



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

### **MINUTES OF THE 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 AT PALM AFRICA HOTEL, JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN**

The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) was convened in Juba, South Sudan on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The meeting was chaired by H.E Maj. General (rtd) Charles Tai Gituai, Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC who called it 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. Michael Makuei Lueth (LTGoNU)
3. Hon. Jemma Nunu Kumba (LTGoNU)
4. Hon. Gatwech Lam Puoch (SPLM/A-IO)
5. Hon. Amb. Stephen Par Kuol (RTGoNU)
6. Hon. Peter Mabior Riing (SSOA)
7. Mr. Isaiah Hakim Garang (FDs)
8. 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 (rtd) Enock Tombe Stephen (Faith-based leader)
3. Ms. Jackline Nasiwa (Women Coalition)
4. Mrs. Mary Akech Bior (Women Bloc)
5. Mr. Akuoch Ajang Nyanhom (CSO Alliance)
6. Mr. Rajab John Mohandis (CSO Forum)
7. Prof. Pauline Riak (Academia)
8. Prof. Francis Deng (Eminent Persons)
9. Ms. Caroline Kibos (Youth)

**For the Regional Guarantors:**

1. Mr. Daniel Samuel (Ethiopia)
2. Mr. Ali Mambo (Kenya)
3. Mr. Gamal M. A. Goraish (Sudan)
4. Mr. Shafie N. Farah (Somalia)
5. Mr. Kabugudho (Uganda)
6. Mr. Judah Muoh (Nigeria)
7. Mr. Machiel Van Nieverk (South Africa)
8. H.E. Prof. Joram M. Biswaro (AUMISS)
9. Mr. Elijah Osiro (IGAD Juba Liaison Office)

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

1. H.E. Hua Ning (China)
2. Amb. Siv Kaspersen (Norway)
3. Mr. Jon F. Danilowicz (USA)
4. Amb. Chris Trott (UK)
5. Mr. Guang Cong (UNMISS)
6. Amb. Christian Bader (EU)
7. Mr. Micheal L.H. Deelen (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 Legal and Constitutional Affairs - RJMEC

**For the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:**

1. Hon. Godfrey Gichira Kibara, Chairperson NCAC
2. Mr. John Scudder, Chief of Staff CTSAMVM
3. Gen. J.J. Okot, Chairperson JDB
4. Lt. Gen. Gabriel Duop Lam, Co-Chairperson JDB
5. Lt. Gen. Julius Tabuley, Co-Chairperson JDB
6. Dr. Olaw Adiang Nyijok, Head of Secretariat JTSC
7. Lt. Gen. Charles Madut Akol, Chairperson JMCC
8. Hon. Madam Angelina Teny, Chairperson SDSR Board
9. Lt. Gen. Ayuen Alier Jongroor, Chairperson DDR Commission

**Observers:**

1. Ms. Haruna Maki (Japan)
2. Mr. Mohamed Elbadry (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. 01/15/20: Opening Prayers**

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

**Min. 02/15/20: Chairperson's Opening Remarks**

2. The Chairperson welcomed the RJMEC members to the 15<sup>th</sup> RJMEC meeting.

**Min. 03/15/20 Adoption of the Agenda**

3. The draft agenda was adopted without any amendments.

**Min.04/15/20: Adoption of the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

4. Members reviewed and adopted the minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> RJMEC meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 without any amendments.

**Min. 05/15/20: Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson**

5. In his statement to the plenary, the RJMEC Interim Chairperson:
  - 5.1 welcomed members to the 15<sup>th</sup> RJMEC meeting and informed them about his engagements since the last meeting which included consultations with the Parties to the Agreement, IGAD Regional Guarantors and the International Community, the IGAD Chairperson to discuss the implementation of the R-ARCSS; and H.E. Abdalla Hamdok, Prime Minister of the Republic of Sudan and Chairperson of the Assembly of the IGAD Heads of State and Government, with whom they discussed recent developments and challenges to the implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement. From the engagements, he further informed members that it was clear that overall, a lot of work remained to be done;

- 5.2 took note of the progress made on governance, particularly on the efforts by the interparty 'High-Level Committee for the Establishment of State and Local Government Structures and Responsibility Sharing' in negotiating various positions at the sub-national level, urged the Parties to fill all the various positions that were agreed upon and resolve the outstanding ones such as

the appointment of the Governor of the Upper Nile state, expansion and reconstitution of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) and reconstitution of the Council of States;

