



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

### **FINAL MINUTES OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022 AT PALM AFRICA HOTEL, JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN**

The 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) was convened in Juba, South Sudan on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The meeting was chaired by H.E Maj. General (rtd) Charles Tai Gituai, 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
  - a. CTSAMVM
  - b. JDB
  - c. SDSR Board
  - d. JTSC
  - e. JMCC
  - f. 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 Cipton (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. 01/21/22: Opening Prayers**

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

**Min. 02/21/22: Chairperson's Opening Remarks**

2. The Chairperson welcomed the RJMEC members to the 21<sup>st</sup> RJMEC meeting and wished the RJMEC members a belated Happy New Year 2022.

**Min. 03/21/22: Adoption of the Agenda**

3. The draft agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> RJMEC plenary meeting was adopted without any amendments.

**Min. 04/21/22: Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

4. Members reviewed and adopted the minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> RJMEC meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 with minor corrections.

**Min. 05/21/22: Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson**

5. In his statement after welcoming members to the plenary, the RJMEC Interim Chairperson:
  - 5.1 highlighted that the plenary fell just under two weeks before the second anniversary of the formation of the RTGoNU and 12 months to end the transition. He also observed that elections is required by the R-ARCSS to take place 60 days before the transition ends and yet key tasks were outstanding, including important pieces of legislation, unification of forces, establishment of the Special Reconstruction Fund, return and resettlement of refugees and IDPs, economic reforms, establishment of the three transitional justice mechanisms and the making of the constitution;

- 5.2 expressed his concerns that the remaining time is short and that the RTGoNU should brief the plenary on its road map for implementation of the R-ARCSS within the remaining timeframe;
- 5.3 recommended for expeditious the enactment of the pending bills, operationalisation of all the State Legislatures and resourcing of the TSA, including redeployment of unified forces, as well as for DDR programmes. Further, urged the RTGoNU to work closely with international partners to establish the Board of the Special Reconstruction Fund, and for the former and the AU Commission to establish the Hybrid Court for South Sudan, and urged the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to commence public consultations on the CTRH. Lastly, he recommended that the parties and stakeholders be urged to commence preparations for their nominations of representatives to the different constitution-making institutions and mechanisms.

**Min. 06/21/22: Report from the RTGoNU**

6. The RTGoNU representative provided data on budget for implementation of the R-ARCSS and cited funding as the main challenge that delayed the implementation of the R-ARCSS as funding due to the partners' reluctance to financially support the RTGoNU. In addition, he presented the following report:
  - 6.1. After the restructuring and reconstitution of the national Commissions and the independent Institutions, a detailed R-ARCSS implementation status report, shall be presented to the Parties, the Council of Ministers, and the reconstituted TNLA for approval and subsequently, as a common agenda, to the RJMEC, IGAD and others;
  - 6.2. On the Kitgwang - Aguelek Peace Agreement, the Kitgwang - Aguelek group rejected to meet the SPLM/A-IO leadership and instead chose to dialogue with H.E. the President. As a result, the SPLM/A-IO leadership agreed at a Presidency meeting, and the President later assigned a team to handle the matter;
  - 6.3. RJMEC and its Partners should support the Resolutions of the 35<sup>th</sup> AU Summit of the Heads of State and Governments, especially on sanctions imposed on an AU member state; and
  - 6.4. Supported the position of the African Ambassadors during the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Session in Geneva, on South Sudan to be removed from item 4 and only retaining item 10 for capacity building and Technical Assistance.

**Min. 07/21/22: Report from the NTC**

- 7.0. The NTC Secretary made an oral presentation that NTC currently awaited for the principals and release of funds for the graduation of forces.

**Min. 08/21/22: Briefing from UNMISS DSRSG**

8. In his briefing to the RJMEC plenary, the DSRSG and Deputy head of UNMISS stated as follows:
  - 8.1 the RTGoNU marked a two-year anniversary of its formation in February 2022 with some progress in the establishment of the executive and legislative bodies and the essential structures of governance.

