



Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC)

Draft

MINUTES OF THE 13TH MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 23RD JANUARY 2020 AT PALM AFRICA HOTEL, JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN

The 13th meeting of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) was convened in Juba, South Sudan, on 23rd January 2020. H.E. Ambassador Lt. Gen. Augustino S.K Njoroge (Rtd), the Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC chaired the meeting and called it to order at 10:41 am.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayers
2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks
3. Adoption of the Agenda
(*Media excused*)
4. Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting
(*Media recalled*)
5. Statement by RJMEC Interim Chairperson
6. Report from the NPTC
7. Briefing from UNMISS SRSG
(*Media excused*)
8. Reports from Mechanisms focused on progress to date and challenges in implementation during the 100 days extension:
 - i. NCAC
 - ii. CTSAMVM
 - iii. JDB
 - iv. SDSR Board
 - v. JTSC
 - vi. JMCC
 - vii. DDR Commission
9. Discussion on RJMEC Interim Chairperson's Statement, NPTC report UNMISS SRSG briefing and reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanism
10. Date for the Next Meeting
11. A.O.B
12. Resolutions of the meeting
13. Chairperson's Closing Remarks
14. Closing Prayers

The 13th meeting of the RJMEC was attended by the representatives of the Parties to the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), other South Sudanese stakeholders and adherents, regional and international guarantors and partners of South Sudan. In attendance were representatives of the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms, and the RJMEC Secretariat, namely:

For the Parties to the R-ARCSS:

1. Hon. Michael Makuei (Incumbent TGoNU)
2. Hon. Awut Deng (Incumbent TGoNU)
3. Hon. Sophia Pal Gai (Incumbent TGoNU)
4. Hon. Stephen Kuol (SPLM/A-IO)
5. Mrs. Sandra Bona Malwal (SPLM/A-IO)
6. Hon. Hussein Abdelbagi Akol (SSOA)
7. Mr. Isaiah Hakim Garang (FDs)
8. Hon. Aguddau Sunday (OPP)

For the Other South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents

1. Mr. Mohamed El-Hassan Abdel Meragan (Faith-based leader)
2. Prof. Pauline Riak (Academia)
3. Ms. Jackline Warille (Women Coalition)
4. Ms. Mary Akech Bior (Womens Bloc)
5. Mr. Akuoch Ajang Nyanhom (CSO Alliance)
6. Mr. Garang Jacob Ador (CSO Forum)
7. Mr. Santino Garang (Business Community)
8. Ms. Yar Manor Majok (Business Community)
9. Mr. Malish John Peter (Youth)
10. Ms. Caroline Kibos (Youth)

For the Regional Guarantors

1. H.E. Teferi Tadesse (Ethiopia)
2. H.E. Chris K. Mburu (Kenya)
3. Mr. Shafie Nusalas (Somalia)
4. H.E. Adil Ibrahim Mustafa (Sudan)
5. Mr. Malinga Julius Amese (Uganda)
6. Mr. Judah Muoh (Nigeria)
7. Amb. Prof. Joram M. Biswaro (AUMISS)
8. Mr. Tesfaye Negassa (IGAD Juba Liaison Office)
9. Mr. Mlungisi Mbalati (South Africa)

For International Partners and Friends of South Sudan

1. H.E. Hua Ning (China)
2. H.E. Siv Kaspersen (Norway)
3. H.E. Thomas Hushek (USA)
4. H.E. Chris Trott (UK)
5. Mr. David Shearer (UNMISS)
6. H.E. Sinead Walsh (EU)
7. H.E. Douglas Proudfoot (IPF)

For RJMEC Secretariat

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

For the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms

1. Hon. Henry Dilah Odwar, Deputy Chairperson - NPTC
2. Hon. Gichira Kibara, Chairperson - NCAC

3. Maj. Gen. Teshome Aderie, Chairperson - CTSAMVM
4. Maj. Gen. Charles Machieng Kuol, Co-Chairperson - JDB
5. Lt. Gen. Gabriel Duop Lam, Co-Chairperson - JDB
6. Lt. Gen. Wesley Welebe Samson, Co-Chairperson - JTSC
7. Brig. Gen. Ayuen Dot-Thon, JMCC
8. Maj. Gen. Gatkhor Gatluak, Co-Chairperson - JMCC
9. Madam Angelina Teny, Chairperson - SDSR Board
10. Hon. Denay Chagor, Co-Chairperson - SDSR Board
11. Ms. Regina Joseph Kaba, Deputy Chairperson - DDR Commission

