



Opening Statement

by

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Chairperson CTSAMVM

On the occasion of the

54th CTSAMVM Board Meeting

Beijing Juba Hotel

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Your Excellencies
Ambassadors,
General officers,
Distinguished participants,
The Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Esteemed members of the CTSAMVM Board,

Good morning.

I warmly welcome you to the 54th CTSAMVM Board Meeting, which is our second Board meeting for this year, the first took place last month on 26 February during which we discussed three violation reports.

Following the significant challenges we faced last year in holding these meetings. Thank you, your excellencies and honourable members, for your presence here today. I encourage your active participation, as your insights are vital to advancing peace and stability in South Sudan.

For today's agenda we will have a review of the Permanent Ceasefire Agreement and progress on Transitional Security Arrangements, followed by updates on monitoring and verification, and a discussion of five violation reports; three from Western Equatoria (Nagero, Tambura, Mundri), one from Morobo, and one from Greater Upper Nile.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The security situation has not improved since we met in February, the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) 2018 remains under serious threat.

Over the past year, the agreement has faced repeated violations, and the continued widespread violence remains deeply concerning and unacceptable. This situation should not be allowed to become the norm. It is important to recognize that the success of the agreement ultimately depends on the commitment of the signatory parties to prioritize dialogue over armed conflict.

CTSAMVM expresses deep concern over the 1st March attack in Abiemnhom, Ruweng Administrative Area, where a coordinated early-morning assault led to significant civilian deaths, destruction of homes, and the displacement of thousands. Reports vary on the number of civilian casualties, but indicate a large number, and it appears that local government figures were among those killed.

The attack severely affected already vulnerable communities, particularly women and children. The CTSAMVM Monitoring and Verification Team at Malakal is preparing a mission to verify the incident from 10 April. We reiterate that all parties are obligated to protect civilians under the agreement and strongly condemn this grave act of violence.

CTSAMVM further noted with concern that fighting continues to be more prominent in Jonglei State, particularly in Akobo, where clashes escalated in early March. This took place after SSPDF forces launched an offensive to retake the town from SPLM/A-IO, following a 72-hour evacuation order. Intense engagements ensued thereafter, with both sides claiming control of the Town.

The violence has led to large-scale displacement, with reports of up to 200,000 people fleeing toward Ethiopia, and caused major humanitarian disruption, including looting and suspension of aid. Fighting is not a

solution to conflicts. I sincerely urge all parties to utilize the peaceful mechanisms outlined in the R-ARCSS which we are actively monitoring.

CTSAMVM is also concerned by the 6 March announcement that SPLM/A-IO and NAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance political and military coordination. This alliance is not permitted under the R-ARCSS and contradicts the commitment to move away from conflict. I urge the SPLM/A-IO to withdraw from this agreement and proceed with the commitments it has as a signatory party to the R-ARCSS.

In Udier Payam, Longochuk County, Upper Nile State, the SSPDF conducted aerial bombardments on 22 and 24 March 2026, disrupting civilian life and humanitarian activities. Even though no casualties have yet been confirmed, aerial attacks create a tense and unstable environment.

In this case, restricting movement, worsening relations between SSPDF and civilians in SPLM/A-IO-controlled areas, and undermining the protection of civilians as outlined in the R-ARCSS. The alleged bombardments constitute serious violations of the ceasefire, contravening Article 2.1.10.5, which prohibits hostile acts, and Article 2.1.10.7.1, which requires full compliance with International Humanitarian Law. The reported targeting of cattle camps occupied by civilians raises further concerns under Article 2.1.10.7.4, obligating the Parties to ensure civilian protection.

CTSAMVM also condemns the incident of killing civilians in the gold mining area of Khor Gal Tan (Central Equatoria State) which occurred on 28 March 2026.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite challenges, CTSAMVM has been able to conduct several activities this month including:

- MVT Juba conducted routine security verification in Eastern Equatoria, and returned on 28 March.
- MVT Malakal travelled to Ayod County to investigate the 21 February alleged civilian killing, in line with the priority to address recent incidents, and returned on 29 March.
- A planned patrol to Terekeka was blocked when SSPDF personnel denied MVT Juba passage at a checkpoint near Juba. Lack of clearance was given as the reason, an action that contravenes R-ARCSS provisions guaranteeing unrestricted access.

CTSAMVM has formally written to the SSPDF to seek further information and in an effort to avoid further denial of access incidents in future.

- Another planned mission to Canal/Pigi was canceled due to security risks, though efforts are ongoing with UNMISS to reschedule.
- In Juba, on 6 March 2026, CTSAMVM marked International Women's Day successfully with a workshop, supported by Norway and Ireland, to strengthen collaboration with civil society in addressing Sexual and Gender-Based violations and promoting women's role in peacebuilding.
- CTSAMVM engaged with donors and partners in Juba and Addis Ababa to mobilize financial and operational support, strengthen partnerships, and advocate for resources needed to sustain monitoring and verification activities.

- CTSAMVM delegation also visited the Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan responsible for Service Cluster on 18 March to seek for support and mutual cooperation.
- Continuous routine engagements were also conducted by our Monitoring and Verification Teams across the country with Daily Monitoring Reports and Weekly Monitoring Reports being produced and disseminated to partners and stakeholders.

These activities are essential for CTSAMVM to implement its mandate. Without sustained financial and logistical support, these activities would be paralyzed. Continued donor support is therefore critical to ensure the effective monitoring and verification of the peace agreement.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

CTSAMVM has taken note of developments arising from regional diplomatic engagements supporting the peace process, including those of the High-Level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan (C5). In line with our mandate, CTSAMVM underscores the importance of signatory parties complying with the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities provisions under Chapter II of the R-ARCSS.

Lasting peace depends on the political will of the parties to uphold the ceasefire, protect civilians, and engage in inclusive, constructive dialogue. I urge all stakeholders to exercise restraint, put the interests of the South Sudanese people first, and work with regional and international partners to safeguard progress and prevent a relapse into widespread conflict.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since our last meeting, there is indication that the Permanent Ceasefire remains broadly threatened, its implementation is uneven and challenged by localized violations and structural weaknesses. Delays in the completion of pre-transitional tasks and the limited progress in Transitional Security Arrangements continue to undermine the full realization of the R-ARCSS objectives.

The protection of civilians and the delivery of humanitarian assistance remain inconsistent, with notable gaps in conflict affected areas. Although there are indications of stability and recovery in certain regions, the overall situation remains fragile and requires sustained commitment by all Parties to fully implement the provisions of the Agreement.

The continued use of heavy weapons, as evidenced by the reported aerial bombardments, suggests non-compliance with provisions relating to the cessation of hostilities and the reduction of military capabilities.

Additionally, the lack of fully integrated and deployed unified forces across the country reflects incomplete implementation of the agreed security arrangements. The existence of separate operational zones controlled by different Parties further highlights the absence of a unified command structure.

These gaps indicate that the Transitional Security Arrangements have not yet achieved their intended objective of establishing a cohesive and nationally representative security apparatus. Consequently, the effectiveness of security provision and civilian protection remains constrained, and mistrust between the Parties continues.

In view of the current situation, CTSAMVM recommends that signatory parties should comply to ceasefire compliance and take command responsibility; protect civilians and respect human rights; reinforce joint

mechanisms and their oversight roles; ensure freedom of movement and humanitarian access; restore essential services and return of IDPs; implement Necessary Unified Forces training and deployment; and reaffirm their commitment to the Peace Agreement.

I Thank you.