

Opening Statement

by

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Chairperson CTSAMVM

On occasion of the

50th CTSAMVM Board Meeting

Beijing Juba Hotel

28 January 2025

Your Excellencies
Ambassadors,
General officers,
Distinguished participants,
The Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

I extend my warmest wishes for a belated Happy New Year to all Board Members and welcome you to the 50th CTSAMVM Board Meeting, the first of 2025. I trust that everyone had a fulfilling holiday season with family, returning rejuvenated to tackle the challenges facing the peace process in the Republic of South Sudan. I would also like to convey New Year's Eve greetings to our Chinese colleagues and our hosts here at the Beijing Juba Hotel.

Today, we will adhere to our standard Board Meeting agenda, focusing on incidents related to the permanent ceasefire and the implementation progress of the Transitional Security Arrangements, with particular attention to noteworthy updates since our last meeting on December 12, 2024.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

During this reporting period, the ceasefire between the Signatory Parties has remained largely effective across most monitored areas by CTSAMVM's Monitoring and Verification Teams. However, it is with regret that I must inform you, as I did with the CTSAMVM Technical Committee, that for the first time in my tenure as Chairman, the integrity of the ceasefire is not upheld across all of South Sudan. CTSAMVM is

particularly concerned about ongoing armed clashes between two signatory parties along the state boundary between Western Equatoria and Western Bahr El Ghazal.

Our Monitoring and Verification Teams were alerted to reports of these clashes over the weekend of January 11 and 12. Consistent accounts from both parties and civil society representatives indicate that these incidents were not isolated misunderstandings but rather a considered attack upon ceasefire partners.

These exchanges of fire have tragically resulted in loss of life, injuries, and displacement among civilians and uniformed personnel. CTSAMVM has already addressed this issue with the Joint Monitoring and Coordination Office and the CTSAMVM Technical Committee. Consequently, our Monitoring and Verification Teams from Wau and Yambio have been assigned to investigate.

CTSAMVM condemns these armed exchanges and urges both parties to exercise restraint and sound judgment. We emphasize that this is a critical moment for exemplary leadership—one that embraces dialogue and fosters mediation to alleviate tensions and resolve grievances.

Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we will also discuss CTSAMVM Violation Report 2025/01, concerning armed exchanges involving the SSPDF and armed civilians in Nasir Town. This area has long been a hotspot for conflict and has been the focal point of various state and county mediation efforts.

CTSAMVM supports these initiatives and, alongside several distinguished members of our Technical Committee and Board, conducted a joint dynamic air patrol to Nasir Town on January 16, 2025. The participants engaged with both security and civilian stakeholders to gain insights into the drivers of conflict, with a particular interest in how the CTSAMVM Technical Committee and Board can support ongoing and future peacebuilding efforts in the county.

We will also hear testimony from a Monitoring and Verification Team regarding the operational impact of insufficient trained personnel within the Criminal Justice System. This concern is compounded by community accounts highlighting the social ramifications of limited access to State Security Services. Such frustrations are particularly pronounced given the number of graduated Necessary Unified Forces currently awaiting deployment from the NUF Training Centers.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

During this reporting period, CTSAMVM conducted three Long Duration Patrols (LDPs) in Warrap, Upper Nile, and Jonglei States. In collaboration with UNMISS, we executed six dynamic air patrols to reach the most inaccessible areas, fulfilling our mandate across the country. Under Article 2.2.3.1 of the R-ARCSS, we verified further civilian areas as vacated, with the vacation of Tidoko Primary School in Central Equatoria State being a notable positive step toward compliance with the implementation process and the provisions of the R-ARCSS.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On January 21, 2025, CTSAMVM provided an update on the implementation of the peace agreement during a UNMISS-sponsored outreach event with traditional community leaders. This nationwide engagement program complements the work of our Monitoring and Verification Teams and enhances awareness of R-ARCSS implementation among community leaders.

CTSAMVM takes pride in participating in grassroots activities that foster understanding and ownership of South Sudan's peace agreement. The optimism and desire for a peaceful South Sudan that resonate among the citizenry is both palpable and inspiring.

On this uplifting note, I welcome your comments and hereby declare the meeting open.

Thank you very much, and God bless South Sudan!