



Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC)

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 16TH MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2021 AT PALM AFRICA HOTEL, JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN

The 16th meeting of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) was convened in Juba, South Sudan on 4th February 2021. The meeting was chaired by H.E Maj. General Charles Tai Gituai (rtd), Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC who called it to order at 11:55 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 RTGoNU
7. Report from NTC
8. Briefing from UNMISS SRSG
(Media excused)
9. Reports and Plans from Agreement Institutions and Security Mechanisms
 - a. NCAC
 - b. CTSAMVM
 - c. JDB
 - d. SDSR Board
 - e. JTSC
 - f. JMCC
 - g. DDR Commission
10. Discussion on RJMEC Interim Chairperson's Statement, RTGoNU's, NTC's, UNMISS SRSG's briefings and reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms
10. Date for the next meeting
11. A.O.B
12. Resolutions of the meeting
13. Chairperson's closing remarks
11. Closing prayers.

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 (RTGoNU)
2. Hon. Gatwech Lam Puoch (SPLM/A-IO)
3. Hon. Peter Mabior Riing (SSOA)
4. Mr. Isaiah Hakim Garang (FDs)

For the Other South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents:

1. Mr. Mohamed El-Hassan Abdel Meragan (Faith-based leader)
2. Bishop (rtd) Enock Tombe Stephen (Faith-based leader)
3. Sheik Vitale Aligo Samson (CSO Alliance)
4. Mr. Rajab John Mohandis (CSO Forum)
5. Prof. Francis Deng (Eminent Persons)
6. Mrs Yar Manoa Deng (Business Community)
7. Mr. Santino Garang Apiny (Business Community)
8. Ms. Caroline Kibos (Youth)
9. Mr. Wani Michael (Youth)

For the Regional Guarantors:

1. Mr. Temesgen Teshale (Ethiopia)
2. Mr. Hassan Robleh (Djibouti)
3. Mr. Ali Mambo (Kenya)
4. Mr. Gamal M. A. Goraish (Sudan)
5. H.E. Hussein Hagi Ahmed Mohamud (Somalia)
6. Brig. Gen. D. Twesigomwe (Uganda)
7. Mr. Judah Muoh (Nigeria)
8. H.E. Prof. Joram M. Biswaro (AUMISS)
9. Mr. Tesfaye Negassa (IGAD Juba Liaison Office)

For International Partners and Friends of South Sudan

1. Mr. MA Wenjun (China)
2. Amb. Siv Kaspersen (Norway)
3. Mr. William Echols (USA)
4. Amb. Jonny Baxter (UK)
5. Mr. David Shearer (UNMISS)
6. Mr. Alessandro Rossi (EU)
7. Mr. Micheal L.H. Deelen (IPF)

For RJMEC Secretariat:

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

For the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:

1. Hon. Geoffrey Gichira Kibara, Chairperson NCAC
2. Maj. Gen. Dafaalla Hamid Dafaalla CTSAMVM
3. Gen. J.J. Okot, Chairperson JDB
4. Lt. Gen. Gabriel Duop Lam, Co-Chairperson JDB
5. Lt. Gen. Julius Tabuley, Co-Chairperson JDB

6. Dr. Olaw Adiang Nyijok, Head of Secretariat JTSC
7. Lt. Gen. Charles Madut Akol, Chairperson JMCC
8. Lt. Gen. Koang Gatkuoth Kerjok, JMCC
9. Hon. Madam Angelina Teny, Chairperson SDSR Board
10. Lt. Gen. Ayuen Alier Jongroor, Chairperson DDR Commission

Observers:

1. Mr. Mitsuhiro Toyama (Japan)
2. Mr. Mohamed Elbadry (Egypt)
3. H.E Urban Sjostrom (Sweden)
4. H.E. Marc Trouyet (France)
5. Ms. Janika Walter (Germany)
6. Ms. Joane Holliger (Switzerland)
7. Mr. Peterson Magoola (UN-Women)

Min. 01/16/21: Opening Prayers

1. The opening prayers were led by the representatives of the faith-based leaders of both the Christian and Islamic faiths.