Observers

1. Mr. Hiro Kikuchi (Japan)
2. H.E Dr. Mohamed M. Kada (Egypt)
3. H.E Urban Sjostrom (Sweden)
4. H.E. Marc Trouyet (France)
5. Ms. Janika Walter (Germany)
6. Ms. Jacqueline Lehmann (Switzerland)
7. Ms. Wanjiku Nyoike (UNHCR)
8. Ms. Paulina Chiwangu (UN Women)

Min. 01/13/20: Opening Prayers

1. The meeting was opened by a word of prayers led by Mr. Mohamed El-Hassan Abdel Meragan and Ms. Jackline Warille, representatives of the faith-based leaders and Women Bloc respectively.

Min. 02/13/20: Chairperson's Opening Remarks

2. In his opening remarks to the first plenary of 2020, the Chairperson:
 - 2.1. welcomed members to the 13th RJMEC plenary, commended the members who came early and wished members a happy New Year, noting it would be a year of peace, observed that it was the first meeting of the year, and wished them and the people of South Sudan a very productive 2020;
 - 2.2. welcomed H.E Douglas Proudfoot, Ambassador of Canada to South Sudan to the community of RJMEC;
 - 2.3. informed members of the illness of Prof. Francis Deng who was hospitalised and wished a quick recovery;
 - 2.4. noted that the 13th RJMEC meeting came at a critical period when the end of the 100 days extension period was coming to an end and implored members to look into what has been implemented thus far, including the tasks that were still outstanding in order for the members to have better expectations; and
 - 2.5. asked the members to review the proposed agenda for the 13th meeting for adoption.

Min. 03/13/20 Adoption of the Agenda

3. The draft agenda was adopted without any amendments.

Min.04/13/20: Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting

4. Members reviewed and adopted the minutes of the 12th RJMEC meeting held on 17th December 2020 with the following slight amendments:
 - 4.1. paragraph 6.1 on page 4 was revised as follows: JMCC had received USD 4 million; CTSAMVM Technical Committee received USD 275,000; CTSAMVM Board received USD 130,250; and the SDSR Board received USD 1.1 million;
 - 4.2. paragraph 8.5 on page 5, the word “received” was amended as “requested”;
 - 4.3. page10, the contribution of the EU which was submitted to the Secretariat was to be included in the minutes as follows:
 - 4.3.1. cited attacks on humanitarian workers, including incidents on IOM workers in Maban; she welcomed the Government’s financial contribution and supported the Foreign Minister’s call for “practical action”. In this vein, she called for a reshaping of the format of the RJMEC Plenary meeting to focus on overall outcomes, not individual mechanisms. The Ambassador also requested that the next meeting should include the SSM presenting and leading a discussion on the mid-term report; the Ambassador also supported the point about the need for better coordination of the mechanisms; asked for clarification on the plan for screening. She asked why only basic medical screening was being done and not verification of whether individuals were real soldiers, and wondered whether verification had happened; asked why screening was taking place in training centres and not cantonment sites, leading to considerable unnecessary travel and associated cost; further raised the question of what would happen to the families of those soldiers who were travelling from cantonment sites and asked IGAD whether the next meeting on the states had been scheduled, and what the process was for the 50-day report.

Min. 05/13/20: Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson

5. In his statement to the plenary, the RJMEC Interim Chairperson:
 - 5.1. wished members a happy New Year; informed them that the latest RJMEC Quarterly Report was ready; welcomed the new CTSAMVM Chairperson; and paid condolences to an RJMEC member, the late Steven Sorobo who passed on recently;
 - 5.2. regretted that the same pre-transitional tasks since the last meeting were still outstanding, noting the two critical pending tasks necessary for the formation of the R-TGoNU on a solid foundation – unification of forces and determination of the number of states and their boundaries – were still outstanding;
 - 5.3. informed the members that no training of NUF had started, noting that the security mechanisms fell behind their action plans. He then appealed for additional funds to be provided to the mechanisms and that the requirements for accountability and transparency should also be observed;
 - 5.4. expressed concerns about the Maiwut incident and continued occupation of the civilian centres;

