



Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC)

FINAL MINUTES OF THE 22nd MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 2ND JUNE 2022 AT BEIJING JUBA HOTEL, SOUTH SUDAN

The 22nd meeting of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) was convened in Juba, South Sudan on 2nd June 2022. The meeting chaired by H.E. Maj. Gen. (rtd) Charles Tai Gituai, Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC was called to order at 11:55 am.

Agenda as adopted

1. Opening Prayers
2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Adoption of the minutes of the 21st RJMEC meeting
5. Evaluation Report of the R-ARCSS 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
 - i. NCAC
 - ii. CTSAMVM
 - iii. JDB
 - iv. SDSR Board
 - v. JTSC
 - vi. JMCC
 - vii. DDR Commission
10. Discussion - Participants
11. Review of the resolution
12. Date for the next meeting
13. A.O.B
14. Chairperson's closing remarks
15. Closing prayers.

Members Present

In attendance were the representatives of all the Parties, Other South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents, Regional Guarantors, International Partners and Friends of South Sudan in RJMEC. Also, in attendance were the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms, and the RJMEC Secretariat, namely:

For the Parties to the R-ARCSS:

1. Hon. Dr. Martin Elia Lomuro (ITGoNU)

2. Hon. Michael Makuei Lueth (ITGoNU)
3. Hon. Mary Nawai Martin (ITGoNU)
4. Hon. Sandra Bona Malwal (SPLM/IO)
5. Hon. Joseph Malwal Dong (SPLM/IO)
6. Mr. Malong Thiik Riny (SSOA)
7. Hon. Wilson Lodiong Sebit (OPP)
8. Maj. Gen. Bion Don Leek (FDs)

For the Other South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents:

1. Hon. Charles M. Jongo (Faith-based leader)
2. Mr. Dabek Mabior Arok (CSO Alliance)
3. Dr. Angelina M. Bazugba (Academia)
4. Prof. Moses Macar Kacuol (Eminent Personality)
5. Ms. Mary Ajith Goch (CSO Forum)
6. Ms. Caroline Kibos (Youth)
7. Mr. Soro Wilson Sebit (Youth)
8. Ms. Yar Manoa Majok (Business Community)
9. Mrs. Abuk Jervas Makuac (Business Community)
10. Ms. Tabitha Manibe (Women Coalition)

For the Regional Guarantors:

1. Mr. Gamal Goraish (Sudan)
2. H.E. Nebil Mahdi (Ethiopia)
3. Mr. John Nyaga (Kenya)
4. Mr. Lutendo Ratshibaya (South Africa)
5. Mr. Kataps Gaius Keafon (Nigeria)
6. Dr. Aleu Garang (IGAD Juba Liaison Office)

For International Partners and Friends of South Sudan

1. Mr. Hou Xiangyu (China)
2. H.E Siv Kaspersen (Norway)
3. H.E Jonny Baxter (UK)
4. Mr. Nicholas Haysom (UNMISS)
5. Mr. Dionjz Hocker (EU)
6. Mr. Erich Crompton (IPF)

For RJMEC Secretariat:

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

For the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:

1. Hon. Gichira Kibara, Chairperson NCAC
2. Ustaz Stephen Wiw Bichiok, Head of Secretariat NTC

3. Lt. Gen. Asrat Denelo Amad, Chairperson CTSAMVM
4. Maj. Gen. Saeed Mohamed Elshiekh, Deputy Chairperson CTSAMVM
5. Gen. Santino Deng Wol, Chairperson JDB
6. Lt. Gen. Gabriel Duop Lam, Co-Chair, JDB
7. Lt. Gen. Garang Ayii Akol, Co-Chair JDB
8. Maj. Gen. Charles Machieng Kuol, Head of JDB Secretariat.
9. Hon. Angelina Teny, Chairperson, SDSR Board
10. Hon. Lt. Gen. Ayuen Alier Jongroor, Chairperson, DDR Commission
11. Hon. Regina Joseph Kaba, Deputy Chairperson DDR Commission
12. Mr. Wilson Lual Lual, Head of Secretariat DDR Commission
13. Lt. Gen. Wesley Walebe Samsom, Chair JTSC
14. Lt. Gen. Dr. Olaw Adiang, Head of JSTC Secretariat
15. Lt. Gen. Koang Gatkuoth Kerjok, Chairperson JMCC
16. Maj. Gen. Kulang Mayen Kulang, Co-Chair JMCC

Observers:

1. Mr. Xavier Verjus-Renard (France)
2. Mr. Ahmed Tawfek (Egypt)
3. Ms. Riko Kato (Japan)
4. H.E. Tobias Eichner (Germany)
5. Ms. Riko Kato (Japan)
6. H.E. Erdem Muta (Turkey)
7. Mr. Georg Stein (Switzerland)
8. Mr. Joachim Waern (Sweden)

Min. 01/22/22: Opening Prayers

1. The opening prayer was led by Hon. Charles M. Jongo, a representative of faith-based leaders.

Min. 02/22/22: Chairperson's Opening Remarks

2. The Chairperson welcomed the RJMEC members to the 22nd RJMEC meeting and wished them fruitful deliberations.

Min. 03/22/22: Adoption of the Agenda

3. The proposed agenda for the 22nd RJMEC Meeting was adopted without any amendments.

Min. 04/22/22: Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

4. It was agreed that since the 22nd RJMEC meeting of 24th March 2022 had no quorum, its draft minutes could neither be reviewed nor adopted.

