

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

**MINUTES OF THE 3RD EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE RECONSTITUTED
JOINT MONITORING AND EVALUATION COMMISSION HELD ON 18TH
SEPTEMBER 2024 AT BEIJING JUBA HOTEL, SOUTH SUDAN**

The Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) convened its 3rd RJMEC Extraordinary meeting on 18th September 2024 in Juba, South Sudan from 10:09am. 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. Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson
5. Presentation by the RTGoNU
6. Deliberation by RJMEC Members
7. Decision making by members on R-ARCSS Extension
8. Review of the Resolution
9. Chairperson's Closing Remarks
10. Closing Prayers.

Attendance:

For the Parties to the R-ARCSS:

1. Hon. Dr. Martin Elia Lomuro (ITGoNU)
2. Hon. Mary Nawai (ITGoNU)
3. Hon. Michael Chingchieng (ITGoNU)
4. Hon. Dr. Joseph Geng Akech (ITGoNU)
5. Hon. Dr. Nadia Arop Dudi (ITGoNU)
6. Hon. Stephen Par Kuol (SPLM/A- IO)
7. Hon. Sandra Bona Malwal (SPLM/A-IO)
8. Hon. Margaret Girma Lukurnyang (SSOA)
9. Maj. Gen. Bior Leek Kuareng (FD)
10. Hon. Wilson Lodiong Sebit (OPP)

For the Other South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents:

1. The Most Rev. Moses Deng Bol (Faith Based)
2. Sheik Dr. Abdallah Barag Rwal (Faith-based Leader)
3. Prof. Moses Macar (Eminent Personalities)
4. Ms Acayo Nancy Cirino (Youth).
5. Ms Florence Agiba (Youth)
6. Hon. Mary Akech (Women Bloc)
7. Dr. Angelina Bazugba (Academia)
8. Mrs. Yar Manoa Majok (Business Community)
9. Mr. John Lual Akol Akol (Business Community)
10. Ms. Eva Christo Simon (Women Coalition)
11. Mr. Akuoch Ajang Nyanhom (CSO Alliance)

12. Mr. Taban A. Christopher (CSO Forum)

For the Regional Guarantors:

1. Mr. Rabeh Mohamed (Djibouti)
2. H.E Nebil Mahdi (Ethiopia)
3. H.E Jeremy Ndola (Kenya)
4. H.E Ronnie Balya (Uganda)
5. H.E Yohannes Tekle Michael (Eritrea)
6. Mr. Tukur Maigari (Nigeria)
7. Mr. Luvuyo Mato (South Africa)
8. Dr. Prosper Addo (AUMISS)
9. H.E Isam Kamar (Sudan)
10. H.E Ismail Wais (IGAD)

For International Partners and Friends of South Sudan:

1. H.E. Michael J. Alder (US)
2. H.E. Guy Warrington (UK)
3. H.E. Roar Haugsdal (Norway)
4. H.E Ma Quiang (China)
5. Mr. Lothar Jaschke (EU)
6. H.E. Joanne Minns (IPF)
7. Prof. Nicholas Haysom (UNMISS).

For RJMEC Secretariat:

1. Amb. Berhanu Kebede, Chief of Staff
2. Dr. Thomson Fontaine, Deputy Chief of Staff - Strategy
3. Ms. Frida Lyaruu (Secretary to the Plenary).

For Agreement Institutions and Mechanisms:

1. Hon. Puot Kang Chol (HLSC)
2. Ustaz. Stephen Wiw Bichok (NTC)
3. Lt Gen. Gabriel Duop Lam (JDB)
4. Lt. Gen Rabi Emmanuel (JDB)
5. Maj. Gen Charles Machieng (JDB)
6. Hon. Angelina Teny (SDSR Board)
7. Mr. Angelo Madut (SDSR Board)
8. Lt. Gen Koang Gatkuoth Keojok (JMCC)
9. Maj. Gen John Aban (JMCC)
10. Maj. Gen Buda John Aban (JMCC)
11. Maj. Gen. Pal Yiech Lam (JMCC Secretariat)
12. Lt. Gen. Wesley Welebe Samson (JTSC)
13. Lt. Gen. Dr. Olaw Adiang Nijok (JTSC)
14. Hon. William Lual (DDR Commission)
15. Maj Gen. Yitayal Gelaw (CTSAMVM)
16. Prof. Abednego Akok (NEC)
17. Hon. Dr. Rieng Yar n Zuor (NCRC)
18. Hon. Dr. Peter James Ladu (PPC) Hon. Lona Elia
19. Hon. Ayuen Alier (DDR)
20. Hon. Regina Joseph kapa (DDR)

