



Opening Statement

by

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Chairperson CTSAMVM

At the

42nd CTSAMVM Board Meeting

Beijing Juba Hotel

20 May, 2024

Your Excellencies,
Ambassadors,
The Incoming CTSAMVM Chairperson,
The Deputy Chairperson,
General Officers,
Distinguished Participants,
The Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good Morning

In great honor and privilege, I welcome you to the 42nd CTSAMVM Board meeting. We are glad to note that the Board has maintained the regularity of its monthly meetings since the beginning of this year. I thank everyone participating in this meeting, the honorable board members, and the observers for your efforts in doctoring the peace process in the Republic of South Sudan.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I take this opportunity to introduce my successor, the incoming CTSAMVM Chairperson, Maj Gen Yitayal Gelaw Bitew. We are happy to have him at CTSAMVM and are confident that he will contribute immensely to the mechanism and peace process in South Sudan.

I humbly request that you accord him the same support I have received.

I also take this opportunity to introduce His Excellency Odagiri Tosio, the new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of South Sudan. Ambassador Odagiri will give a speech on behalf of IPF to introduce himself further.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The agenda for today's meeting includes the current status of the Permanent Ceasefire, the status of implementation of the Transitional Security Arrangements, investigation reports, and incidents and updates since the last board meeting held on 23rd of April 2024.

To start, the permanent ceasefire is holding. However CTSAMVM has received allegations of a clash between SSPDF and SPLM/A-IO at Minyral, Mayendit County, on the 2nd of May 2024. The Mayendit County Commissioner stated that it was a clash between armed youth and did not involve the signatory parties. CTSAMVM will investigate the incident.

The security situation in Tambura County, Western Equatorial State, is calm after reports of several killings of innocent people and a priest from 25th to 27th April 2024. We commend the county administration for containing the clash by deploying SSPDF in the general area.

There are incidents of reported violence perpetrated by suspected elements of the National Salvation Front (NAS) in Mundri Counties of Western Equatoria State, especially in Minga and Wiro Payam. About 6,000 people in Minga Payam were displaced to Kediba Payam, Mundri East County, and Rokon in Central Equatorial State. SSPDF was deployed to protect civilians in the area.

Since the last CTSAMVM Board meeting on 23 April 2024, the status of deployment of the Necessary Unified Forces (NUF) has remained as per the brief of the Head Secretariat of the Joint Defence Board. So far, only six battalions have been deployed. The President of the Republic of South Sudan, His Excellency Salva Kiir Mayardit, and the First Vice President His Excellency Dr. Riek Machar Teny agreed to initiate phase two training of unified forces within the next two weeks. CTSAMVM expects that phase two training of the Necessary Unified Forces will commence soon.

SSPDF has vacated the resource center in Kajo Keji County. CTSAMVM reminds the party signatories that all occupied civilian areas should be vacant as stipulated in the R-ARCSS.

Cantonment sites and Training Center Commanders continue to report a dire situation with a lack of food and medicines.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

There is an ongoing High-Level Mediation for South Sudan between the holdout groups and the Revitalized Transitional Government of

National Unity in Nairobi. CTSAMVM hopes that this mediation will bring about an end to the conflict in South Sudan.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

We have one report to discuss today, which involves the alleged recruitment of soldiers by SSPDF in Mathiang Barracks in Aweil town, North Bahr el Ghazal State.

As we deliberate, we should be cautious that the outcomes of these deliberations impact the future of this young state. I implore that the objectives of this meeting be achieved in the dedicated time. The advice, direction, and opinions you provide as members of this Board are greatly valued by CTSAMVM. We will look forward to a constructive and fruitful discussion.

I hereby declare the meeting open.

Thank you.