Min. 05/22/22: Evaluation Report of the R-ARCSS by the RJMEC Interim Chair

5. In his report to the plenary, the RJMEC Chairperson welcomed the NCAC's resumption of implementation of its mandate since May 2022 for the next 8 months, further welcomed progress towards the establishment of the *ad hoc* Judicial Reform Committee (JRC) and further commended IGAD and the international partners for their support to both the NCAC and the JRC.
 - 5.1. In addition, RJMEC briefed the Council of Ministers of the RTGoNU on 8 April 2022 on the status of implementation of the R-ARCSS, highlighted the critical pending tasks of the Agreement and made recommendations, including an appeal that RTGoNU prepares a strategy with timelines for the implementation of critical outstanding tasks of the R-ARCSS;
 - 5.2. Further, the Chairperson highlighted the critical pending tasks of the Agreement, chapter by chapter. He also took note of the cross-cutting challenges, including delayed unification of forces, funding, military defections, trust deficit, insufficient political will, capacity gaps, the cumulative effects of prolonged subnational conflicts, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the dire humanitarian situation in the country caused by natural calamities such as floods;
 - 5.3. The Chairperson expressed serious concerns regarding violations of the R-ARCSS, including the continuous occupation of civilian centres by the SSPDF and SPLA-IO, denial of access to CTSAMVM, attacks by the SSPDF on the SPLA-IO forces in Upper Nile and Unity States; and most disturbingly, reports of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Koch and Leer Counties in Unity State, including the deaths of an unspecified number of people, destruction of property and displacement of civilians; and
 - 5.4. Finally, he underscored the public concerns regarding uncertainty when the R-ARCSS lapses in February 2023 without the completion of all its tasks. Urged for a consolidation of the peace dividends by implementing the outstanding tasks of the R-ARCSS and appealed to the members to suggest possible remedial measures in view of the aforementioned.

Min. 06/22/22: Report from the RTGoNU

6. In his report to the meeting, the RTGoNU representative apologized to the members that he would not be able to submit a written report. That notwithstanding, the member informed that the RTGoNU was preparing a roadmap for the Transitional Period. In the absence of the permanent constitution, it would be difficult to embark on elections. The members of the Legal Committee had identified the tasks to be done under the constitution making process, and solicited the experts advise on the time frame of each of those tasks. The roadmap will be the primary document for the Parties to the R-ARCSS. Once the Parties agree, the roadmap will be submitted to the RJMEC members and subsequently to IGAD. The RTGoNU was determined to have a zero draft in a week's time. Once the roadmap is tabled by RTGoNU, RJMEC convenes an extraordinary meeting to deliberate on it. In that regard, he appealed to partners to come on board and assist once the roadmap is shared by the RTGoNU. Finally, he suggested that a committee of funders, to be chaired by UNMISS, be formed to coordinate donors willing to contribute to implementing the roadmap.

Min. 07/22/22: Report from the NTC

7. The Head of Secretariat for the National Transitional Committee (NTC) informed members that the mandate of the NTC, including coordinating funding for the mechanisms and coordinating the

mechanisms and the leadership of the concerned Parties to agree on the unification of the Command Structure of the unified forces. The NTC was coordinating with the Ministry of Finance and Planning for funding to be disbursed to the mechanisms. Furthermore, the Chairperson of the NTC secured a bilateral arrangement for transporting consignments of food through the Nile from Sudan to South Sudan. The food is to be stored in Upper Nile and Unity States awaiting distribution to cantonment sites and training centres. The member further highlighted challenges faced by the NTC as lack of funding, and lack of food for the forces in cantonment sites and training centers. Finally, he appealed to the Ministry of Finance and Planning to release funds to allow for the graduation and redeployment of the NUF.