- 5.3 urged the Parties to observe the 35% level of women's representation throughout the establishment and reconstitution of government structures;
- 5.4 reiterated the need for the unification of forces and their reorganisation into the Necessary Unified Forces (NUF), a Pre-Transitional task carried forward to the Transitional Period, noting it was behind schedule. Further noted that there was a pending key question on command structures and ranks, and looked forward to receiving the JDB report;
- 5.5 took note of the workshop for the SSPDF Training of Trainers (ToT) on conflict related sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) conducted in October as part of the SSPDF Action Plan on "Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence." He then urged the JDB to follow the matter and report on its progress in the next monthly meeting;
- 5.6 informed members that the CTSAMVM Technical Workshop with the holdout groups was held from 9 - 13 November in Rome, Italy with the aim of implementing the Rome Resolution for the inclusion of South Sudan Opposition Movement Alliance (SSOMA) into the CTSAMVM structures;
- 5.7 welcomed the technical support and assistance that was being provided by UNDP and UNMISS to the DDR Commission while noting that the DDR process should go hand in hand with the unification process;
- 5.8 expressed concern that community-based violence had continued since the last meeting, notably in Jonglei and Warrap states. He then urged the government and other stakeholders to continue their efforts and use dialogue to address the sub-national conflicts;
- 5.9 reiterated that since defections or accepting defections are contrary to the letter and spirit of the R-ARCSS, such actions undermine trust and confidence in the peace process. He then called on the parties to take the issue with the seriousness it deserves;
- 5.10 urged for humanitarian support, expressed appreciation for assistance already provided to the people in need and condemned the continuous humanitarian access impediments such as administrative bureaucracies; and highlighted the impact of community-based and sub-national violence, as well as the hazards of floods;
- 5.11 informed members that the RJMEC Secretariat held some consultations with the RTGoNU Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs on implementation of Chapter V, noting that the Minister was seized of the matter. He urged the RTGoNU to initiate public consultations on the establishment of the Commission on Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH) (as per Article 5.2.1.3 of the R-ARCSS) in collaboration with other stakeholders and civil society;
- 5.12 informed members of the RJMEC Secretariat's ongoing preparation to convene a workshop of the Parties on the Permanent Constitution-making process, noting that the workshop was tentatively scheduled for the end of January 2021;

- 5.13 reported that the RJMEC Working Committees had been reconstituted and some begun their work. He called upon all the members to take the work of the Committees very seriously and actively participate in them to enable RJMEC to deliver on its mandate; and
- 5.14 made the following recommendations: i) urged the concerned Parties to urgently resolve the impasse in Upper Nile state and appoint a Governor; ii) called on Parties to expedite the submission of their nominations to the NCAC in order to facilitate the long overdue expansion and reconstitution of the TNLA and the reconstitution of the Council of States; iii) urged the RTGoNU to adequately fund the Transitional Security Arrangements, and to expedite and complete the unification of forces, produce the plans for the redeployment of the NUF, and ensure well-coordinated DDR programmes; iv) encouraged the organised forces to deliver further trainings and sensitisation to address SGBV in all its forms; v) further urged the RTGoNU to establish the Economic and Financial Management Authority and implement the rest of the Resource, Economic and Financial Management provisions envisaged in Chapter IV of the R-ARCSS; vi) urged the RTGoNU to fast track the establishment of the CTRH and to cooperate with the African Union Commission (AUC) to establish the Hybrid Court for South Sudan.

**Min. 06/15/20: Report from the RTGoNU**

6. Hon. Dr. Martin Elia Lomuro, RTGoNU Minister for Cabinet Affairs presented the report of the RTGoNU to the Plenary as follows:
- 6.1 that the establishment of the State and Local Governments (Article 1.16 of the R-ARCSS) was in progress and that the Parties had largely accomplished allocations of portfolios between themselves in accordance with the responsibility sharing ratios provided for in article 1.16.1, sub-articles 1.16.1.1 to 1.16.1.4 of the R-ARCSS. He further reported that there were some internal challenges on allocation of responsibilities, which were associated with some parties but noted that internal negotiations were ongoing, and he expected the issues would be resolved peacefully;
- 6.2 that as previously reported, the two principals, H. E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit and H.E. Dr Riek Machar, First Vice President continued to engage on the appointment of the SPLM/AIO's nominee for the governorship of Upper Nile state. However, he shared concerns that the nominee had not reported to Juba since the signing of the R-ARCSS and that his absence was not helping the two principals reach an amicable solution;
- 6.3 further reported that the Parties were resolving minor internal differences as well as working on the list of their respective nominees for the positions of State Advisors, State Ministers, State Commissions and of the Counties (Local Governments) and State Legislative Assemblies;
- 6.4 informed the members that as previously reported, the TNLA would be expanded and reconstituted upon the establishment of the State government structures. Further, that the Parties were actively having consultations on nominations;
- 6.5 underscored that the Governance Cluster had reviewed and approved the long awaited six (6) Security Sector Bills, which were now ready for ratification by the TNLA. He further reported that the Cluster had made several recommendations on the implementation of Chapters V and VI of the R-ARCSS in relation to Transitional Justice, Accountability, Reconciliation and Healing such as on the formation of a Technical Committee within the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to draft the requisite laws; the establishment of South Sudan Human Rights Council; the Judicial Review Commission; and for the Governance Cluster to convert

itself into a High-Level Committee to follow up, monitor and enforce the schedule to implement the provisions of the two Chapters;

