

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

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE 30TH MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT
MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 6TH JULY 2023 AT
BEIJING JUBA HOTEL, SOUTH SUDAN**

The Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) convened its 30th meeting on 6th July 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 10:14 am.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayers
2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Adoption of the Minutes of the 29th 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 (RTGoNU)
2. Hon. Michael Makuei Lueth (ITGoNU)
3. Hon. Mary Nawai (ITGoNU)
4. Hon. Sandra Bona Malwal (SPLM/IO)
5. Hon. Amb. Stephen Par Kuol (SPLM/A –IO)
6. Maj. Gen. Bior Leek Kuareng (FD)
7. Hon. Wilson Lodiong Sebit (OPP)
8. Hon. Peter Mabior Riiny (SSOA)

For the Other South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents:

1. Rtd. Bishop Enock Tombe Stephen (Faith-based Leader)
2. Sheikh Jaralnebi Khamis Mursal (Faith-based Leader)
3. Mr. Dabek Mabior Arol (CSO Alliance)
4. Mr. Taban A. Christopher (CSO Forum)
5. Dr Angelina Bazugba (Academia)
6. Hon. Amb. Dr. John Yoh Gai (Eminent Persons)
7. Prof. Moses Macar Kacuol (Eminent Persons)
8. Mr. John Lual Akol Akol (Business Community)
9. Mrs. Yar Manoa (Business Community)
10. Mr. Patrick A. Godi (Youth group)
11. Ms. Nancy Cirino (Youth group) - online

For the Regional Guarantors:

1. H.E. Hassan Robleh Mahamoud (Djibouti)
2. H.E. Nebil M. Abdullahi (Ethiopia)
3. Mr. Mustafa Ahmed Almubarak (Sudan)
4. H.E. Maj Gen. (rtd) Samuel Nandwa (Kenya)
5. H.E. Brig. Gen. Ronny Balya (Uganda)
6. Mr. Mohamed Abdi Ali (Somalia)
7. H.E. Yohannes Teklemichael (Eritrea)
8. H.E. Ibim N. Charles (Nigeria)
9. Mr. Mangoba Mdluli (South Africa)
10. Mr. Ahmed Y. Hersi (IGAD)
11. Ms. Varaidzo Mupunga (AUMISS)

For International Partners and Friends of South Sudan:

1. H.E. Ma Qiang (China)
2. Mr. Lars Petter Henic (Norway)
3. H.E. Michael J. Adler (USA)
4. Mrs. Gill Lever (UK)
5. H.E. Tino Olkkenen (EU)
6. Mr. Julius Egbeyem (IPF) Canada
7. H.E. Prof. Nicholas Haysom (UNMISS)

For RJMEC Secretariat:

1. Amb. Berhanu Kebede, Chief of Staff
2. Dr. Thomson Fontaine, Deputy Chief of Staff - Strategy

For Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:

1. Ustaz Stephen Wiw (Head of Secretariat NTC)
2. Lt. Gen. Rabi Mujung Emmanuel (JDB)
3. Maj. Gen. Jacob Nyier Gatkuoth (Head of JDB Secretariat)
4. Brig. Gen. Dr. Hoth Giw Chan (JDB)
5. Madame Angelina Teny (Chairperson SDSR Board)
6. Mr. Angelo Madut (Head of SDSR Board Secretariat)
7. Maj. Gen Pal Yiech Lam (Deputy Head of JMCC Secretariat)
8. Maj. Gen. Ayuen Dot (JMCC)

9. Lt. Gen. Dr. Olaw Adiang (Head of JTSC Secretariat)
10. Maj. Gen. Hailu Gonfa Eddosa (Chairperson CTSAMVM)
11. Brig. Gen. Yassir Hassab Alla (Deputy Chairperson CTSAMVM)
12. Ms. Justice Ajonye Perpetua Paya (Head of Secretariat JRC)

Observers:

1. H.E. Erdem Mutaf (Turkiye)
2. Ms. Tomoko Watanabe (Japan)
3. Ms. Lydia Minagano Kape (Switzerland)
4. Mr. El-Said Ezzat (Egypt)
5. H.E. Vishnu Kumar Sharma (India)
6. Mr. Tomas Brundin (Sweden)
7. Ms. Fenny Hum (UN Women)
8. Ms. Catherine Waliaula (UNDP)
9. Lt. Col. Taifa Kuer (Security Supervision Mechanism)

Min. 01/30/23: Opening Prayers

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

Min. 02/30/23: Chairperson's Opening Remarks

2. The Chairperson welcomed the RJMEC members to the 30th monthly meeting. He officially invited H.E. Yohannes Teklemichael, Ambassador of Eritrea to South Sudan to the RJMEC meeting whose country had resumed its membership to IGAD. He also bade farewell to Mr. Tomas Brundin, Head of Office of the Sweden Embassy in South Sudan, whose time in Juba had come to an end. He wished him success in his future endeavour as he continued to support Africa in his next mission.

