



## **Opening Statement**

**by**

**Maj Gen Teshome Anagawe Ayana**

**Chairperson CTSAMVM**

**At the**

**CTSAMVM Extraordinary Board Meeting**

**Beijing Juba Hotel**

**25 November, 2025**

**Your Excellencies, Ambassadors,**

**General Officers,**

**Distinguished Participants and Board Members,**

**Representatives of the Media,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Good Morning.**

It is a great honor and privilege to welcome you to this Extraordinary CTSAMVM Board Meeting. Your presence in this forum is key as we work together in support of South Sudan's objective of achieving stability and obtaining lasting peace.

This is the fourth Extraordinary Board Meeting in the history of CTSAMVM. The third Extraordinary Board Meeting was held in this hall on 11 December 2023. As you are aware, extraordinary meetings are convened to address urgent and significant matters that cannot wait until the next scheduled meeting.

Their purpose is to enable timely decision-making and obtain necessary approvals when delays may be detrimental to CTSAMVM's operations. At this time, there are several issues which I will highlight for your consideration.

Before proceeding with my statement, let me please begin by introducing myself. My name is Major General Teshome Anagawe Ayana. I was appointed as the Chairperson of CTSAMVM on **1<sup>st</sup> July** this year, and I finally succeeded Major General Yitayal Gelaw Bitew on **1<sup>st</sup> September**. Although I have had the opportunity to meet a few of you since taking office, I am grateful for the cooperation already extended to me.

Although I assumed this responsibility during a challenging period for peace monitoring efforts, I am committed to leading CTSAMVM with humility, impartiality, and resolve, and I kindly request your continued support as we navigate this critical phase together.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We gather today to reflect, deliberate, and forge a constructive path forward in the face of significant operational and security challenges. CTSAMVM has been active, and our six monitoring teams operate every day out in the field. Internal coordination efforts at headquarters have continued in an effort to adapt to changing circumstances and to overcome challenges.

This Extraordinary Session provides a useful opportunity to collectively address these challenges, strengthen cooperation, and reinforce our shared responsibility under the Revitalized Peace Agreement.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The security situation has evolved considerably, and negatively, since the events in Nasir in March 2025. There is a real danger posed to the fulfilment of commitments of Chapter II of R-ARCSS 2018. As all the members of this Board well know, the conflict in Nasir had been developing for several years prior to the incident.

We remember how CTSAMVM sent an expanded group, consisting of both Board Members and CTSAMVM staff, to Nasir in January of this year. The purpose was to try to calm tensions between the SSPDF garrison and the local community. The situation was not resolved, and we are still witnessing the consequences of what became a return to violent conflict many places around the country.

The months of August and September of this year have seen a wave of violence in many areas of the country, including in Upper Nile State, Jonglei and the Equatorias. During the month of August 2025, 35 out of 120 daily reports from our Monitoring and Verification Teams – MVTs – contained alleged violations, which constitutes 29% of the total reports.

In September 2025, this jumped to 60 out of 120 daily reports from our MVTs containing alleged violations, which is 50% of the total reports, a sharp increase.

While our reports for October indicate a slight decrease in the number of clashes (33 out of 120 daily reports, 28%), the overall trend documented by CTSAMVM still highlights that signatory parties continue to choose military action over fulfilling their commitments in R-ARCSS. This constant state of violent conflict greatly impacts on CTSAMVM's ability to monitor and verify.

We have also observed reported incidents of harassment, unlawful detentions, attacks on civilians, and gender-based violence in areas such as Yambio, Renk, Tambura, Mayom, and Magwi.

Restrictions on freedom of movement and unauthorized checkpoints, particularly along the **Yei–Morobo, Maridi–Yambio, and Wau–Tambura routes**, have affected civilians and humanitarian activities, contrary to the commitments under the R-ARCSS.

A particularly concerning issue is the limited implementation of disciplinary measures or corrective actions by the Parties in response to incidents.

Accountability and command control are essential pillars of the Peace Agreement, and I respectfully urge all stakeholders to take decisive measures to reinforce these obligations.