- 5.5. appealed to the leadership of the Parties to arrive at a pragmatic political solution to resolve the issue of the number of states and their boundaries;
- 5.6. commended the governments of various nations that made donations in support of the implementation of the Pre-Transitional tasks, and in that regard urged that the NPTC assigns the JDB the responsibility of delivering these resources immediately to the designated sites;
- 5.7. welcomed the Sant'Egidio dialogue process in Rome with the holdout groups that resulted in the signing of a declaration on cessation of hostilities and commitment of the signatories to dialogue, and appealed to IGAD and the Parties to embrace this process;
- 5.8. concluded with recommendations as follows: that mid-term review be undertaken by the guarantors, and to determine the way forward; that the security mechanisms expedite their work; that the leadership of the Parties should demonstrate the spirit of compromise and resolve the issue of the number of states and their boundaries; appealed for more funding of the implementation of the Pre-Transitional tasks; that in-kind support be distributed to the sites accordingly; and that all occupied civilian centres be vacated without exceptions. He then requested the plenary to carefully review the reports from the mechanisms on the 100 days and provide guidance on the way forward.

Min. 06/13/20: Report from NPTC

6. The NPTC Co-Vice Chairperson reported that there was no report prepared by the NPTC Secretariat to be presented to the 13th RJMEC plenary.

Min. 07/13/20: Briefing from UNMISS SRSG

7. In his briefing to the RJMEC plenary, the UNMISS Deputy SRSG:
 - 7.1 wished the members a Happy New Year, and noted that the following month would be the deadline of the extended Pre-Transitional Period; commended the many consultative meetings of the leadership of the Parties to the R-ARCSS that took place recently, including the face-to-face meeting between President Salva Kiir and Dr Riek Machar;
 - 7.2 noted that there were some political developments that occurred, including the release of political prisoners; reported that 16 training sites opened for the training of NUF and that a quarter of the troops from government sides had reported to the training sites; informed the members that UNMISS was going to transport the members of the Supervisory Security Mechanism (SSM) to the training sites; noted that on the number of States, although the focus should be more on resolving the disputes over the number of states, there will be need for boundaries issues to be resolved as well; stated that there were fears that outstanding issues will not be implemented during the Pre-Transitional Period and that the international community might also lose interest in the peace process;
 - 7.3 further noted that a number of decisions need to be made prior to the formation of RTGoNU, particularly on the structure of government from the national to the state levels; that there was need for radical reforms, including in the financial sector; that the international community was not happy with the slow progress with implementation of the Agreement; that the Permanent Ceasefire had a great impact on the peace process, with at least 650,000 people returning home, adding that this needed to be consolidated; and

7.4 informed members that UNMISS was conducting patrols in places where the IDPs were beginning to return home; that international assistance should move from short-term to long-term stability to enable core government functions; that the Maiwut incident had resulted in the flight of 8,000 people to Ethiopia and 11,000 internally displaced; that request for the peacekeepers for deployment in Juba should be provided by all the Parties but noting that it remains the core responsibility of Government; and urged all Parties to embrace the positions of each other.

Min. 08/13/20: Reports from Agreement Mechanisms

i) National Constitutional Amendment Committee

8.1 The Chairperson of the National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC) presented the Committee's progress report to the plenary. The report highlighted the following undertakings of the NCAC:

- 8.1.1 submitted the revised Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, 2011 (Amendment Bill No. 6 2020), that incorporated the 100 days extension of the Pre-Transitional Period, to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs on 16 January 2020. He noted that the revisions affected Articles 51A and 21B of the Bill;
- 8.1.2 the NCAC also continued to work on the review and amendment of the economic and financial sector laws under chapter IV of the R-ARCSS, and developed a first mark-up copy of the Public Finance Management and Accountability (PFMA) Act, 2011;
- 8.1.3 the NCAC further called for submission from the Parties to the R-ARCSS, stakeholders and relevant institutions on amendments to the PFMA, 2011 by 24 January 2020; and
- 8.1.4 the NCAC also developed the criteria for eligibility of the nominees based on the requirements of the R-ARCSS, the TCRSS, 2011 (as amended) and other relevant laws and urged the Parties to the R-ARCSS to submit the list of their nominees to the NCAC urgently.

ii) Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Verification Mechanisms

8.2 In his report to the plenary, the Chairperson of the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Verification Mechanisms (CTSAMVM):

