



Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC)

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION (RJMEC) HELD ON 1st AUGUST 2019 AT PALM AFRICA HOTEL, JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN

The 8th meeting of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) was convened in Juba, South Sudan, on 1st August 2019. The meeting was chaired by the Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC, Ambassador Lt. General Augustino S.K Njoroge (Rtd) who called the meeting to order at 10:20 am.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayers
2. Adoption of the Agenda
(Media excused)
3. Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting
(Media recalled)
4. Statement by RJMEC Interim Chairperson
5. Report from the NPTC
6. Briefing from UNMISS SRSG
(Media excused)
7. Reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:
 - i. NCAC
 - ii. CTSAMVM
 - iii. JDB
 - iv. SDSR Board
 - v. JTSC
 - vi. JMCC
8. Discussion on:
 - i. RJMEC Interim Chairperson's Statement, NPTC report and UNMISS SRSG briefing
 - ii. Reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanism
9. Date for the Next Meeting
10. Resolutions of the meeting
11. Closing Prayers

In attendance were the representatives of all the Parties and stakeholders in RJMEC namely:

For the Parties to the R-ARCSS:

1. Hon. Michael Makuei Lueth (Incumbent TGoNU)
2. Hon. Sophia Pal Gai (Incumbent TGoNU)
3. Hon. Dhieu Mathok Diing (Incumbent TGoNU)
4. Hon. Gatwech Lam Puoch (SPLM/A-IO)

5. Mrs. Sandra Bona Malwal (SPLM/A-IO)
6. Hon. Hussein Abdelbagi (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. Mrs. Rebecca Anyang Chol (Women's Bloc)
3. Ms. Rita Lopidia (Women Coalition)
4. Mr. Akuoch Ajang Nyanhom (CSO Alliance)
5. Mr. Rajab Mohandis (CSO Forum)
6. Mrs. Yar Manoa Majok (Business Community)
7. Prof. Pauline Riak (Academia)
8. Mr. Malish John Peter (Youth)
9. Ms. Caroline Kibos (Youth)

For the Regional Guarantors:

1. Mr. Daniel Samwel (Ethiopia)
2. H.E Chris Mburu (Kenya)
3. Mr. Mohammed Ali Mohamed (Somalia)
4. H.E. Adil Ibrahim Mustafa (Sudan)
5. H.E. Brig. Gen. Ronnie Balya (Uganda)
6. Mr. Sunday Edmund (Nigeria)
7. H.E. Gordon M. Yekelo (South Africa)
8. Mr. Mashood Issaka (AUMISS)
9. Mr. Tesfaye Negassa (IGAD Juba Liaison Office)

For International Partners and Friends of South Sudan

1. H.E. Hua Ning (China)
2. Ms. Signe Guro Gilen (Norway)
3. Mr. Daniel Sherry (UK)
4. Mr. William Echols (USA)
5. Mr. Moustapha Soumare (UNMISS)
6. Ms. Francis Collins (EU)
7. H.E. Janet Alberda (IPF)

For RJMEC Secretariat:

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

For the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:

1. Hon. Henry Dilan Odwar, Co-Chairperson NPTC
2. Amb. Magid Yousif, Deputy Chairperson - NCAC
3. Maj. Gen. Desta Abiche Ageno, Chairperson - CTSAMVM
4. Lt. Gen. Thomas Jal, Member - JDB
5. Madame Angelina Teny, Chairperson - SDSR Board
6. Lt. Gen. Wesley Welebe Samson, Co-Chairperson JTSC

7. Maj. Gen. Isaac Moro Jenesio, Head of the JMCC Secretariat

Observers:

1. H.E. Dr. Ahmed Bahaa Eldin (Egypt)
2. Ms. Pauline Chiwangu (UNWOMEN)
3. H.E. Seiji Okada (Japan)
4. Ms. Salome Steib (Switzerland)
5. Ms. Wanjiku Nyoike (UNHCR)

Min. 01/08/19: Opening Prayers

1. The opening prayer was led by Mr. Mohammed Hassan Morgan, a representative of the Faith-based leaders and Hon. Gatwech Lam Puoch (SPLM/A-IO).

