



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

### **FINAL MINUTES OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021 AT BEIJING HOTEL, JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN**

The 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) was convened in Juba, South Sudan on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The meeting was chaired by H.E Maj. General Charles Tai Gituai (rtd), Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC who called it to order at 10:47 am.

#### **Agenda**

1. Opening Prayers
2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting
5. Statement by RJMEC Interim Chairperson
6. Report from RTGoNU
7. Report from NTC
8. Briefing from UNMISS SRSG
9. Reports and Plans from Agreement Institutions and Security Mechanisms
  - i. CTSAMVM
  - ii. JDB
  - iii. SDSR Board
  - iv. JTSC
  - v. JMCC
  - vi. 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.
11. Date for the next meeting
12. A.O.B
13. Resolutions of the meeting
14. Chairperson's closing remarks
15. 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. Michael Makuei Lueth (ITGoNU)
2. Hon. Gatwech Lam Puoch (SPLM/A-I0)
3. Mr. Malong Thiik Riny Lual (SSOA)
1. Hon. Wilson Lodiong Sebit (OPP)

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

1. Bishop (rtd) Enock Tombe Stephen (Faith-based leader)
2. Mr. Akuoch Ajang (CSO Alliance)
3. Dr. Angelina Bazugba (Academia)
4. Mr. Malish John Peter (Youth)
5. Ms. Mary Ajith, (CSO Forum)
6. Ms. Anne Silvestro Tukaia (Business Community)
7. Ms. Abuk Jarvas Makuac (Business Community)

**For the Regional Guarantors:**

1. H.E. Nebil Mahdi (Ethiopia)
2. Mr. Grephas Ogutu (Kenya)
3. H.E. Ronnie Balya (Uganda)
4. H.E. Gordon M. Yekelo (South Africa)
5. Mr. Kataps Gaius Keafon (Nigeria)
6. Mr. Gamal M. A. Goraish (Sudan)
7. H.E. Prof. Joram M. Biswaro (AUMISS)
8. Ms. Rabab Balde (IGAD Juba Liaison Office)

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

1. H.E. Hua Ning (China)
2. H.E. Siv Kaspersen (Norway)
3. Mr. Enrique Gallego (USA)
4. Mr. James Hilton (UK)
5. Mr. Guang Cong (UNMISS)
6. Mr. Dionyz Hochel (EU)
7. Mr. Erich Cripton (IPF)

**For RJMEC Secretariat:**

1. Amb. Berhanu Kebede, RJMEC Chief of Staff
2. Dr. Thomson Fontaine, RJMEC Deputy Chief of Staff- Strategy
3. Mr. Stephen Oola, Senior Legal and Constitutional Advisor

**For the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:**

1. Maj. Gen. Teshome Gemechu Aderie, Chairperson, CTSAMVM
2. Brig. Gen. Arun Pal (rtd), Chief of Staff, CTSAMVM
3. Lt. Gen. Gabriel Duop Lam, Co-Chair, JDB
4. Lt. Gen. Julius Tabuley, Co-Chair, JDB
5. Lt. Gen. Rabi Mujung Emmanuel, representing JDB Chair
6. Hon. Angelina Teny, Chairperson, SDSR Board

7. Col. Ding Lam Yual, Ag. Head of Secretariat, SDSR Board
8. Lt. Gen. Wesley Welebe Samsom, Chairperson JTSC
9. Maj. Gen. Dr. Olaw Adiang Nijok, Head of JTSC Secretariat
10. Maj. Gen. Buda John Aban, Ag. Co-Chair JMCC
11. Maj. Wuor Jok, Secretariat JMCC
12. Hon. Lt. Gen. Ayuen Alier Jongroor, Chairperson, DDR Commission

**Observers:**

1. H.E. Marc Trouyet (France)
2. Mr. Ahmed Tawfek (Egypt)
3. H.E. Tsutsumi Naohiro (Japan)
4. H.E. Tobias Eichner (Germany)
5. Mr. Peterson Magoola (UN Women)
6. H.E. Erdem Mutaf (Turkey)
7. Mr. Mark Mawar Deng (MoFAIC)

**Min. 01/20/21: Opening Prayers**

1. The opening prayers were led by one of the faith-based leaders Bishop Enock Tombe.

**Min. 02/20/21: Chairperson's Opening Remarks**

2. The Chairperson welcomed the RJMEC members to the 20<sup>th</sup> RJMEC meeting and informed them of the end of tour of duty of H.E. Gordon Yekelo, Ambassador of South Africa to the Republic of South Sudan and Chairperson of the RJMEC Security Working Committee, stating that he would be allowed to make a statement after the DSRSG.

