



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

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE 26th MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT
MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 26th JANUARY 2023 AT
BEIJING JUBA HOTEL, SOUTH SUDAN**

The Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) convened its 26th meeting on 26th January 2023 in Juba, South Sudan. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Amb. Maj Gen (rtd) Charles Tai Gituai, Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC, was called to order at 10:08 am.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayers
2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Adoption of the minutes of the 25th RJMEC meeting
5. Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chair
6. Report from RTGoNU
7. Report from NTC
8. Briefing from UNMISS SRSG
9. 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
10. Discussions
11. Review of the Resolution
12. Date for the next meeting
13. A.O.B
14. Chairperson's closing remarks
15. Closing prayers.

Attendance:

For the Parties to the R-ARCSS:

1. Hon. Michael Makuei Lueth (ITGoNU)
2. Hon. Mary Nawai Martin (ITGoNU)
3. Hon. Sandra Bona Malwal (SPLM/IO)
4. Mr. Peter Mabior Riing (SSOA)
5. Maj. Gen. Bior Leek Kuareng (FDs)
6. Hon. Wilson Lodiong Sebit (OPP)

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. Akuoch Ajang Nyanhom (CSO Alliance)
5. Dr. Angelina Bazugba (Academia)
6. Mrs. Abuk Jervas Makuac (Business Community)
7. Mrs. Norah Zangabeyo (Women Bloc)
8. Mrs. Angella Leka (Women Coalition)
9. Ms. Acayo Nancy Cirino (Youth)
10. Mr. Patrick A. Godi (Youth group) - online

For the Regional Guarantors:

1. H.E. Gamal Abdelmageed Gassim Elseed Ahmed (Sudan)
2. Mrs. Zeyneba Ahmed (Ethiopia)
3. H.E. Maj Gen. (rtd) Samuel Nandwa (Kenya)
4. Mr. Kabugudho Anthony (Uganda)
5. Mr. Mohamed Abdi Ali (Somalia)
6. Mr. Tukur Maigari (Nigeria)
7. H.E. Mahlodi Sam Muofhe (South Africa)
8. Mr. Ahmed Y. Hersi (IGAD)
9. H.E. Amb. Prof. Joram M. Biswaro (AUMISS)

For International Partners and Friends of South Sudan:

1. Mr. Hou Xiangyn (China)
2. Mr. Jonas Huus Ervik (Norway)
3. H.E. Michael J. Adler (USA)
4. Mrs. Gill Liver (UK)
5. H.E. Timo Olkkonen (EU)
6. Prof. Nicholas Haysom (UNMISS)
7. Mr. Julius Egbeyemi (IPF) Canada

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. Gen. Santino Deng Wol, Chairperson JDB
2. Gen. Gabriel Duop Lam, Co-Chairperson JDB
3. Maj. Gen. Charles Machieng Kuol, Head of JDB Secretariat
4. Hon. Angelina Teny, Chairperson SDSR-Board
5. Mr. Angelo Madut, Head of SDSR Board Secretariat
6. Maj Gen Kulang Mayem, Co-Chairperson JMCC
7. Maj. Gen Pal Yiech Lam, Deputy Head of JMCC Secretariat
8. Maj. Wuor Jok Guol, Member of JMCC Secretariat
9. Lt. Gen. Wesley Welebe Samson, Chairperson JTSC

10. Lt. Gen. Dr. Olaw Adiang Nyijok, Head of JTSC Secretariat
11. Hon. Gichira Kibara, Chairperson NCAC
12. Lt. Gen. Asrat Dencero, Chairperson CTSAMVM
13. Brig Gen Yassir Hassab Alla Hassan, Deputy Chairperson CTSAMVM
14. Hon. Lt. Gen. Ayuen Alier Jongroor, Chairperson DDR Commission
15. Hon. Justice James Ogoola, Chairperson JRC
16. Hon. Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch, Deputy Chairperson JRC

Observers:

1. Mr. Sencer Kagan Senol (Turkiye)
2. Mr. Leon Kohl (Germany)
3. Ms. Tomoko Watanabe (Japan)
4. Mr. Georg Stein (Switzerland)
5. Mr. Mohamed Elbadry (Egypt)
6. Mr. Tomas Brundin (Sweden)
7. Ms. Catherine Waliaula (UNDP)
8. Col. Nathan Akakunda, Acting Chairperson SSM
9. Maj. Gen. Gordon Wich Thak, Co-Member SSM

Min. 01/26/23: Opening Prayers

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

Min. 02/26/23: Chairperson's Opening Remarks

2. The Chairperson welcomed the RJMEC members to the RJMEC monthly meeting. He urged the members to be on time to allow an early ending of the plenary as requested by most Members.

