



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

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT MONITORING AND
EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 7TH MARCH 2019 AT PALM AFRICA HOTEL, JUBA -
SOUTH SUDAN**

The 4th meeting of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) convened in Juba, South Sudan, on 7th March 2019 chaired by the Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC, Ambassador Lt. General Augustino S.K Njoroge (Rtd), who called the meeting to order at 9:18 am.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayers
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Statement by RJMEC Interim Chairperson
4. Report from the NPTC
5. Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting
6. Briefing from UNMISS SRSG
7. Remarks by the AU PSC Chairperson; Head of AU PSC delegation
(Media Excused)
8. Reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:
 - i. NCAC
 - ii. CTSAMVM
 - iii. JDB
 - iv. SDSR Board
 - v. JTSC
 - vi. JMCC
9. Coffee Break
10. Discussions on:
 - i. Interim Chair's statement, NPTC, UNMISS SRSG
 - ii. Reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms
11. Lunch Break
12. Date for the next meeting
13. A.O.B
14. Resolutions of the meeting
15. Closing prayers

In attendance were the representatives of all the Parties to the R-ARCSS and stakeholders in RJMEC, namely:

For the Parties to the R-ARCSS:

1. Hon. Awut Deng Acuil (Incumbent TGoNU)
2. Hon. Micheal Chainjiek Geay (Incumbent TGoNU)
3. Hon. Sophia Pal Gai (Incumbent TGoNU)
4. Amb. Stephen Par Kuol (SPLM/A-IO)
5. Ms. Sandra Bona Malwal (SPLM/A-IO)
6. Hon. Hussein Abdelbagi Akol (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. Ms. Riya William Yuuada (Women Coalition)
3. Ms. Mary Akech Bior (Women's Bloc)
4. Mr. Rajab John Mohandis (CSO Forum)
5. Prof. Moses Macar Kacual (Eminent Person)
6. Mr. Simon Akuei Deng (Business Community)
7. Ms. Yar Manoa Majok (Business Community)
8. Prof. Pauline Riak (Academia)
9. Ms. Caroline Kibos (Youth)
10. Mr. Malish John Peter (Youth)

For the Regional Guarantors

1. Mr. Zelalem Birhan (Ethiopia)
2. H.E Chris K. Mburu (Kenya)
3. Mr. Shafie Nuralas Farah (Somalia)
4. H.E. Adil Ibrahim Mustafa (Sudan)
5. H.E Brig. Gen. Ronnie Balya (Uganda)
6. H.E. Gordon M. Yekelo (South Africa)
7. H.E Obinna C. Agbugba (Nigeria)
8. Lt. Col. Claver Karara (Rwanda)
9. Mr. Tesfaye Negassa (IGAD Juba Liaison Office)
10. Amb. Prof. Joram M. Biswaro (AUMISS)

For International Partners and Friends of South Sudan

1. H.E He Xiangdong (China)
2. Ms. Signe Guro Gillen (Norway)
3. Mr. Tim Timmons (USA)
4. H.E Allison Blackburne (UK)
5. Mr. Moustapha Soumare (UNMISS)
6. H.E. Sinead Walsh (EU)
7. H.E. Janet Albeda (IPF)

For RJMEC Secretariat

1. Amb. Berhanu Kebede, Chief of Staff
2. Dr. Thomson Fontaine, Deputy Chief of Staff - Strategy
3. Mr. Stephen Oola, Legal Counsel

For the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms

1. Hon. Gabriel Changson Chang, Co-Chair NPTC
2. Hon. Gichira Kibara, Chairperson NCAC
3. Maj. Gen. Desta Abiche, Chairperson CTSAMVM
4. Gen. Gabriel Jok Riak, Chairperson JDB
5. Madam Angelina Teny, Chairperson SDSR Board
6. Lt. Gen. Wesley Welebe Samson, Co-Chairperson JTSC
7. Maj. Gen. Genesio Moro, Head of Secretariat JMCC

Observers

1. H.E Seiji Okada (Japan)
2. H.E Jan Hendrick van Thiel (Germany)
3. H.E. Dr. Ahmed Bahaa Eldin (Egypt)
4. Ms. Joane Holliger (Switzerland)
5. Ms. Elizabeth Awate (UN Women)

The meeting was also attended by a delegation of the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) led by its chairperson, H.E Catherine Muigai Mwangi.

