



**Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission
(RJMEC)**

**REPORT
BY**

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**ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVITALISED
AGREEMENT ON THE RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT IN THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN**

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List of Acronyms

<i>AU</i>	<i>African Union</i>
<i>AUC</i>	<i>African Union Commission</i>
<i>AU PSC</i>	<i>African Union Peace and Security Council</i>
<i>CAMP</i>	<i>Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan</i>
<i>CoS</i>	<i>Council of States</i>
<i>CSOs</i>	<i>Civil Society Organizations</i>
<i>CRA</i>	<i>Compensation and Reparation Authority</i>
<i>CTRH</i>	<i>Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing</i>
<i>CTSAMVM</i>	<i>Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism</i>
<i>FFAMC</i>	<i>Fiscal, Financial Allocation and Monitoring Commission</i>
<i>HRMIS</i>	<i>Human Resource Management Information System</i>
<i>IDPs</i>	<i>Internally Displaced Persons</i>
<i>IGAD</i>	<i>Intergovernmental Authority on Development</i>
<i>ITGoNU</i>	<i>Incumbent Transitional Government of National Unity</i>
<i>JRC</i>	<i>Judicial Reform Committee</i>
<i>MGSCW</i>	<i>Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare</i>
<i>MVTs</i>	<i>Mobile Verification Teams</i>
<i>NCAC</i>	<i>National Constitutional Amendment Committee</i>
<i>NCRC</i>	<i>National Constitutional Review Commission</i>
<i>NEC</i>	<i>National Elections Commission</i>
<i>NTLI</i>	<i>National Transformational Leadership Institute</i>
<i>NSS</i>	<i>National Security Service</i>
<i>NUF</i>	<i>Necessary Unified Forces</i>
<i>PFMIS</i>	<i>Public Finance Management Institutional Strengthening</i>
<i>PPDAA</i>	<i>Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority</i>
<i>PPC</i>	<i>Political Parties Council</i>
<i>R-ARCSS</i>	<i>Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan</i>
<i>RJMEC</i>	<i>Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission</i>
<i>RTGoNU</i>	<i>Revitalised Transitional Government of National Unity</i>
<i>SDSR</i>	<i>Strategic Defense and Security Review</i>
<i>SPLM-IO</i>	<i>Sudan People's Liberation Movement-In Opposition</i>
<i>SSPDF</i>	<i>South Sudan People's Defence Force</i>
<i>TNL</i>	<i>Transitional National Legislature</i>
<i>TNLA</i>	<i>Transitional National Legislative Assembly</i>
<i>UNDP</i>	<i>United Nations Development Programme</i>
<i>UNMISS</i>	<i>United Nations Mission in South Sudan</i>
<i>UNHCR</i>	<i>United Nations High Commission for Refugees</i>

Executive Summary

The RJMEC Quarterly Report provides an overview of the status of the implementation of the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) for the period 1st October to 31st December 2025, assessing recent developments across political/governance, security, humanitarian, economic, and transitional justice, and constitution-making processes. The report builds on previous RJMEC quarterly reports submitted under Article 7.9 of the R-ARCSS and contains key observations, highlights challenges, and provides key actionable recommendations.

This reporting period witnessed significant political developments, including the continued trial of the detained First Vice President and other SPLM/A-IO leaders, initiation of political dialogue between the Stakeholders and Parties to the R-ARCSS, and a proposal by the RTGoNU to amend the R-ARCSS to delink the conduct of the 2026 national elections from the Permanent Constitution and the National Population and Housing Census. Changes were also effected in the Executive at the national and state levels. The National Elections Commission (NEC) declared the number of national geographical constituencies.

The security situation markedly worsened. Armed clashes took place across six states between SSPDF and opposition forces, including SPLA-IO and the National Salvation Front (NAS), in serious violation of the permanent ceasefire. However, no noticeable efforts were made by the RTGoNU to halt these hostilities. CTSAMVM continued its monitoring role but faced insecurity and capacity constraints in investigating alleged ceasefire violations. Progress towards Transitional Security Arrangements, including the unification and deployment of forces, remained stalled.

Humanitarian conditions deteriorated sharply, driven by renewed conflicts and displacement, food insecurity, flooding, climate shocks, disease outbreaks, economic challenges, and Sudan's conflict. By the end of 2025, over 10 million people—two-thirds of the population—required assistance, while funding shortfalls left only 42% of the US\$1.7 billion Humanitarian Response Plan realised. Further, humanitarian access was severely constrained by insecurity, flooding, and bureaucratic impediments.

Regarding Resource, Economic and Financial Management, the report notes that the Public Financial Management Oversight Committee advanced key reforms under the R-ARCSS, supported by development partners. Other reform initiatives included implementation of the Treasury Single Account (TSA), restructuring of the Loans Committee, and rollout of the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS). However, progress was slow, and IFMIS faced operational challenges, including incomplete transaction recording and weak expenditure controls. The Ministry of Finance and Planning pledged corrective measures, including monthly reconciliations and activation of IFMIS controls. Meanwhile, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) implemented its 2025 Strategic Plan and distributed copies of the amended ACC Act (2023). The Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority continued its internal capacity-building efforts.

In terms of Transitional Justice, the Selection Panel for the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH) began recruitment of commissioners. However, no progress was made on establishing the Hybrid Court for South Sudan or in

operationalising the Compensation and Reparation Authority. Meanwhile, the reconstituted National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) has made progress towards the constitution-making process by undertaking civic education and consultations in eight states and one Administrative Area. In spite of this progress, a proposal by some Parties to the RTGoNU was made to amend the R-ARCSS to delink the constitution-making process from elections.

Overall, this Quarterly report observes that the R-ARCSS was at a critical juncture as it continued to face numerous challenges as a result of persistent serious political and security violations. Ongoing armed confrontations have heightened fears of total collapse of the permanent ceasefire and a relapse into full-scale conflict, undermining ongoing efforts to consolidate peace and stability and undercutting trust which was built among the parties over the years, as well as confidence in the peace process.