Observers:

1. H.E Erdem Mutaf (Turkiye)
2. H.E Toshio Odagari (Japan)
3. Mr. Johan Gely (Switzerland)
4. H.E Motaz Abdel Kader (Egypt)
5. H.E Vishnu Kumar Sharma (India)
6. Ms. Maryam Jaji Suleiman (UNWOMEN)
7. H.E. Christian Sedat (Germany)
8. Mr. Mohamed Abchir (UNDP)
9. H.E. Kossam Mupezeni (Zimbabwe)
10. Ms. Wanjiku Nyoike (UNHCR)
11. H.E. Moheildin Salim (Arab League)

List of Acronyms

CRA	Compensation and Reparation Authority
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. 01/3/24: Opening Prayers

1. The Most Rev. Moses Deng Bol and Sheik Dr. Abdallah Barag Rwal led the opening prayers.

Min. 02/3/24: Chairperson's Opening Remarks

2. The Chairperson welcomed the members to the 3rd extraordinary meeting.

Min. 03/3/24: Adoption of the Agenda

3. The agenda was adopted without any amendment.

Min. 04/3/24 Statement by the RJMEC Interim Chairperson

4. The RJMEC Interim Chairperson:
 - 4.1. convened the 3rd Extraordinary Meeting to consider the decision of the Parties to the R-ARCSS to extend the Transitional Period of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) for 24 months from February 22nd, 2025, to February 22nd, 2027. Highlighted that RJMEC was responsible for monitoring and overseeing the implementation of the Agreement and the mandate and tasks of the RTGoNU, including adherence to agreed timelines and schedules. The Revitalized Agreement may be amended as per Article 8.4 by the Parties, with at least two-thirds of the Council of Ministers and voting members of the RJMEC consenting to the amendment, followed by ratification by the Transitional National Legislature;
 - 4.2. the South Sudanese Government had made progress in implementing the Roadmap, including reconstitution and operationalization of critical election institutions, review and amendment of remaining laws, registration of new political parties, and enactment of revised laws. Appointment of the non-commissioned police officers into the South Sudan National Police Service (SSNPS) and the Strategic Defense and Security Review (SDSR) draft policy documents had also been completed. The revised NGO Act Amendment Bill had been endorsed by the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) Council of Ministers, and a Durable Solutions Framework had been approved. Reforms were ongoing in resource, economic, and public finance management, with the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority (PPDA) being created and functional, several bills passed by the TNLA including the Public Financial Management and Accountability Act (PFMA), Anti-Corruption Act, Bank of South Sudan, and Banking Acts. The Ministry of Justice had completed a countrywide consultation on Transitional Justice and Accountability; and
 - 4.3. expressed concerns over the slow pace and limited progress in completing critical requirements for elections and the lack of sufficient funding for the implementation of the Agreement. Highlighted that in March 2024, they requested the Parties to the R-ARCSS to dialogue on the way forward to ensure free, fair, and credible elections in a timely manner. Any extension without guaranteed funding is not likely to result in a successful outcome. Called upon the RTGoNU to demonstrate how funding and other recurrent challenges will be remedied to ensure the completion of critical tasks and elections. Invited all RJMEC voting members to deliberate on the Parties' decision to extend the Transitional Period from 22nd February 2025 to 22nd February 2027.

