



Opening Statement

by

Maj Gen Yitayal Gelaw Bitew

Chairperson of CTSAMVM

At the

46th CTSAMVM Board Meeting

Beijing Juba Hotel

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Your Excellencies,

Ambassadors,

General Officers,

Distinguished Participants,

The Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

I extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the 46th CTSAMVM Board Meeting. Once more, thank you for your invaluable participation in resolving the difficulties impeding the peace process in the Republic of South Sudan.

This Board Meeting's agenda, which includes crucial talks about the Permanent Ceasefire, the status of implementing the Transitional Security Arrangements, and updates from the previous board meeting held on September 3rd, 2024, will be rigorously adhered to.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The ceasefire continues to hold in the areas CTSAMVM Monitoring and Verification Teams accessed during this reporting period. Today, we will discuss one violation report. We will also give updates on the armed attacks in Yambio that have resulted in the deaths of three security forces personnel and injuries to a further three security force members and two civilians.

I had hoped to report a marked downturn in National Salvation Front activity, particularly within Western and Central Equatoria. Unfortunately, recent tragic events in Central Equatoria and the targeting of civilians in transit serve as a stark reminder that communities and travelers continue to bear the brunt of alleged NAS operations. Recent reporting suggested that alleged NAS activities in the area had become more revenue-driven, whereby we have witnessed a change in tactics towards the targeting of NGO workers to extract ransom payments. This tactic has led to an unfortunate reduction in humanitarian

access to vulnerable communities and recent returnees.

During this reporting period, CTSAMVM deployed long-duration patrols to Western Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile to demonstrate CTSAMVM's commitment to maintaining an operational presence across South Sudan.

Additionally, CTSAMVM deployed a long-duration patrol to Nasir Town to investigate the worrying reports of armed clashes between armed youth and SSPDF soldiers. The results of this investigation are currently being prepared for discussion within the Joint Monitoring Coordination Office and CTSAMVM Technical Committee. Preliminary findings suggest that although tensions have decreased, considerable efforts to establish trust and confidence will be necessary to guarantee that the region remains calm.

At the last CTSAMVM Board Meeting, we heard encouraging and complimentary testimony from civil society representatives regarding the conduct and impact of the Unified Forces. This theme has continued as requests from the communities visited

by our Monitoring and Verification Teams for deployment of the Unified Forces persist.

I recently reported to the CTSAMVM Technical Committee that the unification of forces represents the most visible example of Signatory Party cohesion and commitment to peace for the South Sudanese people. Deployment of the Necessary Unified Forces will provide a degree of acceptance and a feeling of safety. CTSAMVM again urges that Unified Force deployments be prioritized and expedited across South Sudan.

Regarding the continuance of the transitional period, CTSAMVM welcomes the consensus that made the extension possible and acknowledges its limitations.

The extension presents additional time to complete the implementation of the Transitional Security Arrangements, seek to facilitate dialogue and peaceful settlement of differences between the Signatory Parties to the R-ARCSS and promote trust-building measures to stabilize South Sudan. Per the CTSAMVM mandate, we will continue monitoring, verifying, and reporting on the Parties' compliance

with the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements.

However, donor funding across multiple security mechanisms has become increasingly competitive, which is a constant challenge CTSAMVM faces. Therefore, depending on the available resources, CTSAMVM will consider the options available to prioritize our operational model, including efficiency and other avenues to fit in and ensure we deliver our mandate.

We shall continue to engage with Partners and other stakeholders to maintain the current support and tap into new funding options. As we strive to ensure the impact of our work, I call on all of us to work towards achieving a more stable and peaceful environment during the extended transition period and beyond.

Please be assured that our commitment to contributing to a sustainable peace in South Sudan remains resolute.

I hereby declare the meeting open.

Thank you.