



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

### **MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION (RJMEC) HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019 AT PALM AFRICA HOTEL, JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN**

The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) was convened in Juba, South Sudan, on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The meeting was chaired by the Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC, Ambassador Lt. General Augustino S.K Njoroge (Rtd) who called the meeting to order at 09:20 am.

#### **Agenda**

1. Opening Prayers
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Statement by RJMEC Interim Chairperson
4. Report from the NPTC
5. Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting
6. Briefing from UNMISS SRSG  
(Media Excused)
7. Reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:
  - i. NCAC
  - ii. CTSAMVM
  - iii. JDB
  - iv. SDSR Board
  - v. JTSC
  - vi. JMCC
8. Discussion on:
  - i. Interim Chair Statement, NPTC, UNMISS SRSG
  - ii. Reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanism
9. Presentation on RJMEC Working Committees
10. Presentation from the Civil Society
13. Date for the Next Meeting
14. A.O.B
15. Resolutions of the meeting
16. Closing Prayers

In attendance were the representatives of all the Parties and stakeholders in RJMEC namely:

**For the Parties to the R-ARCSS:**

1. Hon. Martin Elia Lomuro (Incumbent TGoNU)
2. Hon. Awut Deng Acuil (Incumbent TGoNU)
3. Amb. Stephen Par Kuol (SPLM/A-IO)
4. Mr. Gatwech Lam Puoch (SPLM/A-IO)
5. Hon. Hussein Abdelbagi Akol (SSOA)
6. Mr. Bior Leek Kuareng (FDs)
7. Hon Wilson Lodiong Sebit (OPP)

**For the Other South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents**

1. Rev. John Okumu (Faith-based leader)
2. Ms. Rita Lopidia (Women Coalition)
3. Ms. Maria Gideon (Women's Bloc)
4. Mr. Akuoch Ajang Nyanhom (CSO Alliance)
5. Mr. Jacob Bul Bior (CSO Forum)
6. Mr. Simon Akuei Deng (Business Community)
7. Ms. Yar Manoa Majok (Business Community)
8. Prof. Pauline Riak (Academia)
9. Ms. Caroline Kibos (Youth)
10. Geoffrey Lou Duke (Youth).

**For the Regional Guarantors**

1. Mr. Zelalem Birhan (Ethiopia)
2. H.E. Chris K. Mburu (Kenya)
3. H.E. Hussein Haji Ahmed (Somalia)
4. Mr. Isam I. Ibrahim (Sudan)
5. H.E. Brig. Gen. Ronnie Balya (Uganda)
6. Mr. Mlungisi Mbalati (South Africa)
7. Mr. Tesfaye Negassa (IGAD Juba Liaison Office)
8. Amb. Prof. Joram M. Biswaro (AUMISS)

**For International Partners and Friends of South Sudan**

1. H.E. Hua Ning (China)
2. H.E. Lars Andersen (Norway)
3. H.E. Thomas Hushek (USA)
4. H.E. Alison Blackburne (UK)
5. Mr. Alain Noudehou (UNMISS)
6. H.E. Sinead Walsh (EU)
7. H.E. James Christoff (IPF)

**For RJMEC Secretariat**

1. Amb. Berhanu Kebede, Chief of Staff - RJMEC
2. Dr. Thomson Fontaine, Deputy Chief of Staff (Strategy) - RJMEC
3. Mr. Stephen Oola, Legal Counsel - RJMEC

**For the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms**

1. Amb. Magid Yousif, Deputy Chairperson - NCAC
2. Maj. Gen. Desta Abiche, Chairperson - CTSAMVM
3. Gen. Gabriel Jok Riak, Chairperson - JDB
4. Mr. Denay Chagor - SDSR Board
5. Dr. Olaw Adiang - JTSC

## **Observers**

1. H.E. Jan Hendrick van Thiel (Germany)
2. H.E. Dr. Ahmed Bahaa Eldin (Egypt)
3. Ms. Joane Holliger (Switzerland)
4. Mr. Mitsuhiro Toyama (Japan)
5. Ms. Fumi Balogun (UN Women).