- 6.6 reported that the Economic Crisis Management Committee (ECMC), which is under the Economic Cluster, continued to operationalize Chapter IV of the R-ARCSS. Also, that on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the Cluster submitted twenty-nine (29) recommendations designed to address findings of governance weaknesses affecting the effective functioning of various government institutions for consideration by the Council of Ministers;
- 6.7 informed members that during its meeting No. 04/2020, the RTGoNU Council of Ministers decided to strategize on how to combat the main drivers of South Sudan currency depreciation and inflation, and took five (5) important resolutions namely: measures to reform and strengthen the Ministry of Finance and Planning (short -term) ~ Resolution 30/2020 containing seven (7) action points and medium-term measures ~ Resolution 31/2020, with seven (7) actions points to be taken. Measures (short, medium and long-term) to reform and capacitate the Bank of South Sudan comprising of Resolutions 32/2020 with six (6), Resolution 33/2020 with seven (7); and 34/2020 with eight (8) action plans respectively;
- 6.8 stated further that the Council in addition, resolved on “Miscellaneous Measures” under Resolution 35/2020, with seven (7) action points to be undertaken by various government agencies/institutions and partners; and
- 6.9 lastly reported that the Council resolved on measures for the diversification of the economy, the indigenization of the economy, expeditious operationalization of the oil refineries, the establishment of commercial courts and the review of the investment law in South Sudan.

**Min. 07/15/20: Briefing from UNMISS SRSG**

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

- 7.1. commended Parties for having agreed on most state and local government structures and appointments. However, encouraged them on adherence to the 35% affirmative action, as prescribed by the R-ARCSS in finalizing the remaining government positions. Further he commended the Parties for their commitment to the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, as no major clashes between the signatories had been reported recently;
- 7.2. took note of the negotiations progress in Rome to incorporate holdout groups into ceasefire agreements and monitoring and verification mechanisms. Further, encouraged the Parties to make every effort to uphold their commitments going forward to sustain the crucial gains made thus far;
- 7.1 applauded the commencement and progress made by the SDSR Board on Phase 1 of the SDSR process, to finalise the Strategic Security Assessment Document;
- 7.2 underscored that the National Dialogue Conference marked a seminal opportunity to elevate grassroots voices as it allowed South Sudanese from all walks of life to deliberate on their hopes, fears, and vision for their country. Urged the RTGoNU to ensure that the outcomes of these discussions feed into the Permanent Constitution-making process and existing mechanisms of the R-ARCSS;
- 7.3 informed the members on UNMISS plan to host a grassroots peace forum on enhancing social and political cohesion at the national and sub-national levels for 40 participants from

different states – including traditional leaders and women representatives – to join their Juba-based counterparts in these discussions;

- 7.4 further informed members on a joint delegation visit by the SRSG to Wau, and led by the Governor Sarah Cleto Rial, comprised of SSPDF, SSNPS and SPLA-IO commanders. The delegation called for the accelerated implementation of the Transitional Security Arrangements. This will assist UNMISS progressive transitioning of Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites into civilian displacement camps under the responsibility of the RTGoNU;
- 7.5 reported to the members that UNMISS had already re-designated the Bor, Wau and Juba PoC sites as IDP camps with the support of national and local authorities, security forces, humanitarians, and the IDP and host communities with uninterrupted humanitarian services. UN police officers continue to provide comprehensive support to their national security counterparts, co-locating with them where needed, rehabilitating or establishing police posts to enhance protection of civilians, and providing training to increase the capacity for community policing;
- 7.6 reported that close to 6.5 million people were projected to face severe or acute food insecurity in the months ahead due to extensive flooding. And that it was estimated that 856,000 people have been affected by the torrential rains since July, with close to 400,000 people displaced;
- 7.7 expressed that the intercommunal and sub-national conflict and insecurity in several states continued to have a severe impact on civilians as well as humanitarian partners coming to their aid, with repeated and egregious acts of violence against humanitarian workers and assets;
- 7.8 reported that in October, a humanitarian boat-convoy transporting food to people affected by floods was ambushed by armed actors in Lakes. One cargo vessel was sunk, three humanitarians suffered gunshot wounds, and one was still missing, presumably deceased;
- 7.9 informed that in Renk, local youth demanded that humanitarian organisations dismiss South Sudanese staff who come from other states and re-assign their jobs to local people instead. As a result, many humanitarian operations ceased and those in need of assistance, particularly women and children, were at high risk of malnutrition and maladies. Similar demands from the youth were reported in Bentiu, Maban, Torit and Yambio;
- 7.10 underscored the observed significant delays in implementing Pre-Transitional tasks that will affect the remaining deadlines, including drafting of a Permanent Constitution from which to launch future elections. Further urged the Parties to the R-ARCSS to refrain from encouraging defections as this practice seriously undermines the essence of unity and trust in the peace process;
- 7.11 urged the Parties to the R-ARCSS to take concrete steps in finalising all state and county-level appointments, specially that for the Upper Nile governorship; reconstituting the TNL; implementing outstanding TSA, including graduating the NUF, and establishing clear command and control structures; and
- 7.12 reiterated the UN commitment and full support in helping South Sudan achieve the outcome which will enable South Sudanese to finally enjoy the peaceful and prosperous future deserved.