Min. 05/3/24: Presentation by the RTGoNU

5. The RTGoNU representative, presented the report as follows:

- 5.1. on August 13, 2024, the High-Level Standing Committee (HLSC) presented the Explanatory Note on the Status of Implementation of the roadmap to an expanded presidency meeting, detailing completed, in progress, and outstanding tasks of the security sector mechanisms and electoral institutions. The expanded presidency meeting directed the HLSC to call the concerned Security Mechanisms and Elections-related Institutions to provide updates on the implementation status for a final decision on elections. The concerned institutions presented updated reports highlighting challenges, drew a realistic budget and timeframe for completing tasks in progress and outstanding ones requesting for more time to complete important of tasks before the elections;
- 5.2. Parties had different proposals; i) The ITGoNU Parties considered three options for South Sudan's elections: using the 2010 elections framework, extending the Transitional Period by 12 months, and splitting elections into two phases; ii) The SPLM/A-IO believed the country was not ready for elections and recommended an extension of the Transitional Period by 24 to 36 months; iii) SSOA supported elections but suggested dialogue and consensus on how to conduct them due to incomplete provisions of the R-ARCSS and roadmap; iv) OPP and FDs supported the ITGoNU's position on splitting elections into phases, with phase-1 being Presidential and Gubernatorial Elections and phase-2 being Parliamentary and Local Government Elections. Underscored that Parties rejected the first two options in favour of option-3;
- 5.3. the Parties to the agreement reported a significant improvement in peace and security since the signing of the agreement in September 2018 and the roadmap in August 2022. The sporadic skirmishes and road attacks by non-signatory rebel forces in Equatoria and Upper Nile was significantly reduced by the SSPDF and Opposition forces while sporadic insecurity among communities was manageable. Emphasize the importance of maintaining peace, security, and political stability in South Sudan, aiming to achieve permanent peace, security, and political stability through secure elections;
- 5.4. despite the slow implementation of most provisions, the Parties acknowledge the achievements made during this period. The High-Level Standing Committee noted that security sector mechanisms and elections-related institutions had not completed their mandates, requesting more time and reliable funding to ensure peaceful and democratic elections which was approved by the presidency; and
- 5.5. the RTGoNU expressed that it had followed the process of amending the R-ARCSS as outlined under Article 8.4. The RTGoNU presented the elections postponement/delay endorsement to the RJMEC before proceeding with the amendment of the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (TCRSS), 2011 (as Amended). Urged RJMEC voting members to vote in favour of the presentation to maintain peace and security in South Sudan and prepare for peaceful, free, fair, credible, and democratic elections in December 2026.

Min. 6/3/24: Decision making by members on R-ARCSS Extension:

6. The Members welcomed the statement of the RJMEC Chairperson and reports from the RTGoNU, and decided as follows:
 - 6.1. *CSO Alliance*: Commended the members of how important the meeting was to the South Sudanese people who had suffered from 1964 until they attained independence in 2011. It was time for those representing to give back to the community the leaders they aspired to have by putting the peoples' interests first. Endorsing the document would allow for a legitimate government and protecting the people's properties and saving the nation. He therefore endorsed the extension of the R-ARCSS. Reminded the RTGoNU that the people had suffered for the last 7 years, urged them to set priorities where they had not managed to fund the R-ARCSS. Appealed to the Parties to mobilise resources and implement the RARCSS. Further asked to unify the forces and those still in the bush.
 - 6.2. *Women Bloc*: Commended on the solidarity of the Parties in agreeing on the way forward. Express the need for women interests to be given priority taking into account the fact they supported liberation and to date they were still suffering especially those in the refugee camps. Appreciated the work of the RJMEC and its role in monitoring and overseeing the R-ARCSS. She endorsed the extension of the R-ARCSS and requested to look into the Sudan conflict and how it affects South Sudan.
 - 6.3. *Women Coalition*: Expressed that Parties signatory to the Agreement had disappointed the people of the country, which had been in transition since 2005 and will continue until 2027. This extension was seen as selfish and would deprive citizens of their constitutional rights to elect their own leaders, prolonging their suffering, particularly women and children. The RTGoNU government had failed the people of South Sudan with distinction, and the people had suffered under bizarre circumstances enough. Advised Parties to return to the drawing board and answer questions about how to gain the trust of stakeholders and the people, and what measures will be put in place to ensure transparency and accountability. Called on Parties to work together and demonstrate commitment. Further called on the High-Level Standing Committee and IGAD to convene a trust and confidence-building dialogue among Parties to facilitate swift implementation of the pending tasks and allow the country to move past these endless transitions to democracy. Reiterated the South Sudan Women's Coalition continued support for peace and that it remains seized of the situation.
 - 6.4. *Civil Society – Forum*: Welcomed the extension of the Peace Agreement, at a time where the country was facing political, security, and economic challenges: i) The first batch of the Necessary Unified Forces (NUF) had not been deployed, and the second batch was not trained or deployed; ii) Political parties with military wings were not registered; iii) the election institutions had not been fully structured for free, fair, and credible elections; and iv) The constitution-making process was still unfinished, while the Commission on Truth Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH) and the Compensation and Reparation Authority (CRA) was yet to be established:
 - 6.4.1. The forum supports the extension and congratulates the Parties to the Peace Agreement. However, questions remained about the implementation of the Agreement provisions and the unique approach required to ensure citizens trust in its implementation. The Parties to the agreement had not reached consensus during implementation, however they had agreed on the extension. The extension comes as the country is nearing drowning points and citizens are losing hope; and

