of South Sudan and that OPP did not qualify for representation in State Commissions;
- 6.7 reported that the parties agreed on all except eleven (11) Counties; of which five (5) are contested between ITGoNU and SPLM/A-IO (Magwi in EES, Awiel East in NBS, Maban in Upper Nile, Longechuk in Upper Nile and Raja in WBS) while two (2) are disagreed between SPLM/A-IO and SSOA (Pibor in Pibor Administrative Area and Payingiar in Unity. The other two between SPLM/A-IO and OPP (Yirol West in NBS and Robkona in Unity State). And lastly, two (2) other Counties (Nasir in Upper Nile) were contested by ITGoNU, SPLM/A and OPP. The parties had been under the Chairmanship of the First Vice President to resolve the impasse. It was also agreed that where a County Council was established, the Specialized Committees of such Council should be shared and further that the number of County Councilors should be 35;
- 6.8 informed that the Parties agreed that each state assembly should have seventy-one (71) members, making a total of seven-hundred and ten (710) Members of Parliament in the ten (10) states. Twenty (20) out of the seventy-one (71) Members of Parliament in each state

should have constitution responsibility (Speakers, Deputy Speakers, Chairpersons of the Specialized Committees and their Deputies), and that the remaining fifty-one (51) would remain as ordinary members;

- 6.9 reported further that there would be two hundred (200) constitutional post-holders in the ten (10) states and five-hundred ten (510) ordinary Members of Parliament. Parties also agreed on two (2) Chief Whips in each State Parliament, one (1) from the Former ITGoNU and one (1) from the Opposition, and that the Opposition Parties would agree on how to share between themselves;
- 6.10 further reported that the Parties agreed on eight (8) Specialized Committees in each state Parliament, making eighty (80) in the ten (10) states. Each Committee would have a Chairperson, eight (8) per state, and their Deputies, eight (8) per state and make it eighty (80) Chairpersons and eighty (80) Deputy Chairpersons for a total of one-hundred sixty (160) constitutional post-holders in the ten (10) State Assemblies. Further reported that it was agreed that all the positions of the State Assembly would be shared according to the Agreement responsibility-sharing formula;
- 6.11 also reported that the Economic Cluster started to operationalize Chapter 4 of R-ARCSS on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020, and that it had made 21 recommendations on administrative actions (short, medium- and long-term interventions), 16 reform recommendations and 5 recommendations (short, medium- and long-term interventions), on issues of violation of the Financial Management Act, 2019. All of these recommendations were discussed and endorsed by the Council of Ministers during its Extraordinary meeting No. 02/2020 of 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020;
- 6.12 informed members that the Governance Cluster started its work on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020, and had made 17 resolutions, including the review of the R-ARCSS implementation matrix. All the recommendations tabled under the Governance Cluster expected to be submitted to the Council of Ministers for endorsement. In the same spirit the Cluster also endorsed the amended Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, which incorporated the R-ARCSS and awaited ratification by the TNLA; and
- 6.13 highlighted that the Governance Cluster could not review the six (6) Bills related to the Security Sector due to a non-compliance with Cabinet Rules and Procedures. The Bills were thus returned to the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs for appropriate processing before consideration by the Governance Cluster.

#### **Min. 07/14/20: Briefing from UNMISS SRSG**

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

- 7.1 welcomed the newly appointed Interim RJMEC Chairperson and commended his determination to convene the Plenary as a good show of support to peace implementation and further echoed the need to reflect on, and appreciate progress made on the issue of the number of states, appointment of the five Vice Presidents and Cabinet Ministers, since the last RJMEC plenary meeting in January this year as well as the State Governors except in Upper Nile where a stand-off remains;
- 7.2 raised concern of the progress in Security Sector Reform that largely stalled while the Transitional National Legislative Assembly was yet to be reconstituted, and work on the constitution was also behind, and urged the need to resuscitate the momentum which was slowed by the COVID-19 pandemic;