In an attempt to address the challenges facing the R-ARCSS and in line with Article 7.9 of the R-ARCSS, RJMEC intensified diplomatic engagements at national, regional, and international levels, provided regular briefings and recommended remedial measures to the RTGoNU, TNLA, IGAD, AU, UN, and international partners.

Recommendations

In light of the aforementioned, the report recommends the following measures to the Parties to the Agreement and Relevant Stakeholders, the RTGoNU, IGAD, AU and International Partners and Friends of South Sudan to safeguard the sanctity of the R-ARCSS, avert a relapse into widespread armed conflict and hold the elections as scheduled at the end of December 2026:

a. To the Parties to the Agreement and Relevant Stakeholders:

- encourage all signatories to the R-ARCSS to cease hostilities, engage in inclusive dialogue and agree on practical steps to realise free, fair and credible elections and a democratic end to the Transitional Period as provided for under the R-ARCSS;
- further encourage the RTGoNU to adhere to the provisions of the R-ARCSS, including Articles 1.9.4.1 and 8.4 of the R-ARCSS on the initiation of any amendment of the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (TCRSS) 2011 (as amended) and R-ARCSS through consultation, consensus and agreement of all the principals to the R-ARCSS;
- condemn and abandon all actions that undermine the R-ARCSS, particularly unilateral decisions and breaches of the ceasefire resulting in loss of life, property and displacement, in order to guarantee humanitarian access and civilian protection; and
- move with urgency and revert back to implementation of the R-ARCSS in letter and spirit.

b. To the RTGoNU:

- adhere strictly to R-ARCSS provisions, including by reinstating the unilaterally dismissed opposition members to their portfolios as per the responsibility-sharing arrangements;
- resolve the current political and security impasse through an inclusive political dialogue and return to full and inclusive implementation of the R-ARCSS;
- ensure the protection and expansion of political and civic space to facilitate the conduct of free, fair and credible democratic elections;
- avail sufficient funding to the Agreement institutions and mechanisms to facilitate the expeditious implementation of the critical tasks of the R-ARCSS, including for the completion of the unification of forces, the making of the permanent constitution and preparations for elections; and
- reconsider National Security Services Act as amended and return the same to the TNLA for reconsideration and amendment.

c. To the TNLA:

- prevail on the Parties to the Agreement to cease all forms of hostilities, embrace inclusive genuine dialogue, re-activate the implementation mechanisms of the Agreement and fully adhere to the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements;
- prevail on the Executive of the RTGoNU to expedite implementation of the JRC report and its recommendations, in letter and spirit, especially the review and amendment of the Judiciary Act and reconstitution of the JSC to implement the reforms; and
- consider expediting the enactment of all the pending amended legislation in support of the implementation of the R-ARCSS.

d. To IGAD:

- encourage the leadership in Juba to desist from taking actions that further erode the political trust and confidence in the Revitalised Peace Agreement and ensure that the political disagreements are resolved through dialogue and disputes are addressed through the mechanisms of the R-ARCSS;
- urge the RTGoNU to limit any proposed TCRSS amendments to the provisions only necessary for the conduct of peaceful and timely elections while upholding the integrity of the R-ARCSS;
- further urge the leadership of the RTGoNU to reinstate the unilaterally dismissed opposition members to their agreed portfolios;
- urge the RTGoNU to guarantee political and civic space for purposes of agreeing on how to end the Transitional Period through free, fair and democratic elections; and
- assist the RTGoNU to resolve the current political and security impasse and secure the release of the First Vice President and all political detainees in order to facilitate meaningful dialogue and a return to the implementation of the R-ARCSS.

e. To the African Union:

- in support of the South Sudan peace process, consider mobilising and extending financial and logistical support to facilitate expeditious implementation of the critical tasks of the R-ARCSS, including completion of the unification of forces, the making of the permanent constitution and preparations for elections;
- call upon the RTGoNU to reconstitute itself as per the provisions of the R-ARCSS, particularly by restoring the SPLM-IO portfolios and move with urgency to implement the R-ARCSS in letter and spirit, and to adhere strictly to its provisions, including upholding its supremacy;
- appeal to all the Parties to the R-ARCSS to embrace dialogue and to agree on practical steps to realise free, fair and credible elections and a democratic end to the Transitional Period as provided for under the R-ARCSS;
- engage the RTGoNU with a view to expediting the establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan to investigate, and if necessary, prosecute those bearing responsibility for any crimes committed during this Transitional Period;
- the AU C5 could consider convening a high-level leadership retreat of the RTGoNU and Parties' leadership to resolve their outstanding political differences; and
- consider putting in place stringent measures to hold accountable all individuals or entities who are spoilers and violators of the R-ARCSS.

f. To the United Nations:

- urge the leadership of the SSPDF and SPLA-IO to immediately halt all hostilities, fully comply with the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements, and refrain from any acts of violence that undermine peace and stability; and
- in coordination with IGAD and the AU, consider putting in place measures to hold spoilers and violators of the R-ARCSS accountable.

g. To the International Partners and Friends of South Sudan:

- encourage and support inclusive political dialogue among all parties to the Revitalised Peace Agreement, ensuring participation of all political entities, stakeholders, civil society and marginalised groups;
- enhance coordinated humanitarian aid and development support to address urgent needs arising from ongoing displacement, insecurity and economic hardship in South Sudan; and
- consider supporting the constitution-making, electoral, judicial and reconciliation processes, including by directly funding critical mechanisms and providing them with technical and logistical support.