- 6.4.2. recommended to the government to prioritize civic and political space for the next two years to ensure citizens' voices are heard. The National Security Services Act should be reviewed to remove articles 54 and 55, and security arrangements should be prioritized to ensure security for citizens and candidates. Election institutions must be strengthened, and civic education prioritized. A permanent constitution should be prioritized for elections. Called on the international partners, embassies, and the government to provide funding mechanisms to CSO for civic education.
- 6.5. *Business community*: questioned on the figures and percentages given on the implementation of the Agreement as reported by the RTGoNU representative as well as new figures on what needed to be accomplished for the implementation of the R-ARCSS. Urged the RTGoNU to assess itself on how it would manage to implement the 90 percent of the critical pending tasks. Expressed that the business community was struggling to support themselves since the market was controlled by foreigners. Further only 10 percent of the South Sudanese population was employed by the government while others struggled. Asked the Minister of Interior to clarify the new faces of the police forces on the streets who looked under 18 years old and unprofessional, while deployment of the forces was not done yet. Expressed lack of attendance by the RTGoNU members to RJMEC ordinary meetings.
- 6.6. *Faith Based*: Informed the Plenary that the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) held a consultative meeting on 17th September 2024 to discuss the proposed two-year extension of the R-ARCSS. The Church leaders deemed the current extension's justifications similar to previous ones and decided to abstain from voting either in favour or against the proposed extension and had requested an urgent meeting with the Presidency. The SSCC requests the head of the government delegation to convey this request.
- 6.7. *Faith based*: Appreciated and commended the leadership of the country for all it had done. Appreciated the role of the guarantors and their support to RTGoNU. Despite the failure on the implementation of the RARCSS, the Islamic Council endorsed postponement of the elections and the extension of the R-ARCSS for 24 months, which would allow the elections preparations to be implemented.
- 6.8. *Academia*: Thanked the representative of the RTGoNU and the political decision taken by the Parties which wasn't easy. Recognised that it takes political maturity of the leaders to give themselves time to move forward despite the mixed feelings. One would wonder, how within two weeks Parties managed to come together to discuss and agree on the extension. Questioned what obstructed them from seating prior to the past 6 years to implement the R-ARCSS without relying on other forces. Needed to gauge and find ways on how they could implement better. Called on the need to have an inclusive process of the other stakeholders outside the RTGoNU such as CSO, Academia, youth etc. Questioned on how will the RTGoNU generate funding to implement the RARCSS and manage resources in an accountable manner. Underscored the need to pay salaries to the civil servants who have not been paid for the past 10 months causing insecurities in South Sudan. Called on the Parties to be accountable for their actions.
- 6.9. *Youth*: Questioned on the role of NTC which had not disbursed funds to the mechanisms. Thanked the RTGoNU for an opportunity for the youth to have a seat in government. Urged the RTGoNU to consult the youth on the "Youth Enterprise Fund".
- 6.10. *Youth*: The South Sudanese youth called for a clear, achievable timeline for free, fair, and credible elections. Argued that the recent decision to extend the transitional period undermined democracy, stability and accountability. It further hindered growth and economic development, disproportionately affecting young people who face high unemployment rates and limited opportunities. They called for the implementation of

electoral reforms to ensure transparency, inclusivity, and integrity of the process. Called the RTGoNU and all stakeholders to create a conducive environment for political participation, including protection of freedom of expression and assembly, and engage youth organizations and civil society in the electoral process. Urged the international community to support the democratic aspirations of the South Sudanese people and hold the RTGoNU accountable to its commitments. Underscored that the future of South Sudan lies in the hands of its youth and demanded their right to shape their destiny through democratic elections.

- 6.11. *Business Community*: The South Sudan business community supports delaying the General Elections initially scheduled for 22 December 2024. The R-ARCSS is crucial for achieving peace, stability, and economic growth. However, many provisions under the Agreement had not been fully implemented. Security Arrangements and a permanent constitution were also pending, which would increase instability and undermine the credibility of the election results.