Min. 02/08/19: Adoption of the Agenda

2. The draft agenda was adopted without any amendments.

Min.03/08/19: Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting

3. The minutes of the 7th RJMEC meeting held on 18th June 2019 was reviewed and adopted with the following amendments:
 - 3.1. pg. 9 on paragraph 7.2 was corrected to read Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM); and
 - 3.2. pg. 11 paragraph 7.3.3, the word ‘auspices’ that was misspelt was corrected accordingly.

Min. 04/08/19: Statement by RJMEC Interim Chairperson

4. In his statement the RJMEC Interim Chairperson:
 - 4.1. welcomed members to the 8th RJMEC meeting and informed them of his briefing to the 68th Extra-Ordinary Session of the IGAD Council of Ministers on the status of implementation of the Agreement, challenges and recommendations;
 - 4.2. further informed the members of his briefing of H.E. Gedu Andargachew, Chairperson of the IGAD Council of Ministers, and Foreign Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, on the status of the implementation of the R-ARCS and his appeal to the Council for further support to the South Sudan peace process;
 - 4.3. took note of the CTSAMVM’s report of the designated sites for cantonment and barracks, including training sites for the Necessary Unified Forces that had been verified, and also the order that the JDB had issued for all forces to move to the designated cantonment sites and barracks by 31st July 2019;
 - 4.4. reported that the IBC had finished its work, with an understanding that the outcome was inconclusive and that he was informed that IGAD was consulting on the next course of action. He further took note of the expressed concerns of the Parties to the R-ARCSS on the delay to receive the outcome of the IBC’s work. Accordingly, he communicated the concern to the Executive Secretary of IGAD and encouraged him to engage Parties on the way forward;

- 4.5. informed members that regarding the in-kind support pledged by the AU C5, Partners and Friends of South Sudan, the JDB had presented a list of materials and subject matter experts needed. He then reiterated his appeal to all those who had made pledges to expedite the delivery of their assistance;
- 4.6. expected that the nomination process for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to the DDR Commission would be completed on time to pave the way for its reconstitution and operationalization;
- 4.7. informed members that the National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC) re-submitted the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (Amendment) Bill No. 6, 2019 to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs on 24 July 2019. The current Bill incorporated the six months extension of the Pre-Transitional Period. He further informed members that the NCAC had also made considerable progress in the drafting of four security laws, and the National Fire Brigade Service Bill;
- 4.8. took note of the CTSAMVM reports on the encouraging security situation in the country, with exceptions of the tensions associated with inter-communal clashes. He also raised concerns about the recently reported clashes in the Yei River area between the SSPDF and forces allied to NAS of Gen. Cirilo, and that it was under investigation by CTSAMVM. He commended the reported improved freedom of access by CTSAMVM;
- 4.9. informed members of the progress with demilitarization of civilian centres, which are yet to be fully vacated by SSPDF and NSS forces;
- 4.10. took note of the humanitarian situation as reported by UNOCHA including that heavy rains caused flooding, particularly in parts of Central Equatoria, Jonglei and Northern Bahr el Ghazal; the rise in staple food prices; and an estimated 7 million people likely to be acutely food insecure in South Sudan as per the recent data of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC);
- 4.11. observed that overall, several factors are contributing to a better economic outlook, and opined that increased investments in infrastructure and the sectors on which the majority of the population depend would be necessary for realizing and sustaining economic growth. That notwithstanding, he decried the heightened dependence on humanitarian aid, high incidence of poverty and rise in staple food prices;
- 4.12. reiterated the importance of joint dissemination of the R-ARCSS by the Parties as being very important for confidence and trust-building. Also clarified that much as the NPTC is responsible for coordinating joint dissemination of the Agreement by the Parties, other Stakeholders are free to disseminate;
- 4.13. commended the JDB and the security mechanisms for conducting joint visits to different parts of the country routinely, and for the unified message they send in the process, an initiative that should also be replicated at the highest level of political leadership;

- 4.14. welcomed the recent visit to South Sudan of the AU Special Envoy on Youth, H.E. Aya Chebbi, and her interaction with different stakeholders, including the RJMEC Secretariat;
- 4.15. recommended that the DDR Commission be reconstituted expeditiously; appealed for the Parties to be officially informed of the outcome of the IBC work and subsequently engaged on the way forward; reiterated his appeal to the IGAD Council of Ministers to follow through on its commitments on the South Sudan peace process; and
- 4.16. urged the Government to make available the US\$ 100 million it pledged and continue its disbursement in a predictable and timely manner, and also follow up with countries that pledged in-kind support to the implementation of the R-ARCSS.