- 8.2.1 reported that the Permanent Ceasefire continued to hold in most parts of the country, with exception of the fighting incident in Maiwut and clashes involving NAS forces allied to Gen. Thomas Cirillo but none was reported since the signing of the Rome Declaration on 14 January 2020;
- 8.2.2 informed members that five violation reports were discussed by the CTSAMVM Technical Committee (CTC). He then urged RJMEC to recommend appropriate measures to the IGAD Council of Ministers on the violations;

- 8.2.3 informed members on the status of implementation, cantonment and training, and referred members to the details on pp. 5 – 8 of the CTC report, and shared the details with the RJMEC members;
- 8.2.4 further updated members that the total of the number of registered troops was 78,273, with 60,878 being SPLMA-IO &SSOA and 17,395 being SSPDF; and that 28,000 personnel were reported by JTSC on 16 January to be at the training centres;
- 8.2.5 observed no registration of Government organized forces, noting that report provided by JMCC at the recent meeting of JDB suggested that registration of NSS had started and was ongoing;
- 8.2.6 confirmed that no training of troops had commenced and that no trainees had been screened;
- 8.2.7 informed members that the occupation of 25 civilian buildings (24 by SSPDF and 1 by SPLA-IO) was a violation of the R-ARCSS, and that although 1 civilian building was vacated by the SSPDF, it also occupied two others, noting that it was a clear violation of the R-ARCSS;
- 8.2.8 reported that CTSAMVM was denied access to Mongoya by SPLM/A-IO 2nd Division at Panyume on 17 December 2020 and that it was recorded as a violation;
- 8.2.9 reported CTSAMVM would re-investigate the SGBV cases in Maiwut that was attributed to SPLA/-IO, and that a perpetrator of rape which occurred in Juba in October 2020, a serving member of the SSPDF, was apprehended by police; and
- 8.2.10 informed the members that CTSAMVM continued to face financial resource constraints that directly impacted its work, and therefore made an appeal for further support.

iii) Joint Defence Board (JDB)

8.3 In his report, the JDB Co-Chairperson:

- 8.3.1 introduced the newly appointed SPLM/A-IO members and the co-chairperson of the JDB; informed members that the security situation in Juba and the entire country was normal;
- 8.3.2 stated that the JDB Secretariat has continued to receive reports and coordinate the work of the other security mechanisms and that support provided to the other security mechanisms should be channelled through the JDB;
- 8.3.3 informed the members that JDB conducted field visits as part of its peace dissemination program, noting that three outreach teams were dispatched to the three former greater regions of the country on 17 January and they were expected to return to Juba on 25 January 2020, and that all the outreach teams were accompanied by the national media, the SSBC;
- 8.3.4 reported the main challenges pertained to the lack of storage containers, which had not been handed over to them. That notwithstanding, the JDB acknowledged that the NPTC had disbursed funds meant for transport to them;

- 8.3.5 informed members that the JDB would provide an update on the status of training of NUF in the next RJMEC meeting;
- 8.3.6 confirmed that the training of NUF and VIP had not yet started, noting that the SSOA and SPLM/A-IO forces had transported 1800 of their troops to Rajaf;
- 8.3.7 informed members that the SPLM/A-IO replaced its representatives to the JDB; and
- 8.3.8 concluded with: (a) making an appeal for storage containers to be released to the JDB; (b) urged the NPTC to release more funds to the mechanisms; and (c) requested that JMCC redoubles its efforts to transport troops to the training centres.

iv) Strategic Defence and Security Review Board

- 8.4 In her report, the Co-Chairperson of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) Board reported that the Board had completed a draft Strategic Security document and it would be adopted in the next sitting;

v) Joint Transitional Security Committee

- 8.5 In his report to the plenary, the Deputy Chairperson of the Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC):
 - 8.5.1 informed members on the recent progress of the 100 days, including that the JTSC had received USD 5 million from the NPTC;
 - 8.5.2 deployed teams of instructors; procured emergency food; operationalized training centres; recruited and deployed screening personnel and continued with coordination; and had received training personnel at the various training centres;
 - 8.5.3 further informed members that 69 expectant mothers were at the training centres, 25 were lactating mothers; and five (5) children were born in the Rajaf training centre;
 - 8.5.4 reported that according to its work plan, screening of troops would take two (2) weeks to complete from the date of commencement while training of NUF would take 6 weeks;
 - 8.5.5 opined that it was important for the forces arriving at the training centres to be screened. Also, lack of facilities;
 - 8.5.6 informed members that the challenges faced included lack of transport as troops who report to the training centres travel on foot; and lack of basic amenities/facilities such as weapon stores;
 - 8.5.7 informed members that dispute over NSS training centres was hindering their reporting to the training centres, but that the issue was being addressed and in Muni, NSS were being received. He also reported that the JTSC teams were assessing the possibility of relocating the centre to another location;

