



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

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE 36TH MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED JOINT
MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 27TH JUNE 2024 AT
BEIJING JUBA HOTEL, SOUTH SUDAN**

The Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) convened its 36th meeting on 27th June 2024 in Juba, South Sudan from 10:10am. 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 35th 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. Mary Nawai (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. Sheik Dimba Shafic Taban (Faith-based Leader)
2. Ms Acayo Nancy Cirino (Youth).
3. Ms Florence Agiba (Youth)
4. Mrs. Norah Zangabeyo (Women Bloc)
5. Dr Angelina Bazugba (Academia)
6. Mrs. Abuk Jervas (Business Community)
7. Mrs. Achol Ruben (Business Community)
8. Ms. Eva Christo Simon (Women Coalition)
9. Mr. Dabek Mabior Arok (CSO Alliance)
10. Okwera G. Bilingario (CSO Forum)

For the Regional Guarantors:

1. Mr. Rabeh Mohamed (Djibouti)
2. Mr. Somon Mamo (Ethiopia)
3. Mr. John Nyaga (Kenya)
4. Mr. Kabugudho Anthony (Uganda)
5. H.E. Yohannes Tekle Michael (Eritrea)
6. Mr. Tukur Maigari (Nigeria)
7. H.E. Mahlodi Sam Muofhe (South Africa)
8. Dr. Prosper Addo (AUMISS)
9. Mr. Goram Goraish (Sudan)
10. Mr Mearuf Nurhusein (IGAD)

For International Partners and Friends of South Sudan:

1. H.E. Michael Alder (US)
2. Mr. Geraint Rees (UK)
3. Mr. Lars P. Hene (Norway)
4. H.E. Timo Olkkonen (EU)
5. Mr. Hou Xiangyu (China)
6. H.E. Marjan Schippers (IPF)
7. Mr. Guang Cong (UNMISS).

For RJMEC Secretariat:

1. Amb. Berhanu Kebede, Chief of Staff
2. Mr Oola Stephen, Legal and Constitutional Affairs Advisor
3. Ms. Frida Lyaruu (Secretary to the Plenary).

For Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:

1. Lt Gen. Ashhab F. Fahal (JDB)
2. Maj. Gen Charles Machieng (JDB)
3. Maj. Gen. Pal Yiech Lam (JMCC Secretariat)
4. Hon. William Lual (DDR Commission)
5. Maj Gen. Yitayal Gelaw (CTSAMVM)
6. Hon. Dr. Peter James Ladu (PPC)

Observers:

1. H.E Erdem Mutaf (Turkiye)
2. Ms. Mina Watanabe (Japan)
3. Mr. Marius Hochsstrasse (Switzerland)
4. Mr. Saeed Ezzat (Egypt)
5. Ms. Maryam Jaji Sulciman (UNWOMEN)
6. Mr. Leon Kohl (Germany)
7. Ms. Catherine Waliaula (UNDP)
8. H.E. Kossam Mupezani (Zimbabwe)
9. Ms. Florence Achan (UNHCR)

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. 01/36/24: Opening Prayers

1. Mrs. Norah Zangaboi and Sheik Dimba Shafic Taban led the opening prayers.

Min. 02/36/24: Chairperson's Opening Remarks

2. The Chairperson welcomed the members and introduced the H.E. Kossam Mupezeni, newly appointed Ambassador of Zimbabwe to the Republic of South Sudan and an observer member to RJMEC.

Min. 03/36/24: Adoption of the Agenda

3. The agenda was adopted without any amendment.

Min. 04/36/24: Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

4. The minutes of the 35th meeting was reviewed and adopted without amendments. It was proposed, seconded and adopted as the true record of the meeting as follows:
 - 4.1. Proposer: Hon. Gatwech Lam Puoch, representative of the SPLM/A-IO.
 - 4.2. Seconder: Hon. Sandra Bona Malwal, representative of the SPLM/A-IO.