6.11.1. Economic reforms outlined in the Agreement must be implemented before proceeding with the general elections, as they were essential for fostering a more inclusive and robust economic system. The Tumaini Peace Initiative offers an opportunity to strengthen peacebuilding efforts and contribute to the agreement. This will provide the necessary space to incorporate these efforts, allowing all Parties to organize a more credible and unified process that reflects the aspirations of the people. Reaffirmed their commitment to the R-ARCSS and called on all Parties to use the additional time to ensure full implementation and prepare for a peaceful, transparent, and inclusive election. A stable and peaceful South Sudan was essential for attracting foreign investments, creating jobs, and improving the livelihoods of all South Sudanese people.

- 6.12. *IGAD Guarantors*: The IGAD Forum of Ambassadors and the IGAD family in South Sudan commended the relative stability in the country since 2018, recognizing key achievements in the creation of mechanisms responsible for the constitution-making and electoral process. They however, acknowledged that some key provisions and requirements were yet to be completed. Welcomed the announcement from the RTGoNU calling for a two-year extension, as communicated by the Presidency on September 13th, 2024, and endorsed by the Council of Minister:

6.12.1. IGAD Guarantors, agreed to support the decision to extend the transitional period due to prevailing circumstances in the country, including difficult socio-economic conditions and lack of adequate preparation by election institutions and the security sector. Peace and security were paramount for the stability of the country and the region at large; and

6.12.2. Underscored that their decision took into account guarantees for the implementation of remaining activities under the R-ARCSS. The IGAD Forum calls upon all Parties to the Agreement to focus on timely implementation of the R-ARCSS and the international community to continue supporting the implementation of the Peace Agreement within the extended period. This will help achieve lasting peace and stability, as well as the installation of a democratically elected government by the people of South Sudan.

- 6.13. *Sudan*: The Revitalized Peace Agreement had been a significant part of the South Sudanese peace process, with the government of Sudan acknowledging the efforts of the Parties involved in preserving the ceasefire for over six years. The RJMEC and stakeholders are

dedicated to helping the government and people of South Sudan implement the agreement, particularly in the elections process:

- 6.13.1. acknowledged the challenges faced by the parties in implementing the agreement, and has called for speedy implementation, particularly in the areas related to the elections process and its requirements. Two years ago, the Parties agreed to extend the transitional period for 24 months, starting from February 22nd, 2023, to February 22nd, 2025. Underscored that Sudan was facing similar circumstances, which led to the signing of another document to extend the transitional government for another 24 months;
 - 6.13.2. acknowledged the internal challenges faced by the government of South Sudan and the negative consequences of the war in Sudan in April 2023, which had severely impacted the economy and caused a loss of oil revenues. Sudan believed that this decision was the best one among other worst decisions, and calls on regional and international partners to remain supportive of the current transitional government and give them another chance to prove themselves right; and
 - 6.13.3. as one of the Guarantors of the Revitalized Peace Agreement, the government of Sudan acknowledged and remains supportive of the decision to extend the tenure of the transitional government of South Sudan.
- 6.14. *South Africa*: The Republic of South Africa commended the Parties signatory to the R-ARCSS for their decision to postpone elections and extend the transitional period. Witnessed high levels of political maturity, trust, and political will among the Parties, indicating their commitment to a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous Africa. Called on the international community, region, and friends of South Sudan to fully support the decision and work together to increase contributions and efforts to speed up the implementation of key provisions of the R-ARCSS. As per Article 8.4 of the R-ARCSS, South Africa gives its full consent to the South Sudanese decision to amend the R-ARCSS, extend the transitional period, and postpone elections.
- 6.15. *AUMISS*: welcomed the decision of the presidency and Council of Ministers (CoMs) to delay the elections and extend the R-ARCSS. The AU believe that in preparation for elections, deployment of NUF was critical. Peace was paramount and this would support and ensure the aspiration of the South Sudanese people were met. Called on the Parties to work together towards election. Reiterated its support to the member states, Panel of the Wise of the AU PSC in maintaining the security of the country. Appealed to the regional and international community and members to the Plenary to grant their support to the government of South Sudan and contribute to the peace and security of the country.
- 6.16. *IGAD Special Envoy*: The IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan underscored the purpose of the 3rd extraordinary Meeting of RJMEC proposing the extension of the R-ARCSS by 24 months to allow time for the completion of outstanding tasks, such as conducting free and credible elections. IGAD, as the midwife and guarantor of the Revitalized Agreement, had always been clear that the owners of the R-ARCSS were the South Sudanese Parties and Stakeholders, and their role was to support, chaperon, and guide them in their efforts towards achieving sustainable peace and democracy:
- 6.16.1. Parties had agreed that the extension of the Transitional Period was the better course of action for South Sudan than holding elections in December 2024, where basic requirements for elections were not in place. IGAD supports the proposed extension, but was concerned that continued extensions of the implementation period of the Revitalized Peace Agreement were not in the best interest of the people of South Sudan and that Parties must break the cycle of perpetual transitions;