**Min. 08/15/20: 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:
  - 8.0.1. reported that the Committee encountered challenges posed worldwide by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, including meeting restrictions and adapted through holding of hybrid meetings combining physical attendance by some members with online attendance by other members of the Committee. However, the Committee resumed physical meetings in November 2020;
  - 8.0.2. further reported to members that the Committee finalized the review of the *Public Financial Management and Accountability Act, 2011* and the *Southern Sudan National Audit Chamber Act, 2011*. The process 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 are finalized and adopted ahead of a stakeholders' validation meeting scheduled for 30 November and 1 December 2020. The Committee also held a consultation meeting with the National Audit Chamber on 13 November to discuss the draft Bill. Further stated that the recommendations arising from the validation meeting would be considered by the NCAC and relevant recommendations incorporated. The two Bills would then be handed over to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs in early December 2020;
  - 8.0.3. informed members that the Committee was at an advanced stage of reviewing the *Petroleum Act, 2012* and the *Petroleum Revenue Management Act, 2013*. The initial reviews of the two laws were carried out, with a follow up engagement with the Ministry of Petroleum and subject matter experts. Furthermore, second marked-up versions of the two laws had since been developed;
  - 8.0.4. expressed that following the holding of an experts meeting on Petroleum Laws in the Republic of South Sudan on Thursday 13 August 2020, the Committee requested for submissions in the review process from the relevant actors and stakeholders. However, the Committee had only received submissions from the National Petroleum and Gas Commission and was in the process of reviewing the same. He urged the Parties and other stakeholders to urgently submit theirs for consideration in the review process. This process would be followed by the drafting of the amendment Bills and stakeholder validation of the same;
  - 8.0.5. informed members that preliminary work on the review of *The Bank of South Sudan Act, 2010* was also underway, including literature review, consultations and regional and international comparative analysis;
  - 8.0.6. underscored that the Committee is mandated to receive a list of nominees of respective parties as provided in Chapter I, Article 1.18.1.4 of the R-ARCSS relating to the appointment of members of the reconstituted TNLA. However, the Pre -Transitional Period task remained outstanding as the Committee had only received and forwarded the complete list of nominees for the FDs. Further urged ITGoNU, SPLM/A-IO, SSOA and OPP to submit their lists of nominees to the TNLA as soon as possible to enable the reconstitution of the TNLA, which is critical to the implementation of the R-ARCSS;
  - 8.0.7. reiterated the challenges facing the Committee's effectiveness in performing their mandate, including inadequacy and untimely support to its members. This is especially



with regard to the facilitation of the Committee members who were previously based outside the country. He urged the NTC to urgently release the requested budget to NCAC to enable it to effectively carry out its mandate; and

8.0.8. urged all the Parties and stakeholders to continue supporting the work of the NCAC.

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

8.1. In his report to the plenary, the Chief of Staff of CTSAMVM:

8.1.1 informed members that South Sudan was peaceful with no verified clashes between the signatories to the ceasefire since the last RJMEC meeting, and that it continued to actively monitor the Permanent Ceasefire, and report on breaches to and implementation of the TSA;

8.1.2 highlighted that despite the general prevalence of peace in the country, there were violent clashes in the general areas of Moroto on 27 and 29 September and on 4 October between SPLA-IO and forces loyal to Maj. Gen. Moses Lokujo. Expressed concern over continued tensions in the Moroto area because of the presence of Maj. Gen. Moses Lokujo and his forces;

8.1.3 informed members that there was a clash between SSPDF forces and NAS on 10 November 2020 near Lobonok, and that both NAS and the SSPDF made contradictory statements about responsibility for the incident;

8.1.4 informed members that CTSAMVM recommendations could be found in the outcomes of the CTSAMVM Technical Committee (CTC) meetings held in Juba on 19 October and 19 November 2020 and discussed at the CTSAMVM Board meetings on 21 October and 24 November 2020 respectively;

8.1.5 reported that the situation in Cantonment Sites remained dire and the cantonment system was in danger of collapse. In most cases, Cantonment Sites had received only a small proportion of the necessary logistic support, and as a result large numbers of personnel had left the Sites. This meant that combatants were returning to the civilian communities;

8.1.6 reported very little progress on the training in the past few months, with most Training Centre commanders not having received any concrete instructions about graduation and the trainees lacked essential equipment such as uniforms and boots. Because logistics support to Training Centres were inadequate, some trainees were forced to leave the Centres daily to find work to pay for food. Nonetheless, CTSAMVM was aware that deliveries of food and uniforms had been made to warehouses in Juba and was working with JTSC to verify the situation;