Min. 05/08/19: Report from NPTC

5. In its report to the RJMEC members, the NPTC highlighted the following issues:
 - 5.1. informed the members that celebrations and dissemination of the R-ARCSS in collaboration with the partners such as UNMISS continued in different administrative units throughout the country;
 - 5.2. reported that the JDB had ordered all forces to report to the cantonment sites by 31st July 2019 and that the JTCS had assessed eighteen (18) centers earmarked for the training of the Necessary Unified Forces (NUFs);
 - 5.3. outlined the various tasks completed by the security mechanisms as follows: (a) identification and verification of 10 SSPDF Barracks and 19 cantonment sites; (b) NPTC delivered 115 tonnes of assorted food items to various barracks and cantonments in Upper Nile areas; (c) eligibility criteria developed for individuals willing to serve in the NUFs; (d) curriculum and syllabi for training of forces developed; and (e) 18 training sites for NUFs identified and verified;
 - 5.4. reported that upon invitation by Saint Egidio, the NPTC delegation traveled to Rome from 23rd – 26th July 2019 and briefed H.E. Gallagher, Secretary for the Relations with States within the Holy See's Secretariat of State, and the Ambassadors from Germany, UK, South Africa and Belgium accredited to the Holy See on the progress on implementation of the R-ARCSS and that the Ministers appreciated it and promised to visit Juba in the near future;
 - 5.5. informed the members that from 16th – 18th July 2019, the NPTC Secretariat and the security mechanisms held a three days coordination workshop;
 - 5.6. reported that so far NPTC had received USD ten million (US\$10,000,000) from the Incumbent TGoNU's pledged USD one hundred million (US\$ 100,000,000) and disbursed it to various Agreement institutions and mechanisms;
 - 5.7. informed members its Dissemination Unit had received thirty-six thousand (36) copies of the R-ARCSS from RJMEC, and that the Unit planned to conduct a dissemination conference in PoC I, Wau and in all the refugee camps and in the Diaspora communities. That it envisaged a coordinated joint dissemination of the Agreement to

the refugee camps in the neighboring countries with a team from the Healing and Reconciliation Unit to enable them to engage the faith-based and civil society leaders in the camps and enhance confidence among the South Sudanese;

- 5.8. reported that the NPTC's Humanitarian Coordination Unit (HCU) developed a charter in conjunction with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHADM), Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), Humanitarian Partners and Donors. Further, reported that the HCU submitted its supplementary budget to the NPTC's Administration and Finance Unit. The Unit also conducted a fundraising event on 26th July 2019 for the implementation of its activities in which 14 million South Sudanese Pounds was pledged;
- 5.9. reported minimal incidents of violence across the country, including the attacks by NAS of Gen. Thomas Cirilo in Yei, which violate the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and needed to be addressed with urgency;
- 5.10. stated that cantonment and barrack sites of all armed forces had been agreed upon, notably, forty (40) cantonment sites are for the opposition armed forces and ten (10) barracks are for SSPDF;
- 5.11. appealed to all Parties to the Agreement, the International Community and the public to provide support, morally, politically and materially for the implementation of the R-ARCSS and to continue encouraging and supporting the steps being undertaken by different mechanisms and institutions; and
- 5.12. reiterated NPTC's commitments to the R-ARCSS and that it would exert all efforts to mobilize the requisite funds for the implementation of the Agreement, including exerting efforts to encourage those still holding arms and terrorizing communities to join the peace process.