Min. 03/26/23: Adoption of the Agenda

3. The agenda was adopted without any amendments.

Min. 04/26/23: Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

4. The draft minutes of the 25th RJMEC meeting were reviewed and adopted with an amendment: The name of Hon. Sandra Bona Malual was added to the list of Parties to the R-ARCSS.

Min. 05/26/23 Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chair

5. The RJMEC Chairperson delivered his statement highlighting that the IGAD Council of Ministers, the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC), and the United Nations Security Council recently made critical policy decisions in support of the implementation of the Revitalised Peace Agreement. He stated how timely the Ecumenical Peace Pilgrimage of the three religious leaders, led by His Holiness, Pope Francis, and subsequently the AU PSC were as they coincide with the third anniversary of the RTGoNU. He hoped that the RTGoNU and the people of South Sudan will find inspiration and a spirit of forgiveness in these visits to renew public confidence in the peace

process by rebuilding trust, showing the unity of purpose, and demonstrating genuine political will through joint actions and messaging for peace.

- 5.1. The chairperson concluded his statements with the following recommendations to the RTGoNU to consider: (a) reconstitute the Political Parties Council as part of the operationalization of the recently enacted laws, which helps to protect political space, thereby allowing for the registration of political parties; (b) harmonize the ranks of the mid-level unified forces, and provide for their welfare so that they can be deployed to provide security and protection of civilians caught up in subnational violence; (c) initiate dialogue between the communities and parties to address subnational violence in the country, particularly in the hotspots of Upper Nile, Jonglei, the Equatorias, and Greater Pibor Administrative Area; (d) commence Phase II of the unification of forces without further delay, and provide adequate resources to the Security Mechanisms and the cantonment sites and training centres; and immediately reconstitute and fund the National Constitutional Review Commission and its Secretariat, and fast-track the establishment of the other mechanisms like the Constitutional Drafting Committee (CDC) and the Preparatory Sub-Committee.

Min. 06/26/23: Report from the RTGoNU

6. The RTGoNU did not present a report as its representative was absent with an apology.

Min. 07/26/23: Briefing from the NTC

7. No report was presented by the NTC.

Min. 08/26/23: Briefing from UNMISS DSRSG

8. The United Nations received a formal invitation from the RTGoNU for electoral support. To that end, it was critical to fast-track all preparatory work, especially the finalization of the legal and institutional frameworks for elections, and the drafting of a new constitution. The slippage of key benchmarks related to these processes is a red flag, and reaffirmed the support of UNMISS, including within the framework of the IGAD-UNMISS-AUMISS Trilateral Taskforce, to the Parties to remedy the missed timelines. The SRSG expressed the need for the expansion of civic and political space and consolidation, strengthening, and redeployment of the Necessary Unified Forces to better enable the protection of civilians. The completion of Phase I NUF graduation being a welcome development, the Parties are encouraged to finalise a formula for harmonization of rank structures for the mid-level commanders, to properly equip and redeploy the NUF, including other requirements which will make such redeployments possible. In conclusion, there is a need to address the sub-national violence manifesting in hotspots such as Upper Nile State, Jonglei State, the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, adjacent areas to Abyei, the legacy of the conflict in Tambura, the Equatorias so that they do not threaten to unravel the current hard-won peace dividends.

Min. 9/26/23: Reports from Mechanisms on progress in implementation of the R-ARCSS:

9. The following are the reports from the Agreement mechanisms and institutions:

Report from NCAC Chairperson

- 9.1 The NCAC finalised the review and amendment of the *National Revenue Authority Act, 2016*; *Banking laws - the Bank of South Sudan Act, 2011*, and the *Banking Act, 2012* and it commenced the review and amendment of the *Non-Government Organisations Act, 2016* to conform the Act with the Agreement. All Parties and stakeholders were urged to respond expeditiously to requests for inputs by the NCAC to enable the Committee to meet its tight deadlines. The NCAC faces challenges such as a lack of financial support which has continued to interrupt its scope of work.

