



Opening Statement

by

Maj Gen Teshome Anagawe Ayana

Chairperson CTSAMVM

at the

CTSAMVM Technical Committee

Meeting 01/26

Beijing Juba Hotel

19 February 2026

**Dear Senior Party Representatives and CTC members,
IGAD Representative,
RJMEC Representative,
Defense Attachés,
Observers,
Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning.

It is my honour to welcome you to this meeting.

This CTC meeting follows a prolonged interval since the previous session. The last session in December 2025 was extraordinary in nature and primarily addressed the imminent restructuring of CTSAMVM. Even today's meeting takes place under exceptional circumstances, given the serious and continuing challenges confronting the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS).

The security environment has also constrained CTSAMVM's ability to conduct timely verification, particularly in areas where access has been denied, cases politicized, or internal disputes within one of the signatory parties have delayed consideration at JMCO and CTC levels.

Monitoring in Nasir and much of Upper Nile remains high-risk, further constrained by continued restrictions on air access.

We are, however, encouraged by the recent deployment of a Senior National Liaison Officer from SPLM/A-IO Major General Gatbang, which has restored full party representation at JMCO and enables verification activities to resume, subject to security guarantees and unrestricted access.

Esteemed Senior Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, the Nasir incident of March 2025 marked a significant turning point. Since then, insecurity has expanded across Upper Nile, Unity, Western Bahr el Ghazal, and Jonglei States, with serious implications for the implementation of Chapter II of the Agreement and the broader peace process.

CTSAMVM has previously noted a clear “before” and “after” in the peace process following the Nasir incident. Prior to March 2025, direct hostilities between signatory parties were relatively limited. Since then, allegations of violations have become frequent and widespread. We have recorded repeated armed confrontations between SSPDF and SPLM/A-IO forces, including affiliated elements, with shifting territorial control in several locations.

Reports of aerial bombardments in parts of Jonglei and Upper Nile, allegedly affecting civilian areas, are of particular concern and, if verified, may constitute serious violations of both the Permanent Ceasefire and applicable International Humanitarian Law.

Incidents affecting civilians and humanitarian actors have also been documented, including ambushes, abductions, looting, attacks on markets, and alleged extrajudicial killings. Disruptions along key river transport trade corridors have intensified economic hardship and food insecurity.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence has continued to be a grave concern in the country. The extreme violence on young children, women and girls as reported in various locations is unacceptable and must be strongly condemned by all Signatory Parties. Article 2.1.10.3 of the R-ARCSS prohibits Sexual and Gender Based Violence and CTSAMVM calls for the Signatory Parties to respect this.

Movement restrictions arising from insecurity and illegal checkpoints continue to impede humanitarian access and civilian livelihoods, undermining the stabilization objectives of the Agreement. Collectively, these patterns indicate that the Permanent Ceasefire is not consistently holding in practice.

Esteemed Senior Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

CTSAMVM faces critical resource constraints. Reduced donor support and the absence of alternative funding have compelled significant restructuring.

As of January 2026, our Monitoring and Verification Teams (MVTs) have been reduced from six to three, with expanded geographic coverage assigned to Juba, Malakal, and Wau. MVTs in Yei, Bentiu and Yambio were closed by the end of January 2026.

CTSAMVM has reorganized the geographic coverage as, MVT Juba covering the Greater Equatoria, MVT Malakal covering Upper Nile State, Jonglei, Unity State, Greater Pibor Administrative Area and Ruweng Administrative Area and MVT Wau covering Greater Bhar el Ghazal, Lakes State and Warrap State. This consolidation comes at a time when monitoring demands are increasing.

Between August 2025 and January 2026 alone, CTSAMVM recorded 407 alleged violations. With the JMCO now fully operational again, we are prioritizing verification activities within our limited capacity. 25 new tasks have been prioritized to be accomplished soon. This will only be possible through cooperation by the signatory parties. From December 2025, we introduced a monthly snapshot report which aggregates the daily reporting from our field teams to present key compiled statistics and illustrate trends.

In addition, 45 Weekly Monitoring Reports (WMR) have been issued since March 2025 to date. Daily Monitoring Reports (DMR) equally continued to be published and distributed to partners and stakeholders.

From April 2025 to date, only 14 Long Duration Patrols (LDPs)/ Dynamic Air Patrols (DAPs) were undertaken and 591 Short Duration Patrols (SDPs) were accomplished. Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JVMM) did not approve any of CTSAMVM's Monthly Activity Plan (MAP) for the months of April, June, July of 2025 and January 2026. These approvals are essential to enable the Mission to implement its mandated activities effectively and predictably.

Esteemed Senior Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we will briefly present three pending reports from early February 2025, which include: the killing of two girls in Juba County; an armed confrontation between Government joint forces and SPLMA-IO and sexual assault at Kubiri Ngap, Kuanya, Jur River County, Western Bahr-el-Ghazal; and armed clashes involving Government forces, Revenue Authority officials and armed civilians in Athony area at the boundary of Twic county in Warrap state, in accordance with established procedure.

The incidents occurred previously, and since then the country has experienced frequent serious violations of the Peace Agreement. Nevertheless, it remains our established practice to present all finalized reports at CTCs and Board Meetings. However, the primary focus of this session will be the broader security dynamics and their implications for the peace process.

Esteemed Senior Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The peace process is under significant strain. The R-ARCSS remains the only viable framework for sustainable peace in South Sudan. Agreements are upheld not by signatures, but through consistent compliance. Protection of civilians must be unconditional. Ceasefire adherence must be uniform. Accountability must be credible.

CTSAMVM formally requested an update on the status of the Transitional Security Arrangements (TSA) particularly regarding the deployment and training of the Necessary Unified Forces (NUF) through a letter addressed to the Joint Defence Board (JDB) on 10 December 2025. To date, a response has not yet been received. We reiterate the importance of timely information-sharing to enhance transparency and support informed monitoring and reporting.

CTSAMVM respectfully calls upon all signatory parties and security mechanisms to recommit to the Permanent Ceasefire and to extend their full cooperation and institutional support to its mandated activities. This includes facilitating unrestricted access for monitoring and verification, approving planned activities in a timely manner, and engaging constructively in dialogue. Such collaboration is essential to strengthening oversight, reducing hostilities, and reinforcing collective efforts toward sustainable peace.

The durability of the Agreement ultimately depends on accelerated implementation of the security arrangements, including Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration, unified force deployment, strengthened accountability mechanisms, and sustained political will.

Let us recommit not only in principle, but in practice.

I now declare this meeting open and welcome the Party Representatives to share their remarks.

I thank you.