



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

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE 35TH MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT
MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 23RD MAY 2024 AT
BEIJING JUBA HOTEL, SOUTH SUDAN**

The Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) convened its 35th meeting on 23rd May 2024 in Juba, South Sudan from 10:48am. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Amb. Maj Gen (rtd) Charles Tai Gituai, Interim Chairperson of the RJMEC.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayers
2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Adoption of the Minutes of the 34th RJMEC Meeting
5. Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson
6. Report from the RTGoNU
7. Report from the NTC
8. Briefing from the UNMISS SRSG
9. Reports from Political and Legal Institutions
 - a. NEC
 - b. NCRC
 - c. PPC
10. Reports from Security Mechanisms
 - a. CTSAMVM
 - b. JDB
 - c. SDSR Board
 - d. JTSC
 - e. JMCC
 - f. DDR Commission
11. Discussions
12. Review of the Resolution
13. Date for the Next Meeting
14. A.O.B
15. Chairperson's Closing Remarks
16. Closing Prayers.

Attendance:

For the Parties to the R-ARCSS:

1. Hon. Dr. Martin Elia Lomuro (ITGoNU)
2. Hon. Gatwech Lam Puoch (SPLM/A- IO)
3. Hon. Sandra Bona Malwal (SPLM/A-IO)
4. Hon. Margaret Girma Lukurnyang (SSOA)
5. Maj. Gen. Bior Leek Kuareng (FD)
6. Hon. Wilson Lodiong Sebit (OPP)

For the Other South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents:

1. Retired Bishop Enock Tombe (Faith-based Leader)
2. Sheik Jaralnebi Khamis Mursal (Faith-based Leader)
3. Dr John Gai Yoh (Eminent Person)
4. Ms Acayo Nancy Cirino (Youth).
5. Ms Florence Agiba (Youth)
6. Ms Maria Gideon Gakmar (Women Bloc)
7. Dr Angelina Bazugba (Academia)
8. Mr John Lual Akol (Business Community)
9. Mrs. Yar Manoa Majok (Business Community)
10. Ms. Eva Christo (Women Coalition)
11. Mr. Dabek Mabior Arok (CSO Alliance)

For the Regional Guarantors:

1. Mr. Rabeh Mohamed (Djibouti)
2. H.E. Nebil Mahdi (Ethiopia)
3. H.E. Jeremy N. Ndhola (Kenya)
4. Mr Kabugudho Anthony (Uganda)
5. Mr. Tukur Maigari (Nigeria)
6. Mr Luvuyo Mato (South Africa)
7. Prof. Joram M. Biswaro (AUMISS)
8. Mr. Goram Goraish (Sudan)
9. Mr David Kwaje (IGAD)

For International Partners and Friends of South Sudan:

1. H.E. William Fens (US)
2. H.E. Guy Warrington (UK)
3. Mr. Lars P. Henc (Norway)
4. H.E. Timo Olkkonen (EU)
5. Mr. Hou Xiangyu (China)
6. H.E. Aly-Khan Rajani (IPF) Canada
7. H.E. Charles Jibi
8. Prof. Nicholas Haysom (UNMISS).

For RJMEC Secretariat:

1. Ms Janice James, Economic Advisor
2. Mr Oola Stephen, Legal and Constitutional Affairs Advisor
3. Dr Job Akuni (Minutes Secretary).

For Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:

1. Lt Gen. Ashhab F. Fahal (JDB)
2. Lt Gen Rabi M. Emmanuel (JDB)
3. Brig. Gen. Dr Hoth G. Chan (JDB)
4. Hon Angelina Teny (Chair, SDSR Board)
5. Mr. Chol Thon Balok (SDSR-B)
6. Mr Abgelo Madut Agok (SDSR-B)
7. Maj. Gen. Pal Yiech Lam (JMCC Secretariat)
8. Lt Gen Dr Olaw Adiang (JTSC)
9. Hon. Ayuen Alier Jongor (DDR Commission)

10. Maj. Gen. Hailu Gonfa Eddosa (Ongoing Chair, CTSAMVM)
11. Maj Gen. Yitayal Gelaw (In-coming Chair, CTSAMVM)
12. Prof. Abednego Akok Kacuol (NEC)
13. Hon. Gabriel Gabriel Deng (NEC)
14. Mr. Ahon Malou Lueh (NEC)
15. Hon. Dr. Rieng Yar Zuor (NCRC)
16. Hon John Nataniel (NCRC)
17. Mr Emmanuel Joseph (NCRC)
18. Hon. Eng. James Akol Zakayo (PPC)
19. Hon. Lona James Ludio (PPC)
20. Hon. Dr. Peter James Lado (PPC)
21. Justice Ajonje Perpetua (JRC)

Observers:

1. H.E Erdem Mutaf (Turkiye)
2. H.E Mikael Bostrom (Sweden)
3. H.E. Toshi Odagiri (Japan)
4. Mr. Marius Hochsstrasse (Switzerland)
5. Mr. Saced Ezzat (Egypt)
6. Ms. Maryam Jaji Sulciman (UNWOMEN)
7. Ms Wendels Margarete (Germany)
8. Ms. Catherine Waliaula (UNDP)
9. Mr Brian Vere (Zimbabwe)

List of Acronyms

CTSAMVM	Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism
CTC	CTSAMVM Technical Committee
CTRH	Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
ITGoNU	Incumbent Transitional Government of National Unity
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JDB	Joint Defence Board
JMCC	Joint Military Ceasefire Commission
JRC	Judicial Reform Committee
JSC	Judicial Services Commission
JTSC	Joint Transitional Security Committee
MoFP	Ministry of Finance and Planning
MoJCA	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
NCAC	National Constitutional Amendment Committee
NCC	National Constitutional Conference
NCRC	National Constitutional Review Commission
NEC	National Elections Commission
NUF	Necessary Unified Forces
NTC	National Transitional Committee
PSC	Preparatory Sub-Committee
PPC	Political Parties Council
RJMEC	Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission
R-ARCSS	Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
RTGoNU	Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity
SDSR-B	Strategic Defence and Security Review Board
SRF	Special Reconstruction Fund
SSOA	South Sudan Opposition Alliance
SPLM	Sudan People's Liberation Movement
SPLM-IO	Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition
SSPDF	South Sudan People's Defence Force
UN	United Nations
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UNSG	United Nations Secretary General
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Min. 01/35/24: Opening Prayers

1. Bishop Enock Tombe and Sheik Jaralnabi Khamis Mursal led the opening prayers.

Min. 02/35/24: Chairperson's Opening Remarks

2. The Chairperson welcomed the members and introduced the new Kenyan Ambassador to South Sudan and the incoming Chairperson of CTSAMVM.

Min. 03/35/24: Adoption of the Agenda

3. The agenda was adopted without any amendment.

Min. 04/35/24: Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

4. The minutes of the 34th meeting was reviewed and adopted without amendments.
 - 4.1. The minutes of the 35th RJMEC meeting were proposed, seconded and adopted as the true record of the meeting as follows:
 - 4.1.1. Proposer: H.E. Guy Warrington, UK Ambassador;
 - 4.1.2. Secoder: Ms. Yar Manoa, representative of the Business Community.