Min. 06/08/19: Briefing from UNMISS SRSG

6. In his briefing to the RJMEC plenary, the Deputy UNMISS SRSG:

- 6.1. reflected on the three months since the six months extension of the Pre-Transitional Period, and expressed the need to take stock and assess the situation. He highlighted positive developments made to date in the implementation of the R-ARCSS, including its continued dissemination and rapprochement meetings at the sub-national level; NCAC's work; preparations for the cantonment and discussions regarding reconstitution of the DDR Commission;
- 6.2. emphasised the importance of the Permanent Ceasefire that continued to hold; the significant progress done in the creation of the Humanitarian Coordination Unit (HCU); the close cooperation between the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster, South Sudan RRC and Relief Organization for South Sudan; and the spirit of cooperation and partnership exhibited by the humanitarian community;
- 6.3. highlighted that over 4 million South Sudanese were displaced within and outside of South Sudan. Also noted that increased spontaneous return was reported in some areas,

while displacement was also reported in other areas primarily due to communal clashes and cattle raids;

- 6.4. noted that from May – July 2019, about 61% of the population faced acute food insecurity or worse, a record number of the people facing a critical lack of food since the start of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classifications (IPC) in South Sudan in 2018, with former Jonglei and Unity State areas having the highest proportion of people estimated to be food insecure by May 2019;
- 6.5. reported general improvement in humanitarian access with more than 4 million people reached by aid agencies, albeit with a few challenges;
- 6.6. reported that the current Ebola outbreak in the DRC was declared by WHO on 17th July as a public health emergency. He stated that as South Sudan shares borders with the DRC, the risk of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) spreading to South Sudan is high. However, he noted that a National EVD Preparedness Plan was now in place;
- 6.7. urged the Parties to sustain momentum and build confidence amongst themselves and with South Sudanese so that the revitalized TGoNU is formed on time;
- 6.8. recommended that face-to-face meetings between the Parties leadership is essential to unlocking some of the bottlenecks at hand such as the critical pending security arrangements and the resolution on the number of States and boundaries;
- 6.9. reiterated the need for such regular meetings of the Parties leadership to re-energize implementation of the pending Pre-Transitional tasks and also provide a roadmap for the establishment of the R-TGoNU; and
- 6.10. renewed UNMISS' support to the implementation of the R-ARCSS.

Min. 07/08/19: Reports from Agreement Mechanisms

i) National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC)

- 7.1. In his report, the Deputy Chairperson of NCAC:
 - 7.1.1. informed members that NCAC re-submitted the *Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (Amendment) Bill No. 6, 2019* which incorporated the six months extension of the Pre-Transitional Period to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and that the latter undertook to expeditiously present the Bill to the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) for ratification;
 - 7.1.2. stated that the Committee had also made considerable progress in the drafting of a National Fire Brigade Service Bill;
 - 7.1.3. further informed members that, the NCAC had also begun preliminary discussions with various institutions on the review of economic and financial sector laws such as the *Public Finance Management and Accountability Act, 2011*; *National Audit Chamber Act, 2011* and the *Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2009*; and

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

ii) Ceasefire and Transitional Monitoring Verification Mechanisms (CTSAMVM)

7.2. In his report, the Chairperson of the CTSAMVM:

7.2.1. informed members that CTSAMVM had shared with RJMEC copies of the 12th meeting of the CTSAMVM Technical Committee (CTC) of 4th -5th July, and the resolution of the 8th CTSAMVM Board meeting of 11th July;

7.2.2. emphasised CTSAMVM's independence, neutrality and impartiality, and that all its processes and operations are inclusive to ensure credibility of its reports;

7.2.3. reported that since the last RJMEC meeting the ceasefire continued to hold, with no reported incidents of violations between the Parties and that it continued to investigate all alleged violations;

7.2.4. informed members that South Sudan continued to experience outbreaks of intercommunal violence (e.g. the fatal cattle raids in May in the Twic/ Northern Liech area). These are being managed by the authorities on the ground through appropriate mechanisms;

7.2.5. further reported that CTSAMVM had assessed 33 out of 35 cantonment sites specified by the JDB. At the time of assessment, 31 were found to be suitable and 2 were unsuitable due to lack of water or suitable location. Furthermore, some cantonment sites needed to be re-assessed because of the wet season;