## **Min. 01/05/19: Opening Prayers**

1. The opening prayer was led by Rev. John Okumu, one of the representatives of the Faith-based leaders.

## **Min. 02/05/19: Adoption of the Agenda**

2. The draft agenda was adopted without any amendments.

## **Min. 03/05/19: Statement by RJMEC Interim Chairperson**

3. In his statement the RJMEC Interim Chairperson:

- 3.1. welcomed members to the 5<sup>th</sup> RJMEC monthly meeting, paid tribute to the passengers and crew who lost their dear lives in the Ethiopian Airlines plane crash on 10 March 2019 and remarked how most of us had been affected by the tragedy in one way or the other;
- 3.2. reported on the resolution to bring non-signatories to the R-ARCSS into the peace process, which led to RJMEC Secretariat joining H.E. Dr. Ismail Wais, IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan, in a meeting with General Thomas Cirillo in Addis Ababa in which it had not yielded much results and General Paul Malong in Nairobi, which was generally more fruitful;
- 3.3. commended the incumbent Transitional Government of Nation Unity (ITGoNU) for disbursing US \$10 million to the National Pre-Transitional Committee (NPTC) for implementing the tasks of the Pre-Transitional Period and urged NPTC to channel the funds to the appropriate mechanisms to expedite the operationalization of the cantonment process;
- 3.4. noted that the Technical Boundary Committee (TBC) had completed its work related to addressing the tribal boundaries violated as a consequence of the establishment of the 32 states and that the Independent Boundaries Commission (IBC) had finally begun its work by adopting its Rules of Procedure and Terms of Reference. Also noted the progress made by the National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC) in reviewing the Political Parties Act (2012) to ensure that it complies with international best practices for free and democratic registration of Political Parties in South Sudan;
- 3.5. reported that the JDB, SDSR Board, JMCC, JTSC and CTSAMVM Board had all been meeting and that all had been impacted due to lack of funding. However, he reiterated the need for the reconstitution of the DDR Commission vital for the cantonment process and urged the ITGoNU and the NPTC to expedite its reconstitution;
- 3.6. underscored the recurring challenges of access denial to the CTSAMVM teams that persisted during the first quarter of 2019, which totaled 31, and urged the commanders in Juba to hold their field commanders to account and allow free and unfettered access;

- 3.7. reported that RJMEC had not received a full report of the government's investigation and action of the sexual and gender-based violence in Bentiu and the Luri incident. He further reported that CTSAMVM had investigated and confirmed rape of two females (a woman and a minor) in Karpeto, Central Equatoria in January 2019 by SSPDF forces that the suspects who had been arrested should face the full force of the law;
- 3.8. informed the Plenary of the outcomes of the consultative meetings he held with the Parties, South Sudanese stakeholders, regional guarantors and the international community on the status of implementation of the Pre-Transitional Period tasks, where RJMEC had identified 59 key activities to be implemented and that 27 had been completed, 17 were ongoing while 15 were yet to begin;
- 3.9. underscored that of the critical pending tasks were activities towards the unification of forces, involving the process of cantonment and training, and the determination on the number and boundaries of States, and the composition and restructuring of the Council of States. The ongoing tasks included the work of the IBC, delivery of humanitarian assistance, the return home of refugees and IDPs, release of all political prisoners and detainees, disengagement of forces, demilitarization of civilian centres, and the national healing and reconciliation process;
- 3.10. urged the leadership of the Parties to the R-ARCSS to urgently meet and agree on a roadmap on the way forward;
- 3.11. recommended that the IGAD urgently convene the Council of Ministers meeting and Summit of the IGAD Heads of State and Government to take stock of the status of implementation of the R-ARCSS; and
- 3.12. encouraged the Parties to the Agreement to continue trust and confidence-building measures and undertake at the highest political level joint peace dissemination and outreach activities.