- 7.3 reported on the flooding that had devastated the centre of the country with 625,000 affected along the Nile, particularly in the states of Lakes and Jonglei. Further reported that when the UNMISS DSRSG for Humanitarian Affairs together with the Minister for Humanitarian Affairs visited Duk County (Jonglei) and Panyijiar County (Unity) and assessed the situation, they found that much of the area were completely submerged. However, the UN family and humanitarian partners worked incredibly hard to help people living without shelter, health care, food, water, and sanitation in the middle of the rainy season;
- 7.4 reported on the demise of nine aid workers this year and another 144 that had to be evacuated because of the violence referred to as “intercommunal” conflict, but which seemed to be more complicated. However, he took note that the national political actors happened to be the one fuelling the fighting with evidence of heavy weaponry and advanced military tactics being used – and that it was not simple cattle rustling. Citing Jonglei state, he noted that 600 people were killed in six months, hundreds of women and children kidnapped, and thousands that had fled their homes as they were looted and torched. Nuer, Murle and Dinka communities were all victims. But all were also guilty of carrying out crimes against others;
- 7.5 informed members that UNMISS had been working with the High-level Committee on the situation in Jonglei and Greater Pibor led by VP Wani Igga to chart a peaceful way forward. UNMISS was encouraged by the willingness to mediate because the suffering of every community demonstrated the futility of going back to war and pledged to support an inclusive peace process in Jonglei, with the resources they had by providing peacekeepers to monitor buffer zones, increase capacity of police and help with infrastructure development if that’s what the governors decide was needed;
- 7.6 further raised concerns on the violence in Central Equatoria that also continued to cause huge harm to local communities. Reported that National Salvation Front (NAS) had launched a series of politically motivated attacks and that despite claims that its actions were defensive, it is civilians and humanitarians who are among the casualties of their road ambushes. On the other hand, the response from Government security forces against NAS had further exacerbated the situation which questioned their adherences to CoHA;
- 7.7 underscored the need for unhindered access by the SSPDF due to the change of approach. And the fact that the SSPDF had not shown similar respect on the need for UNMISS to have freedom of movement to protect civilians and building peace as requested by the affected communities who expected UNMISS to send its peacekeepers in to help cool the situation and encourage reconciliation between the groups when the need arises which has forced them to report persistent obstructions to the regional and international partners, including the Security Council of the UN;
- 7.8 further reported that due to the evolving situation, UNMISS was adjusting its operations to better respond to current protection and peace-building needs. A key change was its approach to Protection of Civilians sites that currently hold around 170,000 people. Nevertheless, security assessments indicated that historic external threat no longer existed; and with careful planning with humanitarians and other key stakeholders, it begun to transition the sites that were under UN privileges and immunities, to conventional Internally Displaced Persons camps;
- 7.9 urged the RTGoNU to accelerate efforts to complete the formation of the government, particularly at sub-national level. Echoed that it was at state and county level that the population received public services, where community relations are managed and conflicts are prevented. Further, on the need to reconstitute the TNLA so that necessary laws can be passed; and embark on radical reform of public financial management systems to ensure transparency and accountability; and

7.10 reiterated UNMISS' commitment to supporting the High-level Committee led by VP Wani Igga.

**Min. 08/14/19: Reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms**

**i) National Constitutional Amendment Committee**

8. In his report to the plenary, the Chairperson of the National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC) presented the following:

8.1 welcomed the newly appointed Interim Chairperson of RJMEC;

8.2 that NCAC encountered challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, including the meeting restrictions. He reported that the Committee had adapted to the restrictions posed by the pandemic through holding of hybrid meetings combining physical attendance by some members with online attendance by others.

8.3 thanked the RJMEC and IGAD for availing their facilities for this arrangement;

8.4 reported the demise of its former member, Hon. John Luk Jok, Minister for East Africa Affairs, as a representative of the Former Detainees (FDs);

8.5 further reported that since the last meeting, the Committee drafted the Constitutional Amendment (No.8) Bill 2020 to remedy the changes to Constitutional Amendment (No.6) Act, 2020 so as to fully incorporate the R-ARCSS into the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (as amended) and presented it to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs on 14 September 2020;

8.6 that the Committee finalized the review of the *Public Financial Management and Accountability Act, 2011* and the *Southern Sudan National Audit Chamber Act, 2011*. This process has resulted in the *Public Finance and Management and Accountability Act 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2020* and the *Southern Sudan Audit Chamber Act, 2011 (Amendment) Bill, 2020* which were finalized and adopted ahead of stakeholders' validation;

8.7 that the NCAC was at an advanced stage of reviewing the *Petroleum Act, 2012* and the *Petroleum Revenue Management Act, 2013*. The initial review of the two laws had been carried out as well as engagement with the Ministry of Petroleum and subject matter experts with an objective to build consensus on the scope of amendments to the two laws, identify the gaps in the legislation and to draw relevant knowledge from experts in the sector;