Min. 05/35/24 Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson

5. The RJMEC Interim Chairperson welcomed the members to the meeting and explained why the previous meeting was rescheduled: due to the commencement of the inter-party dialogue and launch of the Nairobi- based Tumaini Initiative in March and early May 2024 respectively. In addition, the Chair highlighted the following:
 - 5.1. there was progress which was made since the last meeting, including the completion of drafting of the JRC report; completion of work by the NCAC; SPLM/A-IO submission of the list of its officers to the President for the unification of the middle and lower level echelons; SDSR Board's completion of validation of the strategic defense and security strategy documents; the launch of the Tumaini Initiative in Nairobi in May 2024 and progress made therein; RTGoNU continues to keep open its borders for refugees and returnees from the neighbouring countries; ongoing development of a comprehensive National Framework for Durable Solutions for refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities; and ongoing resource, economic and financial reforms.
 - 5.2. observed concerns impacting smooth implementation of the R-ARCSS, including lack of funding to the NCRC and DDR Commission; judicial reforms which remain pending; bills which await passage by the TNLA; reported inter-communal violence in Tambura, Twic, and parts of Abeyi region, among others; lack of progress in the review of wealth sharing and revenue allocation; and insufficient preparations for elections.
 - 5.3. recommended: sustained inter-party dialogue on elections and regular updates to the public on its status; resource availability to Agreement institutions and mechanisms; fast tracking processing of pending bills; completing redeployment of NUF and commencement of Phase II of the process.

Min. 06/35/24: Report from the RTGoNU

6. The RTGoNU observed that there was need to review the plenary agenda to address repetitions as Agreement institutions report to us all. In addition, the Minister of Cabinet Affairs underscored the following in his report:
 - 6.1. Regarding progress, funding was provided to the PPC and NEC; the NBS presented its plan in July for activities, including for a national census, which will require not less than 24 months; NCRC was preparing a baseline report for preparedness for the making of the permanent constitution. USD 800,000 earmarked for NCRC will be paid through the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs. The NCRC has been relegated to second priority as compared to the NEC and PPC.
 - 6.2. NEC conducted several capacity-building workshops with support from partners. Elections funding requires a total of SSP 253bn. Out of this, 42bn was earmarked for pre-elections activities. Whereas NEC has been paid an equivalent of \$ 15 million in SSP, the rest of its funding will be in a targeted supplementary budget.
 - 6.3. In 2023, the Government - Tripartite Taskforce generated 10 priority issues, which were presented to the Presidency and the parties in February 2024 so as to agree on a common way forward.
 - 6.4. Regarding transitional security, there is conflicting data on Phase I NUF redeployment: The official records from the NTC is 55,958 NUF which graduated from Phase I, observing that its redeployment is classified and a sovereign responsibility. 90% of Phase I NUF have been redeployed and the remaining ones are ready for redeployment.
 - 6.5. On 2nd May SSOA and SPLA-IO submitted their list of officers. Phase II preparation is complete and expected to commence late May.
 - 6.6. The Durable Solution for refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities was passed in October 2023 and operational; reforms under chapter 4 of the R-ARCSS are ongoing;
 - 6.7. The High-Level Standing Committee of the Parties reviewed chapters 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the R-ARCSS. The Committee will sit to review the chapter 4 on Saturday 24th May. The parties will then dialogue on critical matters.
 - 6.8. The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management has finalized consultations towards the establishment of the Special Reconstruction Fund and Board; reforms provided for under chapter 4 of the R-ARCSS are ongoing; the passing of the CTRH and CRA bills await resumption of the TNLA from recess; the making of the permanent conference is dependent on the work of the NCRC, including the pending RTGoNU approved federalism conference.
 - 6.9. Appealed for support from the regional and internal partners to enable the RTGoNU to succeed in the discharge of its mandate.