#### **Min. 04/05/19: Report from NPTC**

4. In its report submitted to the RJMEC members, the NPTC highlighted the following issues:
  - 4.1. commended Agreement institutions and mechanisms that continue to hold meetings in Juba as well as the IBC that was established in March 2019;
  - 4.2. reported on several confidence-building activities that were undertaken by parties who continue to engage themselves in open and constructive conversation. The NPTC continued to facilitate meetings between the President of the Republic and leaders of different Parties to the Agreement to exchange views on the progress and in an effort to clarify issues on challenges facing the implementation of the Agreement. In the same spirit, NPTC engaged the International community and RJMEC in discussing the activities remaining in the Pre-Transitional Period.
  - 4.3. dissemination of the Peace Agreement and peace celebration led by the ITGoNU jointly with the opposition continues in different States throughout the country. Citizens are embracing and welcoming the Agreement. He further reported that plans are underway by the NPTC dissemination Committee that will travel to the refugee camps in Uganda and Kenya to disseminate the Agreement. It is envisaged that the

National Healing and Reconciliation team will also participate and accompany the Committee to the refugee camps.

- 4.4. informed members that only 5% of the planned budget had been realized from the funding approved by the ITGoNU. As part of fundraising, the NPTC team visited Egypt in search of material support for the implementation process. The team further visited and approached the Ethiopian government and the African Union for such support, and updated the leadership on the political situation in South Sudan.
- 4.5. time for the Pre-Transitional Period was coming to an end with a number of critical tasks as provided for in the Agreement unaccomplished due to funding constraints and the late start to implement the tasks. The IBC, on the other hand, was established late nevertheless, it is expected to finalize its work within a period of 90 days. Despite the challenges, the Committee continues to mobilize financial resources to enable the implementation of tasks by different institutions and mechanisms.
- 4.6. urged Parties to the Agreement, IGAD, RJMEC, International community and citizens to remain seized and encourage NPTC on the little progress made by the institutions and mechanisms. Further, for IGAD to engage the Parties on the remaining Pre-Transitional Period for a smooth transition of the formation of the Transitional government.
- 4.7. urged the international community, friends of South Sudan and well-wishers to support the NPTC financially and in-kind to enable implementation of tasks such as training and deployment of necessary unified forces as stipulated in the Revitalized Agreement.
- 4.8. urged the IBC to be facilitated to enable the committee to finalize its work as planned.
- 4.9. encouraged all efforts to be exerted in order to bring on board all South Sudanese non-signatories to the R-ARCSS still holding arms and terrorizing communities in their villages.

**Min. 05/05/19: Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting**

5. The minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> RJMEC meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 was reviewed and the following comments were observed:
  - 5.1. Pages 1-7. No comments;
  - 5.2. Pg. 8: on the resignation of the Troika members of the TBC, a member wondered why the language changed, and that the Plenary deserved to know the statement of fact why the two members resigned. Accordingly, the chairperson clarified;
  - 5.3. Pg. 9 par. 21: on the reconstitution of the DDR Commission, a member observed that the Plenary needed to be specific on which Parties to the R-ARCSS had not yet nominated their delegations to the body to be tasked with discussing modalities for the reconstitution of the DDR Commission. IGAD confirmed that it had received nominations from I-TGoNU and OPP and not from the FDs and SPLM/A-IO. Members appealed to the Parties to the R-ARCSS to finalize the submission of the nominations;
  - 5.4. Pg. 9 pr. 22: A member observed with concern that they kept hearing that humanitarian access is denied by the SSPDF and nobody else and that the TGoNU

had not received any formal report on access denial. He, therefore, appealed for a fair reporting;

- 5.5. Pg. 9, 23: The Incumbent TGoNU reported that they sent a report on the ongoing investigation on the Luri incident to RJMEC and that there was nothing new to report;
- 5.6. Pg. 9, Par. 24: incidents – TGoNU has not received any violation report. Also, the I-TGoNU raised its concern on the need to ensure adherence to the CoHA by all signatories and sought clarifications why IGAD had not condemned violators, especially Gen. Thomas Cirillo who is responsible for destabilizing Yei River area;
- 5.7. Pg. 9, Par. 25: a member further reported that the alleged ‘concerns’ was not received by Incumbent TGoNU;
- 5.8. Pg.10. on a letter that was written to CTSAMVM: The Incumbent TGoNU wondered whether any CDFs of the other Parties had formally written to CTSAMVM about access denials. SPLA-IO reported that its organization had given orders to all its forces to guarantee unfettered humanitarian access as well as to CTSAMVM; and
- 5.9. The minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting was therefore adopted with amendments to paragraphs 7, 9 and 21-25.