8.8 that preliminary work on the review of *The Bank of South Sudan Act, 2010* was also underway, including literature review and regional and international comparative analysis;

8.9 that he paid courtesy calls on and briefed H.E. Dr. Riek Machar Teny, First Vice President and the Chairperson of the Governance Cluster and H.E Dr. James Wani Igga, Vice President and the Chairperson of the Economic Cluster on the work of the Committee and the progress made;

8.10 reported that the Chairperson briefed the PFM Donor Working Group on the progress in the review of PFM-related legislation and addressed civil society organizations (CSOs) on the work of NCAC on the Constitution and relevant legislation;

8.11 urged the Parties to the Agreement to urgently submit a list of their nominees as per the provision of Chapter 1, Article 1.18.1.4 of the R-ARCSS relating to the appointment of their members to the reconstituted TNLA to enable the Committee to complete its tasks for the Pre-Transitional Period, noting that the Committee had only received and forwarded the complete list of nominees for the FDs;

8.12 further urged ITGoNU, SPLM/A-IO, SSOA and OPP to expeditiously submit their lists of nominees to the TNLA as soon as possible; and

8.13 urged the Parties and stakeholders to continue to support the work of the NCAC.

## **ii) Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Verification Mechanisms**

8.14 In his report to the plenary, the Chairperson of the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Verification Mechanisms (CTSAMVM):

8.14.1 informed members that there have been no significant incidents involving Parties to the RARCSS since the last CTSAMVM report to RJMEC, but expressed concern about incidents involving NAS in Equatoria which have not only led violence and displacement;

8.14.2 reported that CTSAMVM continued to visit and revisit Cantonment sites as often as possible, and further maintained contact with Cantonment site Commanders. He further informed members that Cantonment systems was in danger of collapsing due to the smaller proportion of the necessary logistic support, and as a result large numbers of personnel had left the sites, which meant the combatants were returning to civilian communities;

8.14.3 raised concern that the cantonment commanders had been given no information about the way forward, and that CTSAMVM was not aware of any plans to manage the movement of personnel from cantonment sites to Training Centres when Phase II training would eventually start;

8.14.4 further reported that it was no longer possible for CTSAMVM to estimate the number of personnel remaining in Cantonment sites as the commanders were reluctant to give figures. CTSAMVM observed no additional screening in Cantonment sites, with no DDR process activities taking place;

8.14.5 that CTSAMVM continued to visit all the training centres for the Necessary Unified Forces and observed only report little progress in the last few months. Training centre Commander informed that they had not yet received any concrete instructions about graduation, and trainees still lacked essential equipment such as uniforms and boots;

8.14.6 reported that there had been some limited screening in the Training Centres which resulted in a number of trainees who failed the screening process and were being kept in the Training Centres awaiting DDR. Reported no DDR activity in any of the Training Centres;

8.14.7 further reported that logistic support to Training Centres were inadequate, compelling some trainees to leave the centres daily to find work to pay for food;

8.14.8 reported that training had taken place in most centres, but a standard training syllabus was never been distributed. The only syllabus used had been standard

SPLM/SSPDF training packages where available, and whatever training the instructors had arranged based on their experience;

- 8.14.9 informed members on the improvement in the number of occupied civilian buildings known by CTSAMVM to be occupied by military or security forces on the Parties. Further reported that 14 remained occupied, all occupied by the SSPDF;
- 8.14.10 that CTSAMVM presented two violation reports to the CTC and its Board, which were published on the CTSAMVM website. Of concern was an attack by NAS at Lobonok and SGBV in Mundri. CTSAMVM continued to investigate a number of other violations of the R-ARCSS and would report in due course;
- 8.14.11 informed that NAS had failed to comply with any of the provisions of the Rome Declaration and the Rome Resolution of January and February 2020, and it had not joined the CTSAMVM mechanism as agreed in Rome. Due to this, CTSAMVM has no contact with NAS to be able to investigate incidents and allegations involving NAS in a thorough and impartial manner;
- 8.14.12 reported that despite the challenges poised by the COVID-19 pandemic, CTSAMVM held five CTC meetings (including one extraordinary meeting), four Board meetings and provided a considerable amount of air support to security Mechanisms in order to help with implementation; and
- 8.14.13 reiterated its readiness to continue support the peace process with flexibility, impartiality, independence and neutrality;

