



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

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE 27TH MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT
MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 2ND MARCH 2023 AT
BEIJING JUBA HOTEL, SOUTH SUDAN**

The Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) convened its 27th meeting on 2nd March 2023 in Juba, South Sudan. H.E. Amb. Maj Gen (rtd) Charles Tai Gituai, Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC chaired the meeting and called it to order at 09:50 am.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayers
2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Adoption of the Minutes of the 27th RJMEC Meeting
5. Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson
6. Report from RTGoNU
7. Report from the PFM-OC
8. Report from NTC
9. Briefing from UNMISS SRSG
10. Reports from Mechanisms on Progress of Implementation in the R-ARCSS
 - a. NCAC
 - b. CTSAMVM
 - c. JDB
 - d. SDSR Board
 - e. JMCC
 - f. DDR Commission
 - g. JRC
11. Discussions
12. Review of the Resolution
13. Date for the Next Meeting
14. A.O.B
15. Chairperson's Closing Remarks
16. Closing Prayers.

Attendance:

For the Parties to the R-ARCSS:

1. Hon. Dr. Martin Elia Lomuro (ITGoNU)
2. Hon. Michael Makuei Lueth (ITGoNU)
3. Hon. Amb. Stephen Par Kuol (SPLM/A – IO)
4. Hon. Sandra Bona Malwal (SPLM/A – IO)
5. Maj. Gen. Bior Leek Kuareng (FDs)

For the Other South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents:

1. Rtd. Bishop Enock Tombe Stephen (Faith-based Leader)
2. Sheik Jaralnebi Khamis Mursal (Faith-based Leader)
3. Hon. Amb. John Yoh Gai (Eminent Personalities)
4. Mr. Dabek Mabior Arol (CSO Alliance)
5. Prof. Pauline Rick (Academia) - online
6. Mrs. Abuk Jervas Makuac (Business Community)
7. Mrs. Yar Manoa (Business Community)
8. Mrs. Mary Akech (Women Bloc)
9. Mrs. Stella Bagho (Women Coalition)
10. Ms. Acayo Nancy Cirino (Youth)
11. Mr. Patrick A. Godi (Youth group) - online

For the Regional Guarantors:

1. H.E. Gamal Abdelmageed Gassim Elseed Ahmed (Sudan)
2. Mr. Hassan Robleh Mahamoud (Djibouti)
3. Amb. Markos Tekle Rike (Ethiopia)
4. H.E. Maj Gen. (rtd) Samuel Nandwa (Kenya)
5. Amb. Idule-Amoko James (Uganda)
6. Mr. Mohamed Abdi Ali (Somalia)
7. Mr. Tukur Maigari (Nigeria)
8. H.E. Mahlodi Sam Muofhe (South Africa)
9. Mr. Ahmed Y. Hersi (IGAD)
10. Ms. Varaidzo Mupunga (AUMISS)

For International Partners and Friends of South Sudan:

1. H.E. Ma Qiang (China)
2. Mr. Lars P. Henie (Norway)
3. Mr. William Flens (USA)
4. H.E. Jonny Baxter (UK)
5. H.E. Timo Olkkonen (EU)
6. Mr. Guang Cong (UNMISS)
7. H.E. Marjan Schippers (IPF) Netherlands

For RJMEC Secretariat:

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

For Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:

1. Hon. Dr. Dier Tong Ngor (PFM - Oversight Committee)
2. Ustaz Stephen Wiw (Head of Secretariat NTC)
3. Lt. Gen. Rabi Mujung Emmanuel (JDB)
4. Maj. Gen. Charles Machieng Kuol (Head of JDB Secretariat)
5. Hon. Angelina Teny (SDSR Board Chairperson)
6. Hon. Chol Thon J. Balok (Co-Chair SDSR Board)

7. Mr. Angelo Madut, (Head of SDSR Board Secretariat)
8. Lt. Gen. Koang Gakuoth Kerjok (Chairperson JMCC)
9. Maj. Gen Pal Yiech Lam (Deputy Head of Secretariat JMCC)
10. Hon. Gichira Kibara, (Chairperson NCAC)
11. Lt. Gen. Asrat Denero, (Chairperson CTSAMVM)
12. Hon. Lt. Gen. Ayuen Alier Jongroor (Chairperson, DDR Commission)
13. Hon. Regina Kaba (DDR Deputy Chairperson)
14. Justice Ajonye Perpetua Paya (Head of Secretariat JRC)

Observers:

1. H.E. Erdem Mutaf (Turkiye)
2. Mr. Simon Ruf (Germany)
3. H.E. Tsutsumi Naohiro (Japan)
4. Ms. Lydia Minagano (Switzerland)
5. Mr. Mohamed Elbadry (Egypt)
6. Mr. Charles Jibi (Netherlands)
7. Lt. Col. Nathan Akankunda (SSM)
8. Maj. Patrick Nuwagaba (SSM)
9. Amb. Aida Wande (MoFA)

Min. 01/27/23: Opening Prayers

1. Bishop Emeritus Enock Tombe Stephen and Sheik Jaralnebi Khamis Mursal led the opening prayers.

Min. 02/27/23: Chairperson's Opening Remarks

2. The Chairperson welcomed the RJMEC members to the RJMEC monthly meeting.

Min. 03/27/23: Adoption of the Agenda

3. The agenda was adopted without any amendments.

Min. 04/27/23: Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

4. The draft minutes of the 27th RJMEC meeting was reviewed and adopted with amendments of minor spelling and typographical errors.