#### **Min. 06/05/19: Briefing from UNMISS SRSG**

6. In his briefing to the RJMEC plenary, the Deputy UNMISS SRSG:
  - 6.1. commended the Parties for their efforts to implement the R-ARCSS though the various committees and mechanisms despite the funding challenges;
  - 6.2. reported that since the signing of the R-ARCSS, UNMISS had recorded at least 97 rapprochement and trust building activities that had taken place at sub-national levels, including 19 in the Greater Bahr el Ghazal, 47 in the Greater Upper Nile and 31 in the Greater Equatorias to which most of the initiatives had been led by local government and opposition leaders;
  - 6.3. commended improved security in most parts of the country leading to population movements and return to their home areas that had created the impetus to scale up existing support for humanitarian assistance and recovery activities with the support of the government;
  - 6.4. informed members that humanitarian actors had secured US \$11 million from the United Nations Response Fund (CERF) to help displaced people spontaneously returning to their home areas ahead of the rainy season. The funding is expected to bolster health, education, and water and sanitation activities in areas of return as well as provide seeds, tools, food and non-food items. He reiterated that protection is the core of UNMISS response and they will continue to provide assistance for voluntary and dignified returns;
  - 6.5. raised concern on the security situation in Central Equatoria and intercommunal conflicts in some parts of the country that continued to affect men, women and children, noting it could potentially impede advances made towards peace;

- 6.6. reported on the meeting he co-chaired with Minister Hussein Mar of the Humanitarian Coordination Forum, involving the chair of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), government, UN agencies and NGOs where they discussed government's "*Framework for Return, Reintegration and Relocation for Displaced Persons*", which is being developed;
- 6.7. informed members on the current outbreak of Ebola virus in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), that remained a threat to South Sudan with the potential to quickly overwhelm the country's health systems and local capacity. He commended the work done by the relevant government officials and cooperating partners under the auspices of the Ministry of Health; and
- 6.8. urged the Parties to stay on course to complete the most critical Pre-Transitional tasks to ensure the successful establishment of the RTGoNU and smooth commencement of the Transitional Period.

#### **Min. 07/05/19: Reports from Agreement Mechanisms**

##### **i) National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC)**

- 7.1. In his report to the Plenary, the Deputy Chairperson of the National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC):
  - 7.1.1. reported that the NCAC had completed the review of four (4) security sector laws as provided for under Chapter 1, Article 1.18.1.2 of the R-ARCSS and handed over the four (4) Security Bills to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs of the incumbent TGoNU;
  - 7.1.2. informed members that the Committee had made considerable progress in the review of the *Political Parties Act, 2012* to conform it to the Agreement pursuant to Chapter 1, Article 1.20.1 of the R-ARCSS to ensure that the Act complies with international best practices for the free and democratic registration of Political Parties in South Sudan;
  - 7.1.3. reported that the NCAC held a stakeholders' meeting to validate proposed amendments to the law and obtain further inputs and recommendations to support the amendment process before submission to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs;
  - 7.1.4. informed the members that the only outstanding task of the NCAC during the Transitional Period will be to receive the list of nominees of respective Parties of the Agreement (chapter 1, Art.1.13) relating to the appointment of members of the reconstituted TNLA for submission to the President in accordance with Chapter 1, Art.1.18.1.4.