Report from the JRC Chairperson

- 9.2 The JRC Chairperson introduced the Hon. Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch, Deputy Chairperson who attended the meeting for the first time. He informed members that the mandate of the JRC was expiring the following day, on the 27th of January 2023, and that it awaited the decision of the RTGoNU Council of Ministers to endorse its request for extension and the incentives for the members.

Report from the CTSAMVM Chairperson

- 9.3 Security improved in Fangak/Tonga but tensions remained. The conflict in Maiwut County resembled clashes that happened in March 2022 in Jekou between SSPF and SPLM/A-IO. The Parties need to take note of the findings and recommendations published in CTSAMVM reports. Lack of logistical support has been reported in the 9 Cantonment sites which CTSAMVM visited. The SSPDF still occupied Mir Mir, Jekou, and Liang cantonment sites which belonged to SPLM/A-IO. There is a need to commence Phase II of the NUF. 12 civilian centers were still occupied by the SSPDF while the SPLA-IO occupied two buildings, which were yet to be verified. The JDB needed to address the issues.

Report from the JDB Head of Secretariat

- 9.4 The Head of the Secretariat of the Joint Defence Board presented its report on behalf of the JDB Chairperson on the redeployment and unification of command, logistics, and plans for Phase II of the NUFs, challenges faced, and recommendations on what needed to be done and the support to the mechanisms to enable the implementation of the TSA critical tasks. Recent insecurity was due to inter-communal violence in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area and Central Equatoria State. However, in general, the Parties to the R-ARCSS were observing the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA). The graduation of the NUF brought hope and reinforced confidence in the peace process and the RTGoNU.

Report from the SDSR Board Chairperson

- 9.5 The SDSR Board completed its activities and was ready to complete the Defense White Paper.

Report from the Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC) Chairperson

- 9.6 Apologised for not having a written report. In addition, he restated that the mandate of the JTSC was graduation and training of the forces as was reported by the JDB and to evaluate phase I and identify challenges and best practices. Also, JTSC planned to discuss Phase II of the

NUF processes. The main challenge faced by the mechanisms was the lack of salaries, lack of accommodation for the JTSC generals, and the length of time spent in the training centers that required more logistical support to the forces. In conclusion, there is a plan to train the NUF for a very short time and graduate them.

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

- 9.7 The JMCC finalised the activities of phase I and submitted the budget for Phase II of the NUF to the NTC through the JDB. Once approved, activities would commence. The cantonment sites which were flooded were to be jointly managed by the JMCC and JDB.

Report from the DDR Commission Chairperson

- 9.8 The DDR Commission did not implement any activity since the last plenary due to a lack of funding. The DDR process deserves the RTGoNU's attention to be able to implement the planned activities and accommodate ex-combatants once they are relieved from the army. The major focus of the DDR has been to continue to engage stakeholders to support the DDR process. The DDR Commission awaited the support pledged by the French embassy to finance the DDR pilot project. Once the funding is received, it will commence its work in collaboration with the other security mechanisms during the graduation of the NUF to accommodate the ex-combatant.

Min. 10/26/23: Discussions on Statements and Reports

- 10 Members welcomed the statements of the RJMEC Chairperson, RTGoNU the SRSG, institutions, and mechanisms. In addition, they raised the following matters during the discussions.
- 10.1 **AUMISS:** After acknowledging the statements and reports delivered, the member emphasized the need to be more focused in 2023 on the implementation of the R-ARCSS. On the ongoing intercommunal violence, he requested a report from the RTGoNU on their root causes. Regarding the question of lack of political space, he wondered whether it is the RTGoNU or the Army to safety to the civilians. There is a need to resolve the disputes about the harmonization of ranks of the mid-level commanders unless there was a hidden agenda behind the controversy. The JDB was asked to clarify which occupation of civilian centers has been unresolved for years and whether the underlying challenge is related to mistrust, lack of confidence, and political will. Limited funding to the mechanisms delayed the implementation of the critical activities of the Transitional Security Arrangement.
- 10.2 The Ecumenical Pilgrimage of the church is unique, very special, and very significant to South Sudan. The principals are expected to take the visit seriously and revive the hopes of the people and bring lasting peace to the country. The statement of the President on the inter-communal fighting in the states is welcome and he needs to be supported wholeheartedly. The AU PSC will conduct its solidarity visit to Juba on 22nd February 2023 while the Panel of the Wise will conduct theirs later in the year. South Sudan will feature in the AU Summit which commences from the 14th to 19 February 2023. 2023 should be a year of transformation in making sure that the critical tasks are implemented in letter and spirit.
- 10.3 **South Africa:** The member asked if it was within our means to call on the UNSC to consider lifting the arms embargo on South Sudan through the representative of the Secretary-General.