### **iii) Joint Defence Board**

8.15 In his report, the Co-Chairperson of the Joint Defence Board (JDB):

- 8.15.1 informed members that overall the security situation in Juba and throughout the country was normal, save for isolated security incidents in Wau between and among the Parties to the R-ARCSS, noting there were mainly local episodes with no significant bearing on the overall functionality of the Agreement and were successfully resolved;
- 8.15.2 reported on the few incidents involving clashes between forces of the Parties to the R-ARCSS and those of NAS mainly in areas of Lo'bonok, Lainya and Yei in Central Equatorial state;
- 8.15.3 informed that JDB through its Secretariat continued to regularly receive updates and coordinate the work of the other Mechanisms. Reported that in June JDB, NTC, SSM of the Guarantor countries, Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, Ministry of Peace Building, JMCC, JTSC, RJMEC and CTSAMVM jointly visited the Training Centres and Cantonment Sites throughout the country, conveying and emphasising messages of peace, and of trust and confidence building amongst the forces;
- 8.15.4 emphasised that the exercise of command and control, the streamlining of activities relating to the TSAs, the enforcement of standards, and overall compliance with rules and regulations could be strengthened if the NTC dealt the subordinate security mechanism through the JDB;

- 8.15.5 updated members and confirmed that a total of 44,513 personnel had successfully been trained in phase I of the Necessary Unified Forces (NUF) and were ready for graduation. The forces were drawn from the Parties as follows: i) Government – 18,702 and ii). Opposition (SPLM/A-IO and SSOA) – 25,811. The personnel are categorised as follows: i). SSPDF/ Military – 15,281 ii). VIP Protection Force – 3,120 iii). National Security (Police, Civil Defence, Wildlife Service, Prisons Service) – 19,060. In terms of Staff and Support Personnel at the Training Centres i). Instructors – 2,357 ii). Protection Force – 775. The overall parade at Training Centres was 47,698. JDB was consulting with NPT regarding the graduation date;
- 8.15.6 reported that the Board experienced some challenges such as insufficient food and medicine, lack of uniforms for the organised force, transportation, presence of non-combatant within Cantonment Sites and Training Centres, accommodation of members of the opposition, insufficient and irregular funding, natural disaster, violation of the CoHA, delay in the unification of the command, attacks and clashes involving a non-signatory group, and shifts and change in allegiance by some officers among the Parties;
- 8.15.7 urged NTC to urgently expedite the release of the remaining funds to help mitigate further delay in the implementation of the TSAs, and that the former should revise its financial management strategy, ensuring that the TSAs process receives befitting attention and funding during Phase II;
- 8.15.8 underscored the need to smoothen the implementation of the TSAs, recommending that the JTSC and JMCC must report through the JDB regularly;
- 8.15.9 reiterated the need for trust and confidence-building among the Parties be strengthened to mitigate discontent and inter-party shift in allegiance; and
- 8.15.10 urged the principals of the Parties to the R-ARCSS to speed up the unification of Command to allow for the graduation of the NUFs.

#### **iv) Strategic Defence and Security Review Board**

- 8.16 In her report, the Chairperson of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) Board:
- 8.16.1 reported that the SDSR Board had accomplished drafting of the Strategic Security Assessment (SSA) documents as well as review of the security sector policy documents;
- 8.16.2 informed members that SDSR Board was planning a Strategic Development Workshop to address the national security threats caused by the illicit arms in the hands of communities and civilians to help establish agreeable models for civilian disarmament;
- 8.16.3 that the Board was also planning a workshop on the finalization of the SSA document and a workshop to incorporate SSA findings into Defence White Paper as well as developing fresh policies for other security sector agencies; and
- 8.16.4 reported that the Board was considering to conduct a research and knowledge exchange for the SDSR Board team exposure to regional and international security models.

