



## **Opening Statement**

**by**

**Maj Gen Yitayal Gelaw Bitew**

**Chairperson CTSAMVM**

**at the**

**CTSAMVM Technical Committee Meeting**

**Beijing Juba Hotel**

**20 June 2024**

## **Opening Remarks by the Chairperson:**

Dear Senior Party Representatives and CTC members,  
Deputy Chairperson,  
IGAD Representative,  
RJMEC Representative,  
Defense Attachés,  
CTSAMVM Secretariat,  
Observers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is with great pleasure and honor that I welcome you to this meeting. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your presence today as I chair my maiden CTSAMVM Technical Committee meeting since I took over from the former Chairperson Maj Gen Hailu Gonfa Eddosa. I sincerely thank him for having oriented me through the CTSAMVM processes and procedures.

I want to pledge my commitment to continue working and cooperating with you as we navigate through the peace process in South Sudan.

## **Esteemed Senior Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The change in leadership notwithstanding, by the end of June 2024, several International Observers will likewise be rotated. I intently wish to affirm that CTSAMVM will continue to conduct its mandate of

monitoring, verifying, and reporting on the progress of implementation of the R-ARCSS and report findings using usual channels.

As the CTSAMVM Technical Committee, we must ensure that what is reported helps to uphold the peace process in South Sudan. Specifically, I wish to recognize the contribution of the Senior National Liaison Officers who tirelessly coordinate with the National monitors and Field commanders to ensure a smooth flow of CTSAMVM activities albeit with the usual challenges.

**Esteemed Senior Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Since the last CTC meeting, a wave of attacks by unknown armed groups attacking individuals in communities has been on the rise. For instance, one of the occurrences involved an attack on the EZO County Paramount Chief, on top of which there has also been an upsurge in intercommunal violent conflicts between youths, such as the conflict between Nuer Rubkona County and Leer County communities, all of which continue to affect the peace process.

CTSAMVM has further noted that activities suspected to be conducted by NAS have increased around the area of Yei County, where recruitments of young energetic youths to enroll as their forces have been reported. Additionally, suspected NAS elements ambushed a commercial vehicle at Loca Boma in Lainya County, killed its driver, and injured a soldier from the SSSPDF who was escorting it.

In the general areas of Western Equatoria State and Western Bar El Ghazal State, there are three categories of people who are causing insecurity. The first group is Deng Bor cattle keepers who move while

armed with guns. Secondly, Central African nomads called Ambororo and they move with guns. Thirdly, there is an unknown group of people who are moving with guns and not putting on uniforms. These are not good indicators of the peace process.

CTSAMVM has not received any new updates on the deployment of the Necessary Unified Forces. It is imperative that we get correct details as contradicting figures are being presented by government entities other than what is known by CTSAMVM.

The insistent occupation of civilian buildings by Signatory Parties to the Agreement is still a haunting demeanor. On a good note, two occupied civilian areas in Sector Two have been confirmed as vacated. This is commendable, but CTSAMVM reminds SSPDF, in particular, to plan a vacation of the remaining seven areas and urge the Joint Defence Board to deploy the Necessary Unified Forces who are occupying some of the areas to appropriate places so as not to violate the very R-ARCSS that created their existence.

### **Esteemed Senior Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We have two reports to discuss today, one is about a fighting incident between the Unity State Governor's convoy protection team and SPLM/A-IO forces in Jamus/Barkuor, and another is an alleged attack on SPLM/A-IO Brigade Two in Mayendit County.

The opinions and recommendations of members as we discuss these reports are much valued and further give a broader imprint to the reports. It is therefore imperative for us to focus on information in the

reports and discuss them cordially and professionally to yield realistic solutions towards the Ceasefire and peace process of South Sudan.

I henceforth declare the CTC meeting open and invite Senior Party Representatives to make their opening remarks.