NUF would not be able to restore peace in South Sudan without arms. This is the right time for the UNSC to assess what has been achieved by the South Sudan peace process.

- 10.4 **Kenya:** The member welcomed the reports from the mechanisms and the support offered. South Sudan was achieving a peaceful transition. H.E. Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya visited South Sudan and held a bilateral engagement with President Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan. In December 2022, Kenya supplied 10 metric tons of assorted foodstuff and 45 metric tons of medical supplies for those affected by floods and violence all of which amounted to US \$ 800,000. Intercommunal conflict is escalating in Upper Nile State, Pibor Administrative Area, and Jogley State. All regional and international partners are to continue supporting South Sudan morally and in in-kind support for implementing the Roadmap. The Parties to the Agreement need to maintain positive momentum in the implementation benchmarks of the Roadmap to provide a fair environment for credible elections.
- 10.5 **UNMISS SRSG:** The member observed on the matter of the arms embargo that it was a decision of the UNSC and not the Secretariat and may review it in March 2023. However, there are provisions in the framework for an exemption that had been applied for a number of Member states around the table, including the United Emirates, China, Turkiye, and others in the supply of military equipment. The provisions make it clear that for any purpose sanctioned by the peace Agreement, an exemption may be secured. Further, the arms embargo may be lifted once certain benchmarks have been achieved.
- 10.6 **ITGoNU: representative:** The member echoed that it was unfortunate the RTGoNU representative was unable to present a report as well as the Secretary of the NTC. He further expressed that most of the issues raised were a matter of the NTC who would be in a better position to respond to the plans. The arms embargo is an obstacle to the redeployment of the NUF. He appealed to the members, representatives of countries, and UNSC to review and consider lifting the arms embargo. Appealed further to the international community to speak to their Headquarters on the issue.
- 10.7 Phase II of the NUF was expected to join with arms and if not then they shouldn't be accepted.
- 10.8 The fast-tracking operationalisation of the bills assented to laws and the establishment of all the institutions was underway. The making of the new Constitution has a procedure to be followed, as stipulated by law. The Political Parties Act allows everyone to establish and register parties in accordance with the provisions of the law. He was astonished by the reported lack of political and civic space when the SPLM/A-IO an opposition party established its offices all over South Sudan. The complaints that the government of South Sudan infringed on people's political space, the freedom of the press, etc. However, it should be noted that whoever abuses their freedom would be taken into account for their actions.
- 10.9 The Minister of Justice and Constitutional presented the extension of the JRC mandate to the Governance cluster and was approved and waited for the RTGoNU Cabinet on 27 January 2023.
- 10.10 The Secretary of the NTC and Hon. Dr. Martin Elia, the holders of the Peace Funds worked on the issue of payments to national monitors and members to different institutions and it was the right logic for the members of these institutions to be paid. The civilian centers were occupied for two main reasons: if the premises were found empty and the area was under the control of the rebels, and the SSPDF occupy the places that were potential to be occupied by the rebels and non-peace elements to avoid the area falling in the hands of the rebels and to protect civilians.