Min. 03/30/23: Adoption of the Agenda

3. The agenda was adopted without amendments.

Min. 04/30/23: Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

4. The draft minutes of the 29th RJMEC meeting were reviewed and adopted with reservations on recommendations to amend the report of the RTGoNU on para 6.2 and 6.6.

Min. 05/30/223 Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson

5. The RJMEC Interim Chairperson welcomed members and highlighted the following:
 - 5.1 seventeen months are left to elections scheduled for December 2024 and that critical milestones as set out in the R-ARCSS are yet to be accomplished in accordance with the timelines in the Roadmap. To that end, RJMEC recently engaged at the regional and international level to mobilise support for expediting implementation of the R-ARCSS.
 - 5.2 in order to conduct free, fair, and credible elections as scheduled, there was need to achieve the following benchmarks in the R-ARCSS: reconstitution and operationalization of the institutions

tasked with the preparation and conduct of elections, namely the Political Parties Council and the National Elections Commission; judicial reforms to enhance the capacity and independence of the judicial institutions to deal with elections-related disputes; completion of the unification and redeployment of forces in order to provide security throughout the electoral process; making of the permanent constitution under whose provision elections shall be conducted; and improvement to the overall political and civic space to enhance public participation in the constitution-making and electoral processes.

- 5.3 Recommended to the RTGoNU to: (a) provide adequate and predictable funding for the implementation of all the critical pending tasks of the Agreement; (b) continue to consult and dialogue in the spirit of collegial collaboration and consensus to address emerging issues during the implementation of the Agreement; (c) prioritise efforts aimed at promoting peace, reconciliation and healing at national and community level; (d) further prioritize implementation of social service provision as outlined in the Budget Appropriation Bill 2023-2024 in order to reduce economic vulnerability of ordinary citizens; and (e) provide immediate support to returnees to enable them resettle and/or reintegrate in their communities or places of choice in safety and dignity.

Min. 06/30/23: Report from the RTGoNU

6. The representative of the RTGoNU did not have a written report, however, presented the following to the plenary:
- 6.1. Progress is being made to restructure and reconstitute the Commissions and independent institutions. 17 Commissions were agreed upon and four commissions were pending. On NCRC nomination, the ITGoNU and the SPLM/A-IO were still working on their list of nominees while other parties OPP and SSOA submitted theirs;
- 6.2. On the reconstitution of the Political Parties Council (PPC), the High-Level Standing Committee planned a meeting of the parties, stakeholders and civil society groups to receive the list of their nominees. The PPC is a non-partisan institution and not subject to political allocation.
- 6.3. The High-Level Standing Committee received a budget from the National Elections Commission.
- 6.4. The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA) held a conference on Transitional Justice in June 2023. The Bills for the CTRH and CRA were underway with an expectation to be passed in August. The constitution-making process is a matter of the Republic of South Sudan hence should be left to the people of South Sudan.
- 6.5. Delays in reconstitution of the national Commissions and Institutions was caused by a misunderstanding regarding the sharing of the positions of the Executive Directors. The parties agreed on positions to be shared as only for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson positions, and not Executive Directors.
- 6.6. The JDB is in progress with establishment of the mid-level echelons of command of the security sector. The issue of the appointment of the Minister of Interior and Minister of Defence was a matter for the Presidency to resolve.

