



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

**Resolutions of the
33rd RJMEC Meeting**

Beijing Juba Hotel, 07th December 2023
Juba, South Sudan

The 33rd RJMEC meeting considered the following agenda items:

- a) Minutes of the last meeting;
- b) Statement by RJMEC Interim Chairperson;
- c) Report from RTGoNU;
- d) Report from the NTC on Transitional Security Arrangements;
- e) Briefing from the UNMISS SRSG;
- f) Reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms (NCAC, PFM-OC, JRC, JDB, SDSR Board, JTSC, JMCC, and DDR Commission);
- g) Discussion on the RJMEC Interim Chairperson's statement, UNMISS SRSG briefing and reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms; and
- h) Date of the next RJMEC meeting.

In attendance were representatives of all the Parties to the Agreement, Other South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents, the Regional Guarantors, International Partners and Friends of South Sudan, Observers, as well as Institutions and Mechanisms of the Agreement.

Following the statement by the Interim Chairperson, briefing by UNMISS D/SRSG, and after considering the reports from RTGoNU, NCAC, JDB, JMCC, and DDR, the RJMEC resolved as follows:

1. **Adopted** the Minutes of the 32nd RJMEC meeting with one amendment.
2. **Welcomed** the statement of H.E. Amb. Maj. Gen. (rtd) Charles Tai Gituai, RJMEC Interim Chairperson, his progress report on five years of the Revitalised Peace Agreement, updates on recent developments in the implementation of the R-ARCSS, and **endorsed** all his recommendations therein;
3. **Thanked** Hon. Michael Makuei Lueth, RTGoNU Minister of Information and Telecommunications and ITGoNU representative to RJMEC, for his briefing on recent progress registered by the RTGoNU in the implementation of the R-ARCSS, including his update on the deployment of first batch of the unified forces, the swearing in of appointees to the Political Parties Council (PPC), the National Elections Commission (NEC), and the National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC), as well as the tabling by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs of the Bills for the establishment of the Commission for Truth Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH) and the Commission and Reparation Authority (CRA) to the reconstituted Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA);

4. **Welcomed** the swearing-in of members of the Political Parties Council (PPC), an important institution with a mandate of registering, overseeing and regulating activities of political parties, and **appealed for** adequate resourcing to effectively deliver on its mandate. In this regard, it **called for** the expeditious operationalization of the two Commissions, the NCRC and NEC, tasked with driving forward the permanent constitution-making process and preparing and conducting elections respectively; and **took note** that all three institutions are to report to RJMEC, as per article 7.8 of the Peace Agreement;
5. **Took note** of the recent progress made by the reconstituted Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) in inter-alia enacting legislations in support of implementation of the Agreement. In this regard, it **noted with great concern** the delayed enactment of some critical pieces of legislations such as the National Security Service Bill, the National Audit Chamber Bill and the Public Finance Management and Accountability Bill which are still pending enactment, and **urged** the TNLA to conclude their deliberations on these bills, as well as the recently tabled CTRH and CRA bills;
6. **Thanked** Mr. Guang Cong, the UNMISS D/SRSG, for his briefing, including detailed updates on the current humanitarian situation in South Sudan, protection of civilians as per UNMISS mandate, observations on the status of implementation of the Agreement, and **welcomed** all his recommendations to the RTGoNU in this regard;
7. **Appreciated** all Chairpersons and/or representatives of the NCAC, JDB, JMCC, and DDR Commission for their reports, took note of the reported progress, and **endorsed** all their recommendations. In this regard, it **regretted** that the NTC did not submit a report and **emphasised** the

importance of the NTC reporting on the status of coordination and funding of implementation of the pending Transitional Security Arrangements, given its criticality for lasting peace and the conduct of elections;