- 10.11 The current main challenge faced by the RTGoNU was the implementation of the Roadmap. The regional and international community stand and working together on the lifting of the arms embargo would allow the government to concentrate implementation of other outstanding provisions.
- 10.12 **Eminent Person:** The reports revealed the complexity of the Peace Agreement itself. Trust deficit and lack of funding were the main challenges that the mechanisms were facing that delayed the implementation of the Roadmap of the R-ARCSS. In that regard, the mechanisms need to discuss how to address the issue of funding. There was an international diplomacy momentum shown by the visits of the Pope and the other ecumenical church leaders to South Sudan, and the visit of the AU PSC and IGAD. In that regard, there is a need for the region and the international partners to have a forum where they discuss funding and requests for support. The AU PSC should come up with clear terms for their support of the RTGoNU. The RTNLA needs to be reopened to discuss the salary of the NUF to allow them to be deployed.
- 10.13 **FD representative:** The lack of reports from the NTC is concerning. CTSAMVM needs to be precise and specific in its reporting by stating clearly who was fighting who instead of generalising the signatories to the Agreement. On the conflict in Upper Nile, CTSAMVM had reported that some forces were sent to contain the security and restore order in the area. JDB needed to inform the plenary of the steps taken to restore and contain the situation in Jonglei, Pibor, and Upper Nile. The internally displaced communities continued to suffer in Bor and wondered whose responsibility it was for such a security situation.
- 10.14 There is also a need to address the issue of the salary of the graduated NUF. The JDB needed to report on the steps it has taken or in place to recall all the forces in their communities back to the training centers. There were clashes in Maiwut, since last year March, in some cantonment sites that were occupied in Mirmir. He sought clarity on what was done.
- 10.15 **Troika representative:** The people of South Sudan deserve to see the benefits of peace and stability across the country and needed to have an active stake in the democratic process that required transparency and accountability from those who govern the country. Troika is willing to support and work closely with its partners to help bring about peace, stability, and accountability. The peace process was not an end in itself but a pathway to securing a better future for South Sudan and its people. The member thanked the Chairperson, for his continued objective and neutral assessment of progress against the Roadmap. Troika is very concerned about the pace of implementation of the Peace Agreement even though the government assured members that it would implement the Agreement as per the timelines and in letter and spirit and that things would be different this time. A number of important deadlines in the Roadmap were due to be completed by the end of February, including Chapter 4 of the R-ARCSS. Progress was vital to demonstrating a commitment to the substantive change that R-ARCSS envisaged. There is a need to see the political will and determination from the Parties to work together to make implementation real and tangible as well as a concerted effort to get back on track and move forward. Troika does not envisage further extensions.
- 10.16 The member noted that despite Phase I of the NUF being graduated, Phase II should have begun training immediately. The NUF cannot provide security for all South Sudanese citizens without clear redeployment plans and agreement on mid-level command structures, nor without shelter, food, or salaries. The parties should reach an agreement on these vital issues. The recent violence in Greater Jonglei in December highlighted the urgent need for security. Without peace and security human suffering, and humanitarian needs will continue to grow and it would be difficult to conceive of how elections could credibly be held.

- 10.17 Further, the member welcomed the President for assenting to the Constitution Making Process Act and urged for early operationalization of the Act. On violence, she appealed to the RTGoNU to hold to account those who continue to incite violence in an attempt to meet their aims and objectives. The conclusion of two outstanding investigations into human rights abuses in Unity State was, for example, long overdue.
- 10.18 The ecumenical visit to South Sudan of His Holiness the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is commendable. Troika expected to see concrete actions propelled by a real and determined sense of urgency. Statements of intent need to be quickly transformed into real-world action. Only then will the continuing hardships facing the people of South Sudan begin to be alleviated.
- 10.19 **EU Delegation representative:** The member associated himself with the statements made by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson and UNMISS and the concerns raised by the Troika on the slow pace of implementation and the need to expedite the process within the transitional period. There is an opportunity to promote the Constitutional Making Process and to create an enabling electoral environment. The EU is willing to partner in the peace process, both politically and financially. Moving forward, there is a need to achieve both formal steps and benchmarks as well as have a conducive environment, by addressing the issue of subnational violence for the elections. There is a need to address the escalation of violence, intentional killings, abductions, destruction of facilities and livelihood, looting, and punishing perpetrators.
- 10.20 The lack of political and civic space is an issue to be addressed, as citizens have both obligations and rights whereby when there are questions or suspicions of infringement, people have recourse to legal assistance. Finally, the visit of the religious leaders to South Sudan is a landmark and turning point expected to raise the hopes of the people and accelerate the implementation of R-ARCSS. However, he raised concerns as one of the main financial supporters of RJMEC and CTSAMVM secretariat and their activities and appealed to all members to demonstrate full commitment by attending and participating in all monthly meetings of RJMEC.
- 10.21 **SDSR Board Chair:** The member appeals to the partners to support the implementation of the R-ARCSS. On 15th February 2023, the Government of Turkiye is expected to deliver to the RTGoNU a donation of 73,000 pieces of uniforms which was pledged a year ago but awaited exemption from the UN. She commended the Government of Kenya for its support for the Transitional Security Arrangement. The issue of ranking should not be cited as an obstacle to the redeployment of the graduated forces. The main challenge relates to the structure and unification of the middle command of the unified forces and salaries of the NUF. The principals were planning to meet to address the issue of salary which would be followed by a decree of the President.
- 10.22 On another note, she further highlighted that the army was working hard to address the benchmarks of the UN and attached to the arms embargo for it to be uplifted. The ecumenic pilgrimage of the church was critical to the people of South Sudan and prayed that the visit would renew the spirit of the people, and become a time to reflect and push forward their role in the implementation of the R-ARCSS.
- 10.23 The member further informed members that the Secretary of the NTC was away for a medical reason. She aligned her statement to that of Hon. Makuei on the issue of political space. As much as SPLM/A-IO was launching offices in the states, it was not an easy and high risk to its people. However, the challenge would go away when the parties take the challenge in claiming their political space.