Min. 08/22/22: Briefing from UNMISS SRSG

8. The SRSG and head of UNMISS acknowledged the positive developments in the implementation of the R-ARCSS since the last RJMEC Plenary, welcomed the April 3 Agreement on the Command Structures and subsequent appointments, urged the parties to continue in the spirit of compromise and accelerate their efforts by graduating the first batch of the NUF which was promised by 3 June. He recalled the RTGoNU's commitment to provide a roadmap with benchmarks and timelines that would serve as a recommitment of the Parties to the R-ARCSS as well as an entry point for the international community to provide more targeted support; and
- 8.1. The SRSG expressed concerns on the alarming scale of sub-national violence particularly in Eastern Equatoria, Unity, Warrap and Jonglei States and welcomed the setting up of the government's high-level investigation committees to investigate incidents of violence. He expressed concerns about the continued dire humanitarian situation whereby an estimated 8.9 million people, including 2 million women and 4.6 million children, were in significant humanitarian need. There are funding constraints with only 25.2 per cent of the \$1.7 billion pledged for life-saving assistance and protection services received. He called on the RTGoNU to work with a sense of urgency to: a) pass the constitutional making process bill; b) graduate the first batch of the NUF and make progress on the 3 April agreement; c) work with the NCAC to expediate the National Elections Bill process; and d) agree on a Roadmap to exit the transitional period with free, fair and peaceful elections.
9. **Min. 09/22/22: Reports from Mechanisms on progress in implementation of the R-ARCSS:**

9.1. Reports from NCAC

- 9.1.1. The Chairperson of the NCAC expressed gratitude on restart of the NCAC mandate after a more than one (1) year of absence of its members. He informed members that the Committee resumed its work in early May 2022, after IGAD was able to mobilise some funding for the Secretariat and operations. He highlighted the Committee's previous and current achievements. Recently, the NCAC completed the review and amendment to the Southern Sudan Audit Chamber Act, 2011 and the *Public Finance and Accountability Act, 2011*. The *Southern Sudan National Audit Chamber Act, 2011 (Amendment) Bill, 2022* was presented to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.
- 9.1.2. Considerable work was reported to have been carried out towards review and amendment of the *Petroleum and Petroleum Revenue Management Acts*. The NCAC priorities being the review and amendment to the: i) *Public Finance Management and Accountability Act, 2011*; ii)

Petroleum Act, 2012 & Petroleum Revenue Management Act, 2013: iii) National Elections Act, 2012; iv) Southern Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2009; v) National Revenue Authority Act, 2017; vi) Bank of South Sudan Act, 2010; vii). Banking Act, 2010; viii) NGO Act, 2016; and ix) Investment Promotion Act, 2009. He reiterated the Committee's commitment to complete the review and amendment of the laws by the end of 2022. In addition, he appealed for the support of all stakeholders as well as the Government institutions to respond expeditiously to requests for input into NCAC's work, including the presentation of views or memoranda on proposed amendments, provide necessary budgetary support for NCAC, which include payment of national Committee members' allowance arrears. Lastly, he urged all parties and stakeholders to continue supporting the work of the NCAC.

9.2. Report from the CTSAMVM

- 9.2.1. The Chairperson of the CTSAMVM informed members that the reports presented had been discussed at CTSAMVM Technical Committee (CTC) meetings, and shared concerns about reports of continued tensions between the Parties in Unity and Upper Nile States. The CTC and Board meetings were held in April where CTSAMVM briefed on the tensions in Koch and Leer Counties of Unity State with reports of continuous attacks from February to April 2022. The attacks were led by the Koch and Mayendit County Commissioners on SPLM/A-IO forces and the civilians in Koch and Leer Counties respectively. The reported violence resulted in the looting and destruction of properties and a large number of girls and women were subjected to multiple forms of SGBV which caused the displacement of civilians;
- 9.2.2. He reported that CTSAMVM investigated the incidents and presented a report on the allegations of SGBV to the CTC on 25 May 2022 and Board on 31 May 2022. And further commended RTGoNU for establishing a committee in April 2022 to investigate the incidents in the area and de-escalate tensions. However, the Chairperson took note that since the committee was formed there were reports of an armed attack by Youths from Mayendit County on Muom Training Center in Leer County on 16th May 2022, which left 11 people dead, and several injured;
- 9.2.3. Additionally, informed members that while clashes appeared to have subsided in Upper Nile State, the Parties continued to threaten to attack one another. CTSAMVM preliminary and final reports on the alleged attacks in Maiwut and Longechuk Counties in Upper Nile State were in CTSAMVM Reports 2022/11 and 2022/14. He urged the Parties to respect and abide by the Permanent Ceasefire, refrain from any violence, and cease all hostile acts against each other;
- 9.2.4. He reported on allegations of suspected NAS activities, including ambushes on SSPDF soldiers and civilians in Central and Western Equatoria States, and continued violence in southern Central Equatoria State. In this regard, CTSAMVM has been in contact with the Community of Sant' Egidio urging them to advocate NAS to re-engage in the Rome peace process;
- 9.2.5. Further, he informed members that the mechanisms submitted 4 other violation reports since the last RJMEC meeting. The violation reports included; i) violations against civilians

by SPLM/A-IO and SSPDF in Jur River County, Western Bahr El Ghazal State in mid-2021 and January 2022, a report on SGBV by SSPDF in Lainya County, Central Equatoria State in January 2022, violations against civilians including SGBV by the SSPDF in Yei River County, Central Equatoria State in February and March 2022. CTSAMVM commends the SSPDF for taking action to arrest the alleged perpetrators. As well as a report on the harassment, assault and arrest of the government Minister for Mining in Eastern Equatoria State by SSPDF Tiger Division soldiers in April 2022;