Min. 05/27/23 Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson

5. The RJMEC Chairperson welcomed high-level visits from the Ecumenical Peace Pilgrimage and the African Union Peace and Security Council, highlighting that the solidarity visits denoted the world desired lasting peace in South Sudan. He underscored the expectation that the people of South Sudan were inspired by the strong messages of peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation delivered by the Peace Pilgrimage. He hoped there will be a renewed focus to implement the critical pending tasks of the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) in a timely manner, dedicated funding by the Revitalised Transitional Government of National Unity

(RTGoNU) going forward, unity of purpose, and a sense of urgency to deliver on the promises of the Roadmap towards peaceful and democratic elections in December 2024.

5.1 The Interim Chairperson recommended the following to the RTGoNU for its consideration: (a) provide adequate funding of the Roadmap in a clear and predictable manner; (b) operationalise all the enacted laws, particularly those related to the permanent constitution and elections processes, expedite the reconstitution of the Political Parties Council and establish the bodies required by the Constitution-Making Process Act 2022, and expedite the enactment of the National Elections Bill; (c) expedite redeployment of the graduated forces, harmonisation of ranks of the mid and lower-level commanders, commencement of Phase 2 of unification of forces, collection and management of weapons and munitions, and Demobilisation, Disarmament, and Reintegration (DDR); (d) facilitate the national members of CTSAMVM to return to work, and pay allowances to all national members in the Agreement mechanisms; (e) facilitate the resettlement, reintegration and the rebuilding of livelihoods of returnees and IDPs; (f) enact and operationalise all PFM-related bills to facilitate the reforms and to improve transparency and accountability; and (g) complete the process of drafting the CTRH and CRA legislation and submit them to the reconstituted TNL for enactment.

5.2 In his conclusion, the Interim Chairperson commended the renewed commitment of the RTGoNU to implement the Roadmap in letter and spirit, as expressed at its press conference on 21st February, marking the start of the 24-month extension of the Transitional Period. He also called upon the RTGoNU to demonstrate its ownership of the process and commitment by availing the requisite resources to the implementing mechanisms and institutions. Further appealed to all partners and friends of South Sudan to support the RTGoNU's efforts to facilitate progress.

Min. 06/27/23: Report from the RTGoNU

6.0 The RTGoNU representative informed the RJMEC members that the RTGoNU transited from 36 months of the Transitional Period provided for under Articles 2.3.1/1.1.2 of the R-ARCSS and embarked on 24 months of the extension. The Roadmap was to provide time-bound guidance on the implementation of outstanding provisions critical to the conduct of peaceful and democratic elections at the end of the Transitional Period and not as an alternative to the R-ARCSS. The report highlighted the status of the implementation Chapter by Chapter on accomplished tasks. He reported that eight (8) bills were submitted to the RTNLA for ratification, eight (08) bills were with the Council of Minister for endorsement and seven (07) International Convention/Treaties were assented to by the President into law.

6.1 The member informed of the High-Level Standing Committee which established a sub-committee of five persons to urgently plan and structure the process of disseminating the Roadmap as well as budget for implementation. The Committee was discussing with UNMISS and UNDP to establish a Joint Coordination Committee for the implementation of the electoral roadmap and the constitution making processes. Furthermore, the member informed that the RTGoNU would be inviting the Ministers to attend the RJMEC plenary to clarify the areas that are pertinent to the R-ARCSS. He concluded by stating that the Ministers of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, and Justice and Constitutional Affairs shall brief the next RJMEC plenary.

Min. 07/27/23: Briefing from the PFM-OC

- 7.0 The Chairperson of the Public Financial Management - Oversight Committee (PFM-OC) and Minister of Finance and Planning (MoFP) highlighted to the plenary that his Ministry was one of the institutions that made significant progress in the implementation of the R-ARCSS, especially its Chapter IV. The MoFP implemented either partially or fully at least 71.7% of all the articles in which it bears primary responsibility and leadership, including the recent establishment of the Public Procurement and Assets Disposal Authority. Additionally, at least 73% of the eleven (11) PFM priorities were either fully implemented or in progress. The cautioned that his remarks on the status of each article were a result of available literature and not final. He established a committee in-charge of monitoring Chapter IV implementation. The committee continually carries out consultations with Departments concerned to ascertain the status of each provision.
- 7.1 The achievement registered by PFM-OC included: (a) implementation of Treasury Single Account; (b) strengthened cash management; (c) relocation of Loans Committee to MoFP; (d) review, verify and clear all arrears; (e) review and verify loans and contracts collateralized or guaranteed against crude oil; (f) strengthening the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the National Audit Chamber; (g) establishment of Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority (PPDAA); (h) rolling out electronic payroll using biometric system; (i) strengthening Macro-Fiscal Framework (not in R-ARCSS); and (j) strengthening the budget process and budget credibility.
- 7.2 Moreover, on non-oil revenue management, MoFP stopped direct payments by the National Revenue Authority from non-oil revenue collections as of 15th August 2022. In respect of that, NRA developed the Human Resources Management Manual, Code of Conduct, and five years strategic plan. He underlined a progressive increment in non-oil revenue collection from SSP 43.37 billion in the Fiscal year 2021/22 to SSP 94.81 billion in the fiscal year 2022/23 an aggregate increase of SSP 51.45 billion. This was attributed to the implementation of newly developed policies and the digitalization of the NRA system.