##### **ii) Joint Defence Board (JDB)**

- 7.2. In his report, the Chairperson of the Joint Defence Board:
  - 7.2.1. reported that the JDB had succeeded in building confidence among former belligerents and was working harder to achieve its mandate through meetings

where members plan, strategise, execute and follow-up on the progress of R-ARCSS implementation;

- 7.2.2. informed members that the Board had conducted several site visits to both the government and opposition-controlled areas and sensitized the forces and the civilian population about R-ARCSS;
- 7.2.3. cited lack of funds as posing a significant challenge to the implementation of crucial tasks of the Pre-Transitional Period. The JDB further reported the lack of liquidity and mobility hindering its movement to high-tension areas; infrastructure at sites are not prepared to accommodate the cantoned forces, lack of suitable logistics, the inadequacy of water in some selected areas and practical hindrances such as proximity of some of the identified cantonment locations to civilian centres; and
- 7.2.4. appealed to the National Pre-Transitional Committee (NPTC) and I-TGoNU to continue engaging the international community, especially those willing to support the R-ARCSS.

iii) **Ceasefire Transitional Monitoring Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM)**

- 7.3. The Chairperson of the Ceasefire Transitional Monitoring Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM) in his report to the RJMEC 5<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- 7.3.1. reported that the ceasefire continued to hold throughout the country due to encouraging communication and cooperation between the Parties on the ground. For instance, the security situation in Yei River State remained calm with no new incidents of fighting, however, CTSAMVM would continue to investigate the impact of previous fighting on the civilian population. Reported also that in early April, JDB organised a joint visit to address concerns over the security situation in Pibor;
- 7.3.2. JDB continued to keep the CTSAMVM informed of plans for cantonment and the training of the necessary unified forces. JDB had further shown its willingness to enhance close coordination between the various mechanisms and institutions of the R-ARCSS;
- 7.3.3. expressed the concern raised by the CTSAMVM Board at the continued occupation of civilian buildings by some armed forces and the large presence of forces in Juba and other states. The Board further raised concerns over the forthcoming cantonment of forces and its impact on the safety and security of neighbouring civilian population; and urged the IGAD Council of Ministers to take appropriate action against all violators of the peace agreement and the CoHA.
- 7.3.4. reported that the Parties were observing the provision to remain frozen in place and notifying CTSAMVM of planned movements as per Article 2.1.10 of the R-ARCSS. However, CTSAMVM determined that the infighting during January and February 2019 between NAS forces allied to Gen. Thomas Cirillo and both SPLM/A-IO and SSPDF in Central and Western Equatoria, NAS (TC) was in violation of the CoHA with attacks carried out on Kediba and Sirimon;



- 7.3.5. reiterated that the issue of releasing Prisoners of War (PoWs) and political detainees remained outstanding. CTSAMVM also reported that the Parties had submitted the lists of political detainees and PoWs to the ICRS for appropriate action;
- 7.3.6. further reported that CTSAMVM continued to investigate allegations of SSPDF recruitment at Twic in Warrap State and the alleged recruitment and training at Luri which remained outstanding. It also reported following-up on demobilization being undertaken by the Parties;
- 7.3.7. informed members of incidences of its MVTCs denial of access by the SSPDF and the SPLM/A-IO unit commanders. Accordingly, CTSAMVM reported submitting the list of all the known commanders implicated in the denial of access, including summaries of all such incidents to the JDB for action;
- 7.3.8. further informed members that CTSAMVM awaited feedback from the Parties concerning follow-up action arising from the SGBV report in Bentiu area as discussed and delivered at the 6<sup>th</sup> CTC meeting. The outcome included a violation report that found SSPDF soldiers in Karpeto accused of rape, and that the accused were apprehended in Juba and awaiting the due process of the law. CTSAMVM promised to follow-up the judicial process until its logical conclusion;
- 7.3.9. observed widespread movement of forces from the SPLM/A-IO and SSOA towards their assigned cantonment areas. Due to the good cooperation between CTSAMVM and JDB, the CTSAMVM MVTs are fully informed and verifying cantonment activity while plans were underway for all designated cantonment areas to be visited. CTSAMVM visited Rajaf Police training facility and verified the presence of 350 members of the SSPDF who would form a component of the Juba VIP protection forces while the remaining balance of 350 were to be provided by SPLM/A-IO and SSOA;
- 7.3.10. informed members of the remaining challenges of restructuring and reconstitution of CTSAMVM in accordance with the Annex B of the R-ARCSS to include sectors, national monitors and CTC representatives, including financial constraints that had hindered the process; and
- 7.3.11. acknowledged that the established close working relationship with the JDB was yielding benefits and urged other security mechanisms to follow the example of JDB for better success in the implementation of tasks within the security mechanisms.