Min. 05/36/24 Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson

5. The RJMEC Interim Chairperson welcomed the members and highlighted how RJMEC is an important platform for assessing progress in the implementation R-ARCSS, receiving reports from the RTGoNU and other Agreement institutions and mechanisms and recommending remedial measures. Furthermore, the Chairperson highlighted the following:
 - 5.1. there is lack of clarity from the RTGoNU and the Parties on elections scheduled for December 2024 against the backdrop of critical elections-related tasks which are unimplemented;
 - 5.2. On inter-party dialogue, the RJMEC awaited the outcome of the meetings of the High-Level Standing Committee of the Parties on the Implementation of the R-ARCSS;
 - 5.3. the RTGoNU Council of Ministers endorsed the NGO Bill 2024. The ad-hoc Judicial Reform Committee final report was pending validation and the RTGoNU needed to expedite its conclusion.
 - 5.4. The negotiating parties at the Tumaini Initiative were urged to engage in good faith dialogue for an inclusive peace process within the R-ARCSS framework;
 - 5.5. The RTGoNU was urged to undertake the following actions: continue sustained inter-party dialogue in a collegial manner, build consensus amongst the Parties and the stakeholders on the way forward on elections, and provide regular updates to the public on the progress of the dialogue; continue availing the requisite resources and logistics to the Agreement institutions and mechanisms to enable them to discharge their mandates; fast-track passing of all the pending bills and operationalise those already enacted by the TNLA; and complete the unification of the mid-level command echelon, redeployment of the unified forces, and commence Phase II NUF training, including the DDR process.

- 5.6. There is a need for the RTGoNU to continuously implement the R-ARCSS tasks, despite the ongoing inter-party dialogue and talks in Nairobi, as much work remained to be done and no time should be wasted.

Min. 06/36/24: Report from the RTGoNU

6. The RTGoNU representative, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, reported behalf of the Minister for Cabinet Affairs that the High-level Standing Committee (HLSC) reviewed and approved the status of implementation of the Roadmap. It was expected the different views of the Parties, develop conclusion(s) and the way forward; the Committee would sign the agreed document and forward the final report to the President. A final political decision will be made by the Presidency, including the leaders of the 42 parties in the R-ARCSS on the conduct of elections in December, 2024. Furthermore, initial funding disbursements were made to NCAC, JRC, NCRC and the National Human Right Council (NHRC) as follows: NCAC, SSP 80,000,000; NCRC, SSP 1,261,120,000; JRC, SSP 369,700,000 and NHRC, SSP 778,200,000. The Minister of Cabinet Affairs, who is also the Secretary General of the HLSC, was preparing his financial report to the Minister of Finance and Planning and was to further request for payment of the second instalments.

Min. 07/36/24: Report from the NTC

7. There was no report received from the NTC.

Min. 08/36/24: Briefing from UNMISS SRSG

8. In the briefing by UNMISS, the SRSG highlighted the following:
- 8.1. Commended the RTGoNU for re-engaging the non-signatory groups and stakeholders through the Tumaini Initiative in Nairobi. UNMISS urged the parties to ensure complementarity between the Tumaini Initiative and interparty dialogue, with the aim to finalize the transition through elections as per the R-ARCSS;
 - 8.2. Informed of the technical support the UN was providing to the NEC, including assessing state-level infrastructure, consulting stakeholders and forming State High Elections Committees. Progress has been made on the electoral security plan.
 - 8.3. UNMISS intensified patrols and engagement with local authorities in Unity State and the Ruweng Administrative Area following cross-border clashes which resulting in death, property damage and civilian displacement.
 - 8.4. The humanitarian and economic conditions are concerning, with 7.1 million people experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity due to climate-related shocks, economic crisis, and conflict. Only 18.3% of the US \$1.8 billion required for the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan was received. The challenging environment for humanitarians was compounded by the 42% increase in humanitarian access incidents in May, with 23 incidents involving violence against humanitarian assets and personnel. The RTGoNU needs to protect these individuals and assets.
 - 8.5. Floods pose a significant threat to communities and security, impacting grazing, population displacement, and agriculture resources. A joint Government-humanitarian community flood preparedness draft plan was presented, targeting 2.4 million people out of 3.3 million. The plan requires US \$269 million, with US \$84 million for mitigation and preparedness activities.

The RTGoNU is encouraged to reinforce its disaster preparedness plans and allocate resources effectively.

- 8.6. The R-ARCSS remains the sole path to lasting peace in South Sudan, with the United Nations with its Trilateral partners (IGAD & AU), and RJMEC committed to supporting and working with the South Sudanese parties.