Min.1/04/19: Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was led by a representative of the Faith-Based Leaders.

Min.2/04/19: Adoption of the Agenda

The draft agenda was adopted as presented without any amendments.

Min.3/04/19: Statement by RJMEC Interim Chairperson

In his opening statement, the interim Chairperson of RJMEC:

- 1) welcomed members to the 4th RJMEC monthly meeting and thanked all RJMEC members, partners and Friends of South Sudan who attended the 1st Extra-ordinary meeting of the RJMEC successfully held on 19th February 2019, where the NPTC presented its approved budget of 285 million US Dollars only (US\$ 285,000,000) for the Pre-Transitional Period and its action plan; and members discussed the funding challenges affecting the implementation of the pre-transitional activities;
- 2) underscored that RJMEC welcomed the decision by the incumbent TGoNU to allocate an additional 10 million US Dollars (US\$ 10,000,000) as initial funding to the NPTC but noted that funding remained a big concern in the R-ARCSS implementation process. He welcomed those who had pledged and/or contributed some funding and appealed for more support to the revitalized Peace Agreement from all Partners and Friends of South Sudan;
- 3) noted commendable progress on the establishment of the Independent Boundaries Commission (IBC), adding that the Republic of South Africa had submitted the name of its nominee to IGAD Executive Secretary and that Rwanda and Chad were yet to do so. With that development, he said the IBC would be established soon;
- 4) welcomed the assurance given to women representatives by H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit that their 35% allocation is guaranteed and urged all Parties to fulfil the commitment in letter and spirit;
- 5) informed members that steps had been taken towards the appointment of the RJMEC Chairperson, and that the IGAD Heads of State and Government were fully seized of the matter;
- 6) noted that the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan had held frank discussions with Gen. Thomas Cirillo of National Salvation Front (NAS) and Gen. Paul Malong Awan of South Sudan United Front (SSUF), and that both leaders indicated their willingness to engage in the South Sudan peace process;
- 7) informed members that the Special Envoy had endorsed the decision of the RJMEC and that of the NCAC, and observed that there were no violations of the R-ARCSS by RJMEC and the NCAC as alleged by the SPLM/A-IO regarding the issue of the desired system of governance during the Pre-Transition and Transition Periods;
- 8) informed members that RJMEC Secretariat had completed the translation of public service announcements into Juba Arabic, Dinka, and Nuer and Broadcasting was due to commence as more translations into Shilluk, Bari and Zande were in progress;
- 9) Reported that the TBC had made significant progress and was expected to conclude its work in the next few days and embark on report writing despite the resignation of its two members nominated by the Troika countries; and
- 10) urged the Joint Defense Board (JDB) to take the matter of denial of access to CTSAMVM seriously and ensure that there is no further denial of access.

Min.4/04/19: Report by the NPTC

The Co-Chairperson of the NPTC in his report to the 4th RJMEC monthly meeting highlighted that:

- 1) all established and or reconstituted Agreement institutions and mechanisms continued to hold their meeting in Juba South Sudan with facilitation from the NPTC;
- 2) dissemination of the R-ARCSS and holding of peace celebrations continued across various parts of the country;
- 3) an agreement had been reached on the number of cantonment sites and training centres and movement of forces to the sites was in progress;
- 4) a budget and work plans of NPTC had been completed, approved by the incumbent TGoNU Council of Ministers and shared with RJMEC members and partners during the first RJMEC Extraordinary meeting and that the NPTC had opened up a partners' bank account with KCB bank in which Japan had remitted one million US Dollars through IGAD to support the implementation process;
- 5) NPTC had launched fundraising events starting with the business community in Juba with an event held on 20 February 2019 in Juba in which 550 million SSP and 500,000 US Dollars were pledged and NPTC was to follow up to ensure remittance of the pledged funds;
- 6) NCAC had finished the incorporation of the R-ARCSS into the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, 2011 as amended, presented it to the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and had been adopted by the Council of Ministers of I-TGONU; and
- 7) reiterated the commitment of the NPTC to exert all efforts to mobilize funds for the implementation of the revitalized Peace Agreement and to reach out to those who were still holding arms to stop and join the peace process.