Min. 02/16/21: Chairperson's Opening Remarks

2. The Chairperson welcomed the RJMEC members to the 16th RJMEC meeting.

Min. 03/16/21 Adoption of the Agenda

3. The draft agenda was adopted with an amendment on the date of the plenary.

Min. 04/16/21: Adoption of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

4. Members reviewed and adopted the minutes of the 15th RJMEC meeting of 26th November 2020 without any amendments.

Min. 05/16/21: Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson

5. In his statement to the plenary, the RJMEC Interim Chairperson:
 - 5.1 welcomed members to the first monthly meeting of 2021, wished all members a Happy New Year 2021. He reiterated that his desire that it would be a year where everyone would demonstrate dedication and commitment to achieve the required level of implementation of the R-ARCSS. That there was a need to make progress, and for this to happen the responsibility was on the RTGoNU to strategise, mobilise the requisite resources and increase the pace of implementation of the Peace Agreement;
 - 5.2 he reiterated that the month of February marked one year since the formation of the RTGoNU and commencement of the Transitional Period. Urged members to reflect on how much progress had been achieved so far, and on the pending tasks. Updated members of his engagement with the Presidency, Parties to the Agreement, regional and international partners, stakeholders and

adherents, and relevant RTGoNU line ministries. In addition, RJMEC had written to the Chairperson of the IGAD Heads of State and Government and the Chairperson the IGAD Council of Ministers. The focus of the engagements was based on highlighting critical issues pertaining to the Agreement, and ways to improve on the pace of implementation;

- 5.3 welcomed the decisions of the Presidency taken at their fourth meeting on 9 December 2020 on steps to be taken pursuant to implementation of the pending tasks of the R-ARCSS, including their resolutions of 2 February 2021;
- 5.4 welcomed the appointment of: six Deputy Governors on 30 December 2020, for the states of Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, Unity and Western Bahr el Ghazal; three Deputy Governors for Central Equatoria, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Unity states on 22 January 2021; and Governor and Deputy Governor of Upper Nile on 29 January 2021. He took note that three of the Deputy Governors were women, of whom two were nominated by the OPP and one by the SPLM/A-IO. However, reiterated his concerns that this fell short of the 35 percent women representation required in the Agreement and appealed for more women to be appointed in the state executive positions;
- 5.5 further took note that the Parties to the R-ARCSS had initialed an agreement on responsibility-sharing positions in the three Administrative Areas of Abyei, Greater Pibor and Ruweng and that the positions were shared between ITGoNU, SPLM/A-IO, and SSOA;
- 5.6 raised concerns that only the Former Detainees had submitted the list of its nominations of the members to the TNLA, to the National Constitution Amendment Committee (NCAC), as per the requirement in the Agreement. He urged the I-TGoNU, SPLM/A-IO SSOA and OPP to submit their lists of nominees to the NCAC for their due diligence in order to ensure that the process of reconstitution of the TNLA was completed. He further appealed to the Parties to adhere to the 35 percent level of women's representation in their nominations;
- 5.7 urged the RTGoNU to expedite the implementation under governance cluster that included the establishment of the ad-hoc Judicial Reform Committee (JRC), and for restructuring and reconstitution of various Commissions and Institutions at the national level as stipulated in the Agreement;
- 5.8 observed that the implementation of the Transitional Security Arrangements (TSA) was intended to underpin a stable and secure future for the people of South Sudan and yet there was no progress reported on the training, graduation and redeployment of Necessary Unified Forces (NUF) under Phase I. He highlighted the outstanding issues to include the establishment of a unified command structure for the NUF, and finding a solution to the 'ranking' process and the management of excess senior officers;
- 5.9 reiterated the serious ongoing challenges observed within the cantonment sites and training centres and that this fact was emphasised in a joint statement following a recent visit organised by RJMEC, of the AU, the IGAD Special Envoy and the IGAD and AU C5 ambassadors to training centres in Maridi and Rajaf. These included lack of food and other essential resources, such as medicines, shelter and separate facilities for women. He reported that implementation of the DDR process had not progressed since the last plenary;
- 5.10 informed members that RJMEC had convened a joint seminar with the National Transitional Committee, Security Mechanisms and DDR Commission and discussed current and future risks and challenges, set priorities, and agreed on a set of recommendations.