- 8.5.8 reported the breakdown of the number of forces received at the various training sites, totalling to 27,988 troops; and
- 8.5.9 appealed for immediate transportation of the in-kind support from Juba to the training centres; appealed for more funding to implementation of its activities; and urged the leadership of the Parties to resolve the dispute regarding the NSS training centres to enable them to report for training as part of the NUF.

vi) Joint Military Ceasefire Commission

8.6 In his report, the Co-Chairperson of the Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC):

- 8.6.1 reported the tasks JMCC undertook during the reporting period to include, among others: formation and deployment of teams; forming and transporting AJMTCs to the field; printing of 100,000 registration forms; purchase of food for the troops; transportation of forces from cantonment sites and barracks to the training centres;
- 8.6.2 further reported that JMCC faced the following challenges, including how to handle senior officers who require preferential treatment at the training centres commensurate with their ranks, especially provision of accommodation and feeding befitting them; inadequate funds JMCC received noting it had requested USD 5,656,00 but received a lesser amount; and
- 8.6.3 recommended that consideration should be made for transport and upkeep of senior military officers; there was need for a supplementary budget for JMCC; and appealed for improved coordination between the various security mechanisms.

viii) Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission

8.7 The Deputy Chairperson of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Commission presented the Commission's report as follows:

- 8.7.1 the Commission deployed its staff to the headquarters and the former 10 states; trained DDR caseworkers in Juba, Wau and Malakal; operationalized DDC Commission headquarters in all the former 10 states; procured 16 vehicles; conducted five field visits; continuing to review DDR basic documents with support from a DDR advisor hired by UNDP; procured seven computers for its Secretariat; repaired its public information equipment and was undertaking public information campaigns; and
- 8.7.2 informed members that it had trained and deployed DDR caseworkers.

Min. 09/13/20: Discussions on statements and reports

9. During the discussions, the members:

- 9.1. welcomed the reports from the Agreement institutions and mechanisms and appreciated the mechanisms for the timely submission of their reports as required;
- 9.2. the chairperson highlighted from the various reports of the mechanisms that there was a lack of coordination among the security mechanisms;

- 9.3. the IGAD representative reported that it has planned a one-day workshop for the security mechanisms the following Monday;
- 9.4. the SPLM/A-IO representative observed that the summary of the 100 days extension provided by RJMEC interim Chairperson has captured everything; observed that it was very frustrating that there were no meaningful progress in implementation of the pre-transitional tasks since the RJMEC was reconstituted in 2018; noted that violations have not been addressed and reiterated the recommendation of CTSAMVM on the same; reported that the SPLM/A-IO vacated the last centre it had occupied on 20 January 2020 and that it had been verified;
- 9.5. the SPLM/A-IO further noted that the NPTC failed in its mandate including to coordinate the mechanisms, noting there were collective and individual failures, and that there was need to direct the failures to the responsible individual Parties; reiterated that optimism had declined because there was leadership crisis from the region for non-review of the 50 days of the pre-transition; observed that the international community were not fully supporting the R-ARCSS; and noted that Art. 7.10 of the R-ARCSS mandates RJMEC to report violations and challenges to the leadership of the region;
- 9.6. the SPLM/A-IO observed that there was evidence that all the pre-transitional tasks were being deferred to the Transitional Period, noting that with non-implementation of these tasks, they were withering away. He noted that in SPLM/A-IO territory, for example, the former Agwelek fighters in Shilluk demand expeditious resolution of the outstanding issue of the number of states and their boundaries; in Equatoria, the continued occupation of the civilian centres by SSPDF continued to discourage the SPLA- IO forces from reporting to training centres. He urged that punitive measures must be applied and that the Parties must be held accountable to what they signed up to;
- 9.7. the JTSC representative confirmed that optimism was fast defusing because the plan they recommended to JDB as per Articles 2.2.8 - 2.2.9 of the R-ARCSS was not acted upon; that the transfer of all the forces to the training centres had jeopardized the plan of the JTSC; that the NPTC had written to UNMISS requesting for 32 containers for storage; that regarding uniforms for training, 3,000 of the donated 30,000 uniforms were availed but 27,000 uniforms disappeared from the stores;
- 9.8. the JMCC representatives confirmed that it had transported forces to the cantonment sites after receiving directives from its leadership; that in one particular area with over 3 000 forces, there were only 46 soldiers with lower ranks but the rest were Generals; that screening of high-ranking officers could not be done by low ranking officers and that explained why some of them were referred to training centres; that floods were a challenge to mobility of trucks hence the soldiers moved on foot to the training centres;
- 9.9. on the occupation of civilian centres by SSPDF, the JMCC representative reported that there was a case where a traditional chief made a request to SSPDF that two of its soldiers guard a church facility against vandalization in a deserted area; opined that CTSAMVM failed to assist them to transport medicine to the training sites reportedly because the former said it was not authorized to do so;
- 9.10. the JMCC further noted that they screened the forces and separated them according to what the forces wanted to be (e.g. soldiers, police, NSS, etc.) and appealed to the guarantors to step in and assist with the transportation of food from Juba to the sites;