9.2.6. The CTSAMVM Chairperson raised concerns about the situation in Eastern Equatoria State involving cattle keepers which left many civilians displaced, many lives and properties lost. Moreover, commended the action taken by the President H.E. Salva Kiir to constitute a high-level committee to conduct a fact-finding mission in Magwi County and diffuse tensions;

9.2.7. CTSAMVM visited cantonment sites and training Centres where they observed that little had changed especially on deliveries of food, medicines, and shelters; and

9.2.8. Expressed concerned about tensions in Unity and Upper Nile States and urged the RTGoNU to do everything possible to de-escalate the tensions in the area; and underscored that graduation and redeployment of the Necessary Unified Forces was critical for addressing the security issues in the country and will be a big step forward for the peace process.

9.3. Report from the JDB

The Chairperson of the Joint Defence Board:

9.3.1. informed members that the Board continued to exert commendable command and control over all forces across the country, except for non-aligned parties that did not sign the R-ARCSS. The Board regretted that there were still insecurity incidences in parts of Greater Upper Nile, particularly in the cantonment areas of Mirmir and Leer; as well as in Jakou in Maiwut County, Malual Gahoth in Longochuk, and Liengi cantonment in Maban County. Nonetheless, the overall security situation was relatively stable;

9.3.2. informed of the successful unification of the high command and that the Parties were working on the unification of the middle and low echelons, and to graduate the forces in the Training Centres. The graduation timetable was reported as submitted by the JTSC, approved by the JDB and submitted to the NTC. The Board awaited the release of funds for the implementation of the stated activities;

9.3.3. shared a concern that the insecurity around the cantonment and training centres and continuous armed inter-communal violence that resulted into the killing, displacement, destruction of properties and dispossession across the country—especially in Kajo-Keji, Magwi, Abyei, Twic Mayardit, Leer, Koch and Mayendit counties, among others;

- 9.3.4. decried the insufficient quantities of food delivered to some training centres, and complete lack of supplies to assembly and cantonment areas;
- 9.3.5. recommended for a full implementation of Chapter Two, particularly focusing on the unification of the Command at the middle and lower echelons; and the graduation of the NUFs;
- 9.3.6. appealed to the NTC to expedite release of funds intended for both the graduation and deployment of the Necessary Unified Forces; and that the remaining funds earmarked for the screening, reorganisation and unification process be repurposed for the JDB to clear outstanding bills incurred during the process;
- 9.3.7. further recommended for trust and confidence-building among and within the Parties be strengthened to mitigate discontent and inter-Party shifts in allegiance; and
- 9.3.8. commended the leadership of the Parties, and especially the RTGoNU, for the support towards the peace process, IGAD, RJMEC, and the regional guarantors, international Partners, and friends of South Sudan, for their continued participation in the search for peace and stability in the country.

9.4. Report from the SDSR Board

- 9.4.1. The Chairperson of the Strategic Defence Security Review Board congratulated the Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC on his appointment as Ambassador to the IGAD; informed that the SDSR Board had been working on review of the Security Strategy Defence which should have been finalized. However, the two days' workshop to finalise the report had been interrupted by the boycotting of the members to the mechanism from the SPLM/IO in March 2022. Finally, the SDSR- Board members had been working hard towards finalising the document.

9.5. The Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC)

- 9.5.1. The Head of Secretariat of the JTSC informed members that the JTSC would not present a written report as most of its work and reporting was being done by the Joint Defence Board (JDB,) and also the same was shared by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson and CTSAMVM. He reported that forces continued to face dire conditions in the Training Centres with some of the forces leaving until they are recalled for graduation and redeployment. Further informed members that the graduation plan of the NUF was submitted to the NTC and was awaiting for food, medicine, and logistical support. On the Agreement of 3rd April, the principals had promised to avail salaries to the forces which promise had not been met, and therefore urged the RTGONU to fulfill this promise.