I. Introduction

1. This report covers the status of implementation of the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) during the period 1st October to 31st December 2025 and builds on previous reports numbers 001/19 - 028/25 since the R-ARCSS came into force in September 2018. It also highlights the engagements of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) in the fulfilment of its oversight, monitoring and evaluation mandate within the R-ARCSS; and concludes by providing key recommendations to the Parties and Stakeholders to the R-ARCSS, the Revitalised Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU), the Transitional National Legislature (TNL), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the African Union (AU), the United Nations and International Partners and Friends of South Sudan.
2. During the quarter, notable political developments occurred, including the continued trial of the detained SPLM/A-IO leaders and officials, initiation of political dialogue between the Stakeholders and the Parties to the R-ARCSS, and a proposal by the RTGoNU to amend the R-ARCSS so as to delink the conduct of the 2026 national elections from the Permanent Constitution and the National Population and Housing Census. Changes were also made to the Executive at the national and gubernatorial levels. Meanwhile, in preparations for elections in December 2026, the National Elections Commission (NEC) declared the number of national geographical constituencies.
3. In terms of the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements, armed clashes have escalated during the reporting period mainly between the SSPDF and opposition forces, such as the SPLA-IO and the National Salvation Front (NAS). Notably, efforts were made by the RTGoNU to halt the armed fighting, which was affecting six States. Instead, both SSPDF and SPLM/A-IO continued to advance their military postures. Despite CTSAMVM's concerted efforts to fulfil its mandate, its capacity to fully investigate the violation remained constrained during the reporting period. Meanwhile, no progress was made in advancing the implementation of the Transitional Security Arrangements, including unification and deployment of forces as required by the R-ARCSS.
4. South Sudan faced worsening humanitarian conditions marked by food insecurity, flooding, displacement, climate shocks, disease outbreaks, economic collapse and conflict. By the end of 2025, these overlapping humanitarian crises left over 10 million people, about two-thirds of the population, needing assistance. As these needs increased, the situation was exacerbated by funding constraints, which impacted service delivery. By the end of the year, only 42% (US\$ 715.9 million) of the US \$1.7 billion sought for the Humanitarian Response Plan Budget was realized. Moreover, humanitarian access was severely constrained by various factors, including conflict, flooding, bureaucratic impediments and insecurity, leaving millions of people without timely aid.
5. Regarding Resource, Economic and Financial Management, the Public Financial Management Oversight Committee prioritized the implementation of several key reforms, nine of which are highlighted in the R-ARCSS. Supported by development partners, these initiatives were in progress; however, advancement has been gradual and occasionally hampered by various challenges.

6. Implementation of the Treasury Single Account (TSA) and enhancing cash consolidation processes are currently underway. Also, a technical proposal to restructure the Loans Committee has been prepared and is currently under review by Senior Management at the Ministry of Finance and Planning.
7. The RTGoNU engaged with the World Bank under the Public Finance Management Institutional Strengthening (PFMIS) Project to secure support for comprehensive verification and clearance of arrears across government ministries, departments, and agencies. To achieve this, the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) was introduced to offer a web-based platform that integrates with other systems and gives a comprehensive overview of government financial management, it has not operated as intended. For the fiscal year 2024/25, financial data in IFMIS did not match standard operational procedures for several reasons: revenue and debt transactions were not recorded in real time within IFMIS; some payments were processed without being properly committed; and certain expenditures were logged but never actually paid out.
8. The RTGoNU recognizes these anomalies and has outlined the need for key PFM reforms to ensure an efficient use of the system. To ensure that a functioning TSA, effective cash management, expenditure controls, debt management and Macro-fiscal forecasting there needs to be comprehensive, reliable, accurate, and timely data from the IFMIS web system.
9. The Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP) has pledged to record all transactions—revenue, expenditure, and financing (debt)—in IFMIS. They aimed to accelerate the rollout to the first ten agencies by December 2025. MoFP will reconcile bank statements monthly, activate IFMIS controls to enforce budget limits and prevent payments without budgets, require commitment procedures for all payments in IFMIS, and check cash availability.
10. Further, the review and verification of loans and contracts collateralized or guaranteed by oil have begun. The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), in collaboration with its partners, implemented the 2025 Strategic Plan and produced copies of the amended ACC Act (2023) for distribution and public awareness. The Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority (PPDAA) has been building the internal institutional and technical capacity of its staff. However, the implementation of headcount and biometric registration has experienced delays due to the ongoing configuration of the biometric data system by the vendor.
11. On Transitional Justice, the Selection Panel to the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH) has been operational and commenced the process of recruitment of the Commissioners. However, no progress was registered towards the establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan (HCSS) and in operationalising the Compensation and Reparation Authority (CRA).
12. In terms of the permanent constitution-making process, the reconstituted National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) commenced civic education and public consultations exercises in eight (08) States and one (01) Administrative Area. The first phase of civic education and public consultations was expected to continue until all the States and Administrative Areas are covered, despite the alleged proposal by some parties to the RTGoNU to amend the R-ARCSS and delink the constitution-making process from elections.

13. Pursuant to its mandate under Article 7.9 of the R-ARCSS, the RJMEC has continued to intensify its diplomatic engagements at the national, regional and international levels and briefed them on the status of implementation of the R-ARCSS, with recommendations.
14. This report is therefore structured as follows: Section I provides an overview of the report, followed by Section II, with thematic analysis of the status of implementation of the R-ARCSS, Section III highlights key observations and recommendations to the Parties and Stakeholders to the R-ARCSS, the RTGoNU, the TNLA, IGAD, African Union, United Nations and International Partners and Friends of South Sudan. Section IV concludes the report.