Min. 08/27/23: Briefing from the NTC

- 8 The Secretary of NTC gave a snapshot of the progress made and challenges encountered by the Committee due to lack of funding. However, the Committee coordinated and facilitated the implementation of some activities such as preparing a budget for Phase II NUF, coordinated 90 tonnes of in-kind donations of rice and other items from the Embassy of the Peoples' Republic of China for cantonment sites and training centers. The NTC Chairperson coordinated and facilitated the formation of the Repatriation and Resettlement Committee of the IDPs following the President's appeal to the IDPs and refugees to return to their homes.
- 8.1. The Committee also coordinated receipt of military uniforms donated by the government of the Republic of Türkiye. A new budget of SSP 50 million for Phase II was prepared and USD118,776,670 to repay the outstanding bills. This budget is yet to be endorsed by the Board and the Council of Ministers. Once approved the NTC would speed up the TSA activities.
- 8.2. The challenges facing the NTC include: lack of funds to implement TSA activities; lack of DDR facilities for the ex-combatant, eviction from its office premises as well as lack of funds to pay incentives and operating cost for the security mechanism. The RTGoNU, Regional Guarantors, and international partners need to avail funds for a smooth implementation of the R-ARCSS. Also, the Ministry of Finance and Planning needs to release funds to NTC to pay incentives and debt owed by hotels and for food, and non-food items.

Min. 09/27/23: Briefing from UNMISS DSRSG

- 9.0 The SRSG welcomed the expressed re-commitment of the RTGoNU to implement the R-ARCSS announced by the High-Level Standing Committee on 21 February 2023. Commended the president for acceded to: (i) the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Optional Protocol; (ii) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; (iii) Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol); and (iv) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. He was encouraged that parties agreed on the provisions of the National Security Services Act and called for timely finalization and consolidation of the security-related legislation. He welcomed the President's announcement to resume the Rome peace process under the auspices of the community of Sant' Egidio, endorsed the messages of peace, reconciliation, and good governance from the Pope, the Archbishop, and the Moderator. The SRSG welcomed the messages emanating from the International Conference on Women's Transformative Leadership, convened in Juba and commended the visit of the AU PSC as timely and deepened the continent's capacity to leverage key outcomes in South Sudan.
- 9.1 The SRSG called on the Parties to finalize a formula for the harmonization of ranks and structures, welfare, and redeployment of the graduated troops, and commence Phase II as soon as possible. He encouraged them to implement the Roadmap by focusing on the priority areas such as constitutional-making process, the RTGoNU to expedite the deliberation of the National Elections Act to allow the reconstitution of the National Elections Commission. He called on the parties to fast-track the reconstitution and operationalization of other indispensable bodies such as the Political Parties Council, the National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) and the establishment of the Constitutional Drafting Committee (CDC).
- 9.2 In addition, he urged all concerned parties to facilitate unhindered access to the Nile River corridor, which was an economic lifeline for the delivery of goods and services, along with humanitarian assistance, particularly to vulnerable communities. He encouraged national actors to make further efforts to address the root causes of conflicts and strengthen security institutions and accountability structures to assure citizens of their safety and justice. In conclusion, the SRSG called on the RTGoNU and all the parties to redouble their efforts to implement the Roadmap, address ongoing sub-national conflict, and sustain peace and stability for all South Sudanese. He reiterated UNMISS' readiness, in concert with IGAD, AU, RJMEC, and partners, to continue its support to the peace process.

Min. 10/27/23: Statement from Jonny Baxter, UK Ambassador

- 10.0 The member thanked the Chairperson and members for the opportunity and stated the following:
- 10.1 commended on the progress made so far, however, took note of the critical timelines of the R-ARCSS that were missed partly due to lack of resources and the failure of the players to make it a joint process. There was reluctance to accept weakness or places where things had gone too slowly. It is much easier to engage and provide support where there was openness.
- 10.2 The remaining period is very difficult with so many activities to be implemented. The remaining months are critical to tell whether that final deadline would be met. It is incumbent on all the members to focus particularly on the next few months. RJMEC is a critical forum because of its oversight, accountability, and transparency nature, and because of the people that the forum brings

together. It is critical to listen to their views which are valid as everyone else, particularly those in the region who have a responsibility to the people of South Sudan.

- 10.3 RJMEC's mandate is therefore very critical in following-up on commitment and reports. RJMEC should therefore hold on to what has been achieved and push for the critical pending task to be addressed. There is also a need to maintain the momentum and the energy from the ecumenical pilgrimage. In that regard, the South Sudan should move forward in the implementation of the R-ARCSS. He thanked members for their valuable work in support of the Peace Agreement.