Min.5/04/19: Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the 3rd RJMEC monthly meeting were adopted without amendment.

Min.6/04/19: Briefing from UNMISS SRSG

The Deputy SRSG, in his briefing to the meeting, noted that:

- 1) UNMISS had observed 71 peace initiative across the country led by local government and opposition leaders with the full participation of the NPTC;
- 2) UNMISS supported and observed that commitment and local initiatives had grown in momentum and impact, including the revival of local markets, movement of civilians and increased economic activities due to opening of roads in many places. He added that localized efforts contribute to increased confidence and people were looking forward to their leaders especially towards Transitional Period;
- 3) recognised the overall calm in the security situation across the country and encouraged all mechanisms to continue regular meetings so as to live up to their mandate. Further urged Parties to step up efforts and international partners to support their peace efforts adding that the international community should build on the discussions on the 19th Jan. 2019 RJMEC Extraordinary meeting and continue their engagement;
- 4) noted that there was a significant increment of about 30% in numbers of food insecurity people since January 2019;

- 5) further noted that the fighting in Yei area had led to the displacement of people and increasing need for humanitarian aid and despite constrained humanitarian work in and around Yei, Planning was underway for humanitarian aid in March 2019; and
- 6) intercommunal violence was on the rise and had become a source of insecurity in Warrap, Unity and Lakes States.

Min.7/04/19: Remarks by the AU PSC Chairperson- Head of AUPSC delegation

The Chairperson and head of delegation of the African Union Peace and Security Council:

- 1) appreciated RJMEC for the invitation to participate in the RJMEC monthly meeting and she introduced the members of her delegation. She stated that the purpose of AUPSC delegation was to meet with the Parties to the R-ARCSS and understand the status of the implementation of the R-ARCSS, challenges and the progress made in the implementation so far;
- 2) noted that AUPSC believes that the views of the International Partners cannot just be washed away as there is a need for common ground to avoid jeopardizing the progress made in the implementation process so far;
- 3) urged the government of the Republic of South Sudan and the partners to step up support for the implementation of the R-ARCSS adding that it is the incumbent TGoNU to undertake the lead role in the R-ARCSS implementation process and thanked all those that had made a contribution to the support of the process; and
- 4) informed members that armed resistance is not helpful to the peace process and called for dialogue to resolve the crisis without re-opening the RARCSS. The AUPSC Chairperson further called for regular and timely unbiased progress reports and a continued search for a working formula to save the people of South Sudan from suffering.

At this point, the members of the fourth estate (Media) were excused

Min.8/04/19: Reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:

a) National Constitution Amendment Committee (NCAC)

In his report to the 4th RJMEC monthly meeting, the NCAC Chairperson noted that:

- 1) NCAC was in the second phase of its work which entailed the review of six (6) security sector laws and that it had finalized the Constitutional Amendment Bill and presented it to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, completed review of the five security laws and prepared amendments to the legislations. He added that the Fire Brigade Act had not been reviewed because the Act mentioned in the Agreement does not exist as it was never enacted. The Committee had also requested for submissions from Parties to the R-ARCSS, stakeholders and relevant institutions.
- 2) SPLM/SPLA-IO raised an objection to the procedure of the resolution of the issue of the system of governance despite the upholding of the RJMEC Sub-committee decision by the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan who noted that the entire process of constitutional amendment was a pre-transitional task;
- 3) The Committee had held a stakeholders meeting on the proposed amendments to the Security Sector laws, which was officially opened by H.E Dr. Wani Igga, Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan and attended by representatives of the relevant security institutions, Parties to the R-ARCSS and stakeholders;
- 4) NCAC was also to review the Political Parties Act, 2012 to conform it to the R-ARCSS; and
- 5) urged all Parties and stakeholders to continue supporting the work of NCAC.

