



Opening Statement

by

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Chairperson CTSAMVM

at the

47th 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 warmly welcome you all to the 47th CTSAMVM Board meeting. I want to express my sincere gratitude for your contributions to addressing the challenges facing the ongoing peace process in the Republic of South Sudan.

With profound sadness, I must inform you that the CTSAMVM family has suffered a great loss with the untimely passing of our comrade and brother, Major. Dolbai Maguen Aleth. Major Dolbai served as a National Monitor with the Wau Monitoring and Verification Team. He passed away on September 30, 2024, while undergoing medical treatment in Kampala, Uganda. May I request a moment of silence for his memory?.....May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Today, we will follow the outlined agenda, focusing on discussions regarding the permanent ceasefire, the progress of implementing the transitional security arrangements, and updates from the previous board meeting held on September 27, 2024.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The ceasefire remains intact in the areas monitored by CTSAMVM's Monitoring and Verification Teams during this reporting period. However, we have received reports of clashes in Nasir County, Upper Nile State, and civilian casualties in Wonderuba Payam, Central Equatoria State. CTSAMVM condemns these acts and urges the signatory parties to the R-ARCSS to seek peaceful resolutions to such issues.

Currently, there is one violation report to discuss: clashes between armed civilians and the SSPDF in Nasir County that occurred in August 2024. This incident has been followed by additional clashes on October 16 and 17, 2024. Investigations are ongoing.

CTSAMVM has prepared a detailed report for our discussion today. While ongoing de-escalation efforts are in place, the region remains volatile.

We continue to urge the parties to adhere to Chapter 2 of the R-ARCSS and to ensure the protection of civilians as prescribed in the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities (ACoH).

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Communities in South-Central Equatoria continue to live in fear of attacks or abductions by armed groups such as the National Salvation Front. The aftermath of the attack on the Beбето bus has been extensively documented. The recent wave of attacks has also led to the abduction of humanitarian workers for ransom, further jeopardizing vulnerable rural communities and returning refugees, as access to humanitarian aid diminishes.

CTSAMVM remains committed to monitoring and verifying Chapter 2 of the R-ARCSS. Despite the challenges, we continue to support our teams across the country. Our Monitoring and Verification Teams in Juba successfully conducted a long-duration patrol in Eastern Equatoria State, engaging with local leaders to foster cooperation and monitor compliance with the peace agreement. Similarly, the team in Wau conducted a long duration patrol in Bahr el Ghazal State to monitor and verify compliance with the ceasefire in their areas of responsibility. The team in Malakal has

also carried out Dynamic Air Patrol in Renk. We will discuss the findings and observations from these patrols in the next Board Meeting.

CTSAMVM Headquarters will continue visiting all other Monitoring and Verification Teams in the coming sessions to ensure their operational conditions and support our activities. Most recently, a team from Headquarters visited Malakal on October 11, 2024, to assess the situation and operations of the Monitoring and Verification Team. As we do not possess organic aviation assets, we rely fully on support from our UNMISS colleagues. I would like to take this opportunity to express my great appreciation to UNMISS for their continued support in air transportation, force protection, and administration issues.

In a letter dated September 27, 2024, the Joint Defense Board provided a partial update on the deployment of Phase 1 of the Necessary Unified Forces. However, the JDB did not provide details on the locations or strength of the deployments, only a proposed timeline for progress. The Civil society has high expectations regarding the deployment of the Unified Forces, and we urge that this be prioritized.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

As you are aware, the Transitional Government has decided to extend the transitional period for an additional two years, and CTSAMVM acknowledges that the signatory parties reached a consensus on this decision. It is important to note that this extension has significant implications for the future operations of CTSAMVM. The last RJMEC plenary emphasized the increasingly competitive demand for donor funding and the budgetary constraints faced by the various security mechanisms underpinning the R-ARCSS. This presents a growing challenge for our missions, and we sincerely appreciate the support from the donor community throughout these years.

It is essential to recognize that CTSAMVM is solely financed through our donors. We will continue our efforts to secure the necessary funding for our future existence. However, we must also be pragmatic and prepare for the possibility that we may need to adjust our operational model based on available resources.

I now welcome your active contributions and candid discussions. I hereby declare the meeting open.

Thank you for your attention!