Statement from the IGAD Special Envoy

- 8.7. The IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan was actively participating in the Tumaini Initiative, supporting the mediation to align the Tumaini Initiative with the R-ARCSS, promoting inclusivity and resolving challenges. Further, H.E. Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, IGAD Executive Secretary and the Special Envoy were monitoring the South Sudan's political situation. He conducted a fact-finding mission to Juba, met with the RTGoNU and prepared a report for the IGAD Summit. A summit of IGAD Heads of State and Government was expected to discuss the South Sudan's political situation and provide necessary support for a free, fair, and transparent elections in December 2024.
- 8.8. In addition, his office, with support from Japan, was assisting the implementation of the R-ARCSS, specifically NEC and NCRC. It further organized an experience sharing conference for the NEC, facilitated two forums for NCRC, and conducted a workshop to familiarize them with constitutional concepts and practices on the constitution-making process.

Statement from the AUMISS

- 8.9. The representative of the AUMISS noted all statements presented earlier. He informed of the solidarity visit of the AU PSC to Juba and commended all stakeholders who were met by the Council, including H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit, and thanked them for their support.
- 8.10. The PSC called for the maintenance of peace, security and stability in the country, and the members expressed their hope that the Nairobi talks and the inter-party dialogue would help the parties reach consensus through dialogue towards a peaceful transition. All stakeholders should therefore keep in mind the needs of the people of South Sudan in order to ensure an inclusive and peaceful peace process and transition.

Comments by the Civil Society Alliance

- 8.11. The High-Level Standing Committee (HLSC) has made progress in addressing the payment of Agreement institutions, including NCAC, JRC and NCRC. Other peace mechanisms also need to be facilitated to fulfill their mandates. It is commendable that the parties are committed to hold a ceasefire since last year without serious violations and welcomed the formation of a High Election Committee by the NEC for 10 states and three Administrative Areas. The regional guarantors, international partners friends and neighbours of South Sudan to support and advance peace and security in South Sudan.

Comments by the Youth

- 8.12. The representative commended RJMEC members for their efforts towards peace and stability in South Sudan, noting how complex the challenges facing the R-ARCSS are. Despite positive developments like the deployment of the NUF, significant challenges remain such as limited funding to critical institutions, renewed violence in some parts of the country such as

Abyei, Warrap and Unity, Upper Nile States, delayed salaries, inflation, worsening humanitarian crises and internal displacement, which pose a serious threat to the transition.

- 8.13. The rising living costs and high unemployment rates call for immediate action to cushion the public and policies promoting quality education, vocational training, and job creation to empower youth and promote resilience. Conditions for peaceful participation in democratic processes, particularly in the constitution-making and elections processes need to be created,
- 8.14. Furthermore, the level of preparedness for the upcoming elections was inadequate, with tasks like the permanent constitution, security arrangements, and voter registration lagging behind. The nation faces security challenges like violence, recruitment of child soldiers, and conflict-related sexual violence. There is need for dialogue between parties and armed groups to build trust and to find a sustainable resolution with non-signatories to the R-ARCSS.
- 8.15. The transition to a peaceful democratic end in South Sudan can be achieved by addressing gaps and working with RJMEC and stakeholders. The RJMEC should continue its work, ensuring youth voices are integrated into peace implementation and nation-building. Together, they can overcome challenges and achieve a peaceful, united and thriving South Sudan.

Comments by the Women Bloc

- 8.16. The member expressed concerns regarding delayed unification of forces to enable organized forces to be under one Commander-in-Chief, lack of political and civic space as key challenges to the elections, as scheduled. Economic hardship has resulted in mushrooming of street children. Also, climate change is affecting many families, particularly due to floods. The Nairobi peace process is welcome, however, its boycott by some groups was worrisome. Inter-communal violence in Western Equatoria State is affecting farming which may cause hunger in the State for the first time. There is need for accountability of those causing atrocities.

Comments by the South Africa

- 8.17. The South African Ambassador informed of the peaceful democratic elections in South Africa and its outcomes where the ANC majority was reduced to below 50%. The ANC accepted the outcome and was engaging with other parties, which provides a good example to South Sudan. The South African President encouraged the principals of South Sudan to continue ensuring that the country goes for elections in December 2024. South Africa continues to engage the government of South Sudan so see the best way South Africa could help in whatever the country needed in preparations for the elections.