II. Status of Implementation of the Transitional Tasks of the R-ARCSS

Chapter 1: Revitalised Transitional Government of National Unity

Recent Political Developments

15. During the quarter, a series of political developments were witnessed in the peace process. They included, among others, the following events: the court process involving SPLM/A-IO senior political and military leadership has continued, the South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents initiated a dialogue with the Parties to the R-ARCSS, the RTGoNU proposed amendments to the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan 2011 (as amended) and the R-ARCSS, a number of changes have been made in the responsibility sharing arrangements at the levels of the Executive and Legislature of the RTGoNU and the National Elections Commission (NEC) declared the national geographical constituencies, among others.
16. The prosecution of the First Vice President, Dr Riek Machar Teny and other top SPLM/A-IO officials by the ad-hoc Special Court on allegations related to the March 7th 2025 Nasir security incident, which started in the previous quarter, continued throughout the reporting period. By the end of the reporting period, the process was ongoing and expected to continue in 2026.
17. In late November and early December 2025, the South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents¹ initiated a dialogue with the signatory Parties to the R-ARCSS in an attempt to address some of the impediments to implementation of the R-ARCSS. During the preparatory stages, the Stakeholders held *tête-à-tête* consultative meetings with each of the parties to the R-ARCSS in order to galvanize their consensus for convening a joint dialogue at a later time. The first phase of consultations was reportedly undertaken without much difficulty; however, efforts to progress to convene the proposed joint dialogue faced some issues and resulted in its deferral to a later date.
18. On 10th December 2025, President Salva Kiir Mayardit convened an ‘expanded’ meeting of the Presidency² and discussed the status of implementation of the R-ARCSS and general elections in December 2026. Under Article 1.5.1 of the Agreement, the Presidency comprises the President, the First Vice President and the Four Vice Presidents. There is

¹ The South Sudanese Stakeholders and Adherents are defined under Article 7.2.2 of the R-ARCSS to include Faith-Based Leaders, women representatives, CSO representatives, Eminent personalities, Academia and Youth who are signatories to the R-ARCSS.

² As reported, the Vice Presidents present included H.E. Dr James Wani Igga, H.E. Josephine Lagu Yanga, H.E. Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior and H.E. Taban Deng Gai. Other participants in attendance included the chairpersons and representatives of the Parties to the R-ARCSS.

no “expanded presidency” and in this particular, the First Vice President, who ranks higher than all the other Vice Presidents, did not participate since he is still under detention and trial.

19. According to a statement released by the RTGoNU, they met to endorse proposals for amendment of the TCRSS 2011, as amended, and specific provisions of the R-ARCSS to pave the way for the conduct of elections by the end of the current Transitional Period in December 2026, as enshrined in the R-ARCSS and extended roadmap. The proposed amendments seek *inter-alia* to de-link national elections from the permanent constitution, population census, conduct elections under the TCRSS (2011) as amended, reduce the time period for publication of the voter register, and remove the supremacy of the R-ARCSS. Whereas, the R-ARCSS under Article 8.4 provides for procedure for amendment of the R-ARCSS and the TCRSS 2011, as amended, during the Transitional Period, such an amendment must be properly initiated as per Article 1.1.9.4 of the R-ARCSS which provides, among others, that the power to initiate an amendment to TCRSS (2011) as amended, and the R-ARCSS can only be initiated by the President, the First Vice President, or any of the Vice Presidents and shall require the agreement of the others.
20. In addition, whereas the stated objective of the proposed amendments is to enable the conduct of national elections before the end of the current extended Transitional Period, by *inter-alia* de-linking national elections from the permanent constitution-making process and postponing population census to after elections, the full proposed amendments go further to repeal Articles 8.2 and 8.3 on the supremacy of the R-ARCSS. This proposal is currently under consideration by the RJMEC with a view to achieving consensus before consenting or otherwise.
21. Under Article 1.9.1 of the R-ARCSS, the RTGoNU is founded on the premise that there shall be collegial collaboration in decision-making and continuous consultations within the Presidency, between the President, the First Vice President, and the Four Vice Presidents, to ensure effective governance during the Transitional Period. The initiation of a constitutional amendment or amendment to the R-ARCSS is one of those shared powers which requires consultation and agreement of the President, the First Vice President and the Four Vice Presidents. There is therefore need for the RTGoNU Presidency to properly consult and agree on the amendments necessary to facilitate the conduct of elections by the end of the Transitional Period.
22. On 17th December 2025, the ‘expanded’ meeting of the Presidency adopted the proposal of the Committee for the initiation of the requisite amendment to the R-ARCSS affecting Articles 1.2.5; 1.2.14; 1.20.5; 1.20.6; 1.20.10; 6.4; 8.2; and 8.3; Annexure D (Articles 1.19.5; 1.20.5; and 1.19.9) as well as the title of Chapter VIII of the R-ARCSS. By the end of the Quarter, the resolution of the expanded Presidency awaited adoption by the Council of Ministers of the RTGoNU, consent by the RJMEC members and ratification by the Transitional National Legislature as provided for under article 8.4 of the R-ARCSS.

The Executive of the RTGoNU

23. During the quarter, the Council of Ministers continued to meet regularly pursuant to its mandate, including approving the SSP 7 trillion National Budget for FY 2025/26.
24. At the level of the Presidency, significant changes were made during this time. Notably, H.E. Dr Benjamin Bol Mel (ITGoNU) was relieved of his position as the Vice President and Chair of the Economic Cluster and was replaced by H.E. Dr James Wani Igga

(ITGoNU), who was reinstated to the position he once held prior to his predecessor's appointment. Moreover, in late December 2025, H.E. Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior (FD), Vice President and Chair of the Gender and Youth Cluster, was reportedly elected by the Council of Ministers of the RTGoNU to lead the Governance Cluster on an interim basis due to the suspension, detention and ongoing trial of First Vice President Dr. Riek Machar (SPLM/A-IO).

25. At the Cabinet level, the changes made at various national ministerial portfolios affected the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (ITGoNU); the Ministry of Information, Communication and Postal Services (ITGoNU); the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (ITGoNU), and the Ministry of Roads and Bridges (ITGoNU), among others. At the gubernatorial level, a similar change was made at the Central Equatoria State (ITGoNU), where the Governor was also replaced. Changes also affected the incumbent of the position of the Inspector General of the National Police Services (ITGoNU).

The Transitional National Legislature

26. The Transitional National Legislature (TNL), comprising the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) and the Council of States, continued to perform its functions through the reporting period and passed several key pieces of legislation and budgetary measures aimed at strengthening the country's legal and economic frameworks. Key among them are the Cybersecurity and Computer Misuse Bill 2025, which aims to regulate online activities, criminalizing hacking, impersonation, and false information and the East African Community Treaty Bill 2025, which incorporates the EAC treaty into national law, facilitating regional integration and the free movement of goods.