Min. 11/27/23: Reports from Mechanisms on progress in implementation of the R-ARCSS:

11.0 The following are the reports from the Agreement mechanisms and institutions:

Report from the NCAC Chairperson

- 11.1 The NCAC submitted two Bills to amend the banking laws - *the Bank of South Sudan Act, 2011*, and the *Banking Act, 2012* to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. It has also made considerable progress in the review and amendment of the *Non-Government Organisations Act, 2016*.
- 11.2 The NCAC commenced the review and amendment of the *Investment Promotion Act, 2009* as well as reviewed various relevant government policies, reports, and documents. Also, it undertook a comparative review of regional and international legislative regimes for investment expected to be finalized by end of March 2023. In conclusion, he appealed to the RTGoNU to pay the NCAC national members to avoid disruption and loss of momentum in discharging its mandate.

Report from the JRC Head of Secretariat

- 11.3 The JRC's mandate was extended from 27th of January 2023 for 12 months. Appreciated the support provided by the donors to the Committee. The member also informed the plenary about the workshops attended by the JRC Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson on *Sustaining Momentum for Transitional Justice in South Sudan* in Mombasa, Kenya, and the *International Conference on Women's Transformational Leadership to promote Women's Participation in Permanent Constitution Making-Process* held in Juba. The JRC plans to undertake public hearings and stakeholders' consultation visits to the 10 states and 3 Administrative Areas.

Report from the CTSAMVM Chairperson

- 11.4 The strike by the National Monitors halted CTSAMVM Board and CTC meetings to discuss violation reports. However, CTSAMVM leadership has been engaging with the RTGoNU to resolve the issue. The information from the UNMISS concerning the southwest movement of Agwelek forces toward SPLM/A-IO positions was to be verified. Ceasefire held in most parts of the country. CTSAMVM is monitoring NAS activities in Central Equatoria ambushes, harassment of civilians, theft of properties and livestock, and abduction of civilians. It conducted a full investigation of the violence in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area where Lou-Nuer armed youth attacked civilians, resulting in loss of lives. There is need to implement three major tasks in Chapter II namely, the unification of command structure on the middle and lower echelon of the NUF, registration, collection, and management of weapons and ammunitions, and the DDR.

- 11.5 The situation in cantonment sites and training centers remained dire. The SSPDF still occupied Mir Mir, Jekou and Liang cantonment sites which belonged to SPLM/A-IO. Twelve civilian centres were still under occupation of the SSPDF while the SPLA-IO occupied two buildings, yet to be verified. CTSAMVM was investigating the following: i). allegations of troop movements in Upper Nile State; ii). the arrest of civilians in Aweil by SSPDF Military Intelligence; iii) the detention of SPLM/A-IO officers in Juba and Torit by SSPDF; iv). detention of an NGO vehicle by National Security Services in Rumbek and v). recruitment and mobilization by SPLM/A-IO in Western Bahr el Ghazal.

Report from the JDB Head of Secretariat

- 11.6 The Head of the Secretariat condemned the insecurities caused by inter-communal violence in Greater Pibor Administrative Area and Central Equatoria state;
- 11.7 In general Parties to the R-ARCSS were observing the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA). Further, he provided an update on redeployment and unification of command, logistics, and plans for Phase II of the NUFs, challenges faced, recommendations on what needed to be done, and the support to the mechanisms to enable the implementation of the TSA critical tasks.
- 11.8 The Parties through their principals were expected to agree on the unification of the middle and lower echelons of the command.
- 11.9 The Government needs to provide salaries to the NUF, incentives, and accommodations to members of the mechanisms and national monitors. Also, there is need to strengthen trust and confidence building among and within Parties.
- 11.10 Parties, Partners, and individuals to support TSA.

Report from the SDSR Board Chairperson

- 11.11 The SDSR Board completed the drafting of the Defence White Paper and five other documents. However, two of the documents did not have a transformation roadmap for the White Paper reforms. The Board planned to conduct a workshop to be supported by the UNMISS. The Board also awaited funding from the NTC to finalize its report.

Report from the Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC) Chairperson

- 11.12 JTSC was not present nor did the mechanism submit a report.

Report from the Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC) Co-chairperson

- 11.13 The JMCC finalized the activities of phase I and budgetary planning for the preparations of Phase II. It submitted the budget for Phase II of the NUF to the NTC for assessment and verification of assembly sites, especially from the cantonment sites to be relocated, site clearance, reconstruction, and delivery of shelters (tents), prepositioning of food and other essentials as well as printing of the registration and screening forms. However, it has not received funds to conduct the activities. The NTC needs to avail funds for the implementation of its activities before the rainy season commences. RJMEC, CTSAMVM, and UNMISS to consider assisting the JMCC to airlift facilities and JMCC teams in assembly points.

Report from the DDR Commission Chairperson

- 11.14 The DDR Commission worked on CVR which was expected to be launched in Wau. The DDR was among the five benchmarks identified by the UNSC to support the uplifting of the arms embargo. The RTGoNU needs to support DDR Commission to be able to implement its activities such as engaging stakeholders to support the implementation of the CVR program to stabilize security for the classical DDR process and construction of transitional facilities, as planned.