- 9.11. the JMCC representative also reported that preliminary screenings was undertaken in Malakal and that the forces were disaggregated based on various categories such as police, military, NSS, etc., and wondered why there was need for medical screening to be undertaken given that the medical teams were not deployed to the centres; and urged that there is need for mechanisms to read from the same scripts for moving forward;
- 9.12. the JMCC representative further stated that there was an urgent need for food, noting that JMCC had budgeted for food but the NPTC informed them that they would buy the food themselves and wondered where the food supplies were. Informed members that the issue of rank and file within the troops remained tricky; and confirmed that some soldiers trekked to the training centres, particularly from areas where access by other means was challenging;
- 9.13. the Interim Chairperson noted that the transportation of the forces to training sites without screening compounded the problem the security mechanisms were facing;
- 9.14. the SDSR representative observed that the lack of progress since the first pre-transitional period was unfortunate and that there was lack of confidence between the Parties to the Agreement; noted that there was a joint decision made for a joint committee to be established for coordination and wondered why the committee had not been formed; expressed concern that the NPTC centralized procurement of food and medicines but did not avail them; and reported an outbreak of diarrhea in some training centres;
- 9.15. the SDSR Board representative further suggested that there was need for the Parties to be commended for the progress made thus far; expressed concern for the lack of condemnation of new recruitment of soldiers; and urged that the RJMEC step up it's monitoring of the work of all the mechanisms;
- 9.16. the representative of the JDB: opined that the NPTC heaped responsibilities that were not meant for them on themselves leading to their failure; urged the NPTC to release the food to the JDB; reported that there was no food in some training centres and wondered why it was still being held at the warehouse of the NPTC; reported that they had resolved that they would expedite transportation of forces from Greater Upper Nile and that within seven days, the VIP protection forces would be at the training sites; reported that on the Maiwut incident, the issue was being addressed at the highest political level, and also appealed to the warring parties to cease fighting;
- 9.17. the Japanese Ambassador reported his country's in-kind support to the peace process valued at about USD 4 million; that Japan signed a joint agreement with NPTC and IGAD; requested IGAD and NPTC to provide a distribution plan for the in-kind support; and appealed for accountability and transparency;
- 9.18. the ITGoNU representative: appreciated the reports from the mechanisms; expressed unhappiness with the status of implementation, especially regarding some troops which were reportedly not yet at the training centres; observed that the cantonment sites were not supposed to be permanent; warned against renegotiation of the R-ARCSS; stated that proposal for arbitration on the issue of the number of states and their boundaries poses challenges particularly because the C5 were part of the IBC, and that AU and Troika did not sign the R-ARCSS. He stated that a referendum commission was needed to address the outstanding issue, that that this should be the responsibility of the RTGoNU; reiterated that Juba was secure and did not need handing over to the Regional Protection Force (RPF);

that UNMISS forces are the ones that created a false impression about security situation in Juba by the way they patrol the city with guns;