**Min. 03/20/21 Adoption of the Agenda**

3. The draft agenda was adopted without any amendments.

**Min. 04/20/21: Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

4. Members reviewed and adopted the minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> RJMEC meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 with minor amendments on the title of the JTSC Chairperson.

**Min. 05/20/21: Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson**

5. In his statement to the plenary, the RJMEC Interim Chairperson:
  - 5.1 welcomed the members to the 20<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting, expressing the need for a reflection on what had been achieved, collectively, in the pursuit of peace and stability in South Sudan. He took stock of the optimism, emerging from the disruptions of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the hope that 2021 would have yielded much better progress in the implementation of the R-ARCSS. He observed that the RTGoNU had a much better opportunity in 2021 to take forward the implementation of the R-ARCSS than it had in its inaugural year 2020;

- 5.2 highlighted some R-ARCSS implementation milestones achieved in 2021 and underscored the key developments, outstanding tasks, challenges requiring remedial action to include and made recommendations; and
- 5.3 reiterated the critical concerns as being the implementation of the Transitional Security Arrangements, especially the unification and redeployment of forces, and the DDR process. The Chair concluded as follows: (a) urged the reconstituted TNLA to fast-track enactment of all bills due to be ratified, including the Constitution-Making Bill 2021; (b) urged the RTGoNU to make financial resources available for the completion of the TSA, including redeployment of unified forces, and for the DDR programmes; (c) appealed to the leadership of the Parties to urgently resolve the issue of the ratio and unified command structure of the NUF; (d) urged the RTGoNU to work closely with international partners to establish the Board of the Special Reconstruction Fund; (e) urged the RTGoNU to fast-track the establishment of all enterprise development funds; (f) appealed to the RTGoNU and international community to support the work of the Technical Committee on the establishment of the CTRH; and (g) appealed to members to reflect on what was achieved in the implementation of the R-ARCSS in 2021, and outstanding tasks of the R-ARCSS, and further appealed to the RTGoNU to approach the new year with renewed vigour and determination to bring durable peace, stability and prosperity to South Sudan.

**Min. 06/20/21: Report from the RTGoNU**

- 6 The representative of the RTGoNU made an apology on behalf of the RTGoNU and the Minister for Cabinet Affairs who could not attend due to other major assignments. He added that the Minister had just returned from a training in Kigali, Rwanda, and was unable to attend the plenary nor present a report from the RTGoNU.

**Min. 07/20/21: Report from the NTC**

- 7.0. In her report to the plenary, Hon. Angelina Teny, a member to the NTC informed members that the submitted NTC report had not been vetted by the NTC members before it was shared and as per its requirement, nor was she, as a member of NTC, mandated to present the report to the plenary. In that regard, she would not be able to present the report. In addition, she commended the RJMEC Interim Chairperson for his statement and recommendations and pledged to present the recommendations to the Council of Ministers for further discussion and action.
- 7.1 In reponse to the lack of reports from the RTGoNU and NTC, the RJMEC interim Chairperson registered his disappointment. A representative of the RTGoNU also expressed the dissatisfaction on the RJMEC Secretariat for its failure to report its recommendations to the members of the RTGoNU Executive, and RTNLA. He urged that RJMEC needed to address this matter in 2022. Furthermore, a member of the CSO Alliance raised his concerns on the lack of reports, stressing that the RTGoNU was expected to brief on what was implemented, challenges and planned remedial measures. He informed of its decision to boycott the plenary if its own government could not attend and make a report.

**Min. 08/20/21: Briefing from UNMISS DSRSG**

- 8.0. In his briefing to the RJMEC plenary, the DSRSG and Deputy head of UNMISS:

- 8.1. expressed concerns about lack of meaningful progress in the implementation of the R-ARCSS and necessary follow-up action. Nevertheless, he recognized the positive developments since the last plenary meeting, including the continued holding of the permanent ceasefire and the reconstitution of nine State Legislative Assemblies (SLA). He appealed for the SLA to be operationalised and for the TNLA to expedite its pace of work;
- 8.2. updated members on the work of UNMISS over the past year and in collaboration with its partners, including facilitating the Governors' Fora in nine out of ten states, including fora for Chief Administrators in two Administrative Areas;
- 8.3. reported a 53% reduction in number of civilian casualties in ongoing localized violence, compared to 2020. He observed that subnational violence was notably witnessed in Upper Nile, Unity, Jonglei, Warrap, Lakes, Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria states. Recently, the security situation in Tonj North and Tonj East counties of Warrap State remained tense. States therefore needed to enhance their capacity to protect civilians and their property, and restore law and order;
- 8.4. welcomed President Salva Kiir's decision for the RTGoNU to resume the Rome mediation with the non-signatories, urging the parties to engage in the political dialogue without preconditions and to uphold their commitments to the ceasefire to foster trust;
- 8.5. reported that the humanitarian situation remained alarming with record levels of food insecurity, flooding, recurring violence, and subsequent displacement and protection issues, and the impact of COVID-19. By the end of November, 854,000 people were reported as affected in 33 counties while floods affected people in Bentiu, Unity State. Of the US\$ 1.7 billion requested in the 2021 South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan, \$1.12 billion (67%) was received as of 29 November. Moreover, an estimated 2 million people were internally displaced, up from 1.71 million people recorded in March;
- 8.6. reported that since March 2021, there was an increase in the number of incidents of violence by young men across South Sudan against aid workers and assets in Greater Tonj, the Greater Pibor Administrative Area and Gumuruk. Aid worker recently got killed in Leer, Unity State; and
- 8.7. urged parties in South Sudan, the region, and guarantors to the R-ARCSS to stay the course in sustaining progress and concluded with recommendations that on the priorities to be achieved before the end of 2021: (a) progress on the TSA by finalizing a coherent command and control structure and the graduation and redeployment of NUF; and (b) the expeditious formation of the Specialized Committees and the passing of enabling priority legislation by the reconstituted TNLA.