- 6.16.2. the proposed extension was the fourth since the signing of the R-ARCSS on 12th September 2018, while none of the previous 3 extensions had achieved their intended objectives, so it was reasonable to ask what guarantees that the fourth extension would yield a different outcome. However, IGAD supports the extension and hoped for assurances, guarantees, and mechanisms to ensure timely and full implementation during the extended period. These assurances should address recurrent challenges that had been hindering implementation, such as trust deficit, lack of political will, and lack of funding; and
- 6.16.3. urged the RTGoNU to conclude the Tumaini process in the shortest time possible in an inclusive, and transparent manner that ensures inclusivity, continuity and sustainable peace in South Sudan.
- 6.17. *UNMISS SRSG*: The UN endorsed the extension of the Transitional Period in South Sudan, with regrets and disappointment, despite the country's lack of readiness for credible and peaceful elections. The UN Secretary General had called for urgent steps to ensure the peaceful conduct of elections and the implementation of the outcome. UNMISS and its partners had extended support to the government and national electoral institutions since the first UN South Sudan electoral needs Assessment mission in 2021. In July 2023, including IGAD-AU-UN Trilateral mandate by the AU PSC, presented to the transitional government 10 priority areas for urgent decision-making to make elections possible by December 2024:
- 6.17.1. Emphasised that the transitional government and South Sudanese political class must take responsibility for the past two years' failures and disappointments. The leadership must recognize that confidence will need to be restored. The new implementation measures and timelines being discussed by the High-level Standing Committee and the Tumaini Initiative highlight the lack of real political will to implement the first elections since independence and bring an end to the transitional period; and
- 6.17.2. South Sudan's leaders must prioritize the nation's interests, rebuild public trust and confidence, open up political and civic space, and engage all voices and viewpoints, including non-signatory parties in the Tumaini Initiative, to break the cycle of continuous transitions and pave the way towards an inclusive and sustainable peace. Reiterated the United Nations readiness to support the transitional process in South Sudan, including through efforts undertaken jointly with IGAD and the African Union.
- 6.18. *CHINA*: The Ambassador of the Peoples Republic of China underlined that South Sudan's peace process had made some progress in the past two years, but key tasks like security arrangements, Permanent Constitution-Making, and election preparation remained unfinished. The disagreements among signatories on whether to hold elections in December 2024, could potentially undermine peace and stability. China supports the African people in solving issues in their own way, respects South Sudan's sovereignty, and supports the country's development path. While the Parties to the revitalized agreement had reached a consensus on extending the transitional period, in that regard, China respects the South Sudanese government's decision. Called on all parties to maintain solidarity and implement the agreement to ensure lasting peace and stability. Encouraged the international community to understand the difficulties in the peace process and continue providing constructive support to South Sudan. Reiterated China's continued positive contributions to the peace and development of South Sudan.
- 6.19. *United Kingdom*: His Majesty's Ambassador of the United Kingdom to South Sudan expressed that, the UK was abstaining from the proposal by the Transitional Government of National Unity to extend the R-ARCSS by two years. Highlighted further that the UK was not voting

against the peace process, but rather disappointed in the government's failure to implement the promise made in 2022. The government's failure to address key issues identified by UNMISS, the African Union, and IGAD, and to act on the UNMISS SRSG's report in 2024, had led to the need for an extension, but it was not due to lack of international support, resources, or self-created "constitutional crises," but rather because of a lack of political will by the country's leaders. Underscored that the R-ARCSS represented the promise to the people of South Sudan and the conditions it sets out to meet that promise are crucial for achieving peace and stability; and