8.1.7 reported the screening for candidates for DDR conducted at Muom Training Centre and at Dulu Cantonment Site;

8.1.8 verified an increase in the number of occupied buildings with SSPDF occupying 16;

8.1.9 that CTSAMVM presented one violation report of fighting between SSPDF and SPLA-IO in the Tambura area and subsequent PoC violations in June 2020 to the CTC on 19 October 2020 and to the CTSAMVM Board on 21 October 2020 and that it was published on the CTSAMVM website. The fighting reportedly triggered by a change of allegiance or defection. Expressed concerned on the impact that the change of allegiance

of commanders on the security situation in South Sudan. To date, four such cases has resulted in violence;

- 8.1.10 that CTSAMVM facilitated the work of the Security Mechanisms through provision of air transport;
- 8.1.11 convened a workshop of the RTGoNU and SSOMA delegations in Rome from 9 to 13 November 2020 and would report the outcomes in due course; and
- 8.1.12 reiterated CTSAMVM's continued support for the peace process with flexibility, impartiality, independence and neutrality.

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

8.2. In his report, the Chairperson of the Joint Defence Board (JDB):

- 8.2.1. stated that the Board through the heads of the respective military and security institutions, continued to exert commendable command and control over all forces across the country with the exception of the non-aligned parties that did not sign the RARCSS;
- 8.2.2. reported that overall, the security situation in Juba and throughout the country was normal with exceptions of isolated localised security incidents of concern between the Parties to the R-ARCSS and that there were few clashes between forces of the Parties to the R-ARCSS and National Salvation Front (NAS);
- 8.2.3. informed members that the responsibility for management of the stores was handed over to the JDB by the NTC in February 2020 and since then, supplies and donations to the TSAs were received by the JDB. Reported further that supplies to the Cantonment Sites and Training Centres were dispatched by the JDB through the JMCC and JTSC, and also shared with members statistics on the items received and distributed as well as a projected distribution plan for December 2020;
- 8.2.4. reiterated that the challenges facing the TSA reported to the recent RJMEC Plenary were still persistent i.e., insufficient food and medicines and lack of uniforms for the Organised Forces. Reported that supplies were mismanaged in some Cantonment Sites and Training Centres as a result of significant lapses in oversight by the JTSC in handling supplies released from the stores;
- 8.2.5. informed of the presence of non-combatants (i.e., families of soldiers) within Cantonment Sites and Training Centres, which created significant logistical challenges to implementation of the TSAs;
- 8.2.6. raised concern on accommodation of members of the Opposition, particularly regarding their accumulated hotel bills and reported harassment by some hotel operators that needed urgent intervention of the NTC;
- 8.2.7. reiterated that funds disbursed to the Board and other mechanisms were short of the intended budget and inconsistent with planned activity;
- 8.2.8. informed the members that prolonged floods in parts of Greater Upper Nile, restrictions on assembly, movements and travels as part of lockdown measures due the COVID-19 pandemic impeded implementation of the TSAs;

- 8.2.9. reported violation of the CoHA, especially in Maiwut, Wau, Kajo-Keji and Kirwa which undermined the implementation of the TSAs and eroded trust and confidence already built by the Parties. The actions of and clashes involving non-signatory groups continued to create insecurity and prevent voluntary return of refugees and IDPs to their homes;
- 8.2.10. reported that continuous delay in the unification of the Command was impacting the graduation of the NUFs. He further noted that after graduation of the forces, the JMCC should improve the management of its activities in Phase II, especially the transportation of troops from the Cantonment Sites to the Training Centres;
- 8.2.11. 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, ensure that the TSAs process receives befitting attention and funding during Phase II and recommended that the NTC and RTGoNU should start early preparations toward Phase II of the NUFs;
- 8.2.12. underscored the need for the JTSC and JMCC to report regularly through the JDB;
- 8.2.13. reiterated the need to strengthen trust and confidence-building among the Parties to mitigate discontent and inter-party shift in allegiance. He discouraged inter-party shifts in allegiance and alliance by some officers among the Parties to the R-ARCSS as it poses challenges to the TSAs;
- 8.2.14. urged the principals of the Parties to the R-ARCSS to expedite unification of Command to allow for the graduation of the NUFs; and
- 8.2.15. appealed to the RTGoNU to urge the Guarantors to the R-ARCSS to help in the provision of uniforms to the Organised Forces.

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

8.3. In her report, the Chairperson of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) Board:

- 8.3.1. reported that the SDSR Board held a Strategic Development Workshop that examined the national security threats caused by the illicit arms in the hands of communities and civilians and established agreeable models for civilian disarmament; drafted the Strategic Security Assessment (SSA) documents; and held a plenary workshop on the finalization of the SSA document, including a presentation on Security Policy Framework and Revised Policy;
- 8.3.2. informed members that the SDSR Board was planning: a High-Level Strategic Consultation on the finalization of the Strategic Security Assessment document; to draft the Security Policy Framework and Revised Defence Policy; convene a workshop to incorporate SSA findings into the White Paper on Security and Defence as well as develop new policies for other security sector agencies; and
- 8.3.3. was considering conducting a research and knowledge exchange for the SDSR Board team exposure to regional and international security infrastructures, policies and designs.