Issues such as child recruitment require urgent attention. And I will once again stress the need to accelerate the implementation of Transitional Security Arrangements and comprehensive Security Sector Reforms - key to this is the creation and deployment of a Necessary Unified Force (NUF). The people of South Sudan need one army to serve them all, not many armies to serve different groups and parties. Unfortunately, we are not seeing the Necessary Unified Force playing any real role in the security structures of South Sudan.

Regrettably, despite the efforts and visits of regional actors and international partners, the parties remain on the battlefield rather than returning to dialogue. The signatory parties must show genuine commitment to meaningful and inclusive engagement. Let our actions follow our words.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Since 20 March 2025, when CTSAMVM held its 52<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting, no Board or CTC meeting has been convened. There are several factors that have contributed to this pause. A key element has been in relation to accessing areas to conduct verification activities.

During the period from March to November 2025, our Monitoring and Verification Teams (MVTs) undertook several Long-Duration Patrols and Long-Duration Air Patrols.

MVTs successfully reached Rumbek, Terekeka, Aweil, Morobo, Eastern Equatoria, Lainya, Pariang, and Nagero. In these places, verifications were carried out into a range of alleged violations including the detention of personnel, the burning of farmlands, and the killing of civilians by security forces. Several patrols, such as the missions to Nagero and Panyijiar, required rescheduling due to either JVMM clearance issues or adverse weather but were in the end accomplished.

However, I need to mention the significant challenges that hindered full execution of our planned activities. Multiple Long Duration Patrols including those to Maban, Old Fangak, Renk, Ulang, and Nasir were cancelled due to lack of aviation assets, flight safety denials, or the imposition of No-Fly Zones. These restrictions limited our ability to quickly investigate serious allegations such as the bombing of an MSF hospital and alleged SSPDF bombardments in Unity State.

As we move forward, strengthening operational support and enabling unhindered movement will be crucial to ensuring CTSAMVM continues to deliver credible, impartial, and timely reporting to support peace and stability in South Sudan.

Our six MVTs, supported by headquarters, continue to operate under demanding conditions, and we call upon all signatory parties to facilitate full and unhindered access and to respect

CTSAMVM's diplomatic protections to ensure objective reporting and timely response.

Further issues hindering the ability for CTSAMVM to operate have been internal in nature. The operational concept of CTSAMVM is the integration of representatives of all signatory parties. This requires the daily presence and contributions of liaisons and national monitors from all parties.

CTSAMVM welcomes all representatives as selected by their respective parties. However, for the sake of our operational capabilities, it is important that the parties act under unified command.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

CTSAMVM conveys its deep appreciation for the steadfast support of the donor community over the years. However, the Mission is now facing more severe financial constraints than ever before.

Despite securing limited funding for 2025, the allocations fall significantly short of the planned operational budget.

This results in a significant shortfall that directly affects our capacity to execute the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangement (PCTSA) mandate, particularly when monitoring obligations may expand ahead of the electoral period.

As a mechanism almost entirely dependent on donor contributions, this financial gap poses a serious risk to our ability to remain functional and responsive.

We therefore respectfully and urgently appeal to our esteemed donors and stakeholders to extend additional financial support for 2026 to ensure the Mission remains fully operational in the face of growing responsibilities. Despite the gravity of these challenges, we remain confident that, with your sustained partnership and the dedication of our national and international members, CTSAMVM will continue to uphold its vital role in the South Sudan peace process.

The global humanitarian sector is experiencing reduced funding, everywhere. These days, also UNMISS is considering their own posture in South Sudan. The downsizing of UNMISS will affect many organizations, as it will for CTSAMVM with regards to logistical and administrative support, security and accommodation.

In this regard, CTSAMVM has received notification from UNMISS concerning the closure of the Field Office in Yei.

This means we must relocate our MVT from Yei to a different location. CTSAMVM is currently assessing how to best cover, within our means, the operational space of South Sudan.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We align with regional and international partners in urging all Parties to recommit to dialogue, respect the Permanent Ceasefire, and prioritize civilian safety and dignity.

Sustainable peace demands cooperation, restraint, and renewed commitment to the principles of the R-ARCSS.

As we deliberate today, let us approach discussions with openness, unity of purpose, and a shared commitment to protecting the hard-won gains of the peace process.

With these remarks, I now declare this Extraordinary CTSAMVM Board Meeting open.

**Thank you.**