Judicial Reforms

27. In terms of the judicial reforms process, there was no progress in terms of the implementation of the *ad hoc* Judicial Reform Committee (JRC) report. Under the R-ARCSS, implementation of the JRC reforms requires the review and amendment of the Judiciary Act, reconstitution of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) and then implementation of the recommended reforms with the advice and recommendations from the reconstituted JSC.

Legislative Reforms

28. In terms of the legislative reforms, little progress was made during this reporting period. The TNLA reportedly passed the National Audit Chambers Bill after its third and final reading. The amended law seeks to modernise the National Audit Chamber (NAC) and align it with regional standards and the 2018 Revitalised Peace Agreement. Some of the key reforms in the bill include establishment of the NAC and revising the appointment procedure of the Auditor General and Deputy Auditor General to ensure compliance with the Peace Agreement, and strengthening the NAC in exercising its mandate, as well as improving transparency and accountability.

National Elections

29. Regarding preparations for the conduct of national elections as scheduled in December 2026, the National Elections Commission (NEC) has struggled to keep up the required pace in undertaking institutional readiness for the elections, particularly through operationalization of State High Committee offices due to lack of funding. The

Commission also convened a high-level consultative meeting with key electoral stakeholders and provided key electoral updates and recommended critical actions for addressing impediments to electoral preparations, such as requisite political decisions, legal clarity and predictable resources.

30. On 22nd December 2025, the NEC Chairperson declared that the Republic of South Sudan would use the geographical constituency boundaries from the 2010 general elections for the December 2026 elections. The 102 national geographical constituencies cover all the ten (10) States and the three (03) Administrative Areas. In making the declaration, the NEC Chairperson cited the provisions of the National Elections Act 2012 (Amendment) Act, 2023 that gave it the powers to revert the country to use the constituencies of the 2010 General Elections for the December 2026 elections. The number of the national constituencies named per State are as follows: Central Equatoria State, 14; Eastern Equatoria State, 11; Western Equatoria State, 8; Jonglei State, including Greater Pibor Administrative Area, 17; Unity State, including Ruweng Administrative Area, 7; Upper Nile State, 12; Lakes State, 8; Northern Barh el Ghazal State, 9; Western Barh el Ghazal State, 4; Warrap State, including Abyei Administrative Area 12.
31. By the end of the quarter, the preconditions for the conduct of credible elections had not been met, including ensuring that a conducive legal, security, political, civic and economic environment is guaranteed. With just under 12 months to the elections, the unification of forces, making of the permanent constitution, judicial reforms, operationalization of the State High Committees, funding, among others, ought to have been completed by this time. Delayed meaningful progress raises a fundamental question regarding what the RTGoNU could do differently to enable it expedite an inclusive return to implementation to ensure credible elections are conducted within the remaining period of the R-ARCSS.
32. Pursuant to its mandate, the Political Parties Council (PPC), the institution responsible for the registration of political parties, engaged in capacity-building initiatives for the Council members and political parties on the laws governing party registration and management to promote informed, compliant, and responsible participation. In November 2025, the PPC organized a dialogue in Juba with signatory and non-signatory parties, including registered and non-registered political parties. It also participated in meetings convened by the High-Level ad-hoc Committee of the Parties and provided a detailed update on its accomplished and planned activities for the next quarter. The PPC observed that the recurring challenge of funding has continued to undermine the efficacy of implementation of its constitutional mandate.

Chapter 2: Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements

Permanent Ceasefire

33. Regarding the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements, there has been no noticeable efforts by the RTGoNU to halt fighting between the SSPDF and opposition forces, such as the SPLA-IO and the National Salvation Front (NAS). Although the SSPDF took control of the Nasir military base, leading to reduced skirmishes in the general area of Nasir and Ulang Counties, CTSMVM reports indicated fighting in Upper Nile, northern part of Jonglei, Unity, Western Bahr El Ghazal, Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria States. The continuous fighting during the fourth quarter indicates an escalation in violence and the deliberate violation of the Permanent Ceasefire by both the SSPDF and the SPLA-IO. In addition to the skirmishes between the

SSPDF and the SPLA-IO, clashes between armed youths and the SSPDF have added to the volatility of the security situation, especially in some parts of Upper Nile, Jonglei and Unity States. Despite CTSAMVM's concerted efforts to fulfil its mandate, CTSAMVM's capacity to fully investigate violations remains constrained.

34. CTSAMVM has recorded several alleged violations over the last quarter, including seventy-six (76) for December 2025 alone. It was, however, unable to investigate in order to determine attribution and accountability due to the lack of access to areas affected by violence, as well as internal CTSAMVM challenges such as SPLA-IO representation in some CTSAMVM structures. For example, due to the March 2025 Nasir incident, the SPLA-IO Senior Liaison Officer left South Sudan for fear of arrest, therefore requiring replacement. However, owing to a lack of consensus within the SPLA-IO on the appointment of the Senior Liaison Officer's replacement, CTSAMVM's operations were affected.

Transitional Security Arrangements

35. On the Transitional Security Arrangements, no progress was registered in the fourth quarter of 2025. There was no unification and deployment of forces as required by the R-ARCSS. Chapter II implementation mechanisms, namely the Joint Defence Board (JDB); the Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC); the Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC), as well as the DDR Commission and the SDSR Board, have been negatively affected by the current political and security crisis. After nine months of inactivity, the CTSAMVM Board convened for the first time in December 2025 to discuss critical CTSAMVM operational and administrative issues. However, the CTSAMVM Technical Committee has not met since March 2025.