**Min. 09/20/21: Farewell remarks by the South African Ambassador**

- 9.0 The South African Ambassador highlighted on the current status of the R-ARCSS where the parties showcased and provided leadership in making sure that hostilities do not arise. However, he expressed concern on the intercommunal violence. Commended the Parties for holding discussions and working together on the conflict in Tambura despite challenges. He appealed to CSOs, not to discredit the slow implementation of the Agreement by the RTGoNU. He reminded the parties that they owed South Sudan citizens the dividends of independence and that South Sudan leaders should not delay a speedy recovery of the country. He urged the South Sudanese to convince the world that

the country will not return to war by implementing the R-ARCSS. Encouraged the South Sudan leaders to take the country to a peaceful place with improved livelihood for its citizens. It was fundamental to leave a legacy to remain in the minds and hearts of its people. Urged the RTGoNU to implement the R-ARCSS in full, in letter and spirit and appealed for its better implementation in 2022.

**Min. 10/20/21: Reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms**

**i) Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Verification Mechanisms**

10.0. The CTSAMVM Chairperson reported the following:

- 10.0.1. informed of no verified clashes between the Parties to the R-ARCSS, that the situation in Tambura was stable and some NGOs resuming operations, that the forces of Maj Gen James Nando relocated to Maridi while the SPLM/A-IO forces were relocating at a slow pace, and that the Balanda forces led by Angelo Davido were yet to assemble. He commended the JDB for their efforts in de-escalating the situation in Tambura;
- 10.0.2. reported incidents allegedly involving NAS forces in Central Equatoria; a reported attack on an SSPDF position in Lainya on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021 resulting in the death of three (3) SSPDF soldiers and one (1) civilian;
- 10.0.3. raised concerns on the very dire situation at the cantonment sites, little positive progress in the training centres and reported that the three JDB assessment teams had not yet left Juba for the training centres. He reiterated CTSAMVM readiness to assist with air transport if the names of the screening teams were provided in advance for vetting. He informed members that since the last RJMEC meeting SSPDF vacated a civilian building. However, five (5) more civilian buildings were occupied, four (4) by the SPLM/A-IO and one (1) by the SSPDF;
- 10.0.4. reported that the CTSAMVM CTC and Board discussed a violation report concerning the arrest, detention and beating of an SPLM/A-IO officer and two civilians by SSPDF in Eastern Equatoria State in September 2021, constituting a violation of the R-ARCSS;
- 10.0.5. reported denial of access to 11 Division SSPDF since February 2021 and to the Tiger Division SSPDF since July 2021 to follow up on inquiries consistent with its mandate. He urged that the matter be addressed by RJMEC as a matter of urgency; and
- 10.0.6. appreciated the strong support from the international community especially its donors and partners, and appealed for more funding support towards its monitoring and verification activities.

**ii) Joint Defence Board**

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

- 10.1.1. informed members that overall, the TSA remained as reported in the 19<sup>th</sup> RJMEC plenary.

- 10.1.2. observed that defections, delays in graduation of the forces, and unification of command were challenges affecting the operations of JDB;
- 10.1.3. reported that while the insecurity witnessed in Magenis and Tombura had generally subsided, incidences of inter-communal violence continued. Overall security situation throughout the country had relatively stabilised;
- 10.1.4. informed that although some limited quantities of food items were solicited and delivered to some training centres, no deliveries were made to the assembly and cantonment areas. Loss of hope and morale among the forces in the training centres and assembly/cantonment areas are due to overall lack of progress in the implementation of the TSAs;
- 10.1.5. informed members that the JDB had received funding from the NTC on 9th December 2021 for the established of three Committees to be dispatched and embark on screening, reorganising and unifying the forces;
- 10.1.6. expressed the need for trust and confidence-building among the Parties to be strengthened to mitigate discontent and inter-party shifts in allegiance;
- 10.1.7. reiterated that the national stability of South Sudan strongly hinges on—among other factors—the country’s ability to harness a sustainable security sector reform process, and efforts in this respect should be rigorous and consistent; and
- 10.1.8. commended the leadership of the Parties and the RTGoNU, IGAD and International Partners and Friends of South Sudan for the continued role in ensuring that sustainable peace returns to the country.