Min. 07/35/24: Report from the NTC

7. There was no report from the NTC.

Min. 08/35/24: Briefing from UNMISS SRSG

8. The UNMISS informed of the briefing held by the UNSC in April regarding assessment of prospects for elections, including the conclusion made by the UNSG in its letter that the conditions necessary for elections were not in place. He encouraged the parties to take steps to ensure such conditions are in place. Further, the DSRSG highlighted the following:
 - 8.1. commended the progress which has been made by SDSR Board; informed that the inter-parties dialogue appeared to have stalled as a result of commencement of the Tumaini Initiative, noting the Parties need to find a working formula seven months to elections;
 - 8.2. the humanitarian conditions continue to be dire as a result of several factors, including economic shock, conflict, funding cuts and the suspension of airdrops to the needy population. Floods are anticipated as a result of the rise in the water level of the Nile, which is worrying. There is need for preparedness to mitigate the impact of the flood. In addition, the Sudan conflict continued to create new conflict and security needs. The challenges with the oil pipeline have serious economic ramifications and the outlook is not promising. Moreover, persistence of subnational violence is disturbing. In that regard, he welcomed interventions by the RTGoNU. UNMISS has continued to undertake community-based dialogue initiatives.
 - 8.3. There is a sense of urgency for the implementation of the R-ARCSS in the context of the brewing perfect storm compounded by economic, humanitarian and climate shocks, cautioning that any further delays could undermine the progress that has been achieved thus far.
 - 8.4. He reiterated UNMISS, IGAD, AUMISS and RJMEC's commitment to supporting and working with the South Sudanese parties so as to build firm foundations of democracy, good governance, peace, and stability.

Comments from IPF/Canada

- 8.5. The launch of the Nairobi talks and the signing of the commitment to the talks is a positive step in an effort for providing peace in South Sudan. In that regard, he appealed for inclusivity of all.
- 8.6. On elections, the decision is not to be made by the international community but South Sudanese which should help guide the principals by a commitment to lasting peace.
- 8.7. Draft supplementary budget is urgently needed to fund activities of elections institutions.
- 8.8. Regarding civic and political space, while legislative reforms are ongoing, the Civil Society and media also need to play their part, and urged that the NSS Bill be expeditiously passed by the TNLA.
- 8.9. On the economy and transition, there is an urgent need for the border situation to be addressed by the RTGoNU, especially regarding the e-petroleum levy which is affecting the work of humanitarian agencies and the UN through full lifting of fuel levy for UN operations and its contractors.
- 8.10. Inflation has continued to affect livelihoods of all families, soldiers, teachers, healthcare workers and all citizens.

- 8.11. appealed for engagement in democratic processes in good faith where leaders have the ability to bring about meaningful change to the citizens. In that regard, appealed for urgent actions for tackling the economic crisis and ensuring that all members of the NUF are paid, regardless of their ethnic background, as it will build public confidence, and ensure greater stability in South Sudan. IPF pledged continued support to the people of South Sudan and the Parties.

Comments from the Troika

- 8.12. The representative called on the Parties to implement what they agreed to, noting that South Sudanese have suffered for far too long and appealed for meaningful dialogue and progress in the implementation of the R-ARCSS as time was running out. The Troika observed that they were hearing the same list of issues being highlighted by the Government.
- 8.13. In addition, he urged for civic and political space and neutral security forces for the country. The Troika remains disappointed as the 10 questions raised by the Trilateral to the RTGoNU in July 2023 are unanswered to-date. It appealed to the members not to lose sight of the main price and push for meaningful progress in the implementation of the R-ARCSS.
- 8.14. On elections, there is need to ensure that holding it does not lead to relapse in violence. He supported the comments regarding taxation of humanitarian assistance. The reality is that the trucks are still being taxed at the border. This needs to stop.

Statement from EU

- 8.15. The EU representative supported the recommendations of the RJMEC chairperson on the need for the stakeholders to chart the way forward in view of time which is running out.
- 8.16. The outstanding issues raised in July 2023 by the UNMISS/AUMISS and IGAD regarding elections related priorities need to be addressed. The assessment of the UN SG which was reported by the SRSG are priority issues which need to be addressed. The prerequisite for elections remained unattended to and hoped the RTGoNU will consider expediting their implementation.
- 8.17. Funding of the NCRC and the finalization of the work of the JRC are urgent matters. The EU has been one of the financial supporters of the JRC and looks forward to judicial reforms in South Sudan. In that regard, he underscored the importance of the R-ARCSS which needs to be respected. On elections as provided for in the R-ARCSS, partners would need to know what to expect to enable them to plan on the way forward in terms of support to the national institutional architecture.
- 8.18. He commended the Republic of South Africa for the high-level visit to South Sudan and the Republic of Kenya for the launch of the Nairobi-based peace talks with the holdout groups.
- 8.19. Furthermore, he aligned himself with the IPF and the Troika on their remarks on the unresolved issues related to the taxation of humanitarian goods. In conclusion, he observed that the Sudan conflict needs to be addressed.