- 8.2 an assessment is required of progress and critical gaps that require attention;
- 8.3 after receiving funds from the NTC, the JDB commenced the screening of the NUF in December. However, there is need for a clear plan and timelines for the graduation and deployment of forces, and an agreement on command structures;
- 8.4 intercommunal conflict continued, perpetuating cycles of trauma and revenge that undermined the prospects for longer-term reconciliation and healing e.g., in Greater Jonglei. There is need to de-escalate the situation, protect the citizens and end impunity for cycles of violence. UNMISS works closely with the state and national authorities, grassroot communities, and stakeholders of the local peace processes to promote peace through dialogue and reconciliation;
- 8.5 flooding, insecurity, and the Covid-19 pandemic continue to exacerbate the fragile humanitarian situation in the country. Since May 2021, an estimated 835,000 people have been affected by flooding. In Bentiu and Rukbona, flood waters from the last rainy season had not yet receded, raising concerns as the rainy season was soon approaching;
- 8.6 the United Nations continued to build dykes and undertake efforts to mitigate the situation. An urgent collaborative effort between the Government, the United Nations and the international community is needed for better outcomes to save lives;
- 8.7 UNMISS was supporting the government in its primary responsibilities to protect civilians in building more durable solutions to conflict, including through the flexible deployment of Temporary Operating Bases and the use of mobile courts;
- 8.8 prospects for alleviating the humanitarian and security challenges rest on the expedient implementation of the R-ARCSS;
- 8.9 law makers and the political parties should address the pending critical bills, including those required to facilitate electoral preparations. The making of the permanent constitution should be a priority;
- 8.10 UNMISS is encouraged by and support the recent Communiqué of the AU PSC which requesting for an IGAD, AU, UN trilateral evaluation of the electoral and constitution-making needs of South Sudan; and
- 8.11 The United Nations is committed to support building durable and lasting peace in South Sudan. On their part, the parties the region, and guarantors to the R-ARCSS need to stay the course in sustaining progress.

**Min. 09/21/22: Reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms**

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

9.0 The CTSAMVM Chairperson reported the following:

- 9.0.1. CTSAMVM Board members Mr. Shiek Vitale Aligo Samson from the Civil Society, and Col Mohamed Ali Salih Babiker, an international observer from Sudan on the Juba MVT lost their lives;

- 9.0.2. Since December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, CTSAMVM reported clashes between the parties-signatory to the R-ARCSS in Jekau and Liang, Upper Nile State which CTSAMVM will verify;
- 9.0.3. in general, the ceasefire was holding between the Parties to the R-ARCSS while the situation in Tambura was relatively calm with NGOs resuming operations;
- 9.0.4. the clashes between the Kit-Gwang and SPLM/A-IO had stopped following an order by the H.E. Dr Riek Machar to the SPLA-IO forces to disengage and cease fire with the Kit-Gwang forces;
- 9.0.5. there are several incidents allegedly involving NAS forces in Central Equatoria which were still under investigation. There are efforts being undertaken by the Community of Sant' Egidio to work with CTSAMVM, RJMEC, IGAD and SSOMA to resume the Rome process with an expectation that SSOMA monitors will join the CTSAMVM structure;
- 9.0.6. CTSAMVM observed progress with screening of forces at the training centers. Also, the logistical concerns remained at most of the training centers;
- 9.0.7. the total number of occupied civilian buildings by the SPLM/A-IO and SSPDF or other government security forces remained unchanged at 14;
- 9.0.8. four violation reports were presented to the CTC and the Board: two reports involved violations by NAS of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (2017) in Central Equatoria, a report involved a violation of the R-ARCSS by the SSPDF in Central Equatoria and the other violation was by the SPLM/A-IO in Western Equatoria;
- 9.0.9. CTSAMVM visit the 11<sup>th</sup> Division SSPDF at Majak Tit in Warrap State to physically verification of its status. The leadership of the Tiger Division of SSPDF were uncooperative and denied access to the team. He urged that the matter on denials of access be addressed by RJMEC as a matter of urgency; and
- 9.0.10. more funding support is required towards its monitoring and verification activities; and
- 9.0.11. CTSAMVM is ready and committed to support the peace process with a very high-level of commitment while preserving its impartiality, neutrality and independence.