- 5.11 urged the Strategic Defence and Security Review Board (SDSRB) to finalise the first stage of its tasks by completing the Board Strategic Security Assessment, the National Security Policy Framework and the revised Defence and Security Policy in line with the requirements of the R-ARCSS, reiterating the completion of these tasks of the SDSRB was critical to the formation of a unified army and other security services;
- 5.12 informed members that CTSAMVM Technical Committee had produced a report on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) incidents and trends, and urged continued focus on investigating, arresting, prosecuting and sentencing perpetrators of SGBV crimes;
- 5.13 reported on the OCHA's recently published Humanitarian Needs Overview in which 8.3 million people in South Sudan were estimated to need humanitarian assistance in 2021, up from 7.5 million in 2020. 72 counties had been facing extreme needs, five counties were in severe need and one county was in catastrophic need, which was Pibor, in Jonglei. This called for a greater need for funding and humanitarian responses in 2021 on the part of the RTGoNU, in collaboration with the aid agencies. He reiterated the concern regarding humanitarian workers who faced increasing numbers of bureaucratic access impediments and security threats. He therefore requested the RTGoNU to elaborate on the steps it had taken to address the growing concerns of humanitarian access;
- 5.14 took note of the efforts of the Public Financial Management Oversight Committee in building the capacity of the government to implement its reform strategy that is aligned to the R-ARCSS. He reiterated the need for the establishment of the Economic and Financial Management Authority (EFMA) to report to the RJMEC on progress in implementation against individual provisions in Chapter 4;
- 5.15 welcomed the recently updated annual petroleum reports from the Ministry of Petroleum, including their public availability. He requested that the RTGoNU provide an update on the status of operationalising the oil revenue funds and restructuring the National Petroleum and Gas Commission, and the Nile Petroleum Corporation, as required in Chapter 4 of the R-ARCSS;
- 5.16 informed members on the progress made in preparation towards convening the Permanent Constitution-making workshop, including two rounds of sensitisation meetings with some of the representatives of the Parties, the Other South Sudanese Stakeholders and relevant rule of law institutions and mechanisms. He however, reiterated his concern that the workshop could not take place at the end of January as originally planned, because the ITGoNU had not submit the list of its representatives to the workshop. Further informed members that RJMEC was working closely with the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and other relevant actors to make the workshop succeed;
- 5.17 reported slow progress in the implementation of the R-ARCSS and urged for an increase in its pace;
- 5.18 thanked members for their engagements in the RJMEC Working Committees, and further appealed for continuation of the same. He informed members that RJMEC will soon organise a review workshop to take stock of the status of the implementation of the Agreement chapter by chapter, and the Working Committees will take lead in this review; and
- 5.19 concluded with making recommendations that: i). the Parties expedite the appointment of all personnel to the government structures at the sub-national level, while observing the 35% level

for women's representation; ii) the ITGoNU, SPLM/A-IO, SSOA and OPP to immediately submit their nominations to NCAC in order to facilitate the long overdue reconstitution of the TNLA while observing the 35% level for women's representation; iii) the ITGoNU immediately submit the list of its representatives to the permanent constitutional process workshop; iv) the RTGoNU adequately fund the TSA, and to expedite and complete the unification of forces, and ensure well-coordinated DDR; v) the RTGoNU drive forward the work of the SDSRB; vi) investigation, arrest, prosecution and sentencing perpetrators of SGBV crimes should continue, as well as training and sensitisation on SGBV issues within the Organised Forces; vii) the RTGoNU proceed in a timely manner with the establishment of the three Transitional Justice mechanisms, including through public consultation in collaboration with other stakeholders and civil society; and viii) the RTGoNU avail the necessary resources for the implementation of the R-ARCSS;.

Min. 06/16/21: Report from the RTGoNU

6. A representative of the ITGoNU conveyed an apology to the members, noting that the ITGoNU members of the RJMEC were committed to work and finalise the state and government sharing as well as appointments for the establishment of the TNLA. He further stated that it was important for the RTGoNU to finalise the responsibility sharing to be able to report to the next RJMEC meeting.