Comments by the IGAD Special Envoy

- 8.20. The IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan reported that he was participating at the Nairobi-based Tumaini Initiative. He commended the resumption of the talks with the holdout groups and the progress made therein. He, however, expressed concerns on delays in the

disbursement of the funds to the NCRC, fast-tracking unification of forces and the worrisome looming floods in the country resulting from climate change.

- 8.21. The Special Envoy informed of the IGAD sponsorship of two experience sharing workshops, which it facilitated in Juba and plans which were underway for similar activities to be conducted with the NEC and NCRC. The Special Envoy called upon the RTGoNU to provide the needed political and financial support to the Agreement institutions and mechanisms and for expeditious implementation of the R-ARCSS.

Comments by the AUMISS

- 8.22. The AUMISS took note of the statements made earlier; commended the Nairobi Talks, hoping the process would be inclusive and appealed to those who are not yet in the process to join. On unification of forces, AUMISS looked forward to its completion. The member recognized the challenges facing the electoral and constitutional making processes and expressed optimism that these challenges would be addressed before elections. Relatedly, he informed that the AUMISS received a request for electoral support and this was duly submitted to the AUC.
- 8.23. The AU C5 members are seized of the South Sudan peace process and were expected to conduct a solidarity visit to South Sudan in May 2024 but the mission was deferred to June. In addition, the AUPSC planned to visit South Sudan in June 2024. Further, South Sudanese stakeholders were invited by the AUC and were participating in the South Africa elections as part of the African Union Elections Observer Mission (AUEOM). He concluded by reminding the South Sudanese members of RJMEC that what unites them is bigger than what divides them.

Comments by the IGAD Representative/Djibouti

- 8.24. The representative of the Ambassador of Djibouti stated that as South Sudan is scheduled to hold general elections, it requires peace. He welcomed the commencement of the inter-party dialogue; applauded the initial funding disbursement to the elections-related institutions and appealed to partners for additional support for elections, noting further that elections are dependent on security. He therefore noted the urgent need for the RTGoNU to expeditiously complete the unification and full redeployment of the unified forces throughout the country. Furthermore, the member welcomed the recent visit by the President of the Republic of South Africa to the Republic of South Sudan, and the launch of the Nairobi-based Tumaini Initiative. He concluded by reminding the members of how the conflict in the Republic of Sudan has continued to negatively impact refugees and South Sudanese returnees.

Comments by the Business Community

- 8.25. The representative informed that South Sudanese have run out of patience and resilience, and called for coming up with solutions to their suffering. She added that focus should not only be directed to implementation of the Transitional Security Arrangements but also to economic reforms in order to support South Sudanese to have food. The RTGoNU needs to work hard and support the private sector. In that regard, she appealed for a strategy for implementing the South Sudan Vision 2040.

Comments by the Eminent Personality

- 8.26. The representative observed that four years into the Transitional Period, RJMEC remains a very critical forum for policy dialogue. The dialogue on the way forward for elections will create an opportunity for what RJMEC did not have in the plenary for a while. He asked two questions regarding “what next” and “what if not”? On the funding of the mechanisms, it was encouraging that resources to the tune of USD 800,000 have reportedly been allocated to the NCRC. He concluded by making an appeal to all the members to watch the Nairobi Talks seriously as its process was critical, including the direction it would take.