Comments by the IPF

- 8.18. The IPF representative welcomed the observations made on the Nairobi peace talks and urged for inclusivity for lasting peace in South Sudan. There is need for progress on the inter-party dialogue and continued implementation of the R-ARCSS and Roadmap, and appealed to the RTGoNU to provide clarity on the timeframe. Further, the parties were encouraged to compromise and reconcile on the middle command structure NUF. A serious concern regards communal violence in many parts of the country, which threatens the R-ARCSS and disrupts livelihoods. The RTGoNU needs to consider disarmament of civilians and to ensure that the organized forces do not take sides in localized violence.
- 8.19. Another concern is about South Sudan's economy, particularly the resilience of women and youth amidst inflation and high living costs. In that regard, the 2024/25 fiscal year budget

process needs to be expedited, including transparent public finance management. The signing of the WASH compact by the President is commendable. The IPF is a major donor to the WASH sector in South Sudan. The RTGoNU needs to implement provisions of the R-ARCSS on natural resource management for sustainable development. Further, the RTGoNU is coordinating preparedness for flooding, aimed at preventing loss of lives and livelihoods. The coordination should also be with the UN and the international community.

Statement from the EU

8.20. The EU representative welcomed the recommendations of the RJMEC Chair. He also informed the RJMEC members that the EU countries would be holding elections with 200 million people voting for the European Parliament.

Statement from the Troika

8.21. The representative emphasized the importance of peace and the need for genuine, peaceful elections in South Sudan. The RTGoNU needs to create conditions that facilitate the elections, promote peace, human rights and democracy.

8.22. Troika's engagements with South Sudan began before independence and are based on values such as peace, human rights, democracy, and government responsibility. The RTGoNU was urged to align with these values by conducting genuine, peaceful elections, ensuring political and civic space, training neutral forces, funding electoral institutions, and rejecting violence. Further, the RTGoNU is to demonstrate alignment with the Troika values by transparently using public revenue to fund public needs and protecting its population from violence, including SGBV, to demonstrate a sincere commitment to peace and a better future for all South Sudanese people

8.23. There is need for the leadership-level inter-party dialogue to facilitate genuine and peaceful elections. Also, there is need to ensure all humanitarian and diplomatic cargoes are free of taxes and fees, and to simplify exemptions to reduce administrative burdens. Taxing humanitarian assistance diverts aid away from needy South Sudanese people, delaying governance and elections planning. In that regard, the RTGoNU needs to make public revenue available for humanitarian response.

8.24. South Sudan's independence in 2011 raised expectations for a government that upholds peace, human rights, democracy, and the right to choose leaders. However, failure to hold genuine and peaceful elections will be a shared responsibility, and history will judge leaders who fail to act. There is therefore need for all of us to stand with the South Sudanese people and support their better future. In conclusion, the representative asked whether political leaders could count on their support.

Min. 9/36/24: Reports from Institutions and Mechanisms on progress in implementation of the R-ARCSS:

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

Report from the Political Parties Council (PPC)

9.1. The PPC priority areas include the processes for political parties' registration and election-related processes, the strengthening of political parties' capacities, promotion of transparency of PPC decisions through public information, and empowerment of political parties through

sensitization and education, facilitating engagement in the electoral process. The Council prepared a work plan based on the pre-election budget allocation of SSP 22,069,950,000 and SSP 7,670,650.10 SSP in April 2024.

- 9.2. Since the previous plenary, two additional political parties were approved by the Council, the council occupied new headquarters in Hai Malakal, Juba, South Sudan. State visits would be undertaken in July and August to introduce the PPC's mandate and policy, roles and responsibilities, and establish a coordination mechanism. Training for PPC staff and IT personnel on the electronic registration system has also been earmarked.
- 9.3. The PPC participated in a workshop on dialogue with CSOs, security sector, and political parties in Central Equatoria State, organized by UNMISS-PAD. In June, the PPC organized a capacity building workshop on sensitization of women members of political parties on their participation in the electoral process. The PPC also engaged in strategic discussions with peace and development partners.
- 9.4. The PPC planned to open its national Headquarters in Juba, launching PPC visits, appointing state coordinators, registering political parties and mergers/coalition, and engaging with partners for better coordination and collaboration.

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

- 9.5. The CTSAMVM Chairperson reported that since the last meeting, no serious ceasefire incidents had occurred between Parties to the Agreement. However, CTSAMVM was concerned about recurring incidents that may impact the peace process such as increased NAS activities in Lasu Payam and Yei County, targeting young youth for conscription. NAS elements abducted 28 civilians in Morobo County, 4 escaped, and 24 were intercepted at the DR- Congo border. On 12 June 2024, NAS ambushed a commercial vehicle, killing the driver and injuring an SSPDF soldier.
- 9.6. CTSAMVM had not received any updates on the deployment of NUF, except for the 6 Battalions of the military graduates. No police, NSS, Civil Defence, Wildlife, or Prison Service Phase 1 graduates were deployed. Commanders at Cantonment Sites and Training Centers reported a dire situation with lack of food, medicines and logistical requirements. Urgent action was needed for credible NUF to secure planned elections
- 9.7. There are nine occupied civilian houses. The CTSAMVM will continue to monitor and report on this issue. CTSAMVM held only 1 Technical Committee meeting, and an interim report about a fighting incident between Unity State Governor's convoy protection team and SPLA-IO in Jamus/Barkuor was yet to be discussed.
- 9.8. Despite delays in some CTSAMVM investigations due to resource and logistical constraints, the mechanism is operating optimally. The rotation of International Observers was expected until August 2024.