iv) **Strategic Defence And Security Review Boards (SDSR -Board)**

7.4. The SDSR Board Co-chairperson reported that:

- 7.4.1. the Board's Secretariat had started to engage with various stakeholders to solicit views and inputs from different interest groups. He reported that on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019, members of the SDSR Board and the Secretariat conducted a focused group discussion with the youth with an objective to solicit their views and the aspirations on the security sector, as part of the security assessment;

- 7.4.2. further reported that the Board had planned to conduct a workshop and a meeting in the month of April to equip its members with experiences of SDR processes in other parts of the world, as well as gender mainstreaming in security policies. Further, the Board intended to conduct more focused group discussions with the organized forces, Civil Society Organizations, religious leaders, think tanks and other interest groups to solicit their views on the security sector;
- 7.4.3. informed the members that the Board would convene its first write-up retreat to incorporate the information from the focused group discussions (assessments) into the Strategic Security Assessment document and consequently security policies; and
- 7.4.4. reported on the challenges the Board continued to face due to the lack of adequate resources which slowed down the progress in the cantonment process that also compelled the Board to conduct the monthly meeting only in one day instead of the usual three days. Among other things, delay in cantonment continued to present a challenge to the Board's ability to complete the Strategic Security Assessment on time which requires accurate and detailed information from cantonment sites.

**v) Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC)**

- 7.5. In his report, the head of the JTSC Secretariat:
  - 7.5.1. reported lack of progress within the JTSC, and that screening of forces, recruitment of staff for the secretariat, scrutiny of the training centers and the start of unification and training of forces were not done due to lack of needed resources to implement the activities;
  - 7.5.2. appealed for the JTSC secretariat to be facilitated with computers, printer, stationaries, mobility, communications and for the SSPDF to expedite the appointment of the JTSC Chairperson; and
  - 7.5.3. further appealed to NPTC, RJMEC, IGAD, UNMISS, International Partners and Friends of South Sudan to enhance their support to the implementation of the tasks of the Pre-Transitional Period.

**vi) Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC)**

- 7.6. The RJMEC Interim Chairperson took note on non-representation by the JMCC leadership to the 5<sup>th</sup> RJMEC monthly meeting. Nonetheless, he took note of the report by the JMCC on the challenges of coordination and lack of implementation of activities by the Commission.

**Min. 08/05/19: Discussions**

- 8. During the deliberations which followed the statements and presentation of reports:
  - 8.1. members welcomed and commended the statement of the RJMEC Interim Chairperson and his assessment on the status of implementation of the key Pre-Transitional tasks of the R-ARCSS;