#### **v) Joint Transitional Security Committee**

8.17 In his report to the plenary, the Chairperson of the Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC):

- 8.17.1 informed the members that the JTSC had prepared five Training Centers in (Rajaf, Lologo, Rambur, Garam and Muni) all in Equatoria and were ready for graduation of the Necessary Unified Forces. However, JTSC awaited graduation and redeployment plan from the JDB;
- 8.17.2 informed members that JTSC had received SSP 116 million from the NTC as part of graduation fund. The remaining SSP 316 million was not yet disbursed;
- 8.17.3 further informed members that JTSC had received uniforms for the army, NSS and VIP Protection except for the organized forces which are yet to be received;
- 8.17.4 reported that the Training Centres were facing serious logistical constraints which would cause desertion by both instructors and NUFs unless resources were available;
- 8.17.5 appealed to the RTGoNU through the NTC and as a matter of urgency to avail more and adequate resources for completing the JTSC pending tasks;
- 8.17.6 urged the Joint Defence Board to push for a timely unification and redeployment of forces before the graduation of the NUFs;
- 8.17.7 underscored the need for the JDB to speed up the redeployment plan for and the graduation timetable for the NUFs; and
- 8.17.8 appealed to the RTGoNU, Regional Guarantors, International Partners and Friends of South Sudan to consider supporting the Transitional Security Arrangements.

**vi) Joint Military Ceasefire Commission**

8.18 In his report, the Chairperson of the Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC):

- 8.18.1 reported that immediately after the conclusion of transportation of registered forces to the Training Centres, the work of the JMCC relaxed due to the following challenges:
  - 8.18.1.1 inadequate funding to support the transportation of the Senior officers to their designated locations as proposed; i) All senior officers from Bhar el Ghazal region were proposed to be accommodated in Aweil ii). All Senior officers from Equatoria region were proposed to be accommodated in Terekeka county in Central Equatoria state iii). All Senior officers from Upper Nile region were proposed to be accommodated in Malakal area;
  - 8.18.1.2 an inadequate supply of food and basic items to the remaining forces in the Cantonment Sites due to inadequate funding to purchase and facilitate transportation of supplies to the sites;
- 8.19 reported that the JMCC had a plan of action to execute immediately the remaining activities once funds are available by NTC; and
- 8.20 That JMCC planned to set the coordination criteria with DDR Commission to enable a convenient implementation of phase II activities.

### **viii) Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission**

8.21 The Deputy Chairperson of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Commission presented the Commission's report as follows:

- 8.21.1 that the Commission undertook a review and updated its documents which included: revised policy paper, strategy and programs, public information and strategic communications, and Reintegration framework, Reinsertion Framework and Standard Operative Procedures for Headquarters. Reported that UNDP supported the Commission with a DDR Advisor who assisted in reviewing the documents and other related work. All documents were reported to be complete and ready for submission to the NTC/RTGoNU for approval;
- 8.21.2 informed members that the Commission planned to construct ten (10) transition facilities, including foods, shelter, medical and transit facilities. The transit facilities would be constructed to ensure an adequate capacity for at least 1,000 ex-combatants and they would be converted into useful training or community centre after the DDR programme phase-out;
- 8.21.3 further reported that the ex-combatants would stay in these facilities for a period of six months to attend different programs (e.g. psychosocial, peace building, conflict mitigation, nation building, human rights, as well as economic aspects such as skills training) to transit them gradually to civilian lives;
- 8.21.4 highlighted that the Commission developed a comprehensive budget for the overall DDR activities and submitted it to the NTC, and that the Commission was further requested to develop a minimum budget to kickstart its process;
- 8.21.5 underscored the lack of coordination with the barracks in raising awareness of the forces on DDR objectives and to receive the list of DDR candidates from them;
- 8.21.6 appealed to NTC to release food, and shelter for the targeted DDR candidates in their temporary Assembly Areas in Rajaf and Masnabira and later to the transit facilities;
- 8.21.7 appealed further to the NTC to provide funds for the construction of transit facilities to prepare DDR to receive its candidates before the arrival of the second batch of forces to the Training Centres;
- 8.21.8 urged all security mechanisms to coordinate and support Commission in all its activities; and
- 8.21.9 further appealed to partners to support the Commission's activities.