9.6. Report from the JMCC

The JMCC representative;

- 9.6.1. informed members that the preparation for Phase II of the Necessary Unified Forces (NUF) was underway particularly organising the forces from all cantonments and barracks in military formation; ensuring supply of food and non-food items including medical services were in place before transporting the forces to training centers. Measures were also being put in place for when resources become available for distribution of materials for shelters, site clearing, transportation of the forces from cantonments/barracks to training centers and registration of the personnel, weapons and equipment from cantonments/barracks;
- 9.6.2. informed members that the JMCC had submitted the various budget requests to NTC through the JDB. The Committee was expected to conduct an assessment and verification of (15) cantonment sites as well as reconstruct shelters, stores, pre-positioning of food and essential items to be verified in training centers. JMCC would further print registration and screening forms before the registration of the remaining forces commence. Moreover, preparation for transportation of forces will also be conducted before the rainy season;
- 9.6.3. shared on the challenges faced by the Committee including inadequate funding for the activities in cantonments and barracks, shortage of food to all cantonments /barracks and difficulties in transportation of food and non-food items to some cantonments /barracks due to inaccessibility of roads caused by heavy rains;
- 9.6.4. reflected on the way forward: The Committee plans to visit all sites for readiness and provide command and control over all forces. It further plans to do the following: i). arrange accommodations for all senior officers in designated locations before transportation of forces from cantonments/barracks to training centers; ii) prepare for means of transportation of the forces from cantonments/barracks to training centers; iii) expect NTC to provide food and non-food items including medicines before transportation of forces to training centers and lastly iv) CTSAMVM and UNMISS to provide necessary facilitation to the peace mechanism teams for the visiting of the forces in their assembly points; and
- 9.6.5. appealed to the NTC to provide funds through the JDB to implement all activities as recommended.

9.7. The DDR Commission

In his report, the Chairperson of the DDR Commission highlighted the activities of the Commission, the challenges, and the way forward.

- 9.7.1. Updated members on engagements on Community Violence Reduction (CVR): The Commission engaged with local and international stakeholders to advance the issue of CVR. Following the decision reached to put the pilot project's locations in Western Bahr El-Ghazal, (Wau), the DDR team visited in May 2022 to conduct the CVR assessment. The Chairperson and the Executive Secretary met the state Ag. Governor with an aim to solicit

buy-in to the spirit of local ownership of the CVR program from the state and local governments. Funding for conducting the assessment was provided by UNMISS. The team has completed data collection and embarked on the analysis of the data;

- 9.7.2. Informed members that the Commission met with its ten State Coordinators in Juba to update them on the progress made, challenges and plans. The State Coordinators were informed that if funds become available, they should expect the graduation of the forces and the subsequent receiving of returning ex-combatants. UNMISS also availed logistical support to the State Coordinators enabling them to attend the conference on child protection;
- 9.7.3. Informed members on challenges faced by the Commission such as the lack of funding. Currently, no funding is available for the Commission to prepare to receive ex-combatants that are screened by the JDB at the training centers when graduated forces will be deployed;
- 9.7.4. Decried the lack of sufficient RTGoNU support best exemplified by the lack of prioritization as from the NTC who did not have DDR on its plan for funding to the Ministry of Finance and Planning; and
- 9.7.5. Provided a way forward: the major focus of the Commission was to engage the stakeholders to support the implementation of the CVR program to stabilize security for classical DDR program to pick up. However, the construction of transitional facilities will be undertaken alongside if funds were made available to the Commission.

Min. 10/22/22: Discussions on Statements and Reports

- 10. Members welcomed the statements of the RJMEC Chairperson, RTGoNU and the SSRG and commended the SRSG on the renewal of the UNMISS mandate.
 - 10.1. EU representative: thanked the Interim Chairperson and shared deep concerns on the insecurity and violation of COHA, and further condemned the atrocities committed. He welcomed the High-level Committee to investigate the atrocities committed and called upon the RTGoNU to share the roadmap for the preparation of a free, fair and credible election;
 - 10.2. Troika Norway representative noted as follows:
 - 10.2.1. Reiterated that the goal of the R-ARCSS was to create sustainable peace and strong institutions of government that will protect and provide services for its citizens. In their absence, the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan will continue to worsen, citing the crisis was among the worst in the world and the figures were appalling with 7.74 million people facing severe food insecurity, of which 87 000 are projected to face famine. He further noted that the country now had 2 million malnourished women and children and SGBV, which is double when compared to the numbers from 2021;
 - 10.2.2. Economic and Financial Management: Raised concerns on the hardship faced by the people of South Sudan not able to afford the rising cost of living compounded by delay in

salary payments of civil servants, unfortunately, funds and other wealth has been diverted from public use. Emphasised that progress on chapter 4 of the Agreement was critical;

- 10.2.3. *Elections*: Expressed concerns by the lack of preparation for elections. However, anticipated to see immediate re-constitution of the Political Parties Council and the National Elections Commission, to be staffed and budgeted to start the practical work towards elections. Reiterated the readiness of the international community to support the activities once it is seen that the budget being drafted for 2022/2023 reflects the urgency of the preparations;
- 10.2.4. Appealed to the Parties and RTGoNU to kick start expanding civic and political space which do not require a budget as a precondition for a free, fair, and credible elections. However, underscored that Elections could only take place if there was sufficient stability and security. She echoed Norway's deep concern over escalating violence across South Sudan, with scores being killed in Eastern Equatoria, Unity, and the border area between Warrap and Abyei since the last plenary;
- 10.2.5. *Inter-communal violence*: Informed members that she represented the Troika in a high-level delegation to Bentiu, Leer and Mirmir following the horrific violence that has taken place there, and how heart-breaking it was to hear the survivors' stories of killings and widespread conflict-related sexual violence. She shared the clear demands of the people to the government that they needed protection, and the perpetrators must be held to account;
- 10.2.6. *Transitional Security Arrangement*: Underscored that graduating and deploying the Necessary Unified Forces was essential to provide security to civilians across the country. Norway welcomed the formation of the Unified Command and call on the Government of South Sudan to fully implement the April 3rd agreement. She expressed that immediate progress on Chapter two would send an important signal that the country was preparing for elections.

