



Opening Statement

by

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at the

CTSAMVM Technical Committee

Meeting 03/25

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**Honorable Members of the Technical Committee,
Representatives of the Parties to the Agreement,
Distinguished Guests,
The Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning, and thank you for joining us today at this important CTSAMVM Technical Committee Meeting, the third for 2025.

We gather here once again at a crucial moment in South Sudan's peace process. Your collective efforts, esteemed members, continue to play a vital role in ensuring the full implementation of the R-ARCSS, particularly in monitoring, verifying, and reporting compliance with the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements. While we have seen progress in maintaining stability, challenges remain that require our concerted efforts, dialogue, and commitment.

Esteemed Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with deep concern that I address you today. This reporting period has been marked by a series of clashes and violent incidents in different parts of South Sudan, posing a serious threat to the stability we have worked so hard to achieve. These violations of the Permanent Ceasefire are not only setbacks to the peace process but also a cause of immense suffering for civilians caught in the crossfire. The impact of these incidents cannot be overstated, and we must address them with the utmost urgency.

In particular, the Upper Nile State has witnessed intense fighting between the South Sudan People's Defense Forces (SSPDF) and an armed group identified as the White Army.

The most recent clash of 7 March 2025 led to a number of deaths, including those of the commanding SSPDF General Officer and a crew member of the UNMISS flight dispatched to assist the evacuation. I take this moment to express my deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and to wish a swift recovery to the injured. The Nasir incident happened during an already ongoing arrests of high-ranking Government officials and General officers in Juba. The combination of the hot conflict in Nasir and the ongoing arrests are causing a high level of anxiety to many stakeholders of the R-ARCSS.

CTSAMVM reiterates the condemnation by the IGAD Executive Secretary, the IGAD Ambassadors in Juba, and the RJMEC on the conflict in Nasir and calls upon all the parties involved to exercise maximum restraint, reaffirm their commitment to the R-ARCSS and prioritize dialogue and reconciliation as the only sustainable path to peace.

Esteemed Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Confrontational and retaliatory clashes remain imminent among signatory parties to the R-ARCSS in Western Equatoria. These confrontations have not only resulted in casualties but have also displaced civilians, disrupted livelihoods, and increased tensions in an already fragile environment. We urge all parties to recommit to their obligations under the Revitalized Agreement and to ensure that military activities do not undermine the peace process. It is our collective responsibility to uphold the ceasefire and prevent further violence.

Reports from Central Equatoria indicate that NAS elements ambushed civilians, looted properties, and burned vehicles transporting people and goods in Kajo Keji County. NAS elements also attacked the SSPDF unit in Lewolo Payam, resulting in injuries and death.

CTSAMVM condemns these acts by NAS and reminds them that they are accountable for their actions, as stipulated in Article 5 (Protection of Civilians) of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement of 2017.

Esteemed Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For a considerable period, reports of rape by members of signatory parties have fortunately been few. However, in February 2025, in Kuanya Payam of Wau County, an incident occurred where uniformed soldiers raped a single mother - a case has now been opened with Wau North Police. CTSAMVM condemns these acts and reminds the signatory Parties that incidents such as these are a violation of Article 2.1.10.2 of the R-ARCSS.

Esteemed Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have two CTSAMVM reports for discussion today. The first report is on an alleged attack on Ri Rangu SPLMA-IO Assembly Area on 12 February 2025 by SSPDF, and the second report is on allegations of civilian displacement and detention by forces allied to SSPDF in Mukaya Payam of Lainya County.

CTSAMVM highly appreciates Technical Committee Members' commitment and active participation in deliberating on the reports we have compiled. These reports provide critical insights into the security situation across South Sudan and serve as a foundation for informed decision-making.

Esteemed Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

CTSAMVM has undertaken several activities to support its mandate, CTSAMVM MVT Juba conducted a Long Duration Patrol to Tijor in Central Equatoria, MVT Yei to Mukaya Payam- Lainya County - CES, MVT Yambio to Ri Rangu in Western Equatoria and MVT Wau currently enroute to Twiic County.

On 10 March, the IGAD Special Envoy to South Sudan Ambassador Ismail Wais, the RJMEC Interim Chairperson Amb. Maj. Gen (Rtd). George Owinow and I met with the Chairperson of the National Transitional Committee (NTC), Gen. Kuol Manyang, to discuss the progress and challenges in implementing security provisions of the R-ARCSS, particularly the graduation and deployment of the Necessary Unified Forces, disarmament, and mechanisms to address ongoing security concerns. The meeting emphasized the urgent need for renewed commitment from all stakeholders to ensure full implementation of the Revitalized Agreement to sustain peace and stability in South Sudan.

On the same note, on 11 March, I also met with the Chief of Defense Forces of the SSPDF, Gen. Paul Majok, to discuss security concerns in the country amid clashes in different states, focusing on the recent outbreaks of violence and emphasizing the need for measures to uphold the ceasefire agreement and de-escalate tensions.

More so, CTSAMVM, through its Gender Cluster, hosted a one-day workshop to celebrate International Women's Day under the theme Accelerate Action: Empowering Women and Girls to Promote Safety and a Healthy Environment. This theme resonates deeply with the fundamental principles of peace, security, and inclusive development - core values that guide the work of CTSAMVM.

Yesterday, I attended the virtually held 43rd Extraordinary Summit of the IGAD Assembly of Head of State and Government about the situation in South Sudan that decided for CTSAMVM to undertake an investigation into the Nasir clashes and the attack on the UN helicopter to ascertain the facts and ensure accountability for any violations.

Esteemed Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we proceed with our discussions today, let us reaffirm our collective commitment to peace. Your roles as Party Representatives and Technical Committee Members are crucial in this process. Let us work together to find sustainable solutions to these challenges. The people of South Sudan rely on you to uphold the principles of the ceasefire and move the country towards lasting stability.

I thank you and hereby invite the Senior Party Representatives to make their remarks.