7.2.6. commended the order by the JDB for the forces to assemble in cantonment sites by 31st July. Despite slow progress in cantonment, CTSAMVM was encouraged by the efforts of the JMCC and other mechanisms., including the deployment of the AJMCCs;

7.2.7. acknowledged the huge logistical challenges faced by the JMCC in establishing the cantonment sites. Meanwhile, CTSAMVM verified that of the 11 areas, food had been delivered to Tomga, Adok Port and Ding Ding while the remaining areas had not received food as reported;

7.2.8. reported that that CTSAMVM conducted an SGBV workshop for CTSAMVM Team Leaders and CTCs on July 3rd, 2019;

7.2.9. further reported that on 2nd July, CTSAMVM witnessed the release of 32 child soldiers aged between 13 and 17 in Mir Mir. These were children who served with the SPLMA-IO Division B since 2016. He encouraged other armed groups to follow the example set by the SPLA-IO;

7.2.10. informed members that the CTC conducted two joint field visits, in June to the cantonment sites at Teneth near Pibor and in July to Ding Ding and Rubkona;

7.2.11. further informed the members of few denials of access reported since the last RJMEC meeting, and that where there were previous denials, they were subsequently resolved and access granted;

- 7.2.12. noted that 83 buildings that had been identified by CTSAMVM as being occupied, 49 were vacated and 34 were still occupied, all of which are occupied by the SSPDF, noting these numbers change daily;
- 7.2.13. stated that despite significant financial and resources challenges, CTSAMVM continued to maintain 12 fully operational MVTs. He noted that the financial challenge is an impediment to CTSAMVM operations and requested for more funding support to its work; and
- 7.2.14. reminded members of the importance of successful cantonment of forces.

iii) Joint Defence Board (JDB)

- 7.3. In his report read on his behalf by a member of the JDB, the JDB Chairperson:
 - 7.3.1. informed the members that the general security situation in the country is relatively calm, including areas previously known for clashes, such as Yei, Wau and Nasir. He further stated that the JDB in collaboration with other mechanisms were closely monitoring the situation to ensure continuity of the stability;
 - 7.3.2. further informed members that the JDB received its first-ever allocated funds from the NPTC in May 2019, totalling US 2 million (US\$ 2,000,000);
 - 7.3.3. reported that on 25th July 2019, the JDB, on behalf of the peace mechanisms, received the sum of four million five hundred thousand United States Dollars (US\$ 4,500,000). In total US\$ 6,500,000/ was received and distributed to the security mechanisms as per the reports to the 8th RJMEC plenary;
 - 7.3.4. informed members that the command, control and coordination of all the security mechanism was the responsibility of JDB. The JDB continued to hold joint meetings with the security mechanisms on a regular basis and received weekly progress reports from the JTSC and JMCC on their work and expenditure of funds periodically disbursed to them;
 - 7.3.5. stated that the JDB strives to ensure transparency and financial accountability, of disbursed funds to guarantee the optimal implementation of the peace process;
 - 7.3.6. reported that all military forces were expected to have moved to the designated cantonment areas and barracks by 1st August 2019 as per the JDB decision;
 - 7.3.7. reported that the police were expected to handle crimes and security, and keep law and order in all locations across the country in accordance with the Constitution. Some police forces had been directed to fill the security vacuum as forces move to cantonment/training centres, while the rest assemble in the cantonment sites;
 - 7.3.8. noted that on the support from the region and the AU C5, Sudan was providing critically needed logistical support not only for humanitarian intervention and cantonment and training of forces but also it opened the river transport between the two countries for transporting supplies to the cantonments, training sites and barracks;