Min. 07/30/23: Briefing from the PFM-OC

7. No report was either received or presented as the PFM-OC Chairperson did not attend the plenary.

Min. 08/30/23: Briefing from the NTC

8. The Secretary of the National Transitional Committee (NTC) highlighted challenges faced in coordinating the implementation of the Transitional Security Arrangements' remaining critical

tasks. The Committee was working on securing funding for security mechanisms' operating costs and releasing approved emergency food items for the graduated NUF at various training centers. In July 2023, the NTC facilitated meetings on unification of lower and middle echelons, but outstanding issues had been referred to principals for resolution. The NTC submitted a request for SSP 3,671,588,100 billion to the Ministry of Finance and Planning for food items for the redeployment of the graduated NUF, but the Ministry had not released the requested amount. The NTC was also following up with the Ministry to release funds for the transportation of military uniforms and equipment from port Mombasa, Kenya. The ex-combatants and graduated NUF still occupied training centers. The principals to resolve the stalemate over lower and middle echelons of command structures so other institutions could take up their responsibilities. Also, the friends of South Sudan, the guarantors, the African Union, and the UN need to help and support the NTC to fully implement TSA's remaining tasks. In addition, the Ministry of Finance and Planning need to release funds earmarked for security mechanisms' operating costs and emergency food items.

Min. 09/30/23: Briefing from UNMISS SRSG

9. The SRSG informed of the UNMISS' briefing to the UNSC on the political and security developments in South Sudan over the last three months. He also briefed on how the conflict in Sudan continues to affect South Sudan. He commended the RTGoNU's intervention for returnees and refugees as well as the IGAD and South Sudan's mediation efforts in the Sudan conflict. He acknowledged efforts made by the RTGoNU to draft national budget for FY 2023/24 and for allocating about SSP 50 billion to peace implementation. The Joint Taskforce for the implementation of Constitution-Making and Electoral processes was established, and discussions on a draft national elections budget were ongoing.
- 9.1 UNMISS and UNDP supported the Parliamentary Committee on Legislation and Justice in a two-day consultation with civil society actors on the affirmative action provisions of the National Elections Bill. The African Union Mission in South Sudan convened the inaugural principals' meeting of the Special Reconstruction Fund (SRF).
- 9.2 It was critical for the parties to resolve the appointments of the middle echelon of the command structure so that the first batch of the NUF could be deployed, and Phase 2 to commence.
- 9.3 A conducive political and security environment for free, fair, and credible elections. In that regard, the TNLA needs to expedite the reconstitution of the National Elections Commission (NEC) and the Political Parties Council (PPC).
- 9.4 The ongoing conflict in Sudan continued to drive thousands of people across the borders into South Sudan, seeking refuge and safety. Increased competition amongst communities in congested sites over scarce resources exacerbated existing tensions, as seen in Renk. The situation in and around Malakal remained volatile following intercommunal clashes at the Protection of Civilians (PoC) site on June 8. All the parties need to exercise maximum restraint. UNMISS will deploy additional peacekeepers to strengthen security at the PoC site. Humanitarians continued to support vulnerable populations, even with the additional strain on the humanitarian resources of the UN, other agencies and partners, and the international community generally.

Min. 10/30/23: Reports from Mechanisms on progress in implementation of the R-ARCSS:

10. The following are the reports from the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:

Report from the NCAC

- 10.1 No report was submitted to the plenary.

Report from the CTSAMVM Chairperson

- 10.2 The CTSAMVM Chairperson was in attendance however, he did not present a report, due to the challenges faced by the mechanism that prevented it from holding meetings of both the CTC and the Board.

Report from the JDB Head of Secretariat

- 10.3 The Head of the JDB Secretariat informed that the JDB reached an agreement on unifying the second tier of command of NUF, but awaited appointments of officers to various command positions. The JDB made deployment arrangement plans in collaboration with the SSPDF, the South Sudan National Police Service (SSNPS), the National Security Service, the Prisons Service, the Civil Defence Service, and the Wildlife Service. The training centers and assembly areas ran out of logistics, especially food and medicines, and JDB stores are completely empty. Also, their offices at the South Sudan Hotel are closed. The officers deployed to the R-ARCSS security mechanisms have not received remuneration since 2019. Phase II NUF arrangements have not yet commenced.

Report from the SDSR Board Chairperson

- 10.4 The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) Board held a workshop and Board meeting on June 27, 2023 and reviewed technical validation documents, revised the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure, and discussed hierarchy and assets. The Board also deliberated on replacing absent members and discussed the need for a retreat for document adoption. The Board faces challenges, including lack of funds, hindering its efforts. The Board completed the Strategic Security Assessment (SSA), Security Policy Framework (SPF), and Revised Defence Policy (RDP), which awaited final official adoption before being presented to principals, the Council of Ministers, the TNLA and the President. The Board planned to hold a retreat to finalize these documents and present them officially to the principals. Additionally, the Board has not yet secured funding for the retreat of its members.

