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CTSAMVM Headquarters – Press Statement

7TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVITALIZED AGREEMENT ON THE RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN (R-ARCSS)

Seven years ago, the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS 2018) was signed. This was a historic moment which ended many years of war and represents a key step in South Sudan's long journey towards the resolution of conflict and the pursuit of peace.

The Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM) recognises the achievements attained during these seven years. However, regrettably, some steps of progress have been reversed, and several other challenges remain.

In recent months, there has been an escalation of violence across the country that puts at risk the gains realised since 2018. Key provisions of Chapter II of R-ARCSS, related to bringing an end to the fighting, are continually and consistently violated by some of the signatory parties. Continuous and repeated attacks across large parts of the country is leading to the deaths of civilians, the destruction of villages, displacement and fear. Cantonment sites supposed to ensure the separation of troops have been abandoned and the development of a singular, unified force has shown very little progress.

Therefore, as we mark seven years since the Agreement's signing, CTSAMVM urges the RTGoNU and all the Parties to end the violence and return their efforts to the implementation of the Peace Agreement. We appeal for an immediate halt to the fighting, the respect for International Humanitarian Law and for the Parties to recognise the harm being caused to the civilian population that bears the brunt of ongoing fighting. The several efforts and initiatives of the international community and regional organisations all speak the same message: the only way forward is through peaceful dialogue and an adherence to R-ARCSS.

"War harms the communities and families of South Sudan and dialogue will always be the best way to resolve conflict. Recently we have seen heightened political instability and fragmentation rather than unification and I call for de-escalation. We cannot forget all of the difficulties overcome and compromises reached to achieve the signing of the Peace Agreement in 2018. We must therefore collectively protect it from erosion – it is the only agreement that exists and for the sake of the people of South Sudan it must be implemented" remarked the Chairman of CTSAMVM, Major General Teshome Anagaw Ayana.

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