### iii) Strategic Defence and Security Review Board

#### 10.2. The Chairperson of the Strategic Defence and Security Review Board (SDSRB):

- 10.2.1. reported on the activity the Board implemented in coordination with UNMISS. In addition, she informed that the Security Sector Policy Framework was completed and ready. Looking ahead, the SDSR Board shall continue to work to finalise the draft Defence Policy. In addition, the Board will finalise the remaining policy documents to be submitted to the principals by end of January 2022. The Board will also continue working on the strategy for the transformation of the security sector;
- 10.2.2. commended Amb. Gordon Yekelo for his support to the SDSRB and informed members that Amb. Yekelo was the Chief of the Military involved in the intergration of the ANC apartheid forces during South Africa’s transition to democracy. He helped the Board embed some of the experiences by giving presentations on the best practices done by the South African government, particularly on the areas of importance in distinguishing the mandate on the demilitarisation of the police and Security Sector Reforms. She hoped he would have helped with the White Paper on Security and Defence, however, as a member of C5 it was expected that he would be of help when needed and wished him success as he departed South Sudan; and



- 10.2.3. informed of the pending tasks as follows: (a) finalization of the Security Policy Framework; (b) fresh drafting or revision of the Defence Policy; (c) workshop to incorporate SSA findings into the White Paper on Security and Defence; (d) development of fresh policies for other security sector agencies; and (e) research and knowledge – SDSRB exposure to regional and international security infrastructure, policies, and designs.

**iv) Joint Transitional Security Committee**

- 10.3. The Chairperson of the JTSC reported to the plenary that for the last three months, the JDB had played a greater role in the training centres. Hence, the JTSC report was partly covered by the report from the JDB. The Head of Secretariat presented the report as follows:

- 10.3.1. the JTSC needed to submit its report to the JDB so that it could present a report on behalf of the security mechanisms. The challenges remained the same including that of the training centres facing serious logistical constraints. As a result, over 200 trainees and instructors have died. The JTSC so far received 7.8% of the US \$ 95,278,903 approved budget by the NPTC. Floods had affected some training centres in the Greater Upper Nile region leading to relocation of the Tawfikia training centre to Warajwok. Medical corps, instructors, TCPFs, NUFs and support staff had not received their incentives as per the approved budget. There is also lack of accommodation/ shelter and the forces were not in military formation and the delay of graduation was causing desertions by both instructors and regular forces, who go in search of food;
- 10.3.2. the JTSC received food ration in October for Equatoria which only lasted for two to three weeks. In Bahr el Ghazal, they did not receive any food for the last two years and for the Upper Nile, the JTSC was to dispatch a team to receive food from NSS to be distributed to the training centres;
- 10.3.3. forces were almost ready in five training centres (Gorom, Rajaf, Lologo, Muni and Rambur) were ready for the graduation should the food be supplied on time. Most of the forces were not in the training centres and the NTC needed to dispatch food first for the forces to return especially in Alel and Warajwok in Upper Nile. Moreover, the JTSC needed to ascertain if the food given was enough for the forces to also dispatch some of the food from Malakal to other training centres. The poor road conditions and lack of means of transport hindered delivery of logistics and services especially from Malakal to Moum and Kaljak in Unity state, and Warajwok the new location; and
- 10.3.4. the members from the ITGoNU within the mechanism no longer attend the Plenary to share the spirit of unity and good collaboration with an exception to the JDB. The members were urged to attend the RJMEC plenary.

**(v) Joint Military Ceasefire Commission**

- 10.4. In his report, the Acting Co-Chairperson of the Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC) stated that no progress was made throughout 2020- 2021 on the sustainability of cantonment sites as well as the pending Phase II activities. The JMCC was preparing for an assessment and verification of Phase II of the agreed 15 cantonment sites, construction of shelter and stores to be verified and approved as well as pre-positioning of food, printing, registration and screening forms



to begin registering the remaining forces in Phase II. Once the preparations are concluded, forces would be transported to the training centres. He informed members that the JMCC prepared a budget and submitted it to the NTC for review and approval. He highlighted the challenges facing TSA implementation as follows: (a) lack of communication between JMCC organs, the lower levels and the head office affecting daily activities of the secretariat; (b) lack of funding to implement critical activities; (c) continual defection and change of allegiances; (d) flooding affecting Bong, Dingding, Mirmir cantonment sites in Unity State; Mogok and Thenet cantonment sites in Jonglei State and Lieng and Jekou cantonment sites in Upper Nile State; (e) lack of food in all cantonment areas. Finally, he stated that the JMCC failed to assemble all the reserved senior officers from the opposition in Wau for Greater Bahr el Ghazal; Terekeka for Greater Equatoria; and Bullok Malakal for Greater Upper Nile. Lastly, JMCC planned a Joint workshop for field commanders from the cantonments together with their counterparts in the barracks in Juba for both senior and junior officers as part of peace dissemination.