Report from the Joint Training Security Committee (JTSC) Chairperson

- 10.5 The JTSC Head of the Secretariat did not present a written report to the plenary. The NUF were still in the training centres with no food as reported by the JDB. The JTSC planned to review the training curriculum. The training instructors were not paid for the last three years and vacated the training centres. The instructors need to be facilitated to return for the commencement of Phase II.

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

- 10.6 The Deputy Head of Secretariat of the JMCC informed members that the budget for Phase II was submitted to facilitate activities such as assessment, verification, site clearance, shelter reconstruction, food delivery, and registration forms for forces. However, no fund was released for incentives or accommodation payments for four years. Some cantonments, like Turu, Lieng, and Mirmir, were still under SSPDF occupation. There is need for partners to support JMCC's

field visits assembly points before the rainy season. More urgent funding support is needed from the RTGoNU for food and non-food items.

Report from the DDR Commission Chairperson

- 10.7 The Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (DDRC) is implementing a Community Violence Reduction (CVR) pilot project in Wau, Western Bahr el Ghazal state. The team began with community consultations to identify 250 ex-combatants and 250 community members, as well as 100 ex-combatants to be transported to neighboring states. The DDR, UNDP, and Western Bahr el Ghazal state Government prepared to launch the CVR project in Wau. The Commission faces challenges such as funding for DDR programmes, lack of prioritization and empowerment in peace implementation. There is need to engage stakeholders to support the implementation of the CVR program, stabilize security for classical DDR programs, and construct transitional facilities.

Report from the JRC Head of Secretariat

- 10.8 The JRC held public and stakeholder consultations on judicial reforms outside Juba, especially in Malakal, Wau, and Yambio, representing the former greater regions of Upper Nile, Bahr el Ghazal and Equatoria, and in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area. The JRC may not fully accomplish its task unless RTGoNU or another donor/partner comes on board.

Min. 11/30/23: Discussions on Statements and Reports

11. Members welcomed the statement of the RJMEC Chairperson and reports from the RTGoNU, the DSRSG, Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms. In addition, they deliberated as follows:
- 11.1 **RTGoNU:** Clarified the difficulties that the RTGoNU was facing with regard to the implementation of the R-ARCSS. In 2022 the government allocated SSP 17 billion for the implementation of the Agreement. Unfortunately, the funds were exhausted faster than expected and beyond the approved budget. This year a number of things had to be changed; the amount of money allocated is now US\$50 million which will be disbursed with the approval of the Council of Ministers. Once approved, requests are submitted to the Ministry of Finance for processing. The Minister of Cabinet Affairs and Secretary General of High-Level Committee of the Parties would be working with the NTC to make sure that the funds for the NTC are prioritised. The approach is different from that of 2022 which didn't have a specific person to ensure the funds are released. This would help the Council of Ministers to keep an eye on the funds released, given that the failure to release funds to the security mechanisms as well as the NTC on time impact negatively on the government. If the RTGoNU had extra support from partners, the conditions would have been different. The national budget was in TNL for discussion and once it is passed funds would be released to the mechanisms, NCAC and JRC. It was further agreed that the funds for the NCAC would be monitored by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, JRC by the Ministry for Cabinet Affairs, while those for the mechanisms would be managed by the NTC.
- 11.2 **SDSR-Board:** Asked about the \$3.6 million that was approved by the RTGoNU Council of Ministers for completion of Phase I of the unification of forces. The Council directed the Ministry of Finance to release the funds, which to date, has not been released. The member wanted to know the obstacles for the delay and the progress so far.
- 11.3 **Academia:** It was known the Minister of Finance and Planning receives the resources, and on the other hand the mechanisms had been complaining about the lack of funds to implement its activities. Need to find out how the coordination of funding and budget on different activities is

being done, so it can avail the resources needed and also to provide accountability to ensure that the mechanisms are going to implement the activities under the R-ARCSS without impediment.