b). Ceasefire & Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring & verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM)

The CTSAMVM Chairperson in his briefing noted that:

- 1) ceasefire was widely holding across the country and thanked the Parties for the commitment. However, he brought it to the attention of the members that the security situation in the Equatoria remained tense with frequent clashes between the SSPDF and the forces of NAS allied to Gen. Thomas Cirillo. He welcomed the efforts by the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan to discuss with Gen. Cirillo to re-join the peace process.
- 2) SPLM/A-IO had left their camp in Mabang Village, Kayango Payam on the request of the local community, their leadership, government and the MVTS in Wau. He called on Parties to continue similar positive progress in their areas of responsibilities;
- 3) joint field visits continued in the reporting period with the visit of SSPDF and SPLM/A-IO Chiefs of Defence Force to Bieh and Fangak on 1st February and another visit to Pageri / Nimule on 14th February 2019, which brought together field commanders and officials to promote the peace implementation;
- 4) SGBV remained a serious concern adding that CTSAMVM had verified allegations of rape by SSPDF soldiers in Karpeto in Central Equatoria on 8th Jan 2019 and reports from Local Government authorities in the area indicated that the perpetrators of the crime had been arrested and were awaiting judicial proceedings;
- 5) noted access denial and funding as major challenges facing the CTSAMVM operations. He noted that in the reporting period, there were 9 cases of access denial all by SSPDF while the lack of funding was affecting operations overall, including the full engagement of the trained National Monitors and
- 6) due to the above, CTSAMVM considered undertaking cost-cutting measure as one approach to dealing with the funding problem.

C). Joint Defence Board (JDB)

In his report to the meeting, the JDB Chairperson:

- 1) gave an overview of the establishment, mandate and composition of the Joint Defence Board (JDB)
- 2) informed members that the board targets to have sustainable peace in the country through having unified, well trained and disciplined forces by the end of the Pre-Transition Period adding that to achieve this the board members are bound to exercise full command and control over all their forces;
- 3) the Board succeeded in building confidence among the former belligerents and was still working hard to achieve its mandate through regular meetings and had conducted several visits to both government and opposition areas;
- 4) upon approval of its budget by NPTC, the Board planned to commence screening of forces, collection of medium and long-range weapons, training unified forces to be deployed at different levels/sizes and the demilitarization of civilian areas;

- 5) the Board had witnessed a breakthrough on the identification and selection of cantonment sites with a solution that was unanimously applauded, approved and adopted for implementation in two phases;
- 6) noted that the Board faces a dire financial challenge. Other challenges, however, include infrastructure at cantonment sites, lack of sustainable logistics, inadequate water in some selected areas and proximity of some identified cantonment sites in civilian areas.

D). Strategic Defense and Security Review Board

The SDSR Board report to the meeting highlighted the following activities undertaken during the reporting period and the challenges facing the Board:

- 1) the Board members and Secretariat participated in the security mechanism orientation and coordination workshop organized by RJMEC and brought together the all the security mechanisms with an aim of fostering a common understanding of chapter II of the R-ARCSS, identifying possible areas of coordination among the different security sectors and collaboration and identify challenges and propose solutions;
- 2) the Board conducted focused groups discussions with women in the organized forces on 13th Feb 2019 and women in Civil Society on 16th February 2019, and that the information collected from both discussions would inform the strategic security assessment;
- 3) participated in the budget meeting with the NPTC for the different security mechanisms where the budget prepared by the Board was adopted, and also reported that it conducted its bi-monthly meeting on February 18th, 2019; and
- 4) the Board noted that it continued to face the challenge of inadequate resources which forced the Board to reduce the duration of its bi-monthly meeting from three days to one. Delayed cantonment was also noted as a challenge without which the Board may not be able to complete the strategic security assessment.