**(vi) Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission**

10.5. The Chairperson of the DDR Commission presented the Commission's report as follows:

- 10.5.1. the AU and UN enhanced the capacity of the DDR management in the area of Integrated DDR (IDDR) in the Koffi Anan Training Center, Accra, Ghana in October 2021;
- 10.5.2. the DDR formed a committee and sent a list of nine members to participate in the committee established by the JDB for screening the NUF at the training centres;
- 10.5.3. due to the current delay of the DDR program, a concept note for activities to be carried out before the start of the DDR program was developed and shared with donors and stakeholders for support and funding. Given the current difficulties to fund the actual DDR program, the Commission requested for support of its activities under a hybrid DDR approach (classical and CVR). The French ambassador, African Union and UNMISS are working closely with the Commission in order to activate the DDR in South Sudan;
- 10.5.4. the challenges facing the DDR Commission remained the same – lack of funding to screen the forces at the training centres, and a lack of constitution of the DDR Council. It is therefore critical that the NTC mobilizes and releases funding for the DDRC to prepare for proper demobilization of ex-combatants, and emphasizes to the RTGoNU, UN and all donors the need to prioritize DDR program support. RJMEC needs to support the policy dissemination of the approved documents and support the activation of ICRS as it is a prerequisite of demobilization. Furthermore, the Presidency needs to urgently form the DDR Council in order to enforce the DDR implementation and connect the Commission with line Ministries who are the implementing partners of DDRP. Finally, RJMEC, the donor community and the UN need to expedite implementation of the Community Violence Reduction (CVR) approach program to support the DDR program.

#### Min. 11 /20/21: Discussions on Statements and Reports

11. During discussions, a number of issues were raised and deliberated upon as follows:

- 11.1. A representative of the Troika expressed her disappointment that RTGoNU did not present any report to the Board stating that the plenary needed the RTGoNU to engage and take its work seriously. She welcomed the latest nomination of the State Legislatures and hoped to see the last remaining Assembly being reconstituted soon. She also welcomed the decision to resume the Rome-talks. Overall, progress on R-ARCSS implementation remained too slow and piecemeal. She highlighted three main areas where members really needed to see concerted effort: security sector reform, legislative agenda and economic reforms as they would provide strong forward momentum for the R-ARCSS.
- 11.2. The African Union Commission (AUC) representative welcomed the congratulatory messages on the anniversary of the independence of Tanzania. He informed that Tanzania had taken the national seed of the liberation movement from the Southern Africa countries and shared how the country remained the cradle for the liberation history of other African countries, and that South Sudan is coming up with the same. He further welcomed and took note of the statements made by the RJMEC, UNMISS and the reports received from the mechanisms despite missing the important reports from the RTGoNU and NTC;
- 11.3. The AUC representative raised concerns on the lack of implementation of the TSAs and the directive from the President that the forces be prepared for graduation which had not materialised, observing that the expectation was at least by this time Phase I NUF should have been graduated to send a positive signal to the stakeholders. He welcomed the report of the Uganda Wilton Park high-level meeting and the good intention supported by H.E. Yoweri K. Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, who pledged his support to the R-ARCSS in 2022.
- 11.4. Furthermore, he called for involvement of other multilateral organisations in the region to conduct a thorough assessment of the security and humanitarian disasters in South Sudan and to mobilise the requisite resources. He informed that AUC intends to send a post-conflict and reconstruction assessment team to South Sudan in early 2022.
- 11.5. The representative of the IGAD Partners Forum reiterated the importance of chapter II of the RARCSS, particularly the creation of national unified forces governed by a unified command structure as well as graduation of the NUF. He also raised concerns about the apparent poor conditions of the cantonment sites and training centres and urged that the RTGoNU allocates and deploys sufficient resources for their amelioration. The representative expressed concern regarding the inability of the reconstituted TNLA to enact legislation and finalize the formation of the Specialised Committees. He took note of unofficial reports indicating that the TNLA had decided to shorten its recess from five months to weeks;