- 11.4 **The RTGoNU:** In response, the member noted that all peace funds will have to be as per the budget passed by the RTNLA. In comparison to 2022, the budget for 2023 had increased to \$50 million which would make it easier for the NTC to provide funding as required. South Sudan still needs support from those ready to assist. The previous administration of the Ministry of Finance did not focus on the importance of implementation of the R-ARCSS. The approach by RTGoNU was different this year with the hope that in the next few months funding wouldn't be an issue for discussion in the plenary. If the funding issue is not resolved, the RTGoNU would summon the Minister of Finance and Planning to explain to the plenary.
- 11.5 **Troika:** Welcomed the RTGoNU's commitment to maintaining an open border with Sudan, enabling safe passage of refugees and returnees. The Troika called on the RTGoNU to contribute sustained funding to the international community's humanitarian assistance efforts for refugees and IDPs. The Sudan's conflict highlights the fragility of peace commitments and the need for meaningful action in implementing the R-ARCSS. The Troika is concerned about violence in the Malakal PoC site and armed group mobilization in Upper Nile and Jonglei States. These incidents highlight the urgent need for progress in deploying NUF and security sector reform (SSR), as per the R-ARCSS. SSR is crucial for free, fair, and credible elections in 2024. Progress on middle and lower levels of NUF command structure is still pending, and deployment of the first batch is 10 months behind the timeline of implementation in the Roadmap. Obstructing progress harms the South Sudanese people's interests. The member acknowledged the tabling of the National Elections Bill in the RTNLA, but raised concerns about the national budget's potential delay in electoral preparations. In that regard, the Troika urged the RTNLA to expedite the enactment of the National Elections Bill. The Troika also expressed concern regarding clear lack of funding for election preparation and conduct.
- 11.6 **EU:** There is need to focus and expedite the implementation of the security sector activities including NUF redeployment, as without a conclusive security environment, the elections will be severely jeopardized. In that regard, the security sector-related disagreement should not hold up progress in other areas such as electoral and constitutional planning. The EU is a supporter of the R-ARCSS and would like to see progress in its implementation as per the timeline. The member commended the RTGoNU on its open-door policy for the refugees and returnees from Sudan, and President Kiir's effort to mediate lasting cessation of hostilities in Sudan. The people of South Sudan should be commended for the upcoming celebration of its independence on 9th July 2023.
- 11.7 **IPF:** Commended South Sudan on its Independence Day on 9th July and called on members to reflect on the sacrifices made in support of freedom and self-governance in South Sudan and redouble efforts to support a peaceful and prosperous future for this country. Informed that South Sudan faces the spillover effects of the Sudan crisis. In that regard, the RTGoNU's leadership is crucial in maintaining an open border policy, removing checkpoints, and maintaining humanitarian corridors in key hotspots. The RTGoNU's ongoing support for transportation for returnees and UNMISS' protection of civilians are essential for the crisis response. The member shared the RJMEC Chair's and SRSG's views on the rapid escalation of tensions at Malakal PoC site. To that end, there is a need for momentum in training and deployment of the NUF. Relatedly, the June 24 clashes between SSPDF and SPLA-IO in Upper Nile State needed cooperation of the leadership to prevent further escalation, and to prioritise Phase I deployment.
- 11.7.1 Welcomed the allocation of SSP 50 billion in the budget for the implementation of the R-ARCSS, as well as SSP 405 billion for wages of civil servants and armed forces. Progress on the elections, constitution-making process, and transitional justice remain top-of-mind.

