



Opening Statement

by

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Chairperson of CTSAMVM

at the

CTSAMVM Technical Committee

Meeting 07/26

Dembesh Hotel

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

Good morning, esteemed Members of the Technical Committee.

It is my pleasure to warmly welcome you to the 7th CTSAMVM Technical Committee Meeting of 2026. It is a particular honour to chair this meeting my first in my capacity as Chairperson of CTSAMVM as I conclude the final phase of the leadership handover and formally commence my tenure.

I am confident that, through the continued cooperation and commitment of all Signatory Parties to the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), and with the collective support of this Technical Committee, we will continue to fulfil our shared responsibility of monitoring, verifying and reporting objectively on compliance with, and violations of, the Agreement, particularly the provisions of Chapter II.

Before we proceed, I wish to express our deepest condolences to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) following the tragic ambush on its patrol in Pajut, Jonglei State, on 24 August 2026, which claimed the lives of two peacekeepers and left seven others injured.

We strongly condemn this deplorable attack against personnel dedicated to supporting peace and protecting civilians in South Sudan. Such acts undermine peacebuilding efforts and are unacceptable under international law. We urge the relevant authorities to ensure a prompt and thorough investigation so that those responsible are held accountable.

Esteemed Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to briefly highlight key security developments since our last Technical Committee meeting.

The security situation across South Sudan remains unpredictable. Although major military confrontations showed a downward trend during the reporting period, inter-communal tensions, cattle-related violence, restrictions on humanitarian access, and threats to civilians and humanitarian personnel continued to pose significant security concerns.

These developments underscore the need for sustained restraint, dialogue, and commitment by all Signatory Parties to uphold the Permanent Ceasefire and advance the implementation of the R-ARCSS.

In Greater Equatoria, the security situation remained relatively stable. However, in Greater Mundri, Western Equatoria State, the situation deteriorated following reported abductions and alleged forced recruitment in Bongolo, Loso and Lanyi, which contributed to the displacement of civilians.

Attacks along key roads, including the reported ambush of humanitarian trucks on the Buaji–Dollo road and the abduction of 3 humanitarian workers along the Yei–Lasu road, further highlights the continued risks to civilians, humanitarian personnel and freedom of movement.

Greater Upper Nile remained the most volatile region, with continued reports of attacks against civilians and restrictions on humanitarian access.

In Greater Bahr el Ghazal, the security situation remained relatively stable, despite continued localized incidences of cattle-related violence, inter-communal tensions and criminality. Of particular concern was the reported attack on communities in Tonj North County, Warrap State on 9 August, allegedly involving armed youth from Mayom County, Unity State, which reportedly resulted in fatalities and injuries to civilians.

Additional localized violence was reported in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Lakes States, including inter-community clashes and cattle raiding.

These developments remind us that the Permanent Ceasefire is not merely about preventing large-scale hostilities. It is equally about protecting civilians, preserving humanitarian access and fostering confidence among the Parties and the communities they serve. Achieving these objectives requires continued restraint, dialogue and genuine commitment by all Signatory Parties.

Esteemed Members,

With regard to our operational activities, in addition to the routine short-duration patrols conducted across our areas of responsibility, CTSAMVM continues to undertake monitoring and verification activities through our Monitoring and Verification Teams (MVTs).

MVT Juba conducted a Long Duration Patrol to Yei in Central Equatoria State from 3rd – 7th August 2026 to investigate the alleged abduction of the Atende Boma Sub-Chief and several youths.

MVT Malakal conducted two Long Duration Air Patrols: one to Mandeng County from 5th – 8th August 2026 to conclude investigations into the attack on the SSPDF barracks at Burabiey, following the earlier mission to Nasir from 22nd – 29th June;

and another to Lankien in Nyirol County from 18th – 21st July 2026 to investigate the reported attack in Lankien.

MVT Wau conducted a Long Duration Air Patrol to Rumbek in Lakes State from 11th – 14th August 2026 to investigate allegations of forced recruitment of youth.

MVT Juba's planned Integrated Long Duration Patrol to Lobonok in Central Equatoria State, scheduled for 18th – 20th August to investigate the reported ambush on SSPDF personnel in the

Karapeto area, was cancelled due to realignment of partner's operational priorities.

Looking ahead, CTSAMVM will continue implementing its planned monitoring and verification activities in close coordination with relevant stakeholders and operational partners.

Esteemed Members,

On the diplomatic front, since 27 July 2026, CTSAMVM leadership has undertaken a series of high-level engagements in Juba, Addis Ababa and Nairobi with national, regional and international partners to strengthen support for the implementation of the R-ARCSS.

In Juba, we engaged with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Head of the IGAD Mission, and the Ambassadors of Kenya and Somalia. **In Addis Ababa**, I met with the Chief of the General Staff of Ethiopian Defence Forces, the Ambassador of Australia to Ethiopia and South Sudan, and the Deputy Head of Mission of Switzerland to Ethiopia and South Sudan. **In Nairobi**, I engaged with the Assistant Chief of Defence Forces of Kenya.

These engagements provided an opportunity to update partners on the prevailing situation and CTSAMVM's operational priorities, strengthen coordination and cooperation, and seek continued support for the sustainability and effective functioning of CTSAMVM.

In addition, I engaged with the IGAD Executive Secretary and the IGAD Special Envoy to South Sudan to formally initiate the handover and assumption of the CTSAMVM leadership. The discussions also focused on the Mechanism's current operational and institutional challenges, priorities and future direction, including the need to mobilize additional resources and strengthen partner support to address these challenges and sustain CTSAMVM's capacity to effectively deliver on its mandate.

Esteemed Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we will consider two violation reports. The first concerns civilian killings, restrictions on freedom of movement and armed confrontation in Nasir County that occurred on 5 May 2026. The second concerns the SPLM/A-IO/NAS attack on SSPDF personnel in Makpandu and the killing of a football coach in Yambio Town, Western Equatoria State.

These reports demonstrate that important provisions of the R-ARCSS continue to be violated and reaffirm the need for sustained commitment by all Parties to fully implement the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements.

Against this backdrop, I wish to emphasize the importance of continued restraint, dialogue and cooperation by all Parties. CTSAMVM's mandate is founded on impartiality, objectivity and collective responsibility.

Our work is most effective when all Parties engage openly with the Mechanism, facilitate access and provide the information necessary to enable incidents to be verified and reported accurately.

Accordingly, I wish to reiterate the following areas requiring continued attention:

- The RTGoNU to strengthen civilian protection along high-risk roads and in conflict-prone areas through coordinated security deployments, improved early-warning mechanisms and timely preventive action.
- All Parties to the R-ARCSS to refrain from abductions, forced recruitment, attacks against civilians and actions that impede humanitarian operations, including protection of humanitarian personnel, assets and relief supplies in accordance with the Permanent Ceasefire provisions and their obligations under the Peace Agreement.

Esteemed Party Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

CTSAMVM remains firmly committed to discharging its mandate with professionalism, impartiality and integrity. As we begin this new phase of leadership, I look forward to working closely with all Party Representatives and members of this Technical Committee.

Our shared objective remains clear: to support the full implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement and contribute to a more peaceful, stable and secure South Sudan.

I thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment. I look forward to a productive and constructive meeting.

With these remarks, I now declare the 7th CTSAMVM Technical Committee Meeting of 2026 officially open.

Thank you.