- 11.6. The IPF representative further welcomed the recent announcement of the RTGoNU decision to resume the Rome dialogue under the auspices of the Community of Sant'Egidio. He also welcomed the recent commitment by RTGoNU to adopt the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers as part of their overall effort towards implementing their National Action Plan regarding Children Associated with Armed Conflict. In addition, he appreciated the formal launch by the RTGoNU of its revised Report on the Implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2015 to 2021 and a new National Action Plan 2022 to 2026.
- 11.7. He raised concerns on the reports of frequent instances of SGBV being committed by armed forces. He called on all parties to adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards SGBV and conflict-related sexual violence, to ensure all perpetrators were brought to justice, and to redouble their efforts to rid their ranks of this scourge.
- 11.8. In addition, he congratulated the RTGoNU for its successful participation in a recent conference on climate change in Glasgow, Scotland. He noted that the plenary does not often address the subject of climate change, observing that, in many ways, this was regrettable, given that South Sudan is among the most vulnerable of countries to the impact of climate change. He also joined others in saluting the efforts of the distinguished Ambassador of South Africa to South Sudan and wished him well in his future endeavours.
- 11.9. A representative of the CSO Forum reiterated her concerns on the lack of implementation of the R-ARCSS in letter and spirit. She urged the RTGoNU to present a report on the way forward and plan for the remaining 14 months of the R-ARCSS.
- 11.10. A representative of the Business Community commended the statement on the enterprise development funds and urged that those funds be given to the women and youth to change their livelihoods.
- 11.11. A representative of the Academia commended RJMEC and the Agreement mechanisms for some steps made amidst the existing challenges. She however, expressed concerns regarding slow implementation of the TSAs and other chapters of the R-ARCSS and wondered what action was taken by the RJMEC when activities agreed by various mechanisms and the stakeholders are not been implemented. She questioned whether higher bodies such as IGAD are informed or consulted to assist the RJMEC in engaging with peace actors pursuant to its mandate. Furthermore, she wondered why funding had continued to be a constraint over the years and appealed for a reflection of possible strategies that could deliver to the people. She questioned how the funding borrowed from the World Bank or IMF had been used, underscoring that accountability and transparency were critical for implementation of the R-ARCSS. On establishment of the Youth and Women Enterprise Funds, she observed that there was a need to enact a Bill for establishing the Enterprise Funds and provision of the resources to run the Funds.

- 11.12. She congratulated the JDB for establishing a committee for investigating the Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) but called for proper documentation and establishment of a database that will inform the magnitude/number of incidences occurring within a certain period; and what actions were taken to ensure that the perpetrators were brought to book. She advised the committee to work closely with the Ministry of Gender to ensure that the information Management System (IMS) established include data from all the states.
- 11.13. A representative of the Youth reiterated the disappointment at the slow pace of implementation of the R-ARCSS from the South Sudanese stakeholders. He commended the JDB report and appealed for additional resources to the mechanisms. He observed that there were other activities which do not need funding such as ratification of Bills. The member expressed concern that as much as the RTGoNU claimed it did not have resources, MPs often travel outside the country to attend workshops on the R-ARCSS other than implementing it.
- 11.14. He wondered whether the county lacks funding when it receives loans from the IMF and World Bank, and how the revenues collected by NRA from non-oil revenue taxes were being used. He further asked whether the RTGoNU was on track and had plans on the current matrix and whether it would be legitimate after the end of the Transitional Period. More so, he underscored the need to review the effectiveness and efficiency of the RJMEC plenaries, noting that RJMEC is the anchor of the R-ARCSS and needed to be honest to say the plenaries were not working and should take a different approach.
- 11.15. The Ambassador of China stated that RJMEC meeting was an important platform to share, the information, challenges faced and in defining the way forward. He underscored that we all shared the responsibility that required common effort in pushing forward the implementation of the R-ARCSS. He urged members to look back and cherish what was achieved. He reminded members that the RTGoNU depended most on the oil revenue and there was need for the international community to support the RTGoNU. He pledged China's support to the RTGoNU and urged the latter to explore further support from other countries.
- 11.16. The Ambassador of Uganda congratulated the United Republic of Tanzania for its 60th anniversary of the independence, and recognised the South African Ambassador for his outstanding support to the R-ARCSS. He appreciated the reports of the mechanisms but observed the lack of implementation of the TSAs had become a routine challenge. He encouraged the Parties to do more, citing Plato that "never discourage anyone who implemented something however slow" and urged them to do more. He further quoted Aristotle, who stated that "the measure of a man was in what was done with power. To the leaders of South Sudan, he urged them to use the power by making good decisions and to address national values, national interest and later individual interests. He appealed for the commitment by those in RTGoNU wholeheartedly, in carrying out essential reforms and leaving a legacy to its people.