- 6.19.1. acknowledged the commitment to delivering conditions for peaceful, transparent, and inclusive elections in 2026, However, they urge the government of South Sudan to come forward with a credible and transparent plan to meet these costs. They also note that commitments were made in 2022, 2018, and 2015. Called for engagement from all parties, including non-signatories, and a consultative, inclusive, and transparent process in developing the plan. He appealed to the government to fund the majority of the cost of financing institutions implementing the peace process. A credible plan for delivering the conditions that will allow an election to take place was necessary to demonstrate how the next 24 months will be different from the last. However, actions speak louder than words, and the UK cannot consider an extension again in 2026. Pledged the UK remained unwavering in its support for the people of South Sudan.
- 6.20. *United States:* Ambassador of the US expressed that, the announcement of another extension of the transitional period in South Sudan highlights the failure of the country's leaders to establish the necessary conditions for genuine, peaceful, and inclusive elections. Despite international support, South Sudan's political leaders have failed to make adequate public revenue available for electoral institutions, security sector salaries, basic services, and mitigating the impact of humanitarian crises. The US was disappointed by this failure and calls on South Sudanese leaders to demonstrate that their priority is the country and their people's well-being:
 - 6.20.1. the US abstained from endorsing the extension due to the status quo that prioritizes the privileges of the elite over the welfare of the South Sudanese people. The transitional government has a responsibility to act urgently to create the conditions necessary for genuine and peaceful elections, including expanded political and civic space, politically neutral security forces, funded and operationalized electoral institutions, and leaders' public commitment to dialogue and rejection of violence as a tool for political competition; and
 - 6.20.2. the US relationship with South Sudan is based on values such as peace, democracy, human rights, and a government responsive to its people's needs, particularly with respect to transparent and appropriate use of public revenue. He urged South Sudan's leaders to demonstrate this commitment without further delay and end the perpetual cycle of continuous transition in South Sudan.
- 6.21. *Norway:* Norway endorses the statement by the other Troika members to abstain. Reiterates that Norway had been a friend to the South Sudanese people for over 50 years, advocating for peace, human rights, and democracy. However, the decision to extend the R-ARCSS contradicts their promises from 2022, 2018, and 2015. A credible plan, including financing for the government, is needed. Citizens had not voted since independence 13 years ago, and the leaders must deliver on their promises. Norway supports the Tumaini Initiative which presents an opportunity to create a conducive environment, and Norway expects continued support and positive engagement from the RTGoNU.
- 6.22. *EU Delegation:* Took note of the announcement by the political leaders to extend the transitional period in South Sudan by 24 months, despite the political leaders' commitments not being fulfilled. The R-ARCSS was established to ensure sustainable peace for the people,

who have suffered from violence, insecurity, and lack of rule of law. Urged political leaders to ensure the people of South Sudan have the opportunity to decide about their future and meet their aspirations. The extra years should be used effectively to implement outstanding provisions, such as a conducive environment for elections and a permanent constitution reflecting the people's will. The Presidency had approved measures to ensure strict adherence to the implementation of the adjusted timelines of the R-ARCSS/Roadmap. The EU remains committed to supporting the Tumaini Initiative as a means to facilitate the implementation of the peace agreement.