Chapter 3: Humanitarian Assistance and Reconstruction

Humanitarian Status

36. During the quarter, South Sudan faced worsening humanitarian conditions marked by food insecurity, flooding, displacement, climate shocks, disease outbreaks, economic collapse and conflict. By the end of 2025, these overlapping humanitarian crises left over 10 million people, about two-thirds of the population, needing assistance.
37. As the needs increased, the situation was exacerbated by funding constraints which impacted service delivery. By 31st December, only 42% (US\$ 715.9 million) of the US \$1.7 billion request for the Humanitarian Response Plan Budget was realized. Key humanitarian sectors affected by the 58% budget deficit were food security and nutrition, with food distributions and malnutrition treatment programs severely underfunded. Also affected were health and WASH, which left the cholera outbreak response constrained by lack of supplies, and staff and protection and Gender Based Violence services under which safe spaces, psychosocial support, and legal aid for survivors of violence remained underfunded. The hardest hit States by the funding gap were Unity and Jonglei States, which had the largest flood-affected populations and Upper Nile, which was hardest hit by conflict and displacement. Without increased government and donor support, food insecurity, disease outbreaks, and protection risks will escalate into the new year.

Food Insecurity/ Flooding & Climate Shocks

38. The impacts of climate change were manifest through floods and drought conditions across the Country. Whereas parts of Greater Upper Nile, Unity, and Jonglei States faced extensive flooding which affected over 1.3 million people in 29 counties across six states and displaced over 375,000 as at end of November 2025, some northern and south-eastern regions experienced prolonged dry spells. These climatic shocks devastated crop production, loss of livestock, and strained already scarce water resources. Women and girls were disproportionately affected, through increased workloads, reduced access to essential services and increased exposure to gender-based violence during displacement and search for scarce resources like food and water.
39. The cumulative climate impacts surpassed local coping capacities, as communities were stripped of the time and resources necessary for recovery between shocks. The erosion of livelihoods also deepened gender inequalities, limiting women's access to income-generating opportunities and decision-making spaces. By the end of the year, flood waters remained high in Unity and Jonglei, threatening livelihoods and food production.
40. According to UNICEF, almost 6 million people were in IPC, Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse, including 28,000 in Phase 5 (Catastrophe), with populations in famine-like conditions recorded in Counties such as Nasir in Upper Nile State and Fangak in Jonglei State, while 7.56 million people were projected to be at risk during the 2026 lean season.
41. In order to stem anticipated severe climate-driven humanitarian needs through 2026 and beyond, there is an urgent need to scale up proactive action and investment in climate-resilient programming.

Health Emergencies

42. During the quarter, there was a surge in cholera cases in the months of October and November due to heavy flooding. Although transmission slowed slightly in December, cases remained high in flood-affected areas of Unity, Jonglei, and Upper Nile, with overcrowded camps in Bentiu and Malakal driving infections. Projections indicated a significant risk of resurgence in early 2026, especially in Unity and Jonglei States.
43. By December 2025, the cholera outbreak had claimed nearly 1,600 lives out of 96,557 recorded cases across 55 counties in 9 States, plus the three administrative areas (Abyei, Ruweng, Greater Pibor) since October 2024. Half of the recorded deaths occurred outside health facilities due to delayed or inaccessible treatment.
44. Major hotspots during the quarter included Juba, Mayom, Duk, and Rubkona, which accounted for nearly half of new cases in late November, and Fangak, Unity, Jonglei Upper Nile. Despite cholera vaccination campaigns and vector control efforts, significant gaps persisted in surveillance, reporting, and emergency response. With only an estimated 44 per cent of the population having reliable access to primary health care, the outbreak was worsened by flooding and displacement, and overcrowded camps, which limited access to clean water and sanitation. The health system's heavy dependence on humanitarian support exacerbated the situation as funding cuts in the humanitarian sector led to constrained cholera response efforts, leaving gaps in WASH, health, and community awareness programs, while other diseases like malaria and measles strained already fragile health systems.

45. The situation underscored the urgent need for sustained and predictable funding by government and development partners to strengthen integrated prevention, detection, and response capacities nationwide.

Human Rights

46. During the quarter, UNMISS reports indicated that despite peace commitments, armed hostilities continued to undermine civilian protection. Human rights violations in South Sudan remained widespread, driven by conflict, displacement, and weak rule of law, disproportionately affecting women and children.
47. Documented Conflict-Related Abuses included killings, abductions, arbitrary arrests, and forced displacement linked to clashes between armed groups and government forces. Most affected populations were reported as civilians in Upper Nile, Jonglei, and Unity States who suffered looting, intimidation, and destruction of property.
48. With regard to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), UNMISS highlighted systemic impunity for GBV, noting that survivors had limited access to justice and medical care. Among the worst affected were women and girls in displacement camps who faced sexual violence, harassment, and exploitation. An increase in child marriage was noted in famine-threatened counties as a harmful coping mechanism.
49. Failures in citizens' rights to health and education were highlighted through limited or lack of access to health facilities and services, as well as denial of thousands of children their right to education due to displacement and school closures, which increased risks of child labour and recruitment into armed groups.
50. Under Governance and Rule of Law, shortfalls in women's representation in transitional institutions were noted, undermining inclusivity under the peace agreement. Persistent weak accountability mechanisms fuelled impunity for human rights violations despite relentless efforts by RJMEC and UNMISS urging parties to restore fidelity to the peace agreement and uphold human rights commitments.
51. As the year closed, it was noted that without stronger accountability and gender-sensitive reforms, GBV, displacement, and denial of basic rights would intensify. RJMEC underscored the critical role inclusive governance and protection of civilians play in preventing a relapse into large-scale violence as the country plans for elections in 2026.

Humanitarian Access

52. Humanitarian access was severely constrained by conflict, flooding, bureaucratic impediments, and insecurity, leaving millions of people without timely aid.
53. By the end of the year, intensified clashes had displaced 322,000, while continued fighting restricted humanitarian corridors. Aid convoys were blocked by armed groups and local insecurity, especially in Upper Nile, Jonglei, and Unity States, while humanitarian workers faced harassment, checkpoints, and looting of supplies.
54. Flooding and infrastructure damage also impeded access, for example, roads, bridges, and airstrips were submerged, cutting off access to Bentiu and Rubkona in Unity and Fangak and Akobo in Jonglei. This led to heavy reliance on air drops and river transport, which were costly and further hindered access, especially to the 355,000 people displaced by floods and other isolated communities.