- 11.7.2 The RTNLA Committee on Legislation and Justice held a consultation on the National Elections Bill 2023 and deliberated on participation from youth, women, people with disabilities, and civil society. In line with the RJMEC Chair's call, there is a need for a people-led permanent constitution to guide elections and judicial reforms to improve capacity and independence in election disputes resolution and to improve political and civic space for multiparty elections. It is also critical to invest resources in civic education and engage all members of South Sudanese society. IPF remains steadfast in supporting democratic elections and a South Sudan-led democratic process. In conclusion, he reminded members of the late Dr John Garang's appeal that: "Let us unite against ethnic, religious, and racial divides to restore personal dignity for all. Let us reject being mere spectators in life and become masters of our own destiny."
- 11.8 **Youth:** Raised concerns on the draft national budget presented before the RTNLA that it did not match the ambitions of the RTGoNU, where critical institutions such as the Political Parties Council, National Elections Commission and the National Constitutional Review Commission are allocated under US \$1 million. The member appealed to the RTNLA to revise and realign the budget accordingly.
- 11.9 **Academia:** Commended the statement of the RJMEC Interim Chairperson on the SSPDF leadership efforts in conducting General Court Martial however, expressed the need for the statement to be unpacked to include actions such as dismissal, punishment, reduction in ranks and compensation to the victims. She observed that as the CRA Bill is in progress, it would be difficult to understand the framework used for compensating the victims and punishing perpetrators. Also, there is need to demand for accountability for non-implementation from the RTGoNU such as the delayed establishment of the Women and Youth Enterprise Development Funds.
- 11.10 **Business Community:** Stated that despite the progress made so far, the RTGoNU reported SSP 15 billion given to the NTC for the TSA in 2022 but it overspent by about SSP 2 billion, which signified inaccuracies in the accountability. The member urged the Auditor General to audit the funds. She also wondered how the NTC would spend the funds while all the mechanisms had been kicked out of their offices. On CTSAMVM, she urged for the challenges hindering its work to be resolved. Raised concern on the violent incident in the Malakal PoC and requested UNMISS to report on actions taken to address it.
- 11.11 **Eminent Personality:** Raised concern on the war in Sudan which brought in new dynamics which was more worrisome with the potential of derailing the process of stabilising South Sudan. He, therefore, appealed to the international community, regional guarantors, and South Sudanese to engage in such matters. He also warned that since South Sudan was off the crisis list, the region may relax and shift its focus to other conflicts. On the Sudan conflict, the main concerns are that neither South Sudan nor the regional leaders are yet in full agreement on how to deal with the conflict. South Sudan leadership should start thinking seriously about how to deal with the crisis, which if not addressed could put the whole region into jeopardy. He called on the South Sudan leaders to refocus and strategize on how they can protect the country.
- 11.12 The returnees and refugee issues must be taken with concern. Some of the returnees had left the country because they were not happy with those in government, and since they were forced to return there was a need to create confidence-building measures between them and those who never left the country. For example, what happened in Malakal related to hate issues. The member enquired about the purpose of the R-ARCSS and Roadmap. If it is about elections and to stabilise South Sudan, then the approach used by the parties to the Agreement leaves a lot to be desired. Further, he asked whether the people entrusted and responsible for the implementation of the R-ARCSS talked to each other, frequently meet or do they meet after one month or after three months, or whether it is the high-level mechanism or the Presidency. According to him, funding was not the real issue but rather trust and the need to engage. Meanwhile, the mechanism created to make the parties engage and talk (RJMEC) has for five

years not been able to sort the issue out. The time has come for the principals to start asking themselves if they are talking and to start doing so in order to rescue the situation.

- 11.13 Furthermore, the member noted that it would be disastrous to tag international community support to the progress in the implementation of the R-ARCSS by the Parties. This will affect the R-ARCSS and may take the country back to conflict. He, therefore, appealed for coordination of efforts. He urged that South Sudanese should be given an opportunity to talk and engage and that the Parties should also aspire to select the right like-minded people to talk and resolve the challenges. In conclusion, he appealed for a speedy resolution of the situation in Sudan.
- 11.14 **RJMEC:** Informed that the court martial was separate from the CTRH issues, and is governed by the military laws. Further, he informed members of the letter that he received from four CTC Senior National Representatives regarding the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the CTSAMVM Chairperson and CTSAMVM Board. Accordingly, he informed of his extensive consultation with four CTC members, CTSAMVM and IGAD Executive Secretary, and the outcomes of IGAD decision, including the review and endorsement of the CTSAMVM Chairperson's and the Board's ToRs. The CTC ToR was also drafted and will be tabled before the CTSAMVM Board for review and approval. He further informed of the RJMEC's plan to meet the Party leaders to convey the changes made by IGAD as well as with the CTC Senior National Representatives to resolve the issue which stalled CTSAMVM activities.
- 11.15 **Secretary to NTC:** Informed of a procedure stipulated in the Appropriation Act 2022/2023 fiscal year budget that any request made by any institution implementing the Peace Agreement must be submitted to the RTGoNU Council of Ministers in the presence of the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, and the Minister of Finance and Planning. Further, he informed that the NTC submitted only one request through the Council of Ministers which was not availed, while the Ministry of Peacebuilding had requested US\$2.6 million for peace dissemination which was not yet released. He endorsed the call for the audit of the accounts of the Ministry of Finance and NTC. Also, he reported that the Ministry of Peacebuilding submitted the budget performance to the RTNLA for incorporation into the new budget, containing items being carried forward to the next fiscal year. However, it was discovered that out of the US\$12 million, US \$17 million was spent. To that end, the Minister of Finance could be invited to report to the plenary on how the peace fund was spent.
- 11.16 Observed that the intercommunal violence in the country is non-political, and that he had engaged in the communal and intra-communal dialogues in Upper Nile, Lakes and Warrap States. He cited the root causes of inter-communal violence as being the erosion of the powers and authority of traditional leadership and customary legal systems in the community. The absence of a government in the lives of the people providing public security meant people had armed themselves to protect themselves, and sometimes to carry out offensive attacks on their neighbours. The solution lies with unification of forces, community dialogue and disarmament of all communities. The Ministry of Peacebuilding was prioritising unification of forces, dissemination of the R-ARCSS, and engagement of the communities in dialogues.
- 11.17 **ITGoNU:** Informed members that once the national budget is tabled in Parliament, other activities are suspended, which is why other critical and important Bills have not yet been passed. However, he raised concerns regarding ongoing inter-communal violence, noting that the R-ARCSS is expected to put an end to conflict. The member appealed for dialogue among parties and communities, and to the Ministry of Finance to release peace funds in a timely manner.
- 11.18 Highlighted that the reports and presentations showed progress was being made in the implementation of the R-ARCSS, however slow it may be. The critical areas requiring attention are on preparations for elections. On the Malakal PoC incident, the member observed that the RTGoNU does not have any responsibility for what was there except UNMISS. The RTGoNU had tried to address the issues in the PoCs but was not allowed to intervene. On complaints