- 11.17. A representative of the SPLM/A- IO expressed the embarrassment of being told the truth on what was happening in South Sudan. He highlighted key fundamental issues as follows: (a) the people's commitment must express the political will of what they had signed to implement; (b) full implementation of TSAs in letter and spirit to create a good environment for refugees to return to the country; and (c) requisite resources to implement the Agreement. He also observed that if the R-ARCSS was implemented in full the country, the Special Reconstruction Fund too would have been established and enjoying the support of the international community. He identified the main challenges impeding the implementation of the R-ARCSS as defection / change of allegiances. He questioned on the national spirit from their counterpart the ITGoNU. Moreover, he informed members there were numerous challenges affecting the reconstituted TNLA activities. Moreover, the Specialised Committees were yet to be established. He informed that the Constitutional Amendment Bills No 8 & 9, security bills, and Political Parties bills were received by the TNLA. Also, he stated that according to the RTNLA policy, it would go on recess from the second Monday of December and to the second Monday of April the following year. However, it had been decided and agreed that the Parliament would only break for Christmas and continue with the pending critical activities. He reiterated on the need for the graduation of the forces to be expedited with no more delay and appealed to the international partners for their financial support.
- 11.18. A representative of the CSO Alliance appreciated the Parties for adhering to the permanent ceasefire since the signing of the R-ARCSS. However, he expressed his disappointment that the Parties had forgotten the people who supported them, asserting that those who fought were enjoying while the people were suffering. He reminded the Parties that they were not elected leaders but a product of the R-ARCSS. He appealed to the Presidency and the Executives to visit the people suffering in the States. He appealed to SSOA, and SPLM/A-IO to resolve the issues of ranking and ratio of its forces. Furthermore, he enquired whether the armed Opposition forces who joined cantonment sites surrendered their weapons and wanted to know the status of food donation and supply to cantonment sites.
- 11.19. The representative of the EU delegation aligned his concerns to those provided by a member of the Troika Ambassador regarding the assessment of R-ARCSS. Further shared concerns on the fact that the reconstituted TNLA was not operational while bills seemed to be pending with the Cabinet. He expressed the need to revitalize the National Security Services, and shared the concerns of Civil Society regarding the shrinking political space in South Sudan.
- 11.20. A representative of the JDB informed that the SGBV committee established on war crimes and crimes against humanity were expected to go to the states. He also stated lack of political will among the Parties was witnessed through induced defections. He urged the RJMEC Interim Chairperson to raise and address the concern with the principals, and appealed to the Reginal Guarantors and International Partners and Friends of South Sudan for their support towards implementation of the Transitional Security Arrangements (TSAs). According to him, implementation of the other chapters of the R-ARCSS when the country

was unsecured would be a waste of funding. On the three teams established by the JDB, he reported that they still waited funding and food to be provided in the cantonment and training centres.

- 11.21. The Chairperson of the SDRB expressed being distressed on the lack of implementation of the R-ARCSS. She highlighted that most of the people and leaders had moved from violence and war. She appreciated the call for an assessment and taking stock of the best practice, strength, weaknesses, failure, and recommendations on what needed to be done for the sustainability of the country. Informed members that the issue of the ratio of forces was in the hands of the principals and no longer in the hands of the JDB for discussions. The responsibility of the JDB remained on the unification of the command and graduation of the forces. She expressed that the delay in graduating the forces had impacted the resources earmarked for the same and used while redeployment had not been implemented. Additionally, the military were expected to collect heavy weapons from the cantonment sites, barracks and demilitarize civilian centres which had not been accomplished to date. She appealed to the International Partners to support the SDSR plans whether in-kind, technically or providing resources for the implementation of the R-ARCSS.
- 11.22. The Sudan Head of Mission raised concerns on the attitude within the Parties who seemed disengaged and not participating in the RJMEC meetings. He expressed that the TSA was the backbone of the R-ARCSS and without it, all the other chapters of the R-ARCSS would not be fulfilled. He encouraged the Parties to implement the TSA citing the proposal presented to all Parties by H.E. Abdallah Hamdok which, in principle, was accepted. Due to the political dynamics unfolding in Khartoum, the Parties were expected to have continued in discussing what was proposed to them. He appealed to the Parties to work together, stating that political will was required in seeing progress in the implementation of the R-ARCSS.
- 11.23. The RTGoNU representative congratulated the Republic of Tanzania for the 60th anniversary celebration of Tanganyika's independence and thanked the South African Ambassador for his support rendered to the Republic of South Sudan. He observed that the 20th RJMEC meeting coming at the end of the year should had been a platform to assess reports from the Minister for Cabinet Affairs and Minister for Peacebuilding on the challenges faced by the RTGoNU. He expressed that the failure to pass Bills was due to the pending establishment of the Specialized Committees which was underway. He informed members that the Chairperson to the Committees, Speakers and Deputies who decide the agenda of the Parliament were appointed within the Committees. The Parliament was expected to table Bills within the Specialised Committees before the Parliament seats for discussions and to be ratified. Further informed members that the current TNL due to its peculiar nature will only close for Christmas and forgo recess in order to work on the critical activities until July 2022.
- 11.24. The RTGoNU's representative further informed members that on the offences committed by individuals, they had been sentenced individually under the laws of the Republic of South