Report from the Joint Defence Board (JDB)

- 9.9. The JDB's report highlighted that the Parties to the R-ARCSS were observing the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement; security challenges were experienced in parts of the country, including communal conflicts in Western Equatoria State and Ruweng Administrative Area and Unity State. The SSPDF deployed some NUF to contain the security situation in Ruweng Administrative Area and contribute to the return of stability; and JDB awaited assurances

from the Principals of the Parties to the Agreement to finalize the unification of the remaining layers of the command across security institutions.

- 9.10. The JDB was collaborating with Organized Forces leadership to expedite the deployment of NUF; the food items distributed to the NUFs was exhausted; the deployment of the NUF was hindered by lack of funds; training centers and assembly areas were running out of medicines and food; and the offices of the Security Mechanisms at the South Sudan Hotel were closed. Finally, the officers and instructors in the R-ARCSS security mechanisms have not been paid since 2019.

Report from the Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC)

- 9.11. The 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. The JMCC appealed for support from the NTC, RJMEC, CTSAMVM and UNMISS to facilitate their members to visit all assembling points, and to deliver food to cantonments and Training Centers. It also appealed to the RTGoNU for funding for its operations, and activity implementation.

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

- 9.12. The Community Violence Reduction (CVR) Pilot Project in Wau, Western Bahr el Ghazal state is set to end in mid-July 2024. The DDRRC launched a profiling exercise targeting 2,000 ex-combatants in Central Equatoria State resulting in the profiling of 1,700 ex-combatants. The assessment covers training centers in Rejaf, Rombur, and Lologo. The profiling project was funded by UNMISS.
- 9.13. The DDR Commission faces funding challenges, and lack of focus while the current mandate of the UNMISS doesn't allow the department for Peacekeeping Operations to support DDR process. All stakeholders and donors could consider supporting the implementation of the CVR as the only viable way to stabilise the security, in lieu of classical DDR process.

Min. 10/36/24: 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. *RJMEC*: Asked for clarity regarding Political Parties registrations given that so far only 27 parties had registered with the PPC. A question was raised as to whether all the 27 registered parties had paid the stipulated registration fee amounting to \$ 75,000. What was the process for the unregistered parties, and when would be the deadline for registration of parties?
- 10.2. *PPC*: Informed members that the registration of the Political Parties in South Sudan was a continuous process with no limitations, and parties were welcomed to register. However, there was a limitation with regards to elections, whereas parties aspiring for elections are required to register 180 days before election (equivalent to 6 months) which was end of June 2024. The Political Parties Council was following the PPC Act as per Sections 6 & 7 which requires parties to be fully registered and a legal entity.