- 8.2. members took note of the written report of the NPTC, which was submitted to RJMEC, congratulated the Committee on securing the US \$10 million pledged by the Incumbent TGoNU and appreciated the latter for fulfilling its pledge to the NPTC Fund and urged the NPTC to channel these funds to the appropriate mechanisms to expedite the start of the cantonment process. Further appealed to the Incumbent TGoNU to explore and avail additional resources within its means to ensure smooth implementation of the R-ARCSS;
- 8.3. members thanked the UNMISS Deputy SRSG UN RC/HC Mr. Alain Noudehou for his briefing and the Chairpersons of the NCAC, CTSAMVM, JDB, SDSR Board, JTSC and JMCC for their reports, and appreciated all the institutions and mechanisms of the Agreement who submitted their reports to the RJMEC Secretariat at least three days in advance of the plenary;
- 8.4. the Interim Chairperson appreciated the South Sudan Civil Society Forum (SSCSF) for the presentation of its observations on the status of implementation of the R-ARCSS, its unwavering commitment in engaging the Parties to pursue lasting peace as a bridge between the citizens and the political actors, and in this regard assured the Civil Society of RJMEC's full support;
- 8.5. commended the Technical Boundary Committee (TBC) for completing its work and submitting its report to the IGAD Mediation, including a detailed briefing to the Independent Boundaries Commission (IBC) on the report and called upon the IBC to build on this milestone and take all necessary steps to expedite its work;
- 8.6. members noted the UNMISS report on improved security in most parts of the country leading to increased humanitarian access and population movements, including people returning to their homes, thus creating an impetus to scale up existing support for humanitarian assistance and for recovery activities to begin. In this regard, it appealed to the Parties to work relentlessly to further improve the security situation in all parts of the country and support the voluntary and dignified return of refugees and IDPs;
- 8.7. the interim Chairperson of RJMEC noted with appreciation the ongoing efforts between the humanitarian actors/partners, UN Country Team and the Incumbent TGoNU to further improve the humanitarian and recovery efforts, appreciated all those who contributed resources towards these noble efforts, further noted the threat of Ebola outbreak in the neighboring DRC, and welcomed the call for caution and all preventive measures and response plans to be put in place;
- 8.8. members took note of the statements of the International Partners and Friends of South Sudan pledging their full support to the implementation of the R-ARCSS, including the European Union and Norway who are exploring additional resources to support the peace process;
- 8.9. members commended the JDB for the progress made in kickstarting the cantonment of forces in Panyume and urged all Parties to take necessary steps to expedite the cantonment process to facilitate the joint training and unification of forces. And further commended the JDB for its role in defusing the tensions between SPLM/A-IO and SSPDF forces in Mandeng and Nasir and encouraged them to continue with the joint confidence building process;

- 8.10. members further noted the report of the SDR and JTSC on the status of their completed, ongoing and pending tasks, welcomed the progress made and appealed to the NPTC to engage with and support these mechanisms to expedite all pending activities. They also noted with concern the reported challenges of communication and inadequate consultations within the various security mechanisms and recommended to the JDB to urgently convene a joint meeting of all the security mechanisms to enhance coordination, and establish information sharing and consultation mechanisms, before the next RJMEC meeting;
- 8.11. members regretted reports of continued denial of access to CTSAMVM Monitoring and Verification Teams (MVTs) in their force verification missions by some field commanders of the SSPDF and SPLM/A-IO with ten (10) incidents: 9 by the SSPDF and 01 by the SPLM/A-IO reported since the last RJMEC meeting. Recommended to the CDF of the SSPDF and the Chief of Staff of the SPLM/A-IO to engage the specified divisions where obstructions occurred to urgently address the matter;
- 8.12. welcomed the reports submitted to RJMEC Secretariat by some of the institutions and mechanisms of the R-ARCSS, applauded the progress made thus far, called on all mechanisms to take practical steps to expedite the implementation of all pending tasks of the R-ARCSS to be implemented during the Pre-Transitional Period and reminded all mechanisms to adhere to the three days report submission deadline;
- 8.13. members further noted the pending reconstitution of the DDR Commission, commended the Incumbent TGoNU, SSOA and OPP for submitting names of their representatives to the Committee established to consider modalities for the reconstitution of the DDR Commission, and urged the SPLM/A-IO and FDs to immediately submit the names of their representatives to expedite this process;
- 8.14. members also noted the decision by the CTSAMVM to resort to centralized operations as a result of financial constraints, expressed concerns that any reduction in CTSAMVM operations impact the entire implementation of the R-ARCSS and appealed for financial support to CTSAMVM to urgently alleviate the situation;
- 8.15. members unanimously observed and commended the stable security situation in most parts of the country, with all Parties adhering to the permanent ceasefire, but regretted that high tensions in and around Yei River area due to the activities of NAS forces of Gen Thomas Cirilo and their failure to adhere to the R-ARCSS;
- 8.16. members also expressed concerns on reported deaths resulting from recurring incidents of cattle rustling, particularly in Western Bahr el Ghazal, Northern Liech State and Twic State;
- 8.17. members reviewed the status of the implementation of key tasks of the Pre-Transitional Period and identified those that have been completed, ongoing, and yet to begin. Observed that the 'pending' and 'ongoing' tasks were most critical and consequential, and urged the leadership of the Parties to the R-ARCSS to urgently meet and agree on a roadmap on the way forward;
- 8.18. the interim Chairperson encouraged the Parties to the Agreement to continue with more trust and confidence-building measures and undertake at the highest political