10.3. IPF- Canada:

- 10.3.1. Underscored the need for the Constitutional -making Process to be prioritized as it is an integral part of all systems ahead of election.
- 10.3.2. Shared concerns over reports of a large number of armed militias within Yambio municipality who had deserted the Maridi training centre with firearms, which have become a source of insecurity in the area. He called upon the forces to return to their training centres;
- 10.3.3. Called on the government of South Sudan to prepare as expeditiously as possible a detailed timeline illustrating their vision for moving forward in the eight months that remained of the RARCSS and to present the timeline to the plenary of the RJMEC;
- 10.3.4. Shared concerns that trust and confidence building among and within Parties remained weak. In that regard, efforts should be made to unify and work together towards going to elections otherwise division could dramatically cause the country to fall back to war;

- 10.3.5. Welcomed the Agreement of 3rd April to have a unified command structure and eagerly awaited implementation of the other elements of the April 3rd Agreement relating to the graduation and deployment of forces. And further called on the NTC to ensure that the required resources to enable the graduation and deployment of the NUF are made available;
- 10.3.6. Thanked the Interim Chair and CTSAMVM for the meeting with Canada's Minister of International Development Harjit Sajjan to discuss peace and security concerns. He further informed members that the Minister also managed to meet the President, First Vice President and Vice President Rebecca Nyandeng and other government Ministers. He observed the huge potential of the country that if used appropriately could be used as the breadbasket of Africa. He reiterated Canada's support;
- 10.4. *Ethiopia*: Appreciated the development by different mechanisms. He reminded the members that the remaining implementation period for the RARCSS was only 8 months before it lapsed. However, expressed the need to have a roadmap which is expected to determine the success of the RARCSS since its inception. He referred to the four key areas mentioned by the Minister for Cabinet Affairs to be significant to the R-ARCSS. He further reaffirmed his country's commitment in supporting the roadmap. However, requested the Minister for Cabinet Affairs give a clear date for the presentation of the roadmap to the RJMEC members. He further echoed the role of IGAD was to support the government of the Republic of the South Sudan.
- 10.5. *CSO Alliance*: Commended the establishment of the Technical Committee on CTRH establishment, which in May 2022 had started public consultations in all the States. He further commended Hon. Dr. Martin Lomuro in his tireless efforts in drafting the roadmap. Commended the RJMEC Interim Chairperson on the evaluation of the R-ARCSS and raising the key outstanding tasks yet to be implemented. Raised concerns on the lack of resources in finalising implementation of the RARCSS and called upon the RTGoNU to avail funding to the mechanisms;
- 10.6. *Youth*: Acknowledged the achievements registered on the implementation of the R-ARCSS. However, raised concerns on the recurrence in discussing the tensions in the country where armed forces killed civilians. She raised a concern on the quietness of CTSAMVM on the issue. Further, expressed frustration and concerns on the food shortages in the country and advised the government to come up with a strategy for sustainable food security. She appealed to the government to prioritize funding the DDR Commission. A comprehensive DDR should be undertaken across the country to minimize vulnerability and insecurity. She urged the government to fulfill the requirements in Chapter 3. Moreover, she urged the Parties to also prioritise the Permanent Constitutional- Making Process;
- 10.7. *Academia*: expressed that the Constitutional Making-Process was critical. She appealed to the RTGoNU to draft a road map that would be shared early enough to prepare the civil population. Highlighted that the disarmament that happened in Tonj community was questionable because it only focused on disarming the Tonj community, which made them more vulnerable compared to those who still had guns;

- 10.7.1. Shared concerns on continuous violence and SGBV cases committed by SSPDF in Lainya and Yei River as well as Leer and Koch counties were alarming. Questioned whether people in the area were safe and yet being protected by the institutions which were also perpetrating violence against them. He called for the perpetrators to be apprehended and brought to justice;
- 10.7.2. Shared concerns that trust and confidence building among and within parties remained weak. In that regard, efforts should be made to unify and work together towards going to elections otherwise division could dramatically cause the country to fall back to war;
- 10.8. *Business Community*: raised the concern on the private sector and the reforms that are to be undertaken by the RTGoNU as well as payment to the local businessmen who supplied logistical support to the government. However, the delayed payments from the government to the business community in the past were yet to be satisfied and which in the end pushed the companies to declare bankruptcy. She urged the government to use the oil money to implement the RARCSS;
- 10.9. *SDSR Board*: she reported on the issue of the Political Parties Bill which needed to be elaborated on. Informed members that the Bill was passed, disregarding the RARCSS ignoring Article 1.18.6 and read together with Article 1.18.7 and 1.14.7. as incorporated in the Constitution;