- 7.3.9. informed members that the Arab Republic of Egypt made an in-kind contribution of medicine and medical items for the cantonment process and that the materials await transportation from Juba Teaching Hospital to the various cantonment/ training sites countrywide. Furthermore, the Republic of South Africa pledged in-kind contribution for the cantonment and training processes;
- 7.3.10. further informed the members of Japan being among the first countries that provided funds to the peace process that supported the remuneration of field-based national staff in the CTSAMVM CTC, and facilitating the transportation of the representatives of the various opposition groups to Juba. Japan has further pledged to provide funding for bore-holes in the cantonment and training centres;
- 7.3.11. reported that the Peoples Republic of China pledged in-kind support of 3,000 metric tonnes of rice, 50,000 blankets, 2,500 tents and unspecified quantities of anti-malaria drugs for the cantonment and training centres;
- 7.3.12. commended the incumbent TGoNU for financing and supporting the peace process, however, noting that the funding disbursement has been insufficient and very little was directed to towards the Transitional Security Arrangements (TSAs), especially to the cantonment and training processes including VIP protection;
- 7.3.13. reported that while AU C5 countries had pledged to support the cantonment of forces and training of the Necessary Unified Forces, including VIP protection, no formal update had been received. As such it was unable to report on support expected from the AU C5 countries;
- 7.3.14. stated that JDB had directed all forces and requested all Local Governments throughout the country to cooperate with the mechanisms in the implementation of the security activities and that various teams were established and dispatched to various locations under the auspices of the JMCC and JTSC to enhance the combatants' assembly process;
- 7.3.15. observed that the ongoing challenges are lack of funding and that the 9 vehicles procured for them were not enough for the mobility of the mechanisms. Apart from the 9 vehicles, CTSAMVM national components were each instructed to buy a vehicle. Whereas US\$ 100 million was pledged by the I-TGoNU to the NPTC, only US\$ 4.5 million had been released to JDB;
- 7.3.16. further expressed concerns that the existence of non-signatory rebel groups had the potential of slowing down the progress;
- 7.3.17. urged the Governments and Friends of South Sudan to expedite acquisition and release of more funds for implementation of the R-ARCSS. Also, acknowledged profound support from IGAD and its partners, as well as RJMEC, AUC, Troika, China and Japan for their role to restore peace and stability in the country; and
- 7.3.18. commended the RJMEC for organizing the RJMEC monthly meeting.

iv) Strategic Defence And Security Review Board (SDSR -Board)

7.4. In her report, the Co-Chairperson of the SDSR Board:

- 7.4.1. informed the members that the SDSR Board successfully completed an engagement with refugees in the neighboring countries (Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan) and solicited their views on the security sector challenges and a possible way forward. The SDSR-Board had remained with two groups of stakeholders to consult before preparing its security assessment review report;
- 7.4.2. further informed the members that the SDSR-Board held a workshop with Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites in Juba on security sector reforms in June and participated in a three-day monitoring and evaluation workshop in July organized by the NPTC where the mechanisms reviewed their strategic plan;
- 7.4.3. acknowledged receipt of three hundred thousand USD (US\$ 300,000) from the NPTC through the JDB; and
- 7.4.4. reiterated the SDSR-Board's commitment to execute its mandate consistent with the R-ARCSS, including all its plans.

v) Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC)

7.5. In his report to the plenary, the JTSC Co-Chairperson:

- 7.5.1. informed the members that the JTSC: assessed eighteen (18) centers for the training of the Necessary Unified Forces (NUFs); participated in a coordination workshop for security mechanisms organized by the NPTC; planned to implement key activities before the commencement of unification, training and deployment of the NUFs;
- 7.5.2. further informed the plenary that the JTSC faces challenges on the operationalization of cantonment and barracking of forces due to lack of funding;
- 7.5.3. noted that should the JTSC received the allotted funds on time, it would embark on timely implementation of all its planned activities
- 7.5.4. informed the members that JTSC was dependent on the implementation of certain activities by other mechanisms and as such, it called upon the NPTC to provide the necessary support to JMCC to ensure the operationalization of cantonment and barracking of forces as planned so that timely screening of troops willing to serve in the NUFs can be carried out; and
- 7.5.5. acknowledged receipt of US\$ one million five hundred seventeen thousand and thirty (US\$ 1,517,030) in two separate disbursements from the JDB (US\$ 417,030 and US\$ 1.1million respectively); and commended NPTC for the funds received and encouraged NPTC to double its efforts in ensuring timely release of more funding to JTSC.

vi) Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC)