Min. 12/26/23: Discussions on Statements and Reports

- 12.0 Members welcomed the statements of the RJMEC Chairperson, RTGoNU the SRSG, Agreement institutions, and mechanisms. In addition, they raised the following matters during discussions.
- 12.1 **EU:** The Minister of Finance and Planning for his presentation and raised concern on the issue of payment to the CTSAMVM national monitors to allow the mechanism to function. It was essential for the mechanisms to be supported financially and get a commitment from the RTGoNU. In addition, it was essential and critical that CTSAMVM performs its functions in verifying atrocities committed and observing the Permanent Ceasefire.
- 12.2 **FD:** The RTGoNU through its Ministry of Finance and Planning is responsible for financing the national monitors incentives. He wondered why, to date, there was no funding disbursed to the NTC coordinating all the security mechanisms.
- 12.3 **DDR Commission:** Asked both the Minister of Finance and the NTC Secretary regarding failure to fund the Commission since its establishment causing its activities to stall and wondered whether NTC was ever supported since the RTGoNU's establishment. The DDR in collaboration with UNICEF implemented activities on child rights in the states. However, in 2021, the funds in the DDR Commission account amounting to \$ 1,400,000 from UNICEF earmarked for the same activity were withdrawn by the Ministry of Finance. The Commission had been asking the Ministry to refund the money so it could proceed with the activities as planned and to account to UNICEF with no response.
- 12.4 **Youth:** Questioned MoFP on the status of the Youth Enterprise Fund, as mentioned in his report. There was need to understand what was hindering its actualization. Youth group had an extensive discussion that come up with a policy brief and a bill that was presented to the Minister of Youth and Sports. Requested to be informed on what was hindering its progress.
- 12.5 **RTGoNU:** The Minister of Finance briefed the plenary as a member of the Cabinet. In that regard, any questions concerning the implementation of the R-ARCSS should be directed to the Parties and RTGoNU members. The Minister of Finance was not required to respond to any questions because, as stated by the Minister of Peacebuilding, funding for TSA outstanding tasks is a responsibility of the NTC. The NTC prepared a budget of US \$ 118,776,670 for the outstanding bills. The outstanding payments were related to the NPTC, and contracts are legally verified and approved by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, but the former Administrator failed to submit the files to the Minister. The budget of the NPTC approved by the Cabinet and the Parliament was to the tune of US \$280 million. So far, the RTGoNU is cognisant of the payments amounting to over US \$180 million. However, it wasn't automatic for the debt to be transferred to the NTC. The NTC admitted in its report that it prepared a budget that was pending approval of the Council of Ministers and subsequently the Parliament. In that regard, the NTC has no budget and hence the discussion raised on funding by the mechanisms

was redundant. Further, the Minister of Finance was not present to respond to irrelevant questions raised by the plenary.

- 12.6 **ITGoNU:** There was no issue to be responded to by the Minister of Finance and Planning who was not able to answer the question on funding. The budget amounting to US \$118,776,670 has not been approved, and in that regard, all questions should be addressed to the NTC.
- 12.7 **NTC:** There was no need for the hard talk as the NTC secretariat indicated in its report that the budget was to be tabled before the Council of Ministers. The bureaucratic procedure within the NTC Secretariat which must receive the budget from the mechanism and submitted to the NTC Board which is a mini cabinet of the governance cluster, Ministry of NSS, and Minister of Peacebuilding. The other requirement demanded that the budget could only be approved by the Cabinet when the Minister of Justice and Minister of Finance were present causing more delays. The national monitors are also budgeted for pending approval. The member committed to respond to questions concerning the R-ARCSS in the next plenary.
- 12.8 **RJMEC Chairperson:** As per Article 7:8 of the R-ARCSS, RJMEC may request further **reports** from any transitional institution and mechanisms as it deems necessary. In that regard, the Minister of Finance and Planning is deemed to report to the RJMEC plenary since he co-chairs the PFM-OC.
- 12.9 **EU:** Associated himself with the statements from UNMISS and Troika on the delays and steps to be taken especially on the operationalization of the constitution-making process. The resolution of the impasse over the NSS Bill and the removal of a provision regarding arrest without warrant would avail political and civic space to the CSOs. He reiterated the importance of having all the RJMEC members participate in the monthly meeting.
- 12.10 **RJMEC Interim Chairperson:** Asked for clarifications on the number of the graduated Necessary Unified Forces (NUF) which was not synchronized as mentioned in the report of the RTGoNU to amount to 52,000 while the Joint Defence Board (JDB) had 56,701 troops with 4,701 soldiers unaccounted for.
- 12.11 **Women Bloc:** Asked CTSAMVM if it stopped reporting recruitment of child soldiers despite information on ongoing recruitment and mobilization as well as on the periods and areas where mobilization occurred considering that Western Bahr el Ghazal was huge. Also, wondered whether there were no cases on SGBV since it was not reflected in CTSAMVM's reports.
- 12.12 **Troika:** Concerned with the RTGoNU's lack of urgency to meet its commitments to complete the transition to a permanent government at the end of the extended Transitional Period. Time was running out while the window for ensuring a credible transition to a democratically elected government was rapidly closing. Continued intimidation of the UN peacekeepers and UNMISS staff by the transitional government and others was unacceptable and directly undermined UNMISS' protection of civilians and monitoring mandate. Also, continued attacks on humanitarian workers and theft of humanitarian resources were concerning. In that regard, the RTGoNU needs to ensure safe and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable communities.
- 12.13 **AUMISS:** The NUF data needed to be disaggregated based on the gender. Efforts are being made to re-engage the MoFA on the HCSS. Additionally, the AUC through the Office of the Legal Counsel initiated two *Note Verbale* to the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFA & IC) on the discussion to re-establish discussions on the Hybrid Court for South Sudan. The Office of the Legal Counsel awaits a response from the esteemed Ministries.