## **ii) Joint Defence Board**

- 9.1. The Co-Chairperson of the Joint Defence Board (JDB) reported the following:
  - 9.1.1. The insecurity in Western Equatoria State generally improved, however, there were incidences of heavy fighting in some parts of greater Upper Nile. Overall, the security situation was relatively stable and the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement was still largely holding;

- 9.1.2. the JD sent a team to investigate and handle the Pagak issue. The team submitted its report to the JDB;
- 9.1.3. although some limited quantities of food items were solicited and delivered to some training centres, they were not sufficient, and no deliveries were made to the assembly and cantonment areas;
- 9.1.4. the process of screening and unification of the NUF was carried out successfully and reports were being finalized;
- 9.1.5. the NTC needs to expedite release of the remaining funds earmarked for the screening, and unification process in order for the JDB to clear outstanding bills incurred during the process. Furthers to also to release funds intended for the graduation and deployment of the Necessary Unified Forces;
- 9.1.6. trust and confidence-building among the Parties to be strengthened to mitigate discontent and inter-party shifts in allegiance; and
- 9.1.7. the screening, reorganisation and unification process was completed in most training centres, there was urgency to graduate the forces;

### iii) Strategic Defence and Security Review Board

9.2. The Chairperson of the Strategic Defence and Security Review Board (SDSRB) stated that:

- 9.2.1. the activities of the SDSR Board were sequential and had been on-going and parallel between stage I and stage II. Further she reminded members that the SDRS activities should have been completed during the Pre-Transitional period;
- 9.2.2. the unification process was a pre-requisite for the formation of the RTGoNU. The forces needed to be unified, graduated, redeployed first. This was not the case and the RTGoNU was still struggling with the same activities;
- 9.2.3. she ought to clarify because in some of the writings of the UN SC and some of the Partners of South Sudan tend to assume, the White Paper was to inform the unification of command and unification of the forces which was not the case as per the R-ARCSS;
- 9.2.4. the SDSR Board was still struggling with the same challenges of doing the final approval by the Board of the Defence Policy. The Board had not met recently due to lack of funding. In that regard, support are requested from UNMISS, RJMEC, CEPO; and
- 9.2.5. the NTC needs to release funds to the Board to enable it to finalise the White Paper so it can be submitted to the principals and later the Council of Ministers for approval.

### iv) Joint Transitional Security Committee

9.3. The Head of Secretariat of the JTSC informed members that the Committee did not have a written reported due to the lack of funding from the NITC and that the JTSC needed to submit its report to the JDB so that it could present a report on behalf of the security mechanisms.



**(v) Joint Military Ceasefire Commission**

- 9.4. The Chairperson of the Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC) did not attend the 21<sup>st</sup> RJMEC plenary nor did he submit a report to the RJMEC Secretariat.

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

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

- 9.5.1. The Commission continues engagement with the local and international stakeholders: meetings to advance the idea of Community Violence Reduction program had been ongoing. The latest meeting was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 where the decision was reached to put the pilot project location in Western Bahr El-ghazal (Wau). The DDRC decided to conduct a one-month assessment in order to aid the naming and selection of the project site within Western Bahr el Ghazal counties. Funding for conducting assessment remained a challenge as no donor was available at the time the meeting was concluded;
- 9.5.2. the Commission conducted training to the DDR members and its staff separately at the Institute of Peace in Nairobi Kenya, the Koffi Annan International peacekeeping Training Center in Accra Ghana supported by AU/ UN 2021 and online;
- 9.5.3. the Commission conducted a base line assessment survey (opportunity mapping) in all the ten states and three Administrative Areas supported by UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNDP and DDRC in 2021;
- 9.5.4. the challenges facing the DDR Commission remained the same;
- 9.5.5. the major focus of the DDR Commission for 2022 will be to engage the stakeholders to support the implementation of the CVR program to stabilize security for classical DDR program to pick up. Meanwhile, the construction of transitional facilities will go alongside if funds were available; and
- 9.5.6. the RTGoNU needs to accomplish the implementation of the following conditions in order for the DDR program to kickstart: advocacy for support of DDR program among the international community; construction of 10 transitional facilities are constructed in the ten States for training of ex-combatants; the Presidency to own and assume responsibility of DDRC; the NTC to mobilize support and release funding for the DDRC; and RJMEC to support the dissemination of the approved documents, and activation of ICRS database.