regarding lack of political space, the government has not stopped any party to engage and meet its members. On the issue of compensation and reparation, the army was applying its own military law with specific provisions on the court martial and compensation. He congratulated all South Sudanese on the upcoming independence celebration on the 9th July 2023 with the hope that the new year would be a year of real implementation of the Agreement.

- 11.19 **JDB:** Informed members that Maj. Gen. Jacob replaced Maj. Gen Charles Machieng and wished him well in his new responsibilities. Once it receives funding, the JDB would deploy the NUF. On the middle echelon of command, the JDB Chair and Deputy Chair submitted its report to the principals. In regard to clashes, the JDB is to form a committee to investigate and report back to the RJMEC plenary. Likewise, on the alleged violence in Upper Nile, CTSAMVM is expected to verify the atrocities and report to RJMEC. On the CTC issue, he appreciated the efforts made by the RJMEC Chairperson, however, he stated that R-ARCSS was initiated by IGAD but negotiated, signed, and owned by the parties. In that regard, if there was a need to amend the R-ARCSS, we must abide by Article 8.4 of the R-ARCSS.
- 11.20 **RJMEC:** Clarified that IGAD did not change the R-ARCSS. The Terms of Reference were administrative documents which were not part of the Agreement. The R-ARCSS stipulated specific structures such as CTC, however, the formation, structure, size, and the number were purely an administrative arrangement with an exception to the number of the members of the board that was stipulated clearly in the R-ARCSS.
- 11.21 **NTC:** Informed that in 2023, NTC had not received \$17 million as stated by some members but welcomed the proposal for the NTC to be audited. Expressed that the mechanisms were accommodated by NTC when they arrived in Juba in 2018 for four years until when the NTC could not afford to pay for their accommodation and offices. Some funding was given to the security mechanisms to evacuate their members from hotels and look for alternative accommodation.
- 11.22 **IGAD:** Congratulated the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and its people on the 12th independence anniversary celebration. He called on the international community to redouble their efforts and support the RTGoNU. He commended South Sudan for opening its borders for the returnees and refugees and hoped the Sudanese would solve their problem and end the conflict. He appealed to the RTGoNU to strategise on how it would implement the R-ARCSS.
- 11.23 **UNMISS:** Highlighted that on the recent killings in Malakal PoC site, actions were being taken to investigate, identify and bring to account the perpetrators. Further, the UNMISS peacekeepers and teams in Malakal worked very closely with the state Governor, state SSNPF, NSS, and SSPDF to calm down the situation. The UNMISS SRSG and the Mission leaders have been extensively engaging at the Juba level with the national politicians, including the Shilluk King to calm down the situation. He further clarified the rumour of mobilisation and conflict between communities in Malakal, it was not substantiated. On the issue of arms within the PoC sites, UNMISS plans to continue its operations and regular patrols to search for arms.
- 11.24 **EU:** Registered EU's disappointment that the plenary could not receive a report from the CTSAMVM and hoped that the matter would be resolved amicably to allow CTSAMVM to be fully functional.
- 11.25 **SDSR – Board:** Refuted the statements from UNMISS and Troika on what happened in Malakal and elsewhere, that youth were mobilising in Upper Nile and Jonglei intending to go to Malakal as reinforcements, as true. However, she observed that the incident in Malakal involved the use of firearms and yet UNMISS is expected to protect civilians and civilian protection sites. This raises questions about how the arms got into the UNMISS PoC. She appealed for the prevention of such incidents. On refugees and returnees in Renk and Malakal, the member she noted that their situations were dire, yet more people were still arriving daily.