55. A rise in bureaucratic and political barriers was noted as government approvals for NGO operations slowed, and administrative restrictions limited humanitarian presence in contested areas, despite RJMEC and UN agencies' repeated appeals to authorities to guarantee safe and unhindered access.
56. Unity and Jonglei States remained the hardest to access due to flooding and insecurity, while Upper Nile faced compounded challenges from conflict and refugee influx. It is worth noting that without improved humanitarian corridors and funding, millions risk famine, disease, and violence in 2026 as the country prepares for elections.

Return, Resettlement and Reintegration

57. During the quarter, South Sudan experienced significant pressures around return, resettlement, and reintegration, driven by conflict spillover from Sudan, internal displacement, and climate shocks. By the end of the year, return flows continued, straining already fragile host communities. Many returnees arrived in Upper Nile and Unity States, overwhelming services.
58. By the end of the year, a total of 1.3 million people were back in South Sudan as a result of the war in Sudan, including 872,000 South Sudanese returning voluntarily. 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) remained across South Sudan, with camps like Bentiu and Malakal overcrowded, with limited access to services.
59. The resettlement and reintegration of returnees and IDPs remained challenged by multiple factors including food insecurity as returnees and IDPs struggled to access livelihoods, health crises with the cholera outbreak especially in flood-affected areas, protection risks as women and children faced GBV, exploitation, and child marriage in overcrowded camps and education gaps as displaced children often dropped out of school, undermining reintegration into communities.
60. Whereas humanitarian actors provided emergency shelter, food, and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) services to returnees and IDPs, and UN agencies and NGOs supported livelihood programs and women-led initiatives to strengthen reintegration, durable solutions remained elusive as most returnees and IDPs lacked access to land, livelihoods, and basic services. Flooding and conflict continued to drive secondary displacement, undermining resettlement efforts.
61. Without stronger investment in peace, infrastructure, gender-sensitive programming, and government intervention and funding, particularly through the implementation of durable solutions, reintegration will remain a challenge, leaving millions dependent on humanitarian aid.

Key Gender Concerns

62. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) remained a concern during the reporting period as women and girls in displacement camps faced increased risks of sexual violence, harassment, and exploitation. Conflict and insecurity limited safe movement, with reports of attacks during firewood collection, water fetching, and travel to markets. GBV services were overstretched, leaving survivors with limited access to psychosocial support, medical care, and legal protection.

63. Women and children bore the brunt of displacement and protection risks. The displacement of 355,000 people by floods and 322,000 by conflict since January 2025 led to overcrowded camps where women and children faced heightened risks of domestic violence and exploitation due to congestion and lack of privacy in shelters.
64. Women suffered unequal access to aid as female-headed households struggled to access food distributions and livelihood support due to cultural barriers and insecurity. It was noted that aid delivery often failed to account for gender-specific needs, such as menstrual hygiene supplies and maternal health care.
65. Cases of child marriage and other harmful coping mechanisms rose during the period due to economic collapse and food insecurity, which pushed families toward child marriage as a survival strategy, disproportionately affecting girls. Girls continued to face a greater risk of dropping out of school due to displacement and caregiving responsibilities.
66. Owing to limited funding and fragile health care systems, which were additionally strained by the cholera outbreak, access to maternal and reproductive health services was disrupted, leaving pregnant women at risk due to limited prenatal care and unsafe delivery conditions.
67. During the reporting period, UN agencies and humanitarian actors in South Sudan scaled up gender-focused interventions to address rising risks of gender-based violence (GBV), exploitation, and unequal access to aid. Interventions included access to justice through mobile GBV Courts, safe spaces and psychosocial support, integrated GBV response into health services, awareness campaigns on GBV prevention, child marriage, and women's rights and community dialogues which helped challenge harmful norms and encouraged reporting of abuse.
68. UN Women and other partners supported economic empowerment and women empowerment in support of livelihood activities aimed at reducing reliance on harmful coping mechanisms like child marriage or transactional sex.
69. While gender concerns were recognized and addressed, the scale of need far outpaced available resources. This left gaps such as limited coverage by mobile courts and safe spaces. GBV programming remained underfunded, and cultural barriers continued to discourage reporting and access to services due to stigma.
70. Sustained investment in justice, health, and empowerment programs remains critical if protection of women and girls is to be attained, especially as the country heads to the polls in 2026.

Women's Representation in Transitional Institutions

71. Women's participation and representation remained below the required 35% minimum level as per the R-ARCSS at all levels of government³ – the TNLA, the Executive, state

³ This was confirmed during a Gender Equality in Public Administration (GEPA) study conducted by the National Transformational Leadership Institute (NTLI) to review the number of women represented at the different levels of government. The GEPA assessment conducted by the NTLI, in partnership with Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MGCSW) revealed that despite the progressive gender provisions within the agreement and the progress so far achieved, women's participation in governance and decision-making positions is still lagging below the minimum threshold of 35% and continues to be eroded by the emergent trends of regression on the gains due to the replacement of women by men in

governments, security arrangements, independent commissions and mechanisms and institutions of the Agreement. RJMEC consistently reported and highlighted this gap, recommended corrective action by the RTGoNU to meet the 35% quota and flagged it as a serious violation of the peace agreement's gender provisions. As the December 2026 elections approach, ensuring women's representation and protection will remain critical to preventing exclusion.

Chapter 4: Resource Economic and Financial Management

Public Financial Management

72. To achieve effective, transparent, and accountable management of oil and non-oil revenues as specified in Articles 4.10.1.2 to 4.10.1.6 of the R-ARCSS, the Public Financial Management Oversight Committee prioritized the implementation of several key reforms, nine of which are highlighted in the R-ARCSS. Supported by development partners, these initiatives are currently in progress; however, advancement has been gradual and occasionally hampered by various challenges.