**Min. 10 /21/22: Discussions on Statements and Reports**

10. During discussions, several issues were raised and deliberated upon as highlighted below:

- 10.1.A representative of the Troika welcomed the Interim Chairperson's updates and commended him for setting out clearly that defections breached the Agreement both in letter and spirit. He



observed that progress has been made in political front and that defection, irrespective of to which party, have a corrosive effect on the Peace Agreement since they undermine trust between the parties and make many in the international community question the commitment of those responsible to peace;

- 10.2. The reports of violations of the ceasefire by the parties in Upper Nile state and Jonglei are concerning. The situation across cantonment sites are dire due to lack of food, water and medicine. The Troika joined the JDB call for the RTGoNU to release funds to the mechanisms;
- 10.3. The Troika welcomed efforts to build peace, however, the efforts should be within the framework of the R-ARCSS. The establishment of the Necessary Unified forces was the only sustainable solution to the cycle of defections, outbursts of violence and shifting of forces. Also, a single, national security force, with a shared vision loyal only to the state and not to individuals was vital for the future of the country;
- 10.4. The planned retreat in Kampala would reinject momentum into the peace process in the last year of the transitional period and all participants were encouraged to engage in good faith;
- 10.5. The TNLA established committee Chairs for most of its Standing Committees and for beginning legislative duties. The legislative sessions therefore need to address several outstanding areas in R-ARCSS implementation, especially bills pertaining to elections, constitutional drafting, and security sector reform;
- 10.6. Transparency around state resources and accountability are vital to building trust between the parties to the agreement, and between state and the people of South Sudan. In that regard, the PFM reforms are vital to delivering a growing economy which was the only way to guarantee peace and stability in the long-term and also vital to end the competition for resources that drives much of the conflict across the country;
- 10.7. The AUMISS representative registered his condolences to CTSAMVM for the loss of its Board members. He further appreciated the statement and reports presented by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson, RTGoNU and the mechanisms. However, he took note of the RTGoNU report on the reforms to be right channel in taking care the sovereign resources of a country. He highlighted that the in-kind support from other bodies and countries should have been recognised as they contributed to TSA. On Transitional Justice, the AU would live to the expectation stipulated in the R-ARCSS.;
- 10.8. The member recognised the achievements registered by the RTGoNU, but noted that a lot needed to be achieved which may not be accomplished before the end of the Transitional Period. In that regard, he proposed an extraordinary RJMEC meeting to discuss and interrogate the road map that focuses on the current critical pending issues and the way forward;
- 10.9. The IPF representative informed members that he was the new Chargé d’Affairs of the Canadian Embassy in South Sudan. He observed that it was incumbent to recognise that the R-ARCSS had entered its final Transitional Period which called for the long list of outstanding critical

tasks to be successfully implemented. Also, the member reiterated that the IPF is ready to assist but the South Sudan officials must own the process and progress made. He urged the government of South Sudan to seize the initiative and demonstrate the requisite political will to ensure that the political transition, that the RJMEC members are charged to oversee is implemented in a timely manner;

- 10.10. welcomed President Museveni's initiative to convene a high-level retreat to accelerate progress in the implementation of the R-ARCSS, particularly with respect to the unification of forces. He urged the leadership of South Sudan to avail themselves of the opportunity to secure agreement on a number of outstanding issues;
- 10.11. further welcomed the visit by the high-level delegation of the community of Saint 'Egidio to South Sudan and their efforts to revive the Rome process, and urged the parties to the talks to resume the Rome dialogue;
- 10.12. welcomed the TNLA deliberations on the National budget for 2021/22 and raised concerns on the slow pace of the Assembly in conducting its business against outstanding backlog of vital legislation; urged for expeditious inauguration of the State Assemblies and requested for an update on the status of the Anti-Corruption Commission in the next RJMEC plenary;
- 10.13. On immense flooding impacting some 80% of Unity State, he raised concern that should it not be addressed before the next rainy season, the country would be confronted with a humanitarian crisis;
- 10.14. Another member (Sudan) commended the efforts by the RTGoNU and the hard work of the TNLA since its establishment. However, he raised concerns on the lack of implementation of the R-ARCSS, especially the TSA, the backbone of the R-ARCSS. He underscored that the UN sanctions were not the right tool to assist a country to move forward. He made reference to the AU's call on the international communities to find a better solution in dealing with challenges that countries faced rather than sanctions;
- 10.15. A member (Ethiopia) appealed to the members to use the right approach in supporting the work of the RTGoNU and the implementation of the R-ARCSS. He also stated that African countries needed to focus on African solution to the African problems. Moreover, the objective of having election was to maintain the peace and security of the country. However, more focus on the pending and critical issues was needed to stabilise the country;
- 10.16. Another member (IGAD) expressed IGAD's appreciation to the international partners, organisations, institutions, and the wider community and friends of South Sudan for standing with the people of South Sudan during 2021 when it faced the devastating impact of COVID-19 and environmental factors such as the recent flooding. Despite the challenges, the RTGoNU achieved some progress, especially in the Governance cluster. He appealed for more progress in 2022. Furthermore, he reiterated IGAD's continued commitment to advocate for South Sudan and renew its momentum to continue mobilising international diplomatic and political support to ensure the successful conclusion of the South Sudan peace process;