She, therefore, appealed for more support in Tonj, Malakal, Northern Bahr el Ghazal in Warrap state, Equatorial, Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei States.

- 11.26 **SDSR Head of Secretariat:** Expressed concern on the use of US \$ 3.6 million that was approved by the Council of Ministers to complete the deployment of the forces.
- 11.27 **ITGoNU:** Funding and audit cannot be resolved by the plenary but by the RTGoNU.
- 11.28 **NTC Secretariat:** Assess what was happening in Malakal PoC since it was not the first time such incidents happened in the PoCs. The same happened in Bor, Malakal and could also happen elsewhere. On elections, RJMEC needed to tell the Parties what should be done before the elections. further, there is no viability of an election if unification is incomplete. An ultimate objective of the R-ARCSS is to stabilise the country and not to elect new leadership. Reiterated the need to also know type of the government the South Sudanese people will have after election.
- 11.29 **RJMEC:** RJMEC briefed the RTGoNU and RTNLA as per article 7.9. However, RJMEC wrote to the RTGoNU requesting to brief the Cabinet and RTNLA and awaited a response.
- 11.30 **JRC:** Recommended that RJMEC could engage the UNHCR for regular updates on returnees and refugees coming to the country.

Min. 12/30/23: Review of the Resolution

- 12 The draft Resolution of the 30th RJMEC Plenary was jointly reviewed and adopted. The RJMEC Secretariat was tasked to circulate the final version to all the members shortly after its finalization.

Min. 13/30/23: Date for the Next Meeting

- 13 It was agreed that the 30th RJMEC plenary meeting would be held on Thursday, 10th August 2023.

Min. 14/30/23: A.O.B

- 14 The ITGoNU raised the issue of endorsing/passing the Resolution of the Previous RJMEC monthly meeting the next time the plenary met. He proposed that the resolutions also must be read and endorsed as true copies of the previous discussion. However, the issue was not passed.

Min. 15/30/23: Chairperson's Closing Remarks

- 15 The Chairperson thanked members and urged for expedited implementation of the R-ARCSS, especially on unification of the forces, operationalisation of the legal frameworks and establishment of the Commissions. He encouraged Parties to engage to implement the R-ARCSS in letter and spirit to have peace in South Sudan. The Chairperson hoped that the next meeting of the plenary will focus on discussion on implementation of the R-ARCSS.



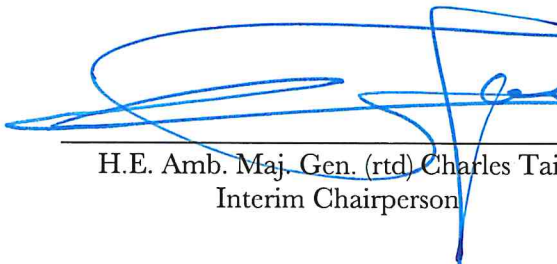
Min.16/30/23: Closing Prayers

- 16 The representatives of the faith-based organizations led the closing prayer. There being no other business, the 30th RJMEC monthly meeting was adjourned at 14:38 hours.

Min.17/30/23: Adoption of the Minutes

- 17 The minutes of the 30th RJMEC meeting are adopted as follows:

- 17.1. Proposer: Mr. Albino Madut, Head of the SDSR Secretariat
- 17.2. Seconder: Ustaz Stephen Wiw, Head of the NTC Secretariat
- 18 The minutes are hereby proposed, seconded, and adopted by the undermentioned as the true record of the meeting.



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

Frida Lyaruu
Secretary to the Plenary