E). Joint Transitional Security Committee:

The representative of JTSC reported to the meeting that:

- 1) the Committee had developed and submitted a work plan for the implementation of its activities to the NPTC, participated in the security mechanisms orientation and coordination workshop from 31st January to 1st February 2019 and in the RJMEC extra-ordinary meeting;
- 2) the Committee thanked RJMEC Secretariat for providing an office working space for the JTSC Secretariat and appealed for facilitation of the Secretariat with a computer, printer, stationaries, mobility, communication, among others, to enable its effectiveness;
- 3) noted that the Committee was yet to screen the forces, recruit Secretariat staff, scrutinize the training centers and start unification and training of forces due to lack of the requisite resources; and
- 4) further informed the meeting that the Committee could not conduct meetings in the reporting period as scheduled because its Chairperson had been removed by the SSPDF and not yet replaced. In that regard, it appealed to the SSPDF for immediate appointment of a Co-Chairperson as replacement.

F). JMCC

The report of the JMCC highlighted that:

- 1) JMCC had held two meetings during the reporting period, both of which were concentrating on the budget of the JMCC amounting to one hundred and forty-three thousand US Dollars only (US \$143,000), derived from its key activities, including establishment of cantonment sites, established of the JMCC Secretariat office, training of the AJMCC and JMCTs and establishment of cantonment sites. It also noted that during the same period, the Commission was able to complete its work plan

for implementation of the mandated activities. The report called for the immediate provision and release of funds to support the Commission's activities and

- 2) Expressed concern about the serious challenge of funding and time that were hindering the activities of the Commission. The chairperson added that many forces of the warring parties were not even aware of the content of the R-ARCSS and required JMCC to reach out to them in their locations to disseminate the Agreement for them to understand and actively support its implementation process.

Min.9/04/19: Discussion on the Interim Chairperson's statement, NPTC UNMISS SRSG and reports from Agreement institutions and mechanisms

- 1) Members welcomed and appreciated the opening statement of the RJMEC Interim Chairperson and the reports of the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms.
- 2) A member passed a condolence message to the Republic and people of South Africa through the South African Ambassador to South Sudan for the loss of Ms. Dorothy Masuka, a South African renowned female artist and freedom fighter.
- 3) Members appreciated the NPTC for its ongoing efforts to engage the incumbent TGoNU and all Partners and Friends of South Sudan to support the implementation of the R-ARCSS. They also appreciated the NPTC for action taken as reported in the extraordinary meeting.
- 4) Members commended H.E Salva Kiir's Presidential Peace Tour initiative to the Bahr el Ghazal to preach peace and reconciliation and appealed for the same in all other States. They also appealed for future dissemination of the R-ARCCSS to be conducted jointly with other Parties to the R-ARCSS.
- 5) Members congratulated the women of the Republic of South Sudan on the occasion to mark the International Women's Day due on Friday 8th, March 2019 and wished them all a joyous celebration.
- 6) Members expressed concern about the slow pace and low momentum in the R-ARCSS implementation process, stating that there was need to step up efforts by the Parties sighting the short time left to the end of the Pre Transitional Period. They further called for full involvement of the Civil Society in all steps of the implementation process.
- 7) Members raised concern about the resignation of the members of the Technical Boundary Committee (TBC) and sought to understand why the resignations took place and if there would be replacements.
- 8) The NPTC informed the members that there was a plan to make concerted fundraising drives and requested regional Ambassadors for support in organising the fundraising drives in their countries to mobilize resources for the R-ARCSS implementation process, reiterating that war is not an option at all for ending the conflict and restoring lasting peace to South Sudan.
- 9) Welcomed efforts of IGAD to reach out to Gen. Malong and Gen. Thomas Cirillo
- 10) Members further welcomed and appreciated the reports that there was relative calm across the country and that the ceasefire held widely, but called for urgent measures to end the crisis and violation in Yei so that ceasefire could hold in that part of the country too.