- 10.17. Another member (Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs) observed that the R-ARCSS was at a critical stage whereby if not completed what the achievements would be meaningless. Unification of forces was to be governed by the security laws which are still pending ratification. Also, the Permanent Constitutional-making process is vital for the creation of political stability of the country. She noted that defection, the delay of graduation of the forces in Chapter II we chapter II implementation. Moreover, there is disparity in which SSPDF and Opposition forces are treated – with the former receiving salaries while the latter do not, noting that is contributed to defections and continuation of war through different violation. She reiterated the need address the challenges in a transparent manner in order to create a political stability of the country;
- 10.18. South Sudan had seven (7) months before it embarks elections process commences. However, at least 15 months are required for the Permanent Constitutional-making process. She appealed for support from the international Partners for the TSA.
- 10.19. The member stated that CTSAMVM was supposed to monitor violations, including propaganda done by the state media. The state media should allow all parties on its political activities and conducts. She underscored that the above were among the few areas that need to be cleared for the country to embark on credible elections
- 10.20. Another member (Business Community) welcomed the report by the RTGoNU and took note of the lack of reports from the mechanisms. The RTGoNU report had left many activities unexplained and with no way forward on the dates the activities would be implemented. She was concerned about the unreported in-kind support that were stored at Juba International Airport such as boots, food etc. Moreover, she requested for more clarifications on the loans and the contracts that the NPT commissioned to the traders who transported food to the cantonment sites. The member also urged for unification of forces before the end of the transition. She questioned how the ongoing reforms by the Central Bank and the IMF would uplift the economy and the traders whose cash was still in the hands of the government;
- 10.21. A member (EU) reiterated the need to work focus on finalising implementation of the R-ARCSS, welcomed the proposal for holding an extraordinary RJMEC meeting before the next plenary and endorsed the need to establish transparency, fighting corruption and financial unity investigation soon. The member observed that the conflict related to SGBV was a big issue and unacceptable. He urged IGAD to expedite the process of establishment of the JRC;
- 10.22. Another member (Youth) queried the RTGoNU's next plan for the reconstitution of Commissions and Institutions at the national level and what their role would be within the remaining time left;
- 10.23. A member (OPP) commended all the reports presented and observed that the NTC needed to be transparent, accountable, and monitored. He underscored the need to discuss and talk about the remaining months, the remaining reforms to be made and the way forward;

- 10.24. Another member (ITGoNU) commended the statement by the Interim Chairperson and clarified that the State Legislature had been finalised, sworn in and started their work. He raised his concerns on the statement made by different members on the SGBV in generalising rape committed by individuals within the army and urged for a refrain from associating rape with all the soldiers. On Kit Gwang-Agwelek Agreement, he cited the fact that the forces had refused to have discussions with SPLM/A – IO leadership who endorsed discussions with the ITGoNU. The member informed of the agreement between Kit Gwang-Agwelek and SPLM-IG was to silence the guns and maintain peace in the country and not to encourage defections. He stated that the Kit Gwang Agreement was not a violation, and the forces would be integrated to the SSPDF and later unified as a national army. In addition, the member clarified that the State media, belonged to all the citizens who wanted to broadcast its activities however, it was covered by law which refrained the media from being misused for hate speeches or inciting violence in the country. He informed members that government had embarked on the construction of infrastructures such as roads to support and connect the states and as a preparation for elections, which would involve all the citizens. He raised concerns on the questions raised on elections and requested to be given an opportunity to plan and share a road map;
- 10.25. Another member (SPLM/A – IO) commended the report of the RTGoNU and expected all the stakeholders to exert all efforts and necessary resources to implement the remaining critical pending tasks this year. He shared the status of the Bills awaiting to be ratified by the Parliament. He informed members that, the Specialised Committees were scrutinizing the tabled 2021/2022 national budget which was due for a second reading after 21 days. He reassured members that the budget will be expedited and finalised as a matter of urgency to allow discussions of the pending bills. The Permanent Constitutional- making bill will be tabled for discussion before the TNLA, followed by the Security bills, Political Parties Bill and the Elections laws. Furthermore, he asserted that South Sudanese wanted to go for elections after it was announced by the President. However, for a country to embark on elections, it requires a Permanent Constitution, a national army, and national police. He also raised concerns on the National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC) that had stopped working having reviewed only 12 laws, with 15 pending laws which were very critical. He called on the reinstatement of the NCAC to finalise the pending 15 laws;
- 10.26. another member (RTGoNU) clarified to members that the Council's resolutions were always endorsed by the Cabinet. He took note of the commendable statement made by the Troika, EU, IPF and the International Partners on what had been achieved by the RTGoNU and further urged them to support the implementation of the R-ARCSS. He commended the statements by the Regional Guarantors on their support and endorsed the call for a collegial support and focus on the way forward;
- 10.27. informed members that he was yet to table the Rwanda workshop report due to the lockdown. Moreover, he endorsed the proposal to hold an extraordinary plenary to present and discuss a road map once it is endorsed by the cabinet;