- 12.14 **Business Community:** Asked why the Necessary Unified Force (NUF) for Phase I was not redeployed to date while discussions on the commencement of Phase II were underway.
- 12.15 **CTSAMVM:** The details of the ongoing investigations in Western Bahr el Ghazal were reported and those on finance were all mentioned in detail in the violation report awaiting to be endorsed by the CTC which could not be submitted due to the boycott of the national monitors. The verifications of the violation were endorsed by both the CTSAMVM Board and CTC it will be submitted to the RJMEC meeting.
- 12.16 **SDSR-B:** The discrepancies in the number of the graduated NUF was due to the challenges faced when the NUF vacated the training centers to look for food. However, the JTSC sent teams to the training centers that reported the figure of the forces that were present in the training centers. Further, it was difficult for the teams to send away those who were not part of the NUF but had joined and were already trained which in the end had shown discrepancies raising the number of the force. The NUF is not redeployed except for Twic and Abyei of the Ngok-Dinka. The NTC and JDB were instructed by the Presidency to start the process to address the issue of ranking of the middle and lower echelon and embark on redeployment. Further, logistics needed to be discussed.
- 12.17 **RTGoNU:** Appreciated the comments from the outgoing British Ambassador Jonny Baxter, however, requested more clarity on the pending critical activities on transparency and accountability. The RTGoNU is committed to exit the country from the crisis it was in despite concerns from the international community on lack of urgency. The RTGoNU is working closely with the CSOs and the Regional Guarantors, however, many CSOs receive funding from international donors to spoil the name of the country forgetting that South Sudan was a sovereign state. The CSOs are free to speak and move in and outside the country. The RTGoNU was working hard in prioritizing the reconstitution of the National Elections Commission, National Constitutional Review Commission, and Constitutional Drafting Commission (CDC), Political Parties Council to allow Parties to register and begin to campaign and move forward so that South Sudan could embark on elections despite the constraints. The number of graduated NUF was 60,655.
- 12.18 **JDB:** Promised to share the exact number of the graduated NUF to clear the inconsistency in the numbers as reported in the RTGoNU and JDB reports respectively, including breakdown by gender. The challenges that caused delayed redeployment of the NUF were highlighted in the reports of the RTGoNU and the NTC. The military was working on the modality and how it could synchronize the issue of the middle and lower echelon as well as military formation. The second command of the echelon was to be agreed upon first by the principals before the JDB embarks on their redeployment. The forces were deployed only in Toch and Abyei while others awaited funding. The redeployment of the NUF also needed funding to expedite its process. It was difficult to redeploy the forces who were not armed in areas where civilians were armed. Recommended lifting of the arms embargo.
- 12.19 **JDB Head of Secretariat:** The parties need to agree on the middle and lower echelon to be able to finalize an agreement on the ranking and unification of command. Others were working on the military formation which depended on finances since the forces are to be redeployed in different parts of the country and not where they were coming from.
- 12.20 **Business Community:** Asked the JDB for rationale of overlapping of high ranks and whether it was going to be addressed. There is need for clarity from the Secretary General of the NTC if the RTGoNU prepared places for return or facilitated the IDPs and returnees to go back to their homes.