Min. 9/35/24: Reports from Mechanisms on progress in implementation of the R-ARCSS:

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

Reports from the National Election Commission (NEC)

- 9.1. The NEC Chairperson’s report included providing a brief background of the NEC mandate of conducting elections as provided for in the law; informed of the receipt of initial funding from the RTGoNU for elections preparations, which enabled the Commission to visit eight states; developed a draft Elections Calendar and was drafting the Rules and Regulation for elections. The NEC planned for civic education and voter registration. The NEC received capacity building training on Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) organized by UNMISS.
- 9.2. The NEC highlighted its immediate priority areas to include: recruitment and training staff; drafting Rules and Regulation; launching of civic and voter registration; and establishment of a database and electoral management system. However, the challenges facing the Commission include, *inter-alia*, lack of office space and equipment for the NEC headquarters and at the state level, lack of vehicles and capacity at the states. In that regard, the NEC Chairperson appealed to the TNLA to pass the budget for the Commission’s activities.

Report from the National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC)

- 9.3. The Chairperson of the National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) reported that following its reconstitution, the NCRC held consultative meetings, and drafted and validated internal documents at an induction workshop. The UNDP and UNMISS supported its activities including a seminar on federalism. Further, the UNDP supported the NCRC Secretariat with renovation of its meeting hall. However, the main challenges facing the Commission are funding; unreliability of electricity which requires a solar system backup; lack of furniture and lack of resources for nationwide civic education and public consultations in spite of the fact that the Civic Education and Public Consultation Committees have been established.
- 9.4. The Commission appealed to the partners for funding support and for women participation in all the sub-committees for Civic Education and Public Consultation Committees in line with the criteria provided for in the Constitution Making Process Act 2022. Federalism is provided for in both the R-ARCSS and Constitution Making Process Act 2022.

Report from the Political Parties Council (PPC)

- 9.5. The Chairperson of the Political Parties Council (PPC) reported that a pre-election budget of US \$ 5 million (equivalent of SSP 7.66 billion) was received. The PPC received 21 applications from political parties for registration and the Commission endorsed 13 of them which fulfilled all the requirements for full registration, making a total number of the registered political parties in South Sudan as at 23 May 2024 to be 27.
- 9.6. The PPC adopted, endorsed and signed the Political Parties Council Regulation 2015 on 23rd January 2024. The PPC has also finalized and adopted the Political Parties Fund Regulation 2024 on 16th April 2024. In addition, he informed of the allocation of SSP 1.5 billion to the eligible registered political parties. On whether the registration fee of US \$ 75,000, the highest in the region, was prohibitive to political participation of parties, the Chairperson observed that the PPC acts on formal practices and that it had not received any formal complaints to that effect except for documents circulating on social media. He added that Section 31 of the Political Parties Act (PPA) empowers the PPC to make Rules and Regulations. There was therefore need to find out why the PPC set the registration fee at the amount, noting further that Section 18 of the PPA provides for the Chairperson to sign the Regulations and that Schedule 2 provides for conditions for registration of political parties. Whereas the value was set in US \$, payments were to be paid at an applicable rate in the local currency. The PPC will therefore maintain the registration fee amount as is.

Report from the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM)

- 9.7. Maj Gen Hailu Gonfa Eddosa, the outgoing CTSAMVM Chairperson introduced his successor, Maj. Gen. Yitayal Gelaw Bitew as the incoming Chairperson and reported the following:
- 9.7.1. Whilst the permanent ceasefire continued to hold between the signatory parties, there were reported clashes in some areas of the country, including in Minyral in Unity State, Mundri and Tambura in Western Equatoria State and Rokon in Central Equatoria State;
- 9.7.2. No progress was observed towards deployment of Phase I NUF and no concrete steps were taken to prepare for commencement of Phase II despite the visits by the JDB teams to the cantonment sites and training centres;
- 9.7.3. deployed NUF are under the command and control of the existing SSPDF Divisions;
- 9.7.4. Some of the NUF members were receiving salaries;
- 9.7.5. SPLA-IO at Bhari cantonment site received instructions to prepare for Phase II training and the Chief Instructor of Maridi Training Centre was asked to prepare the centre for training of Phase II following the decision of the President and FVP to initiate Phase II training within the next two weeks in May 2024.
- 9.7.6. The SSPDF vacated the Resource Centre in Kajo Keji County but 09 civilian centres were still under military occupation.
- 9.7.7. There was lack of food and medicine at the training centres.