- 6.23. *IPF*: The representative of the International Peace Forum (IPF) informed members that it was voting to extend the peace agreement for 24 months, however, expressed that there was no consensus among members. Nonetheless, all IPF members agreed on the need for free, fair, credible, and peaceful elections at the end of the extended period. They emphasized the importance of consultation and engagement with all parties, including non-signatories, through mechanisms like the Tumaini Initiative. They also emphasized the need for a clear timeline for finalizing pending tasks, particularly the deployment of Necessary Unified Forces, and the transitional government's responsibility to provide resource allocations to necessary institutions. IPF members remained committed to supporting the people of South Sudan.
- 6.24. *OPP*: shared his concerns on the fact that the R-ARCSS had to be extended for the fourth time. Called on the Parties to be committed, disarm the population and come up with a serious strategy to have the people of South Sudan cultivate their own food. Need for political will of all the parties. OPP endorsed the extension.
- 6.25. *RTGoNU (HLSC)*: agreed that the RTGoNU had contributed to the non-implementation of the critical tasks. However, the first responsibility was to restore, noting anything that could detract from its sovereign plans that would take South Sudan back to war will be detrimental. On the question of what they would do differently, informed members that the RTGoNU had no magic, however, the HLSC had made proposals to the leadership with the hope that they would live up to the proposal, make decisions and avail funding to implement the R-ARCSS. Highlighted that 87percent of the RTGoNU budget came from the oil revenue, out of which 71 percent was affected by the conflict in Sudan. This was the reason the High-Level Standing Committee saw the need for hostilities to be ended in order to maintain peace. It would help implementation of the R-ARCSS towards conducting election at the end of the transitional period:
 - 6.25.1. he reiterated RTGoNU united/cohesiveness by purpose and had a country to protect, maintain and not to disintegrate the peace and stability. Questioned on what would happen if the country would end up being illegitimate if the extension was not agreed. Expressed that the RTGoNU had requested to meet all the RJMEC stakeholders including the youth, who apparently did not get the information. Reiterated that the people of South Sudan needed the R-ARCSS which was the resolution of the conflict in South Sudan. Questioned the purpose of the Tumaini Initiative which was supposed to have been an annex to the RARCSS and not a replacement of the R-ARCSS. It was the RTGoNU engaging the hold-out groups in Nairobi and not the other way round; and
 - 6.25.2. expressed that the Minister of Finance was to report to the PFM-OC and seat in RJMEC as an observer and respond to questions from the RJMEC members.
- 6.26. *RTGoNU*: underscored that the people of South Sudan had gone through a liberation movement to be where it was today. Asked them to assess the situation in the neighbouring countries and the region on who was at war and refrain those who would interfere in their business and sovereign power. Thanked the regional guarantors for their support and standing by South Sudan, giving examples of Congo and Sudan, which had a strong army,

and today the countries were disintegrated and in shambles. Appealed to the members to support the RTGoNU; however, further proposed a meeting with the business community to engage and discuss who contributed to the ownership of the South Sudan markets in the hands of the foreigners. Appreciated the decision of the partners for their political decision from their HQs but appreciated their presence to discuss the extension and share their views on the R-ARCSS. Emphasised that the 10 points by the UNMISS originated from the RTGoNU who requested the support of the UN, which were discussed and agreed upon and not as expressed coming from outsiders. Reiterated that RTGoNU would create a platform that would engage with the CSOs, youth and other stakeholders. Underscored the decision taken by the churches and look forward to the message they intend to deliver to the presidency.

Min. 7/3/ 24: Decision making by members on R-ARCSS extension

7. The members voted as follows:
 - 7.1. Parties to the R-ARCSS – 10
 - 7.2. Stakeholders – 9
 - 7.3. Regional Guarantors – 12
 - 7.4. International Community – 3
 - 7.5. Yes – 34
 - 7.6. No – 07
 - 7.7. Absent - 02

Min. 8/3/24: Review of the Resolution

8. The resolution was reviewed, and the final version was to be shared with the members.

Min. 9/3/24: A.O.B.

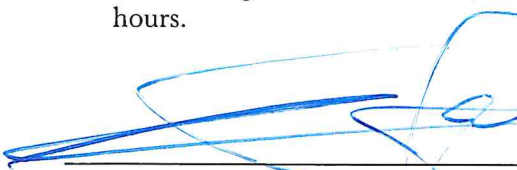
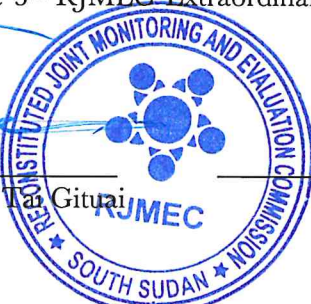
9. There was not any other business discussed.

Min. 10/3/24: Chairperson's Closing Remarks

10. The Chairperson appreciated and congratulated the members for attending the 3rd Extraordinary meeting and its outcome. He called on the RTGoNU to prioritise the implementation of the key pending tasks and not fail the people of South Sudan by the end of the Transitional period. Encouraged members to always remain seized of RJMEC matters.

Min.11/3/24: Closing Prayers

11. The Most Rev. Moses Deng Bol and Sheik Dr. Abdallah Barag Rwal led the closing prayers, and there being no other business, the 3rd RJMEC Extraordinary meeting was adjourned at 14:40 hours.

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