Min. 07/16/21: Briefing from UNMISS SRSG

7. In his briefing to the RJMEC plenary, the UNMISS SRSG:
 - 7.1. acknowledged the positive progress made on the formation of the transitional government, the presidency, and Council of Ministers as well as the appointments of the Governor and Deputy Governor of Upper Nile state which were significant steps forward;
 - 7.2. raised concern on the slow pace of implementation which heightened doubt and frustration as well as opening opportunities for spoilers to exploit local tensions and fuel conflicts. He appealed for the state and county governments as well as TNLA and Council of States to established quickly;
 - 7.3. underscored that the intent of the unification of forces was to embrace all fighters in a single military then, over time, to shape it into a loyal state military force in South Sudan, nonetheless it is, so far, stalled;
 - 7.4. welcomed government announcement in early February to graduate and redeploy the Necessary Unified Forces and appealed for action to follow the good intentions;
 - 7.5. reiterated his fear that the slow pace of reform in the R-ARCSS could enable some national actors to meddle and fuel local-level violence as was seen in the past few days in Maban, and increasingly in Warrap, and across Jonglei in 2020;
 - 7.6. congratulated the Government for hosting the Jonglei conference in the last week of January 2021. He further informed members that the UN was following up with peace initiatives that would bring local youth and church leaders together;
 - 7.7. reported that UNMISS was working hard to protect and support South Sudanese in need. First, UN military engineers from seven different countries were taking advantage of the dry season to

build and improve road infrastructure in some areas of the country, including a road that would link the Sudan border to Bentiu and south to Rumbek, aimed at increasing trade and prosperity for citizens in the impoverished areas that it passes through;

- 7.8. informed members that Protection of Civilians sites in Bor, Wau and Juba have successfully transitioned to conventional IDP camps under the sovereign responsibility of the Government. In Bentiu, transition discussions had well advanced, involving the Governor, local security forces from all sides, including a joint police force – the first in the country – and the displaced community. In that regard, UNMISS was looking at prioritizing technical support for Security Sector Reform and preparations for elections;
- 7.9. stated that the Independent Strategic Review of UNMISS was carried out at the request of the Security Council. Thanked all members who participated in the process and observed that the review and the upcoming mandate renewal will provide an opportunity to ensure that all stakeholders are fit for purpose – so that their priorities match the evolving political and security situation in South Sudan;
- 7.10. reported that UNMISS had increased engagement with the SSNPS to build its capacity to prevent and respond to crime;;
- 7.11. further reported that the UN peacekeepers previously involved with the PoC sites were also being redeployed to potential conflict hotspots to provide opportunities for reconciliation and trust-building before violence erupts;
- 7.12. reaffirmed UN's commitment to support the Government and the people of South Sudan in partnership with RJMEC, IGAD and the AU in their ever-continuing commitment to progressing peace;
- 7.13. raised concerns on the Humanitarian crisis, particularly in the areas where sub-national fighting and seasonal flooding were creating critical conditions for people in Jonglei and Warrap. More positively, he reported that the latest FAO assessment showed a year-on-year increase in cereal production and a marked improvement in land cultivated, bringing total numbers up to those of 2016;
- 7.14. underscored that Parties must work to: i) form state and county institutions; ii) reconstitute the Transitional National Legislature iii) provide the necessary resources to graduate the unified forces; iv) progress the constitution-making process; and v) the 35% quota for women as well as meaningful participation of youth; and
- 7.15. welcomed the announcement of the Presidency to accelerate implementation and look forward to seeing concrete progress. This would provide a conducive environment for displaced people to return home and pursue their livelihoods in time for the rainy season.