- 9.7.8. Four CTSAMVM and 3 CTC meetings have been held, and seven reports have been discussed and published.
- 9.7.9. CTSAMVM completed the process of downsizing resulting in the closure of the Bor and Torit MVTs.
- 9.7.10. Maj Gen Hailu Gonfa Eddosa's tour of duty to the Republic of South Sudan would come to an end in June 2024.

Report from the Joint Defence Board (JDB)

9.8. The JDB's report highlighted the following:

- 9.8.1. the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement was observed by the Parties, security related challenges in other parts of the country notwithstanding; the JDB high-level delegation recently conducted a peace sensitization mission in Abyei Administrative Area and was supporting the principals in their quest to complete the unification of forces and appointment of the remaining layers of command across the security institutions;
- 9.8.2. the SPLA-IO list was submitted for commissioning and redeployment;
- 9.8.3. JDB is working towards expediting the redeployment of the remaining Phase 1 NUF;
- 9.8.4. food which was distributed to NUF was exhausted and the NTC needed to procure more; and
- 9.8.5. the recurring challenges included lack of funding; logistics for the training centres and assembly areas and the closure of offices at South Sudan Hotel, which undermined the work of the security mechanisms. The JDB is appreciative of all forms of support it received from the RTGoNU, the region and partners.

Report from the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) Board

9.9. The Chairperson of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) Board informed that the Board completed drafting and validation of the security related documents: (a) Strategic Security Assessment (SSA); (b) Security Policy Framework (SPF); (c) Revised Defense Policy (RDP); (d) Security Sector Transformation (SST) Roadmap (e) White Paper on Defense and Security. The next step was to edit the documents before presenting them to the principals of the signatory parties. The Board was preparing to conclude the validation process with a stakeholders' conference on these documents. To that end, the SDSR-B adopted the plan to hold a Security Sector Transformation Conference in May or June 2024.

Report from the Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC)

9.10. The Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC) reported no progress since the last plenary. However, the Committee noted that most of the NUF were still in the Training Centres without any logistics support. The DDR candidates were still there too. Lack of completion of the redeployment of Phase I was directly impacting the commencement of Phase II. This is because the training centres needed to be vacated to create space for Phase II training.

Report from the Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC)

- 9.11. In its report, the Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC) informed of the plan for commencement of Phase II training to include assessment, verification, site clearance, reconstruction of shelters, food delivery and printing registration forms. Further, JMCC reported that it had not received any funding despite requesting the NTC for the same on 24th January 2024.
- 9.12. JMCC and JDB jointly visited the SPLA-IO cantonment sites and confirmed the presence of forces without any logistics support. The Commission concluded by highlighting the main recurrent challenge to include, among others, lack of funding for its operations, and activity implementation.

Report from the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Commission

- 9.13. The DDR reported that JICA facilitated an experiential learning visit for the Commission to a DDR centre in Rwanda. In addition, the Commission participated in a DDR workshop in Cairo, Egypt in March 2024. The Community Violence Reduction (CVR) Pilot project was implemented in Wau and the Commission embarked on profiling ex-combatants in Central Equatoria State with support from a partner for possible scaling up of the CVR project.