**v) Joint Transitional Security Committee**

8.4. In his report to the plenary, the Head of the Secretariat of the Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC):

- 8.4.1. informed the members that nothing had changed since the JTSC prepared five Training Centers in (Rajaf, Lologo, Rambur, Garam and Muni) all in Equatoria and were awaiting graduation of the NUF and the redeployment plan from the JDB;
- 8.4.2. stated that Training Centres were facing serious logistical constraints, which would cause desertions by both instructors and NUFs unless resources were availed. These included insufficient and inconsistent funding (it had so far received 7.8% of US \$ 95,278,903 approved budget by the NPTC), which caused lack of adequate and timely supplies of food and medicines, and poor infrastructural facilities in the Training Centers. Additionally, he informed members that floods had affected some Training Centers in the Greater Upper Nile region;
- 8.4.3. expressed concern on the medical corps, instructors, TCPFs, NUFs and support staff who had not received their incentives as per the approved budget and that the NSS officers Training Centre at Agut Makur was not operational. He further informed that the poor road conditions and lack of means of transport were also hindering the easy delivery of logistics and services;
- 8.4.4. appealed to the government through the NTC and as a matter of urgency to avail more and adequate resources for completing the JTSC pending tasks;
- 8.4.5. urged the JDB to push for a timely unification, graduation and redeployment of the NUFs;
- 8.4.6. further appealed to the JDB to expeditiously develop the redeployment plan and the graduation timetable for the NUFs; and
- 8.4.7. appealed to the RTGoNU, regional guarantors, International Partners and Friends of South Sudan to enhance their pledges – financially and in-kind support – for full implementation of the TSAs.

#### **vi) Joint Military Ceasefire Commission**

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

- 8.5.1. reported that no progress has been made since the last RJMEC plenary, noting immediately after the conclusion of transportation of registered forces to the Training Centres, the work of the JMCC relaxed due to the following challenges: (a) inadequate funding to conduct registration, site clearing, food distribution and others; (b) difficulty in delivery of food to the site and lack of transport means; (c) dire need for medicine and medical experts, noting the need for medical experts at least in each cantonment or barracks; and (d) lack of medical insurance;
- 8.5.2. reported trust deficit among the senior officers who felt abandoned, arguing it could distract implementation of the TSA. He urged for facilitation of the senior officers. Also reported that JMCC planned to move forces to the 25 Cantonment Sites and 10 major barracks;
- 8.5.3. informed that due to lack of storage facilities and shelters in Cantonment Sites, forces could not move to Lowureng where there were also no shelters for the troops. In addition, food delivered to the Site was reportedly insufficient;
- 8.5.4. noted how individual Party command made communication difficult at the command center. It was observed that, the issue of specifying the field command especially with the opposition forces was important and needed to be addressed by individual parties;

- 8.5.5. informed members on some support received for the cantonment process by the local communities, and that the Parties to the R-ARCSS were also responsive and supportive;
- 8.5.6. reported that capacity building was provided by NPTC and RJMEC to the secretariat of the security mechanisms and that CTSAMVM, UNMISS, CSOs and stakeholders were providing the necessary support for the success of the process;
- 8.5.7. commended the cordial relations between the JMCC leadership, members, Secretariat, AJMCCs and JMCTs. He reiterated that JMCC and its staff were still committed and, on the ground, finalizing its work as per their mandate;
- 8.5.8. urged JDB and the leadership of all Parties to order the troops to cooperate with the registration and screening teams as well as for the JDB to provide command and control, including conducting site visits to ensure full adherence to the process;
- 8.5.9. underscored that all senior commanders/officers should be accommodated in a central place with full facilitation and incentives;
- 8.5.10. appealed to the NTC to avail funding for direct purchase and delivery of food for inland areas whose access is difficult. Expressed that some forces should be supplied food and directly registered and screened in their assembly areas especially where there are tensions between various forces and were therefore unwilling to move into a single Cantonment Site with their counterparts;
- 8.5.11. urged RJMEC, CTSAMVM, UNMISS and all stakeholders to closely work with the JMCC, JTSC and support them where necessary;

