



Opening Statement

by

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Chairperson CTSAMVM

at the

CTSAMVM Technical Committee

Meeting 02/25

Beijing Juba Hotel

18 February 2025

**Dear Senior Party Representatives and CTC Members,
IGAD Representative,
RJMEC Representative,
Defence Attaches,
Observers,
Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning,

Welcome to our second CTSAMVM Technical Committee meeting of 2025. I would also like to warmly welcome **Brigadier General Gatwang Buom Manguet** of the SPLM/A-IO, who has joined us as CTSAMVM's Technical Committee member.

This month has been significant for reporting, and I look forward to discussing the challenges that hinder the full implementation of the peace process in the Republic of South Sudan.

Esteemed Senior Party Representatives and Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the status of the ceasefire

The Ceasefire among signatory parties remains effective in most areas monitored by CTSAMVM's Monitoring and Verification Teams during this reporting period. However, armed clashes have intensified between two signatory parties near the state boundary between Western Equatoria and Western Bahr El Ghazal.

CTSAMVM urges all Parties to exercise restraint and prudence. The integrity of the ceasefire in 2025 is increasingly at risk, threatening the fragile implementation of the R-ARCSS.

On civilian impact and monitoring efforts

Reports of armed clashes have persisted since January 11. CTSAMVM is deeply concerned by reports received from community representatives regarding civilian casualties and displacement. Following discussions in the CTSAMVM Joint Monitoring and Coordination Office, Wau's Monitoring and Verification Team conducted an extended patrol to engage with affected stakeholders and people involved in the conflict. We urge both signatory parties to consider the consequences of their actions and ensure appropriate command over their forces.

On challenges of access

Regrettably, I must also highlight continued access challenges that have prevented our Juba-based Monitoring and Verification Team from conducting an investigative patrol to Wonduruba in Central Equatoria State. We urge all Parties to ensure that CTSAMVM obtains the necessary approvals to implement our mandate for balanced and timely reporting since "Justice delayed is justice denied."

In Upper Nile State, we have once again received several accounts of continuing armed exchanges between the SSPDF and armed civilians in the vicinity of Nasir Town. Tensions have been high in the area which has led to displacement of civilians. CTSAMVM calls on both parties to reflect on the rationale for continuing this cycle of armed violence and its impact on the civilian population.

On attacks by NAS elements

The NAS elements continue to threaten the civilian population in the Equatorias. On January 20, in Mundri East County, NAS captured a young male for forced recruitment. Tragically, he was shot dead while attempting to escape.

Additionally, on February 9, an organized armed group believed to be NAS attacked the Jalimo SSPDF Barracks in Kajo Keji County, resulting in the deaths of three SSPDF soldiers and injuries to two civilians. Civilian homes

were also destroyed. CTSAMVM condemns the targeting of civilians and reminds NAS that they are accountable for the actions of their forces, allies, or any militia under their command, as stipulated in Article 5 (protection of civilians) of the CoHA 2017.

On CTSAMVM activities

In addition to our routine short-duration patrols, CTSAMVM has undertaken several mandate-supporting activities, including three Long Duration Patrols - two in Central Equatoria State and one in Western Bahr El Ghazal State. Notably, CTSAMVM received a visit from the United Nations Security Council Affairs Division on February 7 to assess progress on benchmarks established in UN Security council resolution 2577 (2021).

Furthermore, on February 13, we supported a UNMISS community outreach event in Juba, engaging with traditional and community leaders to discuss their concerns regarding the peace process.

In conclusion

Esteemed colleagues, I now declare this CTC meeting open and invite the Senior Party Representatives to share their comments.

Thank you!