7.6. In his report, the Head of Secretariat of the JMCC:

- 7.6.1. reported that the JMCC had so far held nine (9) ordinary and three (3) extraordinary meetings, where the team briefed the JDB on progress report on the implementation of the Security Arrangement;
- 7.6.2. informed the plenary on the pending tasks discussed by the Commission including verification of the five remaining cantonment sites, food supply and verification of the cantonment sites and barracks, deployment of AJMCCs and JMCTs, coordinating CTSAMVM with all parties on the ground and cantonment/barracks security management teams;
- 7.6.3. reported that JMCC verified 20 cantonment sites and 10 major SSPDF barracks; RJMEC had provided a cantonment expert to support the JMCC Secretariat; finalized deployment of AJMCC at state levels and JMCTs at the county levels; formed registration and screening teams who were ready to move to the ground to start the registration and screening process;
- 7.6.4. further reported that JMCC had been directed by the JDB to deduct two hundred thousand US Dollars only (US\$200,000) from its share to provide emergency food to the majority of the cantonments that had not received food to expedite the movement of troops to them. JMCC further added US\$ 160,000 to enable the emergency food to cover some of the sites that were left out;
- 7.6.5. reported that the JMCC was conducting confidence-building activities countrywide headed by AJMCCs and JMCTs at the local levels. It is further expected to dispatch a high-level committee to Wau to resolve the issue of Ngo Halima cantonment site before food could reach there;
- 7.6.6. acknowledged receipt of one million seven hundred thousand UD Dollars (US\$ 1,700,000) from the JDB to expedite the cantonment process and start the registration and screening of forces in both cantonment sites and barracks;
- 7.6.7. expressed concerns on a number of critical pending activities such as provision and transportation of containers, completion of demilitarization of civilian centers, supply of food to the forces who had assembled; formation of cantonment management teams and preparations of cantonment protection force. JMCC also lagged behind on the construction of structures for the establishment of cantonment sites and execution of activities within cantonment, and harmonization of the DDR Commission work plan with that of the JMCC;
- 7.6.8. highlighted the challenges that it faces as time constraints, bureaucracy, delayed funding, and the reluctance of the forces to move to the cantonment without shelter, health facilities and food;
- 7.6.9. reported on the engagement with the stakeholders especially senior commanders to withdraw all forces occupying civilian centers. He informed members that the JMCC formed three teams to go to the three greater regions to assess, verify and establish cantonment sites, and the teams would also handle demilitarization;

- 7.6.10. urged the NPTC to expedite the provision of food and some basic necessities; as well as availing the necessary funds with consistency; and
- 7.6.11. recommended to NPTC to find a way to deal with the emergencies in supporting JMCC to accomplish its mandate. It also urged the NPTC to resolve on the issue of troops reluctance to move to a single cantonment with SPLA-IO.

Min. 08/08/19: Discussions on statements and reports

8. During the deliberations which followed the statements and presentation of reports:

- 8.1 members welcomed and took note of the statement of the RJMEC Interim Chairperson, report of the NPTC, briefing from UNMISS and reports from the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms. They commended the NPTC for the funds already availed to the JDB and other implementation mechanisms; and appealed to the NPTC to look for more resources from the TGoNU and other sources, and avail the resources in a timely manner to ensure a smooth implementation of the critical pending tasks of the Pre-Transitional Period of the R-ARCSS;
- 8.2 members appreciated all the institutions and mechanisms of the Agreement that submitted their reports three days in advance as required and also asked other institutions to do so to allow members ample time to read and digest the reports which will enable them to make substantive submissions during the meetings;
- 8.3 members appreciated the conducive and peaceful discussion environment exhibited during the 8th R-JMEC monthly plenary and stressed the need to continue having a similar calm discussion environment in all future R-JMEC monthly meetings;
- 8.4 the representative of the Women Coalition expressed concern about the slow pace of implementation of the R-ARCSS by the Parties, called for increased women participation in Agreement mechanisms, urged the NPTC to consult more with women and proposed that the DDR Commission should be headed by a woman. She further noted that should any position occupied by a woman in the Agreement institutions and mechanisms fall vacant, a replacement should always be a woman. She urged the Parties to stop engaging child soldiers, and also requested RJMEC Interim Chairperson to clarify whether the SPLM/A-IO Chairman Dr. Riek Machar was under detention or not;
- 8.5 the representative of the Civil Society expressed concern about the increase in intercommunal violence and urged the authorities to take action against those responsible. He also asked for assurance on availability of resources from the TGoNU to the NPTC for the implementation of the R-ARCSS;
- 8.6 the representative of the European Union called on the NPTC to engage more with the EU and its Member States as they would be supportive in the implementation of the R-ARCSS. She also congratulated NCAC for its work and pledged the EU's engagement and support to the NCAC especially on Chapter IV. Further appreciated CTSAMVM for keeping track on the occupied civilian centers and called for continuous monitoring noting that two new buildings had been occupied in Wau;