Min. 08/16/21: Reports from Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms

i) National Constitutional Amendment Committee

8. In his report to the plenary, the Chairperson of the National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC) presented the following:

- 8.0.1. reported to members that the Committee held a stakeholders' validation meeting for the *Public Financial Management and Accountability Act, 2011* and the *Southern Sudan National Audit Chamber Act, 2011* and received critique to the Bills to build consensus on some of the outstanding issues that arose during the review process;
- 8.0.2. reported that the recommendations from the validation meeting were considered by NCAC and the relevant ones incorporated into the Bills. Following the validation meeting, the Ministry of Finance and Planning undertook to submit final comments on the Bill. The Ministry has subsequently indicated that an internal technical Committee has been formed to review the draft *Financial and Management and Accountability Act 2011 (Amendment) Bill, 2021* and that it had no comments on the Audit Bill. The Committee was awaiting the final input from the Ministry so as to finalise the *Public Financial and Management and Accountability Act 2011 (Amendment) Bill, 2021*. The *Southern Sudan Audit Chamber Act, 2011 (Amendment) Bill, 2021* had been finalised pending submission to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs;
- 8.0.3. informed members that the Committee met with H.E Dr. Riek Machar Teny, First Vice – President of the Republic of South Sudan and the Chairperson of the Governance Cluster to brief him on the progress made in the review of the governance related laws;
- 8.0.4. further informed members that the Committee continued with the review of the *Petroleum Act, 2012* and the *Petroleum Revenue Management Act, 2013*. The Committee had scheduled to complete the review of the Bills in January 2021 but unfortunately the Parties and Stakeholders had been slow in providing amendment proposals which had been requested in August 2020 following the experts meeting on Petroleum laws. NCAC had so far received amendment submissions from the Civil Society, Youth, Ministry of Petroleum, the National Petroleum and Gas Commission and SPLM/A-IO and finalised reviewing the same. He urged other Parties and stakeholders, who undertook to make submissions, to expedite to enable the Committee finalise amendment of these critical legislation to facilitate other reforms in the sector. The Committee had in addition continued work on the review of *The Bank of South Sudan Act, 2010* during the period. The Committee was in the process of convening an experts' meeting to discuss amendments to the Bank of South Sudan Act, 2010;
- 8.0.5. underscored that the Committee is mandated to receive a list of nominees of respective parties as provided in Chapter I, Article 1.18.1.4 of the R-ARCSS relating to the appointment of members of the reconstituted TNLA. This Pre –Transitional period task remains outstanding to date;
- 8.0.6. stated that during the Pre–Transitional Period the Committee had received and forwarded the complete list of nominees for the Former Detainees (FDs). On 22nd December 2020, the Committee received a list of one hundred and twenty-four (124) nominees from SPLM/A-IO and was in communication with the party on the finalization of the list. He urged ITGoNU, SSOA and OPP to submit their list of nominees for the TNLA to the NCAC as soon as possible as the reconstitution of the TNLA was critical to the implementation of the Agreement;
- 8.0.7. informed members that Chapter 1, Article 1.18 of the R-ARCSS provided for the NCAC to complete review, amendment and drafting of new laws within twelve (12) months of the Transitional Period. The period provided for NCAC work therefore was coming to an end in February, on the first anniversary of the Transitional Period. However, primarily

due to challenges caused by the Covid 19 pandemic, NCAC was unable to complete its work within the given time. NCAC had therefore written to RJMEC seeking directions on the way forward;

8.0.8. underscored that the issue of adequate and timely support to the Committee members continued to be a challenge to the efficient delivery of its tasks. He urged the National Transitional Committee (NTC) to urgently release the remainder of the requested budget to NCAC to enable it to effectively carry out its mandate; and

8.0.9. urged all the Parties and stakeholders to continue supporting the work of the NCAC.

ii) Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Verification Mechanisms

8.1. In his report to the plenary, the Deputy Chairperson of CTSAMVM:

8.1.1 informed members that CTSAMVM held two meetings of the CTSAMVM Technical Committee (CTC) on 15th December 2020 and on 21st January 2021 to consider the status of the implementation of the PCTSA. In addition, the CTSAMVM Board met on 26th of January to consider and discuss the outcome of the both CTC meetings as well as the accompanying interim and violations reports presented at both meetings;

8.1.2 reported that further violent clashes in Moroto-Kajo Keji area on 27 December and violent clashes in Maban county near Liang cantonment site between 2-11 January. The tension that led to fighting in both areas were consequences of defections/changes of allegiance. However, since the last RJMEC meeting there were no verified incidents involving NAS;