- 11) Members appreciated the work of the RJMEC Secretariat in producing the summarised version of the R-ARCSS, which is easier to read and understand.
- 12) Members underscored the need for close follow-up of pledges made by various individual entities and companies towards the implementation process and ensure remittance of such; since resources were urgently required. In the same way, members called on NPTC to report to the cabinet of the I-TGoNU about the unfulfilled pledge by the Government so that appropriate and timely action would be taken.
- 13) Appreciated the armed groups and Parties for the calm and safety of most trade routes across the country which had boosted trade across the country
- 14) Members of the business community decried the high exchange rate and high commodity prices in the market adding that the increase in oil production had not practically been reflected on the economic situation and that the economic impact had not reached the ordinary grassroots.
- 15) **Members welcomed** the appointment of the Independent Boundaries Commission (IBC) by the Executive Secretary of IGAD; and **called upon** the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan to urgently convene the first meeting of the IBC to facilitate its immediate constitution. They also called upon Rwanda and Chad whose nominees were still outstanding to nominate their members as soon as possible to enable the Commission to fully execute its mandate.
- 16) **Applauded** the Joint Defence Board (JDB) for reaching agreement on cantonment sites and training centres for all opposition forces and designated barracks for government forces and **encouraged** the JDB to clearly develop doctrine for training and unification of forces; and look into all practical measures to expedite cantonment, training and unification of forces.
- 17) **Welcomed the** reports on the then ongoing confidence building measures being taken by the Parties with facilitation of the NPTC, UNMISS, JDB and CTSAMVM and **recommended** that such efforts be continued.
- 18) Noted the cost-cutting measures proposed to be undertaken by CTSAMVM to address its budgetary constraints. They, however, expressed concerns on its potential impact on CTSAMVM effectiveness in performing its mandated tasks. In this regard, it was **recommended** that CTSAMVM discussed the modalities of these cuts with the NPTC and to revert back to RJMEC.
- 19) **Members urged** the SSPDF to appoint the replacement for the JTSC Chairperson without delay to enable the JTSC to continue performing its tasks.
- 20) **Appreciated the** NCAC for the significant progress already made in the execution of the tasks under their mandate and urged them to continue with the momentum.
- 21) **Called** for the reconstitution of the DDR Commission without any further delay to enable it to undertake its role of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process critical in the unification of forces.
- 22) **Members appreciated** the written directives issued by the SSPDF Chief of Defence Forces to all his forces to allow CTSAMVM unhindered access and **demand**ed that CTSAMVM be allowed free and unimpeded access to carry out its mandate.

- 23) **Members also reiterated** the call to the incumbent TGoNU to make the report of its investigation into the alleged incidents of sexual and gender-based violence in Bentiu public and to also submit to the RJMEC the full report of its investigation and action on the Luri incident.
- 24) **To ensure adherence to the Peace agreement, members** RJMEC to report all incidents of serious violations of the R-ARCSS to the IGAD for the latter to take actions as stipulated in the Agreement.
- 25) **Considering some** pending concerns or reservations with regard to the R-ARCSS, members urged the RJMEC Chairperson to explore with IGAD and the international partners, an avenue to discuss and address all such matters, in order to facilitate their full support to the implementation of the R-ARCSS.

12. **Min.10/04/19:** Date for the Next Meeting

It was agreed that the date for the 5th RJMEC meeting would be communicated to the members by the RJMEC Secretariat.

14. **Min.11/04/19: Resolutions of the meeting**

The draft resolution of the meeting was shared and reviewed by all members and the RJMEC Secretariat was asked to incorporate inputs and share the final document with all the members.

15. **Min.12/04/19: Closing Prayers**

The closing prayers were led by the representative of the faith-based leaders.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 pm.

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