Sudan. He urged the JDB to educate the soldiers on the repercussion/ consequences of criminality and rape. Further, he informed members that the Commissions to be established were in the hands of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA) which was facing funding challenges. However, he reconfirmed that the Commissions were to be established by a legislation. He reminded the SPLM/A-IO not to distance itself from the RTGoNU. He underscored the logistical challenges facing the Members of the Parliament (MPs and urged that the MPs be patient as the Parliamentary building was under reconstruction. He commended on the funding that had been received by the JDB for the Committees to move to the States for an assessment, screening, reorganising, and graduation of forces. He clarified that the issue of ratio and percentage disputed between the ITGoNU and the Opposition was not envisaged in the R-ARCSS, however, the size of the army would be determined by the SDSR Board once an assessment had been finalized.

- 11.25. He further underscored the need of the RJMEC Interim Chairperson to regularly brief the Executive of the RTGoNU as per Article 7.9 of the R-ARCSS and not only the bilateral meetings conducted separately with the members of the Presidency and Ministers. He expressed that reporting to the Executive would make both the Presidency and the Ministers be responsible on implementing the recommendations made by the RJMEC on the R-ARCSS.
- 11.26. The Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs reiterated that both the SSPDF and the Opposition forces committing atrocities were punished by law.

**Min. 12/20/21: Date for the Next Meeting**

12. The RJMEC Interim Chairperson informed members that the date for the 21<sup>st</sup> RJMEC monthly meeting would be confirmed and communicated to the members by the RJMEC Secretariat.

**Min. 13/20 /21: A.O.B**

13. There was no issue raised under this agenda item.

**Min.14/20/21: Resolution of the Meeting**

14. A draft Resolution of the 20<sup>th</sup> RJMEC monthly meeting was circulated to all members, reviewed, and adopted. The RJMEC Secretariat was then directed to share the final Resolution with all the members.

**Min.15/20/21: Chairman's Closing Remarks**

15. The RJMEC Interim Chairperson commended all the RJMEC members in their various capacities for their dedication and contributions toward the South Sudan peace process, particularly in ensuring that RJMEC, a very important monitoring and oversight institution of the R-ARCSS,

stayed on course in 2021. Further, he encouraged members to continue being seized of all the RJMEC matters, including full participation in all meetings, particularly during the monthly plenaries and Working Committee meetings. In addition, he reminded members on what had been resolved that the RTGoNU would brief the plenary on two important issues: (a) how it plans to implement the remaining tasks of the R-ARCSS within the remainder of the Transitional Period; and (b) the key findings and recommendations on the ongoing environmental audit. He concluded by wishing the members a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2022.

**Min.16/20/21: Closing Prayers**

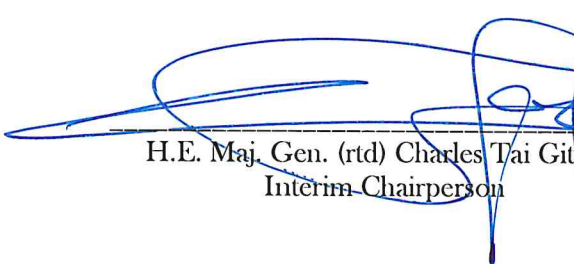
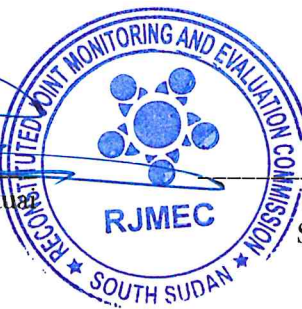
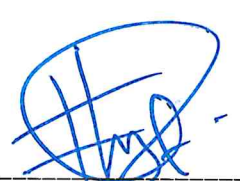
16. The representative of the faith-based organizations led a closing prayer. There being no other business, the 20<sup>th</sup> RJMEC monthly meeting was adjourned at 17:05, CAT.

The minutes are hereby proposed and seconded by the undermentioned as the true record of the meeting.

Proposer: Bishop (rtd) Enock Tombe Stephen, Faith-based leader

Secunder: Hon. Wilson Lodiong Sebit, OPP

The minutes are hereby approved and endorsed as a true record of the 20<sup>th</sup> RJMEC monthly meeting.

		
H.E. Maj. Gen. (rtd) Charles Tai Gitu Interim Chairperson		Frida Lyaruu Secretary to the Plenary