8.1.3 reported that CTSAMVM visited and revisited Cantonment sites often, and that contact was maintained with Cantonment site Commanders. The situation in Cantonment sites remained dire, warning that the cantonment system was in danger of collapse as they had received only a small proportion of the necessary logistic support, and as a result large numbers of personnel had left the sites and returned to the civilian communities;

8.1.4 further reported that the Cantonment site Commanders had not been given any information on the way forward. CTSAMVM was not aware of any plans to manage the movement of personnel from Cantonment sites to Training Centres when Phase II training eventually would start. It was no longer possible for CTSAMVM to estimate the number of personnel remaining in Cantonment sites as Commanders were reluctant to give figures;

8.1.5 informed members that CTSAMVM visited all Training Centres on a regular basis. However, CTSAMVM reported very little progress in the last few months. Most Training Centre Commanders reported not having received any concrete instructions about graduation and the trainees lacked essential equipment such as uniforms and boots, as well as logistics support. However, since the last RJMEC meeting, CTSAMVM assessed that the conditions in Training Centres had declined and that no substantive training was at the time underway. Furthermore, the morale of the trainees and instructors had declined;

8.1.6 welcomed the development on the reduction of the occupied civilians centres and building by the forces since the last RJMEC meeting. That currently there were only 12 buildings occupied, 11 by the SSPDF and 1 by the SPLM/A- IO;

- 8.1.7 informed members that there was a clash between SSPDF forces and NAS on 10 November 2020 near Lobonok, and that both NAS and the SSPDF made contradictory statements about responsibility for the incident;
- 8.1.8 that CTSAMVM presented five violations which had been discussed by the CTC and Board meeting on SGBV incidents/trends from October 2018 to November 2020; clashes between SSOMA/NAS and SSPDF in Lobonok Area, 10 -11 November 2020; arrest of civilians by SPLM/A-IO in Farajalla on 3rd November 2020; movement of SSPDF troops on 20 -21 November 2020; rape and Killing of civilians by SSPDF in the Laiya area, December 2020;
- 8.1.9 informed members that CTSAMVM had prepared an induction package for twelve (12) SSOMA National Monitors which would be delivered at the time and location to be confirmed. CTSAMVM had not been provided with the nominations for the National Monitors by SSOMA;
- 8.1.10 raised a concern at the impact that the change of the allegiance of Commanders was having on security situation in South Sudan. All cases which had subsequently resulted in violence;
- 8.1.11 underscored the financial constraints faced by CTSAMVM; and
- 8.1.12 reiterated CTSAMVM's continued support for the peace process with flexibility, impartiality, independence and neutrality.

iii) Joint Defence Board

8.2. In his report, the Chairperson of the Joint Defence Board (JDB):

- 8.2.1. stated that the nothing much was accomplished in the period since the last plenary meeting. The Board through the heads of the respective military and security institutions, continued to exert commendable command and control over all forces across the country with the exception of the non-aligned parties that did not sign the R-ARCSS;
- 8.2.2. raised concern on accommodation of some members of the Opposition, particularly regarding their accumulated hotel bills and reported harassment by some hotel operators that needed urgent intervention of the NTC;
- 8.2.3. reported that continuous delay in the unification of the Command was impacting the graduation of the NUFs;
- 8.2.4. urged NTC to urgently expedite the release of the remaining funds to help mitigate further delay in the implementation of the TSAs, and that the former should revise its financial management strategy, ensure that the TSAs process receives befitting attention and funding during Phase II and recommended that the NTC and RTGoNU should start early preparations toward Phase II of the NUFs;
- 8.2.5. reiterated the need to strengthen trust and confidence-building among the Parties to mitigate discontent and inter-party shift in allegiance. He discouraged inter-party shifts in allegiance and alliance by some officers among the Parties to the R-ARCSS as it posed challenges to the TSAs; and

- 8.2.6. urged the principals of the Parties to the R-ARCSS to expedite unification of Command to allow for the graduation of the NUFs.

iv) Strategic Defence and Security Review Board

8.3. In her report, the Chairperson of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) Board:

- 8.3.1. reported that nothing much had been accomplished since the last RJMEC plenary; and
- 8.3.2. informed members that the SDSR Board was planning: a high-level strategic consultation on the finalization of the Strategic Security Assessment document; to draft the Security Policy Framework and Revised Defence Policy; convene a workshop to incorporate SSA findings into the White Paper on Security and Defence as well as develop new policies for other security sector agencies.