- 10.24 **ITGoNU representative:** The member observed that funding would be addressed and incentives of the nationals in different institutions and mechanisms would also be paid. He welcomed the statement of the Troika that had rejected the Roadmap and they were in its support. He appealed to the Troika to come on board and support financially the implementation of the Roadmap as per the timeline. On political and civic space, the member wondered which yardstick is used in its measurements. Furthermore, the member wanted to know why the international community was supporting the institutions run by internationals and not supporting support the nationals in those institutions and mechanisms. To that end, the member appealed to the donors supporting RJMEC and other mechanisms to include the national so that the process goes smoothly and does not discriminate against them, to be able to execute their duties.
- 10.25 In response to the slow pace of implementation of the R-ARCSS, the member stated that the RTGoNU wanted to implement it in letter and spirit and not in a hasty way. He clarified that the presidency cannot travel together as a matter of protocol. He pledged to inform the RTGoNU leadership of the concern that the principals needed regular meetings to discuss critical issues concerning the R-ARCSS. Moreover, he reported that the RTGoNU had the plan to disseminate the message of the ecumenical pilgrimage and His Holiness the Pope to the people of South Sudan.
- 10.26 **JDB:** The member expressed that redeployment of NUF entails having resources to move them from one place to the other as well as military equipment. The JDB was planning to meet in the first week of February to decide on the redeployment of the NUF. The issue of occupied civilian centers was being resolved with the SSPDF and SPLM/A-IO vacating the areas. CTSAMVM should provide names of the civilian centers /areas occupied because they continue to report on vacated areas by its forces.
- 10.27 Some forces deserted the training centers due to a lack of food and to work in search of a livelihood since they were not paid. There were some conditions on the arms embargo and provisions for exemption for personal weapons and light arms. The JDB needed to come up with a specific parade of the NUF for it to be uplifted for a short time in buying light arms and then continue with the bigger picture of the army which is between the government of the Republic of South Sudan and UNSC.
- 10.28 The root cause of the inter-communal fighting was well known to many while some were communal in nature. Among the root causes was the legacy of the liberation war that left small arms and light weapons in the hands of civilians. There is therefore a need to come up with a comprehensive disarmament of civilians. The government needed to come up with a peaceful advocacy plan to be addressed to the community leaders, civilians, and militias including the white army to accept bringing peace to the country. When the white army crossed to the Chollo community, the government sent 700 forces while the white army had 14,000 forces. Another root cause of the conflict was based on political issues and further citing an example of the fighting in Upper Nile started by Johnson Olony and Simon Gatwech and later escalated to the area of the SPLM/A-IO. There was no need to have some militias in the country, and therefore if Johnson Olony signed an Agreement with the government, then he ought to stop fighting where his forces were and that was their agreement with the CDF while informing the white army not to move and attack the forces of Olony.
- 10.29 **Sudan:** The DDR process needs to be supported which was key in the Transitional Security Arrangements (TSA) for those not absorbed in the army not to return to war.