level joint peace dissemination and outreach activities. In this regard, it expressed deep gratitude to His Holiness, Pope Francis and the Vatican for being seized of the peace process in South Sudan, and for the ongoing spiritual retreat with the leadership of Parties to the Peace Agreement and church leaders. Urged all the Parties to the Peace Agreement to honor the humility of His Holiness the Pope and implement the R-ARCSS in letter and spirit;

- 8.19. the Interim Chairperson reiterated his request to the Incumbent TGoNU to make available to RJMEC the report of its investigation into the alleged incident of sexual and gender-based violence in Bentiu and noted the Government response that it is unable to provide any further details on the Luri incident investigation;
- 8.20. urged the Parties to treat the immediate cantonment of all forces as top priority and take all necessary steps to ensure that Parties who have declared forces immediately move all their troops into designated cantonment sites;
- 8.21. members further reiterated their call to all the Parties to the Peace Agreement to observe the thirty-five (35) per cent women's representation in the executive of the RTGoNU and in all the remaining Agreement institutions and implementation mechanisms to be formed during the Transitional Period;

**Min. 09/05/19: Presentation on RJMEC Working Committees**

9. The Deputy Chief of Staff strategy presented to the Members on the RJMEC Working Committee and asked them to nominate an individual to join as a member or an observer to various committees.

**Min. 10/05/19: Presentation from the Civil Society**

10. The civil society presented a statement on its observation of the implementation of the R-ARCSS. They informed members that the presentation was drawn from interactions with citizens, reports from resource persons around South Sudan and their own analysis of the implementation of the R-ARCSS and noted with encouragement;
- 10.1. the de-escalation of violence especially among forces of the parties to the peace agreement; and the level of collaboration and trust that enabled the parties to co-exist peacefully in Juba and some states and the overall progress made by the various institutions and mechanisms of the R-ARCSS.
- 10.2. support of the development partners and friends of South Sudan in the peace process both within the country and in refugee settlements in the region.
- 10.3. expressed worry and concern about the prospects for lasting peace and the destiny of South Sudan raising concerns such as; incomplete transitional security arrangements, poor civil-military relations across the country, unnecessary roadblocks although the peace agreement provides for free movement of people; and further noted that civilians felt unsafe in many parts of the country.
- 10.4. further expressed concern about the overall misconception of the role of the civil society stating that some of the politicians understand the civil society and its role in the implementation of the R-ARCSS. However, many perceive the civil society as opposition, sympathizers of government or agents of foreign powers advancing

the agenda of regime change and destabilization in the country. They, therefore, clarified that the Civil Society is independent of all the political forces their unchanging desire is to promote the interest of the civil population in political processes of the country. As professionals, they pursue the strategy of collaboration and partnership to build the country.

**Min. 11/05/19: Date for the next meeting**

11. Members resolved that the date for convening the 6<sup>th</sup> RJMEC monthly meeting would be 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Min. 12/05/19: A.O.B**

12. An RJMEC member urged fellow members to acquaint themselves with the RJMEC Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.

**Min. 13/05/19: Resolutions of the meeting**

13. The resolutions of the RJMEC were shared for review by the members. Members agreed that the draft would be finalized by the RJMEC Secretariat and be shared with all members after the meeting.

**Min. 14/19: Closing prayer**

14. The closing prayer was led by Rev. John Okumu, one of the representatives of the faith-based community and Hon. Hussein Abdelbagi, representative of SSOA.

**Min. 15/05/19: Adjournment**

15. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 18:30hrs to a later date.