v) Joint Transitional Security Committee

8.4. In his report to the plenary, the Head of the Secretariat of the Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC):

- 8.4.1. informed the members that nothing had changed since the last RJMEC Plenary in 2020;
- 8.4.2. stated that Training Centres were facing serious logistical constraints, which would cause desertions by both instructors and NUFs unless resources were availed;
- 8.4.3. appealed to the government through the NTC and as a matter of urgency to avail more and adequate resources for completing the JTSC pending tasks;
- 8.4.4. further appealed to the JDB to expeditiously develop the redeployment plan and the graduation timetable for the NUFs; and
- 8.4.5. appealed to the RTGoNU, regional guarantors, International Partners and Friends of South Sudan to enhance their pledges - financially and in-kind support - for full implementation of the TSAs.

vi) Joint Military Ceasefire Commission

8.5. In his report, the Chairperson of the Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC):

- 8.5.1. reported that no progress has been made since the last RJMEC plenary, noting immediately after the conclusion of transportation of registered forces to the Training Centres, the work of the JMCC relaxed due to the following challenges: (a) inadequate funding to conduct registration, site clearing, food distribution and others; (b) difficulty in delivery of food to the site and lack of transport means; (c) dire need for medicine and medical experts, noting the need for medical experts at least in each cantonment or barracks; and (d) lack of medical insurance;
- 8.5.2. JDB and the leadership of all Parties to order the troops to cooperate with the registration and screening teams;

- 8.5.3. urged JDB to provide command and control, including conducting site visits where and when necessary during the process to ensure full adherence to the process;
- 8.5.4. underscored that all senior commanders/officers should be accommodated in a gazetted place with full facilitation and incentives;
- 8.5.5. emphasized that funds for medicine and medical services should be available as soon as possible to provide medical insurance;
- 8.5.6. appealed to the NTC to avail funding for direct purchase and delivery of food for inland areas whose access is difficult. Expressed that some forces should be supplied food and directly registered and screened in their assembly areas especially where there are tensions between various forces and were therefore unwilling to move into a single Cantonment site with their counterparts and consideration should be given to unarmed troops during the registration process;
- 8.5.7. urged RJMEC, CTSAMVM, UNMISS and all stakeholders to closely work with the JMCC, JTSC and support them where necessary;

viii) Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission

- 8.6. The Chairperson of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Commission presented the Commission's report as follows:
 - 8.6.1. No major implementation was done since the last RJMEC plenary;
 - 8.6.2. appealed to the NTC to: (a) release food and shelter for the targeted DDR candidates in their temporary assembly areas in Rajaf and Masnabira and later to the transit facilities; (b) provide funds for the construction of transit facilities before the arrival of the second batch of forces to the Training Centres;
 - 8.6.3. welcomed and thanked partners who supported the work of the Commission and further appealed for their continued support to the DDR activities;
 - 8.6.4. urged all security mechanisms to coordinate and support the Commission in all its activities; and
 - 8.6.5. informed on the need to seek approval of the DDR documents.

Min. 09/16/20: Discussions on Statements and Reports

- 9. During the discussions, the RJMEC members:
 - 9.1. Welcomed the statement of the RJMEC Chairperson, the UNMISS SRSG and reports presented by the Agreement institutions and mechanisms; commended all the institutions and mechanisms of the Agreement for the progress made so far in the implementation process of the peace agreement;
 - 9.2. Members expressed their disappointment in the National Transitional Committee for not showing up in the RJMEC meetings and not reporting on the progress to the plenary. They

further noted that most reports of mechanisms touched on the NTC, yet they were absent. Members therefore called on the Chairperson to bring the matter to the attention of the RTGoNU;

