

Common Position of Special Envoys on the Peace Process in South Sudan

A meeting of Regional and International Special Envoys to South Sudan took place from 25th to 26th October 2019 in Djibouti, the Republic of Djibouti, with a view to take stock of the implementation of pre-transitional tasks of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) and better coordinate efforts in mobilizing the required support to the peace process in South Sudan.

The meeting was convened by H.E. Amb. Dr. Ismail Wais, IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan, and was attended by the H.E. Dr. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Kenya Special Envoy to South Sudan, H.E. Amb. Jamal El Sheikh, the Sudan Special Envoy to South Sudan, H.E. Betty Bigombe, Technical Advisor to the President of Uganda on the South Sudan Peace Initiative, H.E. Prof. Amb. Joram Biswaro, Head of African Union Mission in South Sudan, H.E. Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, UN Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, and H.E. David Shearer, the Special Representative of the the Secretary General and Head of the UN Mission in South Sudan.

Present were also representatives of: EU Special Envoy to South Sudan, Norwegian Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, UK Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan as well as Ambassador of China to Djibouti, Amb. Zhuo Ruisheng, Charge de Affaire of the Embassy of Japan to South Sudan, Mr. Mitsuhiro Toyama, and Charge de Affaire of the Embassy of the United States of America to Djibouti, Mr. Joseph Hamilton.

Participants had robust discussions following presentations on the status of implementation of pre-transitional tasks by: the Interim Chair of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC), Amb. Lt. Gen. Augustino S.K. Njoroge, the Chair of the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM), Maj. Gen. Desta Abiche, Deputy Chair of National Pre-Transitional Committee (NPTC), Hon. Gabriel Changson Chang, Chair of the National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC), Mr. Gichira Kibara, representative of the Joint Defence Board (JDB), Maj. Laguya J.S. Lupai, Chair of the Strategic Defence and Security Review Board (SDRSR-Board), Madam Angelina Teny, Chair of Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC), Lt. Gen. Wesley Welebe Samson, and the representative of Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC), Br. Gen. Ayuen Dot Thon.

More focused discussions on critical and consequential pre-transitional tasks such as cantonment, training and redeployment of necessary unified forces, number and boundaries of states, allocation of ministerial portfolios and ratification of the constitutional amendment bill and other relevant laws also took place.

After lengthy discussion, the Envoys:

1. Appreciated all mechanisms and institutions of the R-ARCSS for the work they are doing in the implementation of the R-ARCSS;
2. Congratulated and commended Amb. Ismail Wais for convening the meeting;
3. Welcomed the support received from Ethiopia, South Africa, Egypt, the AU, Japan and China, and called on regional and international partners to provide the necessary support for the implementation of pending tasks;
4. Observed that the lack of political will, trust deficit and lack of funding are persistent challenges hampering implementation;
5. Made the following recommendations:
 - i. The Parties to the R-ARCSS should meet before 12th November and agree on a temporary, viable and realistic arrangement regarding the critical outstanding pre-transitional tasks especially relating to the selection, training and redeployment of the NUF, the number and boundaries of States and the allocation of ministerial portfolios;
 - ii. The Parties especially the Government should refrain from making decisions and statements that exacerbate division on the issue of the number and boundaries of states;
 - iii. Any agreement/arrangement reached by the Parties on the way forward should be flexible and based on a firm foundation with a clear and time bound roadmap;
 - iv. Government should immediately release the balance of USD 100 million that it pledged in May 2019, and put in place mechanisms for a transparent and accountable management of the funds;
 - v. Registration, screening and training of forces should be expedited, and in this regard the Government should fully utilize their capabilities to deliver items to cantonment sites and barracks;
 - vi. There should be no difference whatsoever in the treatment of government and opposition forces in the process of cantonment, training and redeployment of necessary unified forces;
 - vii. The Government of South Sudan should immediately release the funds required for the operationalization of the DDR Commission and called for the support of regional and international partners;
 - viii. Parties should refrain from all rhetoric or acts, including inciting and incentivizing defections, that erode trust and confidence, and cast doubt on their political will;
 - ix. Families especially women and children that are found in some cantonment sites should receive the humanitarian support they require and in this regard the relevant R-ARCSS mechanisms should work in

collaboration with the Government and international community in mobilizing the necessary support;

- x. IGAD to convene Heads of State and Government Summit as urgently as possible to be preceded by a meeting of the leaders of the guarantors of the R-ARCSS namely Uganda and the Sudan;
- xi. The IGAD Summit in consultation with the Parties and taking into consideration the advice of the guarantors, should give guidance on pending pre-transitional tasks and the formation of R-TGoNU in particular transitional security arrangements and number and boundaries of states;
- xii. The Summit should also determine the status of Dr. Riek Machar;
- xiii. RJMEC and CTSAMVM to be strengthened to be able to better monitor and assess the situation on the ground; and
- xiv. The Government of South Sudan should expedite the process of ratification of the constitutional amendment bill and other security laws;
- xv. Agreed to advise their principals on the situation in South Sudan and possible scenarios and options;