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

- 8.6. The Chairperson of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Commission presented the Commission's report as follows:
  - 8.6.1. installation of a solar system was on-going at the DDR Commission Headquarters with support from the UNDP;
  - 8.6.2. the Commission reviewed and updated its documents, included: revised policy paper, strategy and programs, public information and strategic communications, and Reintegration Framework, Reinsertion Framework and Standard Operational Procedures for the Headquarters. The basic documents were to be submitted to Hon. Nhial Deng Nhial, Deputy Chairperson of NTC for approval by the RTGoNU;
  - 8.6.3. the Commission planned to construct ten (10) transit facilities in ten states, these facilities would be constructed to ensure an adequate capacity for at least 1,000 ex- combatants and would be reconverted into training or community centre after the DDR programme phaseout;
  - 8.6.4. ex-combatants would stay in the transit facilities for a period of six months to attend different programs such as psychosocial, peace building, conflict mitigation, nation building, human rights and economic aspects such as skills training before they are gradually integrated into civilian lives;
  - 8.6.5. the Commission developed a comprehensive budget for the overall DDR activities, including for the construction of transit facilities and submitted to the Chairperson of the NTC who further requested the Commission to develop a minimum budget for four

- (4) facilities to kickstart its process;
- 8.6.6. forces in the Training Centres were preparing for graduation but the Commission did not have any transit facility to receive ex-combatants. The Commission intended to use Rajaf and Masnabira in Wau as temporary assembly points for DDR candidates until the transit facilities are ready for use;
- 8.6.7. the Commission carried out a baseline survey and opportunity mapping assessments that were supported by UNDP and UN Women. The main recommendation from the assessment is to identify and select the skills training necessary for the reintegration of ex-combatants. UNDP hired a consultant who started the process in September with a training of enumerators and testing of the tools in 10 states and that was still on-going;
- 8.6.8. there was lack of coordination with the SSPDF forces at the barracks in raising awareness of the DDR objectives and to receive the list of DDR candidates from them;
- 8.6.9. inadequate funding for the setting up transit facilities/centres delayed the DDR Commission to receive ex-combatants from the Cantonment Site and Training Centres. The Commission's initial plan was for the ex-combatants to remain in the cantonments until the transit facilities were ready;
- 8.6.10. it was difficult to access the leadership of the NPTC and the NTC, which caused lack of advocacy for the Commission's programs at the political level in the country;
- 8.6.11. appealed to the NTC to: (a) release food and shelter for the targeted DDR candidates in their temporary assembly areas in Rajaf and Masnabira and later to the transit facilities; (b) provide funds for the construction of transit facilities before the arrival of the second batch of forces to the Training Centres;
- 8.6.12. welcomed and thanked partners who supported the work of the Commission and further appealed for their continued support to the DDR activities; and
- 8.6.13. urged all security mechanisms to coordinate and support the Commission in all its activities.

#### **Min. 09/15/20: Discussions on Statements and Reports**

#### **9. During the discussions, the RJMEC members:**

- 9.1. welcomed the statement of the RJMEC Chairperson, the UNMISS SRSG and reports presented by the Agreement institutions and mechanisms; commended all the institutions and mechanisms of the Agreement who submitted their reports in advance and for the progress made so far;
- 9.2. the SPLM-IO representative condemned defections of soldiers from one Party to another, noting they do not only hamper implementation of the TSA but also violate the R-ARCSS and CoHA as recruitment of forces during the implementation process is not allowed. He also condemned the attack on the Moroto Training Centre the same day the Plenary was taking place and called upon CTSAMVM to investigate the matter comprehensively;
- 9.3. the representative of the Academia questioned the validity of the revised implementation matrix which she said had never been presented to the members before nor had it been approved. She asked the RTGoNU representative to clarify the matter. She also asked for specific timelines within which pending activities were expected to be accomplished;

- 9.4. in response to the question on revised matrix, the RTGoNU representatives informed members that the revision was a form of reminder that there were pending activities that required to be implemented but it was not subject to discussion by RJMEC as it was discussed by the Parties in the Council of Ministers. They added that the Parties could review aspects of the R-ARCSS to ensure its comprehensive implementation;
- 9.5. the RTGoNU representative noted that the matter regarding attack on Moroto Training Centre should be forwarded to CTSAMVM to investigate and a report provided upon which it would be discussed;
- 9.6. the Civil Society representative expressed concern about lack of progress reported in the previous RJMEC Plenary meetings and wondered whether there was any need to continue meeting when nothing is done about what were discussed and recommended for action;
- 9.7. the youth representative informed members that the workshops and seminars on conflict related to SGBV were not having an impact on the general population as the cases kept increasing, noting that areas outside Juba should be considered. On defection, she noted that defections should be discouraged and if anyone defected, s/he should be held accountable for crimes committed even before defection;
- 9.8. expressed concern about the continued absence of the NTC from the plenary meetings and the fact that nothing was being done about their absence;
- 9.9. the UK Ambassador encouraged the commencement of the RJMEC Working Committees and noted that their role was crucial. He expressed disappointment that substantive progress had not been made in the implementation process;
- 9.10. thanked the outgoing UK Ambassador, H.E. Chris Trott for his dedicated service and contribution to the peace process in the Republic of South Sudan, during his time of assignment and wished him success in his new endeavors;
- 9.11. the representative of the eminent personalities noted that the overall tone of reports was optimistic. He therefore called for immediate action on issues that seemed small in the process as such could be so significant if not attended to on time. He encouraged members to stay committed;
- 9.12. condemned all forms of attacks on aid workers, including the reports of attacks on humanitarian convoys by armed actors specifically in Lakes state and called for unhindered access for all humanitarian aid convoys and protection of humanitarian workers. Further expressed concern about the dire humanitarian situation with 6.5 million people likely to face severe food shortages;
- 9.13. expressed serious concern on the overall slow progress in implementation of the RARCSS, with critical Pre-Transitional and Transitional Period tasks, such as unification of forces, expansion and reconstitution of the TNLA, among other aspects, which remained outstanding. Members further urged the RTGoNU and the respective mechanisms of the Agreement to increase their efforts in the implementation process;
- 9.14. appealed to the Parties to fast-track and complete the unification of the forces and priorities of the DDR to discourage defections;
- 9.15. called on the ITGoNU, SPLM/A-IO, SSOA and OPP to expedite submission of their lists of nominees to the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) and for the Parties to immediately reconstitute the TNLA and the Council of States, whose operationalization