- 10.28. Another member (JDB Co-Chairperson) informed members that the SPLM/A- IO would address the issue of occupied civilian centres as reported by the CTSAMVM by vacating the civilian centres. He further pledged to follow up on the issue of rape cases that happened in Yambio, Western Equatoria, and in Rirungu cantonment site. He further informed members that the 13 years girl in question was 21 years of age and not as reported to be underage;
- 10.29. On defections, he allegedly stated that it was a way of weakening the opposition. He reiterated the need to unify commanding structure and the unification of forces to stop defection. He further proposed all the commanders who committed and violated the R-ARCSS should be punished and further sanctioned. He noted that for election to be conducted the security situation in the country should be conducive to allow free movements of refugees and IDPs back to their homes. Further, he clarified that the Kit Gwang- Agwelek group had refused to discuss with the Chairperson and Commander in Chief of the SPLM/A – IO. On the state media, he echoed that there was a campaign against a particular party which was unacceptable. Nonetheless, he encouraged the state media to broadcast and treating activities of all the parties equally as one government.
- 10.30. The Interim Chairperson clarified that although the mandate of the NCAC had ended, and all the Parties endorsed its extension. However, the NCAC had been facing funding challenges and discussion with the UNDP was underway to bring them back to proceed with work. He also underscored that as per Art 2.1.10 of CoHA, movements and restrictions of CTSAMVM, and UNMISS were a violation that needed to be looked at by the SSPDF. While Article 2.1.10.4 stipulated protections of human rights of civilians, to ensure safety and dignity should be observed by the army and those responsible to command.

**Min. 11/21/22: Date for the Next Meeting**

11. 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. 12/21 /22: A.O.B**

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

**Min.13/21/22: Resolution of the Meeting**

13. A draft Resolution of the 21<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.14/21/22: Chairman's Closing Remarks**

14. The RJMEC Interim Chairperson commended all the RJMEC members in their various capacities for their dedication and contributions toward the South Sudan peace process,

**Min.15/21/22: Closing Prayers**

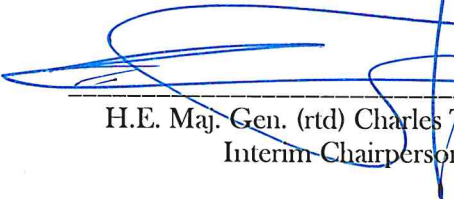
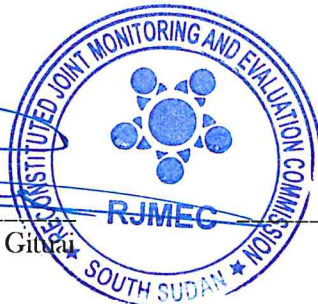

15. The representative of the faith-based organizations led a closing prayer. There being no other business, the 21<sup>st</sup> RJMEC monthly meeting was adjourned at 16:26, CAT.

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

Proposer: Hon. Michael Makuei Lueth (ITGoNU)

Seconder: Ms. Mary Ajith, (CSO Forum)

The minutes are hereby approved and endorsed as a true record of the 21<sup>st</sup> RJMEC monthly meeting.

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| <br>H.E. Maj. Gen. (rtd) Charles Tai Githai<br>Interim Chairperson |  | <br>Frida Lyaruu<br>Secretary to the Plenary |
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