She raised concerns on the County Commissioners mentioned in the Leer report who had created a problem in Mayendit county. Explained further that the Commissioners were government appointees who despite the violation continued to be in leadership. The Commissioners had further commanded the killing, and SGBV attacks on women which were grouped as war-crimes. Also, the Commissioner of Mayendit county had instructed cleansing of the Nuers in the area as well as the FVP when they were in rally's. The Commissioner of Leer country was the same member as of that of Mayendit county;

Informed members that the RTGoNU had appointed a committee to investigate the killings of the SSPDF personnel and the 3 civilians. Recommended that a comprehensive and national disarmament would only be possible once the forces were graduated to bring back the hopes of the civil population and in creating security within the communities;

- 10.10. *CSO Forum*: raised concerns on the rampant insecurities in the country. She highlighted that the delay in graduating the forces meant losing more lives. Raised concern on violence happening in Magwi and Nimule, which called for a strategy on how to separate the cattle keepers and farmers. However, she underscored that the only solution was having a Unified National army and without it there would be no discussion on returnees, nor election. She further expressed the need to have highly disciplined soldiers. Concerned about the undisciplined soldiers who once graduated would do the same thing. She recommended to the government to provide protection across the internal and international borders. She questioned the energy put on the ongoing campaigns by some parties in the states and shared her concerns as to why other political parties not registered were neither allowed to embark on campaign for election;

Recommended to the RTGoNU to come up with a strategy for resettlement of the people so they could remain in South Sudan. The legitimacy should be on what the govt was doing to its people. Moreover, raised the issue of tax collection where the rates were not cohesive and overcharged some of the small businesses. She highlighted on the need to harmonise collection of taxes in order to help the small holders and business people;

- 10.11. **SPLM/FD-:** questioned the priority of the JDB on graduation or unification of the forces. He urged the NTC to provide funds for graduation of forces and whether if funds were not provided what strategy does it have since most soldiers had gone home. He informed members that the CTSAMVM Board had recommended for another team to go and re-investigate the Leer incident. He further requested the list of perpetrators violating the R-ARCSS to be shared to the RTGoNU for action as well as that of the victims. He urged the JDB to send a High-level committee to Bentiu/ Unity State to investigate the violations and killings. And further called on the JDB to exert command and control and investigate the violation in Leer;

He underscored the need for CTSAMVM to follow procedures of requesting permission for access when planning to go for verification so as to avoid denial of access as it happened with the Tiger division;

- 10.12. **SPLM-IO Member:** Raised concerned on the TNLA passing the Political Parties Act as a violation and which disregarded Article 1.18.1 and Article 1.18.3. of the R-ARCSS and further amending Section 7(3) of the Bill on the number of eligible voters required for registration of a Political Party from 300 to 500 contrary to the R-ARCSS. Further questioned the mandate of the TNLA in changing the RARCSS;
- 10.13. **IGAD Sudan:** echoed that the R-ARCSS was signed and owned by the South Sudan Parties. It was therefore their responsibility to implement the Agreement for the people to feel and enjoy the dividends of peace. He shared that delay could also be tabled but since the RARCSS was the only Agreement in place, we must commend what had been achieved by the RTGoNU despite the differences within Parties. Therefore, the recent unified command structure should give us hope that the government was making progress. Urged members to be pragmatic in supporting and encouraging the Parties to implement the R-ARCSS, which would have a direct and positive impact. Further, urged the RTGoNU to provide necessary support and funding to the mechanisms so as to graduate and deploy the forces. He encouraged the RTGoNU to finalise the roadmap, which will highlight the way forward and lastly, reiterated support to the government of Sudan through bilateral means;
- 10.14. **NCAC:** informed members that he had just received a letter on the contested query on the passed Political Party's Act. He mentioned that the issue of alteration by the legislature was not new since it was also done before on the Amended Constitutional Bill. There had been contestation by some institutions on the mandate of the NCAC on the revised laws which was also not a new thing. He cited lack of awareness on the work of the NCAC. However, it should be noted that the Legislature was special since it was appointed by the R-ARCSS and not the people which makes the R-ARCSS a supreme document. It was clear that the power of the current assembly was different to that of an ordinary Assembly. The R-ARCSS had curtailed the powers of the TNLA who were only supposed to pass the laws and not to debate them. It would be irrational for the Assembly to assume that they have the power to contest;