would lead to the normal functioning of government at all levels. They also encouraged the Parties to observe the 35% level of women's representation as they do the nominations for the establishment and reconstitution of the remaining Government structures;

- 9.16. expressed serious concern about the bad state of some Cantonment Sites and Training Centres citing critical issues like lack of food, medicine and other essential resources and supplies, leading to some ex-combatants abandoning Cantonment Sites and Training Centres, as reported by CTSAMVM, and urged the RTGoNU to avail the adequate funding to enable the mechanisms to overcome these prolonged challenges;
- 9.17. expressed disappointment with the continued community-based violence since the last RJMEC meeting, especially in Jonglei and Warrap states, and in that regard called on the government and all stakeholders to continue with efforts in addressing these conflicts through dialogue and complementary initiatives;
- 9.18. on the appointment of Gen Olony as governor of Upper Nile state, the Civil Society Alliance representative stated that Gen. Olony has the right to be appointed to that position just like other appointees and if he fails to perform, then the President has the constitutional right to relieve him of the duties. He appealed to the Parties to lead the way and add efforts in the implementation process as the grassroot South Sudanese people were still suffering despite the signing of the R-ARCSS. He also expressed concern and dissatisfaction about the Plenary discussing the same issues time and again and nothing substantive is done;
- 9.19. the head of the African Union Mission to South Sudan reaffirmed the commitment of the AU to live to its promise especially on Chapter V of the R-ARCSS which the AU chairs. He invited and reminded all members of the Transitional Justice Working Committee to attend its second meeting. He also called on the Parties responsible to amicably resolve the issue of appointment of Gen. Olony. He welcomed the positive developments on the outcomes of the Rome talks as SSOMA was to appoint its representatives to the CTSAMVM. Appreciated the role of South Sudan in brokering the Sudan peace process and prayed that the same should be translated to create peace in South Sudan;
- 9.20. appealed to the International Partners to support the peace process in all ways possible to enable the Parties and the government to move forward in the R-ARCSS implementation process;
- 9.21. the DDR chairperson appealed to the UN to give UNMISS the authorization to support the DDR process as per the UNSC resolution that tasked UNMISS to work with the DDR Commission;
- 9.22. called upon the Civil Society not to act as a pressure group but to rather join the implementation and give ideas and insights to the Parties to support fast tracking the implementation of the R-ARCSS;
- 9.23. the representative of the Women Coalition called upon the Parties to walk the talk of confidence building as the facts appear to be different from the talks. She noted that the issue of Gen Olony should be handled the same way as defections; and
- 9.24. the RJMEC Interim Chairperson called on the Parties to find ways out of the many challenges affecting the R-ARCSS, including the issue of defections and challenged other Generals to respond to his concerns.



**Min. 10/15/20: Date for the Next Meeting**

10. Members suggested that the date for the 16<sup>th</sup> RJMEC monthly meeting be on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and that it should be confirmed by the RJMEC Secretariat and communicated to the members officially.

**Min. 11/15/20: A.O.B**

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

**Min.12/15/20: Resolution of the Meeting**

12. A draft Resolution of the 15<sup>th</sup> RJMEC monthly meeting was circulated to all members, discussed and feedback provided. The RJMEC Secretariat was tasked to incorporate all the changes and to share the final Resolution with all the members. **Min.13/15/20: Chairman's Closing Remarks**

13. In his closing remarks, the RJMEC Chairperson thanked members for their participation and noted that the resolution would be shared. He called on the Parties to continue the implementation efforts appealed for commitment, confidence building and added that the best Christmas gift that RTGoNU could give to the troops in Cantonment Sites and Training Centres would be to graduate them. He concluded by expressing optimism that the Parties should overcome the challenges facing the implementation of the R-ARCSS.

**Min.14/15/20: Closing Prayers**

14. The representatives of the faith-based organizations (Christian and Islamic faiths) led the closing prayers. There being no any other business, the 15<sup>th</sup> RJMEC monthly meeting was adjourned at 4:56 pm.

End