- 10.3. *RJMEC*: Asked for clarity from the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs on the status of the CTRH, CRA and the National Security Service Bills pending in Parliament.
- 10.4. *RTGONU*: Informed members that the CTRH, CRA and the National Security Service Bills were expected to be tabled during the first week of July 2024.
- 10.5. *Women Bloc*: Questioned if the PPC held a workshop to acquaint the political parties on the rules and regulations on how to form a party and the requirement needed for registration to avoid conflicts. Expressed the lack of civic education on the frameworks and policies to educate the public to understand the work of the PPC. This was also an issue in DDR were soldiers and people who do not qualify to be soldiers could approach the DDR and redirect their minds and energy in other areas and for the DDR to link the soldiers with other institutions. Called on the NGO forum to reconsider including local organisations or the smaller groups in building their capacities in fostering sustainability of the programs.
- 10.6. *Academia*: Highlighted the Anti-Gender Based Violence (GBV) bill that is still pending in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs with no update as to when it will be tabled in Parliament; and The Women's Empowerment Bill which is critical to safeguarding the gender provisions, in the R-ARCSS and protect women against violence in general and during elections. Otherwise, it will deter many female aspirants from participating. Raised her concern on the recent appointment by the NEC in the states with a lack of women appointees in key decision-making positions, expressing that parties and appointing authorities need to be reminded to adhere to R-ARCSS requirements.
- 10.7. Asked the PPC representative to share the list of registered political parties to communicate with constituencies during the civic education exercise.
- 10.8. Raised concerns on the land grabbing and conflict in different areas of Juba in Central Equatoria. Highlighted the need for the Ministry of Land to address the issues ahead of elections to minimize potential insecurities. Requested the RJMEC Chair to invite the Minister of Land to attend the plenary to highlight the policies in place to curb the issue ahead of elections.
- 10.9. Requested NEC to highlight the electoral calendar/ timeline, to prepare for civic and voter education prior to election. Additionally, she requested the RTGoNU to regularly update the citizens on the Nairobi Peace talks and whether there would be an election or not.
- 10.10. Requested NEC to provide guidelines/clarity as to whether organisations providing civic and voter education will have to be accredited by NEC and what are the requirements.
- 10.11. *Women Coalition*: underscore what was expressed by the academia with regards to the pending critical benchmarks of the R-ARCSS, the Tumaini Initiative process and the Inter-party dialogue versus the election, given that the government only had six months left before embarking on election. Called for clarity on the way forward and a sense of agency to implement the pending critical benchmarks for a peaceful election.
- 10.12. *SPLM/A-IO*: Asked on what measures had been put in place to accommodate Political Parties that had a military wing, and which are restricted by the Act. Further, wanted clarity on the \$75 000 fees to be paid to the PPC for registration. Highlighted that there was need to follow up on the attendance of the RJMEC members to the monthly meeting. Questioned the presence of the Media in the RJMEC meeting if it was based on only covering the few dignitaries attending the meeting or whether it was lack of political will. The lack of funding to the mechanisms was critical and needed to be addressed and follow

up on NTC who have been absconding. Commended the inter-party dialogue which needed to be clear whether there would be an election or an extension of the R-ARCSS. Emphasised the need for the Chairperson of NEC to respond on the lack of women representation to the established state offices and redo the appointment. Echoed that the Tumaini Initiative must understand their mandate and the outcome of the talks should be an Annex to the R-ARCSS. Called on the need to replace women relieved in executive positions with another woman.

- 10.13. *PPC*: Informed members that the PPC had a website with all the information on how political parties could register, and they were also welcome to visit the Political Parties Council offices for further clarity. PPC had so far only registered two new Political Parties which has since been gazetted in the News Papers as required. Meanwhile, the remaining 27 whose registration process was underway before passage of the new legislation are considered to have been registered and not subject to the \$75 000 registration fees. Urged all Political Parties, and CSOs to visit their offices to acquaint themselves with the PPC Act. Reiterated that fees to register a Political Party was still the same, \$50,000 for the provisional licence and \$ 25,000 for registration.
- 10.14. Highlighted that as per Section 6 and 7 of the PPC Act it states clearly that no political party with a military wing would be allowed to register which remains as per the Law. He promised to report on the names of the two political parties in the next RJMEC plenary, however, the two registered parties were gazette in the newspaper.
- 10.15. Member asked why the ITGoNU was focused in addressing communal violence only in Abyei by deploying NUF under SSPDF and ignored other conflict in Tambura involving two communities. In addition, he wondered what happened to the Rome peace process.
- 10.16. *South Africa*: Asked CTSAMVM to share and clarify on the drivers killed in Yei, an area which seemed to have been peaceful a month ago. Advised the mechanism to give information that were clear to the RJMEC plenary.
- 10.17. *Faith-Based Leader*: questioned whether the Political Parties Council is supporting the Political Parties to be sustainable given that they endure lack of civic and political space to speak publicly and if they tried to do so could find themselves in trouble with the authorities. Shared concerns on how the country would go for election in December 2024 with stalled deployment of the NUF while other states faced insecurity such as the Morobo, Panyume area.
- 10.18. *OPP*: raised concerns on the suffering endured by the security mechanisms whose forces continue to be without medicine, food items and other logistical equipment's etc. Tasked the RJMEC Chairperson to follow up on the names of the middle echelon that had been submitted by the JDB to the principals, yet no action had been taken by the principals and questioned if it was lack of political will.
- 10.19. *JDB*: Informed members that the list for the middle echelon from the SSPDF, SPLM/A-IO and SSOA had been submitted to the party principals and not the Presidency. Expressed that the mechanisms were suffering with no clarity from the NTC on funding. Expressed that if the mechanisms were supported and funded, they would have been able to deploy the forces in all the unsecured areas. Appealed to the RJMEC Chairperson to follow up on the funding for the mechanisms.
- 10.20. *Youth representative*: echoed the incident of the Minister for Cabinet Affairs summoned by the Speaker concerning the status of the peace implementation funds of the Peace Agreement

and whether the diverted funds had been returned to allow the implementation of the R-ARCSS to continue or their government would look for other funds. Raised concerns on the status of the country when funds are diverted by the same government.