### **Min. 09/14/19: Discussions on Statements and Reports**

9. During the discussions, the members:

- 9.1. congratulated H.E. Maj. Gen. (rtd) Charles Tai Gituai, upon his appointment as the Interim Chairperson of RJMEC, welcomed him officially and wished him well in his new responsibility of leading the Commission;
- 9.2. welcomed the statement of the RJMEC Interim Chairperson, the UNMISS SRSG, RTGoNU and reports from the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms;

- 9.3. the Civil Society representative commended RTGoNU for the progress so far registered in the implementation of the R-ARCSS and called upon the Parties to not only concentrate on power-sharing in R-ARCSS but to also pay attention to the rest of the provisions of the Agreement;
- 9.4. called on the RTGoNU to consider the interests of the vulnerable people (e.g. street kids) and look into ways of improving the welfare of women to improve livelihoods;
- 9.5. expressed concern about the increasing rate in early girl child marriages and pregnancies which were associated to the closure of schools as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and called on the leadership's attention to resolve the problem;
- 9.6. noted that the opening statement of the RJMEC Chairperson missed reference to the 35% representation of women at all levels in appointments as required by the R-ARCSS, and called on the Parties to undertake this as their obligation and not wait to be reminded all the time;
- 9.7. called on RTGoNU to ensure freedom of speech for Civil Society members as they are key stakeholders in the peace process;
- 9.8. further noted that **the** confrontation between the government forces and the holdout groups cause inconvenience to the civil population in the affected areas and called for immediate intervention to address the matter;
- 9.9. requested CTSAMVM to clarify why SSOMA had not yet been represented in the CTSAMVM structures as expected;
- 9.10. expressed that defections and shifting of allegiance should not be acceptable; sighting the Kajokeji crisis, which had caused fear among the people and some even crossed back to seek refuge in Uganda, adding that such actions undermine the CoHA and the Permanent Ceasefire;
- 9.11. expressed concern on the conflicting figures registered by JMCC and JDB, particularly on the number of forces that have moved to Training Centers and sought clarification from the two institutions;
- 9.12. voiced concerns from the civil population who claim that the R-ARCSS has been confined to Juba which causes uncertainty among the population; called for clear communication to the population to give hope and confidence to the masses that the Agreement is for the whole country; and further called for continued joint visits to all areas to build confidence and give hope to the grassroot people as some Governors had started doing in Central and West Equatoria states;
- 9.13. the SDSR Chairperson: (a) requested the SRSG to clarify measures that were put in place to ensure security of those in PoCs after withdrawal of the UNMISS security forces; (b) called for intervention for flood affected communities; (c) called on the Plenary to come up with a strong resolution on military defections and commended the JDB for the actions it had taken so far, and appealed to the political leadership to address the matter since it has a political connotation; (d) called upon the RTGoNU to focus on passing of security sector laws as a fundamental aspect in the process; (e) appealed to the international community to intervene on the funding challenge to ensure smooth implementation of the Agreement to supplement the efforts of the RTGoNU on what it injects in implementation especially for the TSAs; and, (f) called on the Parties, stakeholders and all members to put more efforts in the implementation process.

- 9.14. In response to the above reactions, RTGoNU representative: (a) informed members that reorganizing the forces is not an easy process and called upon them to appreciate the work done so far in this direction that they were close to gradually form a unified force; (b) noted that defections were fueled by lack of trust and confidence within the Parties and that it was a better option to defect to another Party compared to defecting into the bush, and that the matter could be managed internally; (c) called on Civil Society members to take responsibility of encouraging women to be creative and productive other than blame the RTGoNU all the time for not funding women or giving youths jobs; (d) on the 35%, the RTGoNU representative sighted a challenge of contradiction in the Agreement itself (Article 1.4.4 contradicts Article 1.12.2) regarding the 35% women representation; and (e) stated that NAS forces were attacking the SSPDF and SPLA-IO positions forcing them to react in self defence. He further expressed concern that despite the continuous violation of the CoHA and the Rome Declaration, NAS leadership was not sanctioned but instead those working are the ones who get sanctioned.
- 9.15. The RJMEC Chairperson clarified further on the issue of NAS and informed members that the RJMEC Secretariat had written to IGAD to address the issue of NAS, adding that the forthcoming meeting convened by the Community of Sant'Egidio was set to address the same matter.
- 9.16. The CDF in his response: (a) remarked that changing allegiance is in the Parties and not in the army though it impacts on the army as well, adding that the issue of defections was not addressed in the R-ARCSS and it would be difficult for the JDB to address as it was frequent; (b) noted that the JDB was still facing a challenge of funding though they were working very hard to perform their tasks; (c) expressed regret on the Kajo-Keji incident, noting that they tried their best to avoid it and that they were preparing to send security departments to collect enough data from the area to enable them do better judgment and analysis of the incident; and (d) informed the members that the SSPDF was committed to enforcing discipline in the armed forces and added that they were considering to retire all soldiers who would be found not be fit to continue in the army.
- 9.17. During his intervention, the youth representative: (a) noted that no clear budget had been passed or presented to the cabinet and called on the RTGoNU to do so; (b) called for the speedy formation of the TNLA as there would be no one to pass the budgets as the legality of the current Parliament is questionable; (c) on the R-ARCSS implementation matrix presented, he noted that it looked good but was behind schedule, especially the first two years after the signing of the R-ARCSS, and called on the Parties to look into ways of expediting the implementation; and (d) commended the RTGoNU for the progress so far registered in the implementation of the R-ARCSS and called for more efforts.
- 9.18. The AU representative: (a) endorsed all reports presented and their recommendations; (b) reassured the members that the AU will live to the expectations of Chapter V of the R-ARCSS; (c) commended the Parties for the progress made so far, noting the need to add in more efforts and called on all Agreement Institutions to do whatever is possible even without adequate funding; (d) reported that the AUPSC meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 had been categorical on the matter of the holdout groups; and (e) welcomed the Rome Declaration.
- 9.19. During his submission, the SPLM/A – IO representative: (a) called for international partners' full support to the implementation of the R-ARCSS; (b) informed the members that the NTC was going to submit detailed reports with work plan and budgets; (c) noted that those shifting allegiances were criminals and should not be supported at all, adding such people committed criminal acts against civilians, and thus strongly condemned the act and appealed that they should be discouraged; (d) condemned attacks on the Training