- 9.3. The AU representative informed members that the plenary was taking place at the eve of the AU summit and proceeding were being followed world round. He informed members that during the field visit to cantonment sites and training centers, they realized that the situation was dire. He called on the RJMEC Chairperson to always involve the JDB and faith-based leaders among other to be part of such missions so that they see the reality on ground and get the correct messages. He added that the AU welcomes the decisions of the presidency in their communication very positively and looked forward to them being translated into action;
- 9.4. Joint Defence Board Chairperson confirmed the accuracy of the CTSAMVM reports by affirming that there are senior SSPDF Officer sitting on the CTSAMVM Board. On the issues of the crisis of the of the White Army spiritual leader, he noted that two top Generals were dispatched to ascertain the people involved in the movement and a report was awaited. Members also requested clarification from the representatives of faith-based leaders on this spiritual movement;
- 9.5. In response to the discussion on the NTC, the Minister of Defence and a member of the NTC informed the members that the Committee has structural challenges and also depended on Government for funds. She added that the NTC inherited the challenges and struggles of the NPTC but as a Committee, it has been trying hard to deliver on its mandate;
- 9.6. On the RJMEC Working Committees, the youth representative noted that the absence of the representatives of line ministries had limited discussion during the Working Committee meetings and requested their consistent attendance and participation. She further requested for clarification on when the graduation of forces would take place and called for speedy formation of the RTNLA as it was a matter that was long overdue. Noting that the youth form the biggest percentage of the South Sudan population, the youth representatives called for the operationalization of the Youth Enterprise Fund;
- 9.7. The representatives of the eminent personalities noted that reports of the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms are good and helpful as they gave a picture of what was happening and expressed overall progress in the implementation process. However, he cautioned that continuous listening to the reports alone was not enough, but action was needed on them;
- 9.8. The EU Ambassador; a) congratulated leadership of RJMEC on field visit to Training and Cantonment centers saying that such visits brought facts, b) congratulated RTGoNU Council of Ministers for their discussion on Transitional Justice and the road map, c) requested the RJMEC Chairperson to invite the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to brief the RJMEC meetings, d) welcomed the progress made with regards to governance at the state level, e) called for a financial report from the former NPTC and now currently the NTC to clearly report on the funds utilization and called on UN Security Council to take note of the matter if there are no financial reports despite the sums of money received by the two institutions.
- 9.9. Members noted that there has been some progress in implementation but there is a lot yet to be done sighting that the slow pace in the unification of forces was more as a result of lack of political will than lack of resources. Members called for adherence to the timelines set. Members also supported the need for a financial report from the NTC.

- 9.10. The Sudan Ambassador called on all members to support the peace process in South Sudan. Welcomed the decision and progress of the presidency in their statement as apposite way forward towards development and also called for proper reporting of support received.
- 9.11. Interim Chairperson of RJMEC informed members that the letter of request for an extension of mandate of the NCAC had been forwarded to IGAD for consideration and a response was being awaited.
- 9.12. The NCAC Chairperson reminded the members of the criteria for selection of representatives to the Revitalized Transitional National Legislative assembly RTNLA.
- 9.13. The Minister of Defence called on the regional guarantors and International partners and friends of South Sudan to do something to help realize political will just as they pushed for the formation of the RTGoNU and exerted all weight on the SPLM/A - IO to have the government formed.

Min. 10/16/21: Date for the Next Meeting

10. Members suggested that the date for the 17th RJMEC monthly meeting be on 11th March 2021 and that it would be confirmed by the RJMEC Secretariat and communicated to the members officially.

Min. 11/16/21: A.O.B

11. There was no A.O. B recorded and registered.

Min.12/16/21: Resolution of the Meeting

12. A draft Resolution of the 16th RJMEC monthly meeting was circulated to all members, discussed and feedback provided. The RJMEC Secretariat was tasked to incorporate all the changes and to share the final Resolution with all the members.

Min.13/16/21: Chairman's Closing Remarks

13. The RJMEC Interim Chairperson thanked the members for their continued patience as the meeting had started late and ended late and called for continued provision of all the necessary possible assistance towards the implementation of the agreement. He noted that the Secretariat will follow up all matters of concern raised during the 16th RJMEC meeting.

Min.14/16/21: Closing Prayers

14. Two representatives of faith-based organizations led the closing prayers. There being no any other business, the 16th RJMEC monthly meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm, Juba time.