Implementation of Treasury Single Account (TSA)

73. The RTGoNU, in collaboration with the World Bank, conducted training for staff of the Directorate of Accounts to lay the foundation for implementing the Treasury Single Account (TSA) and improving cash consolidation procedures. The TSA is a financial policy mandating that all government revenues and expenditures be managed through a unified bank account or a network of linked accounts. This approach enables the government to obtain a comprehensive overview of its cash resources, thereby facilitating improved cash management and strengthened oversight of public finances as required in the R-ARCSS.

Relocation of the Loans Committee

74. A technical proposal to restructure the Loans Committee has been prepared and is currently under review by Senior Management at the Ministry of Finance and Planning. This initiative aims to ensure that borrowing aligns with the Public Financial Management Accountability Act (PFMAA). However, the restructuring process has progressed slowly, resulting in gaps in standard procedures for loan acquisition and oversight.

Strengthening Cash Management

75. The Cash Management Committee has not met for a significant period, in part due to ongoing cash shortages, resulting in the postponement of critical financial decisions. It is recommended that the Cash Management Committee be reactivated and its capacity strengthened to effectively address these shortages and enable essential financial operations. The RTGoNU acknowledges the importance of improving cash flow and budget credibility, and the necessity of developing a phased strategy to reduce cash rationing and resolve payment arrears across agencies.

leadership positions and other challenges including attrition, lack of systematic tracking and updates on the gender data, conditions of service and unfavourable policies, i.e., recruitment policies.

Review, Verification and Clearance of all Arrears

76. The RTGoNU engaged with the World Bank under the Public Finance Management Institutional Strengthening (PFMIS) Project to secure support for comprehensive verification and clearance of arrears across government ministries, departments, and agencies. To achieve this, the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) was introduced to offer a web-based platform that integrates with other systems and gives a comprehensive overview of government financial management, it has not operated as intended. For the fiscal year 2024/25, financial data in IFMIS did not match standard operational procedures for several reasons: revenue and debt transactions were not recorded in real time within IFMIS; some payments were processed without being properly committed; and certain expenditures were logged but never actually paid out.
77. The RTToGNU recognized these anomalies and has outlined the need for key PFM reforms to ensure an efficient use of the system. To ensure there is a functioning TSA, effective cash management, expenditure controls, debt management and macro-fiscal forecasting, there needs to be comprehensive, reliable, accurate, and timely data from the IFMIS system.
78. The Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP) has pledged to record all transactions—revenue, expenditure, and financing (debt)—in IFMIS. They aim to accelerate the rollout to the first ten agencies by December 2025. MoFP is expected to reconcile bank statements monthly, activate IFMIS controls to enforce budget limits and prevent payments without budgets, require commitment procedures for all payments in IFMIS, and check cash availability.

Review and Verification of Loans and Contracts Collateralized/Guaranteed against Crude Oil

79. The review and verification of loans and contracts collateralized or guaranteed by oil have begun through structured inter-ministerial coordination to promote transparency in oil-backed financial obligations. This initiative, undertaken in partnership with the World Bank under the PFM-IS Project, aims to provide comprehensive support for the verification and resolution of arrears across government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).

Strengthening the National Audit Chamber

80. The NAC continued its capacity-building initiatives to effectively fulfil its mandate, emphasizing leadership and management training in public financial management (PFM) for senior management, supported by funding from the PFMIS Project. In addition, five CPA students were sponsored to enhance their professional audit capabilities. The ongoing audits of Government Financial Statements from 2015 to 2024, aimed at restoring audit credibility and undertaken with support from the PFMIS Project, have experienced delays and must be completed prior to the upcoming elections. Furthermore, the NAC commenced the implementation of audits for subnational government states with assistance from the PFMIS Project.

Strengthening of the Anti-Corruption Commission

81. The Anti-Corruption Commission, in collaboration with its partners, implemented the 2025 Strategic Plan and produced copies of the amended ACC Act (2023) for distribution

and public awareness. Additionally, the Commission provided staff training on corruption risk assessment and investigative techniques, and organized peer-learning missions to Kenya to exchange best practices in anti-corruption efforts.

Establishment of Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority (PPDAA)

82. The Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority (PPDAA) is building its capacity by recruiting staff and providing training. The authority carried out a benchmarking trip to Malawi to enhance its service provider registration systems and completed the Annual Performance Evaluation Report (APER 2024/25), which details institutional achievements. Despite consistently facing non-disbursement of its approved budget since its establishment—a challenge shared with many other ministries, departments, and agencies—the PPDAA has organized high-level sensitization workshops and acquired biometric hardware and software.

Rolling Out Electronic Payroll Using the Biometric System

83. The implementation of headcount and biometric registration has experienced delays due to the ongoing configuration of the biometric data system by the vendor. These delays have impeded progress in verifying and streamlining the public service payroll. Additionally, there has been significant resistance to essential reforms, such as payroll cleansing, the transition to electronic salary payments, and the establishment of independent Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS) institutions. This opposition poses risks to both the integrity and sustainability of the intended reform outcomes.

Strengthening of the Fiscal, Financial Allocation and Monitoring Commission

84. The RTGoNU initiated deliberations concerning the Legal Framework of the Fiscal, Financial Allocation and Monitoring Commission (FFAMC). Concurrently, the Council of States has been consulted and summoned for both the first and second readings of the bill within its chambers.

Chapter 5: Transitional Justice, Accountability, Reconciliation and Healing

85. On Transitional Justice, the Selection Panel to the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH) has been operational and implementing its mandate. It advertised vacancies for the national positions for the Commissioners to the CTRH, received 127 applications from interested South Sudanese citizens and shortlisted 47 suitable candidates for assessment, including interviews.
86. Subsequently, the Selection Panel published the list of candidates in the public media platforms, calling for public comments on suitability of the 47 shortlisted candidates and as part of the assessment process. It is expected that the Selection Panel will interview, select and thereafter announce successful candidates. The Panel is also expected to submit the names of