- 8.7 on the assessment and verification of cantonment sites, the EU questioned if the protection issues and all other necessary requirements had been factored in the planning, and asked CTSAMVM to provide time in its next Board meeting so that the Board members could look into this matter in depth;
- 8.8 the representatives of the SPLM/A-IO welcomed the generally stable security situation across most parts of the country and appreciated the security mechanisms and forces for silencing the guns. They called for prioritized and sufficient dissemination of the Peace Agreement to reach the entire South Sudan population. They appreciated RJMEC Interim Chairperson for raising the matter of the lifting of any restrictions on the Chairman and Commander-in-Chief of SPLM/A-IO at the IGAD Council of Ministers as a fulfilment of his promise made in the 7th RJMEC monthly meeting;
- 8.9 The Incumbent TGoNU representatives welcomed the positive progress so far made on the cantonment process. They commended the Permanent Ceasefire that held across most parts of the country and noted that for lasting peace to be achieved in South Sudan, the South Sudanese non-signatories to the R-ARCSS should be engaged to join the peace process. It was also clarified that the delay in the nomination of members to the DDR Commission was caused by lack of clarity on the proper nomination procedures. They expressed concern on why the UNMISS representative had not mentioned anything about the returnees. They also noted that the reports on inter-communal violence should be very specific and not blanket reports without full detail;
- 8.10 the African Union representative to RJMEC informed members that the AU was going to provide logistics support towards supporting the cantonment process and this would include logistics such as tents and generators among other items, which were yet to be confirmed;
- 8.11 from the Regional Guarantors, the representative of Uganda welcomed the improvement in the reports of the Agreement institutions and mechanisms in both presentation and content. He welcomed the cash contribution and pledge by the LTGoNU and assured members that IGAD would ensure that the R-ARCSS is implemented conclusively. He decried the killing of two Ugandans on Yei road and called on the non-signatories not to resort to killing innocent people. He urged South Sudanese to have a national identity and ideology in order to understand, appreciate and uphold their national values and interests. The representative of Kenya called for the commitment of all members to ensure the Pre-Transitional tasks are implemented in a timely manner.;
- 8.12 JMCC noted that dignity kits and childcare in the cantonments had been an oversight in their planning and called upon members to take note and especially urged the humanitarian organizations to help in this area;
- 8.13 the SSOA representative called for the food delivery to cantonment sites to be expedited before the rainy season as the floods could spoil the roads and affect the timely delivery of the food;

- 8.14 the NPTC representative clarified that the cash released had to be prioritized, especially to ensure that the Agreement security mechanisms were well catered for. Further, he appreciated the civil society representatives for their submissions; and
- 8.15 one of the TGoNU representatives lamented the fact that the report of the IBC had not been made available to the NPTC.

Min.9/08/19: Date for the next meeting

- 9.0. Members proposed 12th September 2019 as the date for the 9th monthly meeting. This was to be confirmed by the RJMEC Secretariat and communicated to the members.

Min.10/08/19: Resolution of the meeting

- 10.0. The draft resolution was circulated among all members and discussed. Members gave their amendments and the RJMEC Secretariat was tasked to incorporate all the changes then share the final resolution with all members.

Min.11/08/19: Closing Prayers

- 11.0. The closing prayers were led by the representatives of the faith-based organizations and the representative from the SPLM(IO).
- 11.1. There being no any other business, the 8th RJMEC monthly meeting was adjourned at 3:47 pm.