- 12.21 **IGAD:** Took note of the recommendation given by CTSAMVM that the IGAD leadership would convene a meeting of the Regional Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) to assess and mobilize necessary resources for the support of CTSAMVM. The CTSAMVM Chairperson would be visiting Khartoum to engage with the IGAD CDF on this matter.
- 12.22 The national monitors are very critical in the monitoring and verification of the cessation of hostility and observation of a permanent ceasefire in the country.
- 12.23 **FD:** CTSAMVM is an institution under IGAD. The RJMEC Chairperson needed to clarify where CTSAMVM belonged, and who was responsible for it between IGAD and RJMEC. He wondered why RJMEC or IGAD could not avail funding for the 48 national monitors in CTSAMVM while they sponsor the regional and international monitors. CTSAMVM was not working and therefore could not ask a question on the CTASMAM violation report that was neither discussed by the CTC nor the CTSAMVM Board.
- 12.24 **South Africa:** It is concerning and shocking that in a small population like South Sudan, there are so many Civil Society movements sponsored by external forces which would make the country difficult to move. The RTGoNU needs to take stock of the impact and should regulate CSOs by laws and find out how they received funding. Funding was key to moving the country from where it was. However, if there was only money to support the CSO movements and not the RTGoNU, the country would not move. He enquired which tool was being used in assessing the lack of implementation of the Agreement. The legal standing of the Troika is questionable and wondered whether the RJMEC ratified an institution called Troika. He also sought clarification as to when the members would get to know who they report to, and how they are recognized. To his understanding, there was no legal instrument governing the Troika. The Troika needs to offer solutions and refrain from making judgment. Furthermore, the member stated that no country in the world would claim to be free however, RJMEC should strive to help the South Sudan to conduct democratic elections at the end of the Transitional Period. Also, the people of South Sudan need to appreciate that it was in their interest that they take the country forward. Finally, he underscored the need to define the role of the Civil Society.
- 12.25 **RJMEC:** The status of CTSAMVM funding was stated clearly in the R-ARCSS that the mechanisms shall be funded by the host nation with support from the international community making it a shared responsibility. However, reminded the plenary that the initial funding was from the government of Japan which supported payment of the incentives of the national monitors.
- 12.26 **RTGoNU:** CTSAMVM plays an important role and the expectation that payment of the national monitors was also embedded in the budget of the CTSAMVM remuneration of all staff inclusive of the regional and international monitors. However, the readiness of the RTGoNU to pay the salaries of the Judicial Reform Committee (JRC) national members since the mandate of the Committee was only for six months. On the part of the NCAC, there was a plan to negotiate the incentive given to its national members and agree on a reasonable pay per day due to the financial challenges that the RTGoNU was facing considering that some of the members were civil servants. He asked for clarity on the reported harassment of the UNMISS staff as reported by the Troika and called on CTSAMVM to report to the plenary on the allegation.
- 12.27 The member welcomed the contributions made by the South African Ambassador calling on the NCAC Chairperson to take note of his contributions as they revised the NGO Act. He further emphasized the need to respect the legality of a sovereign state by the Troika. The member expressed that the outstanding payment of hotels and contracts were under the Minister of

Information, Telecommunication and Postal Services, however, to date the Chairperson of NTC had not submitted the arrears to be paid to him. To date, the NTC has not had a budget and hence redundant. Legally, the Troika should speak on behalf of their individual countries rather than as a group.

- 12.28 **USA:** Expressed shock by the rhetoric on the Troika and CSOs, underscoring that Civil Society was a bedrock of democracy since power rested with the people, and not the government. Also, Civil Society was what moves a society forward, it helps bridge and unite a country. The government's inability to move forward to implement the peace process in Civil Society was a travesty. The Troika coordinated as three countries with a common goal of seeing South Sudan move forward as a peaceful, and democratic country. It provided funds for humanitarian assistance and essential services that the Transitional Government was supposed to provide.
- 12.29 **UNMISS:** The recent incidents of intimidation on the peacekeepers in Central Equatoria involved intimidation at gunpoint of a helicopter crew from UNMISS. UNMISS reported the incident to the RTGoNU at a meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in their high-level coordination meetings. In the meeting with the Government, it was agreed to establish a joint investigation team to establish the circumstances for the incident to bring the perpetrators to justice. The second incident was in the Upper Nile state where the UNMISS team was intimidated by Agwelek forces in the area. The issue was raised with the SSPDF Chief of Defence Forces as well as by engaging with the Agwelek side to register its condemnation and protest. He thanked the troop-contributing countries and police for raising the concerns because the safety and security of each peacekeeper were paramount for the success of its mission mandate. All the Parties to the Revitalized Agreement need to fully fulfil their obligation to provide full unhindered access to UNMISS peacekeepers.
- 12.30 **NTC:** Two meetings were held by the principals with IDPs. The President informed the leaders of the IDPs that RTGoNU would work to find and facilitate space within Central Equatoria in collaboration with the government of Central Equatoria state. In addition, the First Vice President encouraged voluntary returns of IDPs, especially those who live in Juba and whose homes were occupied illegally by other people. The government promised to commit to the R-ARCSS and the Permeant Ceasefire in creating a conducive environment for the people of South Sudan to return to their area. It was understood that those in IDPs and refugee camps are there due to insecurity in their areas. There is need to stabilize the security of the country caused by inter-communal violence, and expedite the unification of the forces, implementation of the Transitional Security Arrangements, voluntary disarmament of the communities, etc.
- 12.31 **Djibouti:** The backbone of the R-ARCSS was the Permanent Ceasefire and TSA. He commended the RTGoNU on the progress made in the implementation of the R-ARCSS such as the graduation of the NUF. However, he reiterated the need to address the sub-national violence in the hotspot areas, including providing a conducive environment before a democratic free and credible elections. In that regard, the regional and international community need to support the implementation of the R-ARCSS and not only focus on humanitarian needs.
- 12.32 **IPF:** She extended her sympathy and condolence to a valued member of the IPF – Turkiye, that went through a terrible earthquake that saw the loss of lives and properties. She reiterated IPF Partners' readiness and commitment to supporting the full implementation of the R-ARCSS and underlined what was shared in the plenary on the need for urgency. Further, she stressed the need to keep up the momentum of the different visits by the regional and international forums this year, first, by His Holiness the Pope and then the AUPSC. She commended the first International Women's Transformational Leadership Conference held in Juba, followed by the