- 10.21. *JMCC*: Asked for clarity from the PPC if there would be an election if the main political parties of the R-ARCSS with military wing were restricted to be registered by the PPC Act.
- 10.22. *FD*: asked the JDB to refrain from answering questions for which they had no mandate since the SSPDF had a logistics and procurement department despite these forces suffering in cantonment sites and training centres. Expressed that with only six months left to elections, the critical benchmarks had not been implemented such as the deployment of the unified forces, and lack of a Permanent Constitution to govern elections. However, he had observed people gearing towards extension of the R-ARCSS. Additionally, expressed that election could not be conducted since the number of the forces deployed was only 6 battalions. He also requested to be informed on the remaining number of the graduated forces and whether the SPLM/IG had been registered when it has an armed wing the SSPDF, National Security and Police.
- 10.23. *CTSAMVM*: advised those who wanted more clarity on the CTSAMVM reports to visit their offices for more information.
- 10.24. *RTGoNU*: Informed members that the Transitional government was aware of the economic situation in the country and were committed to foresee that the citizens lived in peace and can provide for their families. Underscored that the transitional government was promoting a multiparty system hence she believes that there was political and civic space in the country.
- 10.25. Reported that the issue of Climate Change has been addressed by the Ministries of Environmental Affairs, Water and Humanitarian Affairs in collaboration with the partners. Highlighted that Nairobi Talks was expected to bring a good outcome and thanked all the partners who were in support of the talks.
- 10.26. Took note of the issues concerning Gender Based Violence whereas the Council of Ministers had passed guidelines on GBV. However, she would follow up with the Ministry on the GBV Bills. Expressed the need for more awareness on pushing for the appointment of women and called upon RJMEC to intervene in addressing the issue and ensuring that the 35% participation of women quota was implemented. Requested the members to await the decision of the inter-party dialogue in a few weeks to come.
- 10.27. Informed members that the RTGoNU was still aiming at having election by December 2024 and appealed to members to give the government time to finalise and share the way forward. Urged members to avail more time to the principles to finalise the appointment of the middle echelon.
- 10.28. *JDB*: Informed members that the 6-battalion deployed by the JDB included the organised forces only in the hot spots with insecurity. The JDB deployed forces to different places who were not coming from the same areas. Additionally, reminded members that deployment of the NUF required funding which limited forces to remain in training centres. Further, the organised forces such as Wildlife, Police, Fire Brigade, Prisons, and Civil defence all were still in the training centres due to lack of resources.