- 9.19. the ITGoNU further appreciated the donations made by the various nations to support the implementation of the R-ARCSS; opined that it was not proper to associate boundary issues with the number of states – that the question of boundaries should be separated from the number of states; that the IBC should transform itself into a referendum commission as required by the R-ARCSS; and that an arbitration is outside the Agreement and wondered whether arbitrators would be the right people to decide on the number of states for the people of South Sudan;
- 9.20. the ITGoNU also urged the security mechanisms to focus training of NUF on refresher courses, particularly on confidence building and political orientation of the troops; opined that the security mechanisms seemed not to be serious; that the mechanisms asked for more money even when they had not accounted for what they had received; noted that in-kind donations are issued on request; further noted that JMCC and JTSC were combined and were unable to explain why the cantonment sites and training centres were combined; expressed concerns that some of the troops went into the cantonment sites without arms, and with their families; noted also that the NPTC had its shortcomings; reported that on 22 January the NPTC Chairperson ordered that the management of the store be handed over to a Committee of the security mechanisms to manage the in-kind donations;
- 9.21. the NPTC representative thanked those countries that made in-kind donations to support the peace process; expressed dismay that he had to travel from outside the continent to the meeting and was unable to present the NPTC report, noting that it showed a glimpse of what was happening at the NPTC; that he had promised to bring accountability to the RJMEC members as per the funding from the Government; wondered what happened to the balance of the funds remitted to the NPTC; opined that the functionality of the NPTC was questionable; that they had not sat as a Board since May 2019; reported that there was need for an inquiry into the financial report of the NPTC; that all the resources received had not been audited; that the report of the donations were never tabled before the Board, opining that these issues never build confidence; appealed to the members to remain seized of the situation in South Sudan; reminded the JTSC to request the UNMISS for the requisite containers for storage; observed that coordination among the mechanisms were still wanting; recalled that so far three funding disbursements were made to the NPTC totaling to USD 70 million out of the budget of USD 285 million;
- 9.22. the EU representative made reference to the statement issued by the EU on the situation in South Sudan, including a need for an inclusive RTGoNU; welcomed funds disbursed by the TGoNU; noted that there was need to resolve the chain of command; stated that outstanding issues need to be resolved before the formation of the RTGoNU; looked forward to the RTGoNU to be formed as the EU would like to work with the government in a different way; emphasized the need for inclusivity in the RTGoNU; wondered whether the members would be availed the mid-term report of the Security Supervisory Mechanism (SSM);
- 9.23. the AU representative regretted the slow pace of the implementation of the pre-transitional tasks of the R-ARCSS and reiterated a member's impression that all members either collectively or individually shared the blame; opined that some of the issues related to the implementation of the pre-transitional tasks were logistical in nature that should have been resolved earlier; welcomed the idea of a joint visit to the various training centres and

expressed interest to join the teams; expressed interest to visit the NPTC warehouse to see the supplies in storage; and welcomed the security workshop that IGAD planned;

9.24. the IPF representative noted that the NPTC and other mechanisms were a creation of the Parties, noting that “a poor carpenter is that one who blames his/her own tools”, and urged the Parties to be more serious;

9.25. the Ambassador of China informed the meeting that China would be celebrating its new year on 24 January 2020 - the year of the Mouse; commended the Parties for the observation of the Permanent Ceasefire; announced several in-kind donations from China (including 50,000 blankets, 2,500 tents, 1,200 varieties of medicine) that would be delivered in South Sudan in two weeks or so; and appealed to the mechanisms to coordinate their efforts.

9.26. The UNMISS representative informed the members that UNMISS had received letters from NPTC and JTSC requesting for containers and that the only thing which needed to be clarified was the number of the containers needed in each site.

Min. 10/13/20: Date for the Next Meeting

10. Members agreed that 19th February 2020 would be the date for the 14th RJMEC plenary and that the RJMEC Secretariat would confirm the date and communicate the same to the members accordingly.

Min. 11/13/20: A.O.B

11. There was no any other business.

Min.12/13/20: Resolution of the meeting

12. The draft resolution of the meeting was circulated among all members, discussed and amendments made. The RJMEC Secretariat was directed to incorporate all agreed amendments to the draft and share the final copy with the members.

Min.13/1/20: Chairman’s Closing Remarks

13. In his closing remarks, the RJMEC Interim Chairperson: apologized for the duration the meeting took, explaining that there were a number of urgent issues that needed to be addressed. He also apologized if he appeared to have been hard on the security mechanisms; and concluded by thanking the members for a very productive 13th RJMEC meeting.

Min.14/13/20: Closing Prayers

14. The closing prayers were led by representatives of the faith-based leaders and a member of the JDB.

14.1. There being no any other business, the 13th RJMEC monthly meeting was adjourned at 16:28hrs.