- swift decision by the President to assent to the international conventions, which would be instrumental in the work for equality, inclusiveness, and protection of women in South Sudan as a prerequisite for lasting peace. The women of the Transitional government helped the peace process and demonstrating the political commitment to the respect of human rights is expected to be followed by the capacity of the leadership of South Sudan to implement the conventions.
- 12.33 **RJMEC:** On behalf of the RJMEC plenary, the chairperson extended sympathies to the Government and the people of Turkiye for the disaster that recently occurred in their country and prayed that they recover quickly from it.
- 12.34 **Women Bloc:** Raised concern that the Civil Society and other activities of the stakeholders were supported by the NTC since the signing of the R-ARCSS in 2018. Their work entailed listening to the voices of the voiceless at the grassroots and that their initiatives needed support. She expressed concerned that the CSOs in RJMEC did not understand the work of UN Women in South Sudan since they do not involve the signatories to the R-ARCSS.
- 12.35 **JDB:** Responded to the question of having too many higher ranks in the army informing the member that when South Sudan attained independence in 2011, the Government did not retire the soldiers due to lack of funding. The then Government felt the need to retire the honor of the freedom fighters and to avoid having spoilers who could go back to war in the community. However, the RTGoNU currently is working on the retirement policy. He reiterated that the issue could be addressed once the army was unified and the commanding structure are in place. Downsizing the number of the forces like other countries since it would take time.
- 12.36 **ITGoNU:** The RTGoNU would not assemble, and redeployed forces already armed from the SSPDF alone as it would be a violation of the R-ARCSS. There is need to understand the difference between CSOs and NGOs. NGOs operate for a specific objective while a CSO is a community-based organization that emanates from society and listens to the voices of the people. We need to agree on the definition of the CSOs. NGOs that joined the talks in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia were only watchdogs to observe the process and not to expect support from the Government. Moreover, we need to also know the source of funding to the NGOs since most do not hold Annual General Meetings to discuss, pass the budget and come up with a report at the end of the meeting.
- 12.37 **RJMEC:** Article 1.4.2 of the R-ARCSS which refers to Parties using the resources of the country wisely and transparently for the best interests of the people of the part of South Sudan, and to put in place efficient mechanisms for achieving this paramount goal. However, Parties can also appeal to the international community for support and cooperation at the difficult at this difficult time. This was in response to the earlier discussion on the RTGoNU support to the national monitors. Appealed to the RTGoNU as a host nation to deposit some money as stipulated under Article 3.2 of the R-ARCSS, to attract international funding, underlying that the ownership of the R-ARCSS is driven by the host nation.
- 12.38 In addition, the Agreement recognized and referred the Troika to include the United States of America, Norway, and the United Kingdom as stipulated under Article 3.2.2.6 and as shown on page 82 of the R-ARCSS which meant there is recognition of the Troika as an institution.
- 12.39 In the next plenary, there is need to discuss funding to the institutions and mechanisms.

Min. 13/27/23: Review of the Resolution

- 13.0 The draft Resolution of the 27th RJMEC Plenary was jointly reviewed and adopted. The RJMEC Secretariat was tasked to circulate the final version to all the members.

Min. 14/27/23: Date for the Next Meeting

- 14.0 It was agreed that the 28th RJMEC plenary meeting would be held on Thursday, 30th March 2023.

Min. 15/27/23: A.O.B

- 15.0 Members holding Ministerial portfolios requested for the RJMEC monthly meeting time to be reverted to 10:00 am instead of 9:00 am to allow them to attend to government responsibilities since the meeting takes all day.

Min. 16/27/23: Chairperson's Closing Remarks

- 16.0 The Chairperson thanked members for attending the meeting and for coming on time, underlined that most of the critical tasks are expected to be implemented in 2023, hence the need to be focused. He also emphasized the importance of funding the R-ARCSS to help things move a little faster and recover the missed deadline. He called on the regional guarantors and international partners to avail funding for the implementation of the R-ARCSS, urged members to be committed, with the spirit of reconciliation, and tolerance, and enjoy the spirit renewed by the visit of the Ecumenical Peace Pilgrimage as it would help the people to rally behind the leadership in solidarity to ensure elections are conducted at end of the Transitional Period in December 2024.

Min.17/27/23: Closing Prayers

- 17.0 The representative of the faith-based organizations led the closing prayer. There being no other business, the 27th RJMEC monthly meeting was adjourned at 15:09 hours.

Min.18/27/23: Adoption of the Minutes

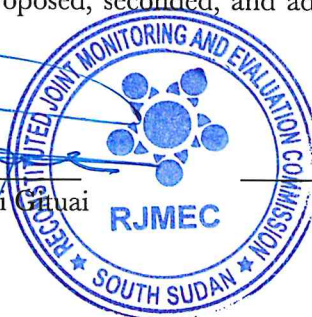
- 18.0 The minutes of the 27th RJMEC meeting are adopted as follows:

18.1. Proposer: Mr. Enrique Gallego

18.2. Seconder: Mrs. Yar Manoa Majok

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

H.E. Maj. Gen. (rtd) Charles Tai Ghuai
Interim Chairperson



Frida Lyaruu
Secretary to the Plenary