Min. 10/35/24: Discussions on Statements and Reports

10. Members welcomed the statement of the RJMEC Chairperson and reports from the RTGoNU, the DSRSG, and the Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms. In addition, the following issues were raised and discussed:
- 10.1. *Business Community:* Regarding the status of implementation of the Roadmap, the inter-party dialogue might take longer than expected. The member wanted clarification on what the RTGoNU representative referred to as “classified” and “sovereign” information. Regarding taxation of humanitarian goods, she appealed to the RTGoNU for tax exemption for humanitarian goods.
- 10.2. *Women Coalition:* The economic situation required public awareness. In that regard, the Ministry of Finance and Planning needed to inform the public on measures it was undertaking to respond to the situation.
- 10.3. *SPLM-IO:* The member wondered why the data on Phase I NUF was conflicting.
- 10.4. *SSOA:* The list of SSOA officers would be submitted to the President on Friday 24th May 2024. He appealed for unification of the forces before registration of political parties. More so, inter-party dialogue needed to be prioritised. The member enquired which actors or institutions between the NEC and political parties were mandated to determine when elections would be conducted.
- 10.5. *JMCC:* The member asked why the JDB deployed NUF before completing the unification of forces.
- 10.6. *FD:* The member asked why the ITGoNU focused in addressing communal violence in Abyei and ignored other conflict in Tambura involving two communities by deploying NUF under SSPDF. In addition, he wondered what happened to the Rome peace process.

10.7. *Academia:* Asked the RTGoNU on the statement that if the Roadmap was not extended, the goal will have to be achieved to explain how such a goal would be achieved without funding.

10.8. In response, the RTGoNU stated that it received information from the NTC which supervises the security mechanisms and there was need to get information from a legitimate source. On civic space, there are over 2,000 national CSOs in the country; regarding the funding for NCRC, it is allocated \$ 800 million through the Ministry of Finance; observed that the security sectors were not handled properly; JRC awaits validation; NCAC is ready to present their final report; on taxation, inexperienced staff issued orders without consultations. The only concern was a contractor making profits and eluding taxes in the name of the diplomatic community.

Min. 11/35/24: Review of the Resolution

11 The resolution was reviewed and the final version is to be shared with the members.

Min. 12/35/24: Date for the Next Meeting

12 It was agreed that date for the 36th RJMEC monthly meeting would be on 27 June 2024.

Min. 13/35/24: A.O.B.

13 There was not any other business discussed.

Min. 14/35/24: Chairperson's Closing Remarks

14 The Chairperson appreciated the members for the constructive engagements in the meeting and encouraged them to always remain seized of RJMEC matters.

Min.15/35/24: Closing Prayers

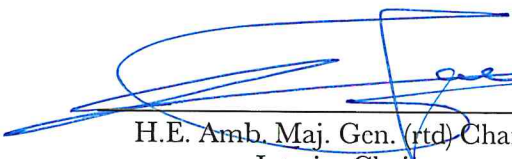
15 Bishop Enock Tombe and Sheik Jaralnebi led the closing prayers, and there being no other business, the 35th RJMEC monthly meeting was adjourned at 15:32 hours.

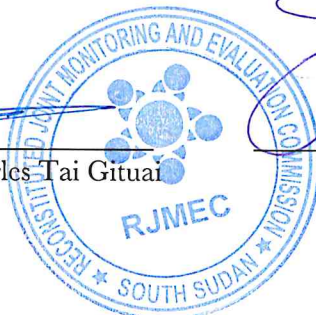
Min.16/35/24: Adoption of the Minutes

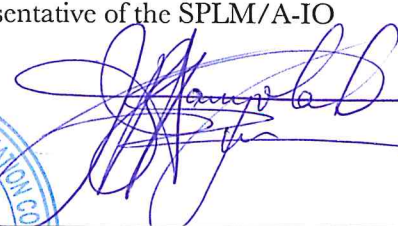
16 The minutes of the 35th RJMEC meeting are proposed, seconded and adopted as the true record of the meeting as follows:

16.1. Proposer: Hon. Gatwech Lam Puoch, representative of the SPLM/A-IO

16.2. Secunder: Hon. Sandra Bona Malwal, representative of the SPLM/A-IO


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




Dr Job Akuni
Ag. Minutes Secretary