



## **Opening Statement**

**by**

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**Chairperson CTSAMVM**

**At the**

**44<sup>th</sup> CTSAMVM Board Meeting**

**Beijing Juba Hotel**

**25 July, 2024**

**Your Excellencies,**

**Ambassadors,**

**General Officers,**

**Distinguished Participants,**

**The Media,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Good Morning.**

I welcome you to the 44th CTSAMVM Board meeting and express gratitude for your presence and participation in this significant gathering.

We shall adhere to the outlined agenda for the Board meeting, focusing on discussions regarding the Permanent Ceasefire, the progress of implementing the Transitional Security Arrangements, investigation reports, and updates since the previous board meeting convened on 2nd July 2024.

The security landscape in South Sudan has shown a continued trend of relative peace, with most regions experiencing sustained calm as the Signatory Parties to the R-ARCSS uphold the Permanent ceasefire.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The essence of peace cannot be fully realized if citizens cannot freely engage with security forces. CTSAMVM remains particularly concerned about reports detailing tensions between armed youth and SSPDF soldiers in Nasir County. This region has been plagued by recurrent conflicts, necessitating a lasting resolution to foster peace in Nasir.

Many of these conflicts could be averted by deploying the Necessary Unified Forces across South Sudan and facilitating civilian interaction with a unified security presence. However, the deployment status remains unchanged, with only 8 Military Battalions deployed thus far, leaving other forces inactive.

Throughout July 2024, CTSAMVM diligently inspected various Training Centers and Cantonment Sites, revealing critical logistical deficiencies. The occupation of civilian areas and structures persists, as observed since the previous Board meeting.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I wish to emphasize the strategic importance of this Board. Your role operates at a policy level, overseeing CTSAMVM's activities, offering guidance and support as necessary, and taking decisive action based on the reports presented.

Unfortunately, certain Senior Party Representatives within the CTSAMVM Technical Committee continue to delay the preparation process for Board meetings, citing unsubstantiated reasons that hinder progress. Also, some senior colleagues misuse these forums as opportunities to make irrelevant statements beyond the scope of CTSAMVM's mandate. Board members must always ensure their representatives adhere to CTSAMM's objectives.

CTSAMVM plays a pivotal role in the peace process by providing IGAD, R-JMEC, and the Parties with essential information for remedial measures and accountability of R-ARCSS violations, along with verified reports on the security arrangements' implementation progress.

I am confident in our ability to fulfill our mandate with the unwavering cooperation and understanding of the CTSAMVM Technical Committee and the CTSAMVM Board.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today, we are discussing a report concerning alleged clandestine training and recruitment activities conducted by the SSPDF in Central Equatoria State. An update on this report was presented during the 41st CTSAMVM Board meeting on 23 April 2024, where the interim findings from the MVT were shared. However, due to restricted access to certain areas hindering additional data collection, no further

investigation could be conducted, thus constituting a violation of Article 2.1.10.6 of the R-ARCSS.

The report is a result of an in-depth collection of information from the field with the involvement of the National Monitors. It was discussed at the Joint Monitoring and Coordination Office with the active participation of the Senior National Liaison Officers and Senior Party Representatives at the CTSAMVM Technical Committee meeting on 18 July 2024.

I look forward to your active participation and forthright discussion. I hereby declare this meeting open.

Thank you.