- 10.30 **USA:** The member reiterated that the Troika always supported a peaceful transition to a peaceful and secured South Sudan. However, the Troika was against the 24-month extension in which the government showed no political will or guarantee that it would follow through with its promises. What the Troika had seen since that vote was taken as a series of half-measures taken to make it seem like it was doing something without demonstrating any real commitment. To make the preparations necessary for free and fair elections in December 2024, it is expected that the RTGoNU will meet the commitments it made to maintain the peace and to transition to a permanent elected government acceptable to the people of South Sudan.
- 10.31 **SPLM/IO representative:** The statement of the Chair that addressed the issues discussed in the consultative meetings and that of the mechanisms are commendable. The presence of the NTC in RJMEC meetings was deteriorating and hence needed remedial measures.
- 10.32 Raised concern on the decision of the President to relieve the Commissioner of Twic county Eng. Deng Tong and the Speaker of Jongley State without consulting with the First Vice President which was a breach and violation of the RARCSS. Furthermore, expressed that the principals were not meeting which would have helped in addressing and discussing, and resolving all emerging issues and challenges in a timely manner.
- 10.33 expressed hope that the Ecumenical Pilgrimage would bring peace, blessings, and a new spirit. After the ecumenical visit, RTGoNU could consider organising a National Day of Prayer. Additionally, the President and the First Vice President could consider a joint tour of the 10 states and Administrative Areas to deliver the message of hope from the Pope to the people of South Sudan.
- 10.34 **JMCC:** The conflict in Magwi and Yei areas and cattle rustling were responsible for inter-communal fighting in those areas. Some of the fightings were political while others were clashes. The President had given directives on what ought to be done. CTSAMVM needed to report to the JMCC on the areas that had fighting. Forces would be deployed in Pibor areas to calm the place. The JDB and JMCC planned to meet to discuss how it would address the fighting. Recommendations on the clashes were submitted to the CDF who was the Chair of the JDB for action.
- 10.35 **Interim Chairperson:** emphasised the critical issues that needed to be addressed among which is the funding for the implementation of the Roadmap. He asked members to reflect on the Special Reconstruction Fund or whether there was a need to plan for raising funds or a proposal to hold a meeting to discuss funding issues.
- 10.36 **ITGoNU representative:** On the issue of political space, the Ministers at the national level may not be aware of what was happening at the state level. There is a need therefore to speak to the Governors at state levels where there are problems be it SPLM or SPLM/IO controlled areas. The implementation of the Roadmap needed collective responsibility, including the partners and donors in supporting its success. The decision of the President to relieve the RTGoNU personnel should have been consulted and if not, there was a need to address the issue. On the RTNLA, she informed members that the Parliament was in recess and would resume soon to discuss critical issues that needed its attention.

Minute 11/26/23: Review of the Resolution

- 11 The draft Resolution of the 26th RJMEC Plenary was jointly reviewed and adopted. The RJMEC Secretariat was tasked to circulate the final version to all the members.

Min. 12/26/23: Date for the Next Meeting

12 It was agreed that the 27th RJMEC plenary meeting would be held on Thursday, 2nd March 2023.

Min. 13/26/23: A.O.B

13 There was no item raised under this agenda.

Min. 14/26/23: Chairperson's Closing Remarks

14 The Chairperson thanked members for attending the meeting and for coming on time. He highlighted the need to be focused on the implementation of the Roadmap and the R-ARCSS. Expressed concerns and asked what could be done for the RTGoNU to work as one and take collective responsibility. He called the leaders to renew their spirit with the visit of the Ecumenical Pilgrimage of the church. This would help the people to rally behind the leadership in solidarity He highlighted that most of the critical tasks are expected to be implemented in 2023 for preparation for the election by end of the Transitional Period.

Min.15/26/23: Closing Prayers

15 The representative of the faith-based organizations led the closing prayer. There being no other business, the 26th RJMEC monthly meeting was adjourned at 15:24 hours.

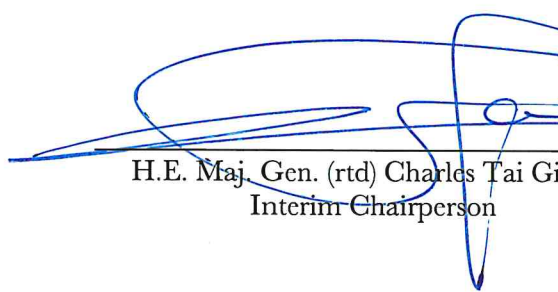
Min.16/26/23: Adoption of the Minutes

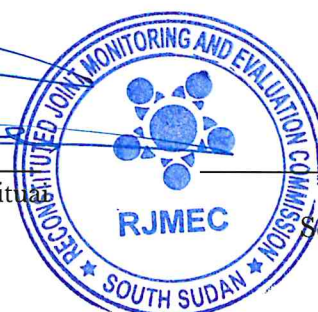
16 The minutes of the 26th RJMEC meeting are adopted as follows:


16.1. Proposer: Hon. Michael Makuei Lueth, ITGoNU

16.2. Seconder: Hon. Sandra Bona Malwal

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

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



 Frida Lyaruu
Secretary to the Plenary