Underscored that page 28 on Article 1.20 stated the power to the NCAC and that given under the Political Parties Act; hence it cannot be argued by the legislature that it can omit the Political Parties. On the face of it the TNLA was out of order and that should be communicated to the TNLA accordingly;

- 10.15. *RTGoNU -Hon Makuei:* questioned what the JDB meant by echelon. The understanding was that the number of forces to be commanded would determine the rank of the commander. He echoed that it would be uncouth for a diplomat to speak in a disrespectful manner, stating that it was undiplomatic and unacceptable. He observed that the SGBV activities in Bentiu are concocted cases of rape by the NGO's. He informed members that the government would establish a committee to investigate the SGBV activities in Bentiu and Leer and whoever concocted the report would be PNGed. He requested that the reports be shared at the RJMEC plenary, or information should be shared to the mechanism that is mandated to investigate and report to the RJMEC;

Highlighted that the issue of the Women Enterprise Funds, and all other institutions to be structured would depend on the laws to be amended that would determine the modus operandi and the systems to be undertaken. He expressed that the TNLA was not meant to be a rubber stamp nor to be used by the NCAC, which was a technical body for drafting the laws and amending without the laws being submitted to the MOJAC and Cabinet. He argued that the number of eligible voters required for registration in the original Political Parties Act was 500. He stated that the R-ARCSS was also amendable as per Article 8.4 of the RARCSS by majority vote;

- 10.16. *RTGoNU - Hon. Lomuro:* informed members that the contested Article by the opposition wasn't new and it had been present before as a precondition of having 500 so as to have a few parties and avoid having briefcase parties. However, he echoed that there were mechanisms to address the matter including NCAC. He described the statement of rampant violence in South Sudan citing different types of violence to include inter-communal fighting. He however, asked members to be more concerned on violation attributed to the violence between the Parties. Informed members that the percentage of violence happening in the 76 counties in South Sudan were fewer compared to previous years. He argued that it was unfair to characterize the violence happening as something that was happening all over the country. He further reiterated that the mandate of the RTGoNU was to build the country and encouraged the RJMEC plenary to be more positive and to rely on authoritative reports that were to be shared to the Presidency so that action was taken. He reiterated RTGoNU's commitment to its people and called on the support of the CSO groups who had the responsibility to support and encourage what was being done by the RTGoNU;

He questioned if the NTC had ever prepared and shared a budget for implementing the tasks and activities of the mechanism before the RJMEC members;

- 10.17. *NTC Head of Secretariat:* informed the DDR Chair that the NTC had also budgeted and requested for funding for the DDR Commission and other mechanism for the implementation of its activities. Further clarified to the Minister for Cabinet Affairs that NTC

had a budget submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Planning and awaiting funding to be disbursed to the mechanisms once received; and

10.18. **JDB:** clarified on the echelon process that had started in 2019 as per the structure put in place by the JDB on the lower and upper forces. He echoed that the priority between the unification of the lower, middle and upper echelon could go concurrently however the higher/ lower echelon only depended on the funding.

Min. 11/22/22: Date for the Next Meeting

11. The date for the next RJMEC meeting would be communicated by the Secretariat.

Min. 12/22/22: A.O.B

12. There was nothing raised under this agenda item.

Min. 13/22/22: Chairperson's Closing Remarks

13. He thanked members for attending the meeting and for the frank and open discussions.

Min.14/22/22: Closing Prayers

14. The representative of the faith-based organizations led a closing prayer. There being no other business, the 22nd RJMEC monthly meeting was therefore adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 16:15 hours.

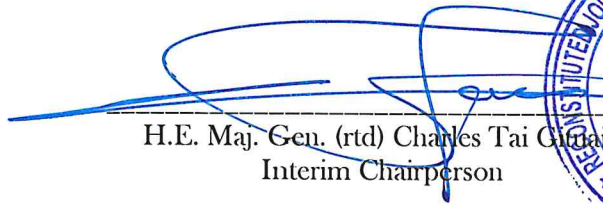
Min. 15/22/22 Adoption of the Minutes

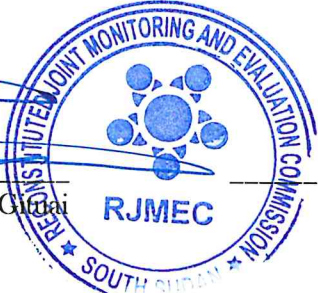
15. Adoption of the minutes of the 22nd RJMEC meeting

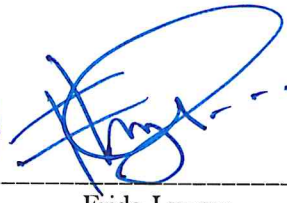
15.1. Proposer: Hon. Michel Makuei Lueth, ITGONU

15.2. Seconder: Hon. Sandra Bona Malwal, SPLM/A-IO

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 Guma
Interim Chairperson




Frida Lyaruu
Secretary to the Plenary