- 10.29. *Youth*: expressed her expectation to get clarity on the inter-party dialogue as promised by the Minister for Cabinet Affairs. Further questioned as to why the govt had funds for election but does not have funds to support the mechanism.
- 10.30. *SPLM/A-IO*: commended the Republic of South Africa for a peaceful election. However, as for South Sudan the date had not yet been announced, which creates a vacuum on whether it would happen or there would be an extension. Appealed to the President of South Sudan to state clearly the date of election. Raised a concern on the presentation of the budget for South Sudan which as stipulated by the Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan under Article 87, shall be from the 1st of July to the 30th of June of the fiscal year. To date, the budget had not been presented in the Parliament for discussion while for the past nine months civil servants have not been t paid salaries. Appealed to the RJMEC to follow up.
- 10.31. Informed members that on the 6th of June the TNLA summoned the Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Minister of Finance and Planning, and the Governor of the Central Bank to confirm if it was evident that US \$10 million had been transferred to the account of the Minister for Cabinet Affairs by the Central Bank. The funding was to facilitate the implementation of the priorities provision of the RACSS and the Roadmap with the following allocation: (i). NCRC US \$1,871,340; (ii). Constitutional-making process US \$ 3,583,887.73; (iii). National Human Rights Council \$ 1,052,000.00 (iv). Judicial Reform Committee US \$ 999,380; (vi) 2022/2023 Roadmap Arrears US \$ 1,000,000; (v) Popularization of the Agreement on the Roadmap (R-ARCSS) US \$ 945,871.57. In that regard, it was the right of the member to request for clarity in the RJMEC meeting.
- 10.32. The inter-party dialogue had made progress by reviewing the Roadmap which would be presented to the Presidency on Monday 1st of July 2024. Informed that the SPLM/A-IO was following the Tumaini Initiative which was reopening the R-ARCSS. In that regard the SPLM/A-IO wrote of its concern to the mediators that the R-ARCSS should not be opened for negotiation. However, they could only highlight and identify the areas not implemented in the R-ARCSS and share their contribution as Annex to the R-ARCSS.
- 10.33. Expressed a concern on the South Sudan economic situation particularly the oil pipeline of the two routes that transported oil from Poloch to Port Sudan, and another from Upper Nile to Port Sudan which were both shut down. This brought a concern since there was no clarity as to when the war in Sudan would end while the government of South Sudan had declared the event as a force majeure. The SGBV law and Women Empowerment bills are important in South Sudan to curb the cultural norms that were harsh to women and infringed their rights. Appealed to the RJMEC Chair to intervene and engage the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs on the matter.
- 10.34. *Sudan*: Commended the inter-party dialogue, however, hopes they would come up with recommendations on the way forward. He clarified the information on the two oil pipelines claimed to have been closed. That there was no line owned by Barco that had been under closure due to the war in Sudan but rather it was caused by a technical issue. However, the other oil pipeline was still working. Echoed that the line of Barco had resumed the production of oil in Khartoum. Further, a delegation from Barco line were in Juba to discuss the date of resumption of the oil production.
- 10.35. *RJMEC Chairperson*: Underscore that as per Article 7.6 of the R-ARCSS all the institutions and mechanisms are to submit reports to the RJMEC monthly meeting for discussion. Appealed to the institutions and mechanism to attend the RJMEC monthly meeting even

when it means there was no progress. Further, highlighted that neither the Nairobi Peace Process nor the inter-party dialogue should obstruct the implementation of the R-ARCSS.

- 10.36. Informed members that the RTGoNU was representing and having a discussion with the hold-out groups and in that regard we ought to trust the process. Highlighted that the implementation of the R-ARCSS was critical which would negate the issue of political parties with military wings being fully registered once the forces are unified and deployed under one Commander in Chief. Called on the members to discuss the results coming out of the inter-party dialogue and the Nairobi Peace Process and be able to vote the same way they extended the R-ARCSS.

Min. 11/36/24: Review of the Resolution

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

Min. 12/36/24: Date for the Next Meeting

- 12 It was agreed that date for the 37th RJMEC monthly meeting would be on 25 July 2024.

Min. 13/36/24: A.O.B.

- 13 There was not any other business discussed.

Min. 14/36/24: 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. Appealed to members to attend the RJMEC plenaries which helps to assess the implementation of the R-ARCSS.

Min.15/36/24: Closing Prayers

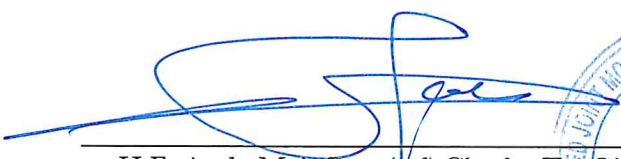
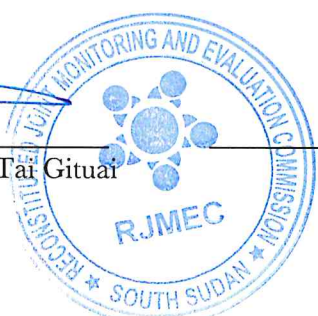
- 15 Mrs. Nurah Zangaboi and Sheik Dimba Shafic Taban led the closing prayers, and there being no other business, the 36th RJMEC monthly meeting was adjourned at 14:15 hours.

Min.16/36/24: Adoption of the Minutes

- 16 The minutes of the 36th RJMEC meeting are proposed, seconded and adopted as the true record of the meeting as follows:

16.1. Proposer: Gen Bior Leek Kwaren, FD Representative

16.2. Secunder: Ms. Margareth Lukurnyang, SSOA Representative

		
H.E. Amb. Maj. Gen. (rtd) Charles Tai Gituai Interim Chairperson		Ms. Frida Lyaruu Secretary to the Plenary