Centres and called on RJMEC to challenge such Parties; (e) reported that the Ministry for Peacebuilding lacked the structural requirements and funding to do its work.

9.20. The representative of the European Union noted that the situation in South Sudan was still very volatile, and parties should show that they do not consider military action any more by implementing the security arrangements, starting by delivering the locations of all the troops and the weapons as requested by the Peace Agreement. He congratulated RTGoNU for progress made so far in resuming the Cabinet meetings, but recognising that it is insufficient and called on it to ensure all resolutions made are published on their website rather than being delivered on televised addresses.

9.21. The representative of the Troika: (a) called for resumption of regular RJMEC meetings; (b) recognized the progress made so far since the last RJMEC meeting, including the formation of RTGoNU, allocation of States, among others; (c) expressed concern about the reconstitution of the State Assemblies; (d) urged for the submission of full names of the members of TNLA to the NCAC; (e) appealed for expeditious appointment of the Governor for Upper Nile State; (f) appreciated the reconstitution of the RJMEC Working Committees and looked forward to their full functioning.

#### **Min. 10/14/20: Date for the Next Meeting**

10. Members proposed 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 as the date for the 15<sup>th</sup> RJMEC meeting. This was to be confirmed by the RJMEC Secretariat and communicated to the members.

#### **Min. 11/14/20: A.O.B**

11. There was no A.O. B recorded and registered.

#### **Min.12/14/20: Resolution of the meeting**

12. The draft resolution of the 14<sup>th</sup> RJMEC monthly meeting was circulated among all members and discussed. Members provided feedback for amendments and the RJMEC Secretariat was tasked to incorporate all the changes then share the final resolution with all the members.

#### **Min.13/14/20: Chairman's Closing Remarks**

13. In his closing remarks, the RJMEC Chairperson: a) thanked the distinguished members of the RJMEC for their valuable contributions to the debate, recognized the modest progress made so far and expressed concern about the multifaceted challenges affecting the implementation of the agreement; b) called on the Parties in RTGoNU to show the necessary paradigm shift in the way they manage government to effectively address all challenges and ensure full implementation of the R-ARCSS; c) further called on the Parties to assume the lead role in the implementation of the R-ARCSS, and underlined the importance of the contributions of the Regional Guarantors and International Community in helping South Sudanese to cope up with the challenges of capacity building in the various phases of the implementation of the R-ARCSS as well as in addressing the multifaceted humanitarian challenges.

#### **Min.14/14/20: Closing Prayers**

14. The closing prayers were led by the representatives of the faith-based organizations of both the Christian and Islamic faiths.

14.1. There being no any other business, the 14<sup>th</sup> RJMEC monthly meeting was adjourned at 4:39 pm.