8. **Welcomed** reports that the longstanding CTSAMVM Technical Committee (CTC) challenges are nearing resolution, with draft CTC Terms of Reference having been reviewed and agreed to at the joint technical level convened by the RJMEC Secretariat, which now await endorsement by the CTSAMVM Board. In this regard, it **commended** the RJMEC Interim Chairperson for his efforts to resolve this CTSAMVM operational challenges;
9. **Emphasised** the importance of a people-led and people-owned constitution to consolidate the peaceful and democratic aspirations of the people of South Sudan. In this regard, it **noted with great concern** the delay in the operationalisation of the National Constitutional Review Commission, and the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the National Constitutional Conference, two institutions that will drive forward the making of the permanent constitution to guide the conduct of elections at the end of the Transitional Period and **called for** the expeditious operationalisation of all pending institutions and mechanisms in this regard;
10. **Expressed concerns** about the ongoing military defections resulting in armed confrontations, civilians being killed and displaced, and **observed** that military defections are a violation of the Revitalised Peace Agreement given the ongoing unification of forces; in this regard, it **urged** the Parties to discourage such defections, or if defectors have joined, exercise command and control over them to ensure their peaceful coexistence;
11. **Expressed serious concerns** that elections are scheduled to be held next year, and yet across all chapters of the Agreement, much more progress in

implementation is required. In this regard, it **observed** that one of the key issues holding up progress is funding to all the Agreement institutions and mechanisms, and **urged** the RTGoNU to demonstrate its commitment to the elections by i) providing the funding required to hold elections, ii) providing funding for the newly reconstituted elections-related institutions; and iii) completing the unification of forces;

12. **Encouraged** all Parties to the Agreement and RTGoNU to cooperate in a collegial manner and to present a unified plan for elections, and continuously implement measures that expand requisite civic and political space for all parties and citizens to freely express their views and participate in the constitution-making and election processes without fear or intimidation;
13. **Identified** some key pending tasks for the conduct of elections as per the Agreement and the National Elections Act, including:
 - a. Operationalisation and facilitation of the PPC, NEC, and NCRC;
 - b. Making of a permanent constitution in accordance with the Constitution Making Process Act 2022 to guide the conduct of elections;
 - c. Amendment of the National Elections Act to conform to the terms of the Permanent Constitution (Article 1.20.6);
 - d. Addressing the challenges of reconstruction, repatriation, resettlement, rehabilitation, and reintegration of IDPs and returnees (Article 1.20.7);
 - e. NEC to conduct elections-related activities listed in Article 1.20.8, such as the establishment of subsidiary electoral management bodies

- at the state level, the establishment of procedures for the voter registry and registration, and support to civic education and voter outreach;
- f. Publication of the voters register six months prior to the holding of elections (Article 1.20.10); and delimitation of constituencies, in accordance with the provisions of the National Elections Act, 2023.
14. **Recommended** that the RTGoNU provide the necessary funding to operationalise the elections-related reconstituted institutions; enact the Bills currently before the reconstituted TNLA; take concrete steps to address the insecurity in Unity State, and other areas where defections are causing loss of life and civilian displacement; communicate the plan for deployment of Phase 1 of the NUF, and proceed with Phase 2 cantonment and training of forces; establish the Special Reconstruction Fund and Board; and begin the urgent review of the Land Act, in order to complete the tasks necessary to prepare the country for elections and accelerate progress in implementation;
15. **Underscored** the critical mandate of the RJMEC as an inclusive and impartial oversight mechanism mandated to evaluate the status of the implementation of the Revitalised Peace Agreement and **regretted** that its last meeting did not reach quorum, and **urged** representatives of all Parties, Stakeholders and the RTGoNU to prioritise the meetings of RJMEC and support its mandate as per Chapter VII of the Agreement;
16. **Wished** all RJMEC members, the RTGoNU, and the people of South Sudan a happy and restful Christmas and New Year and **called for** unwavering commitment to the peace process in South Sudan as well as continued support, focus and unity of purpose in the year 2024.

17. **Agreed** that the date for the next meeting shall be communicated by the Secretariat in the new year; and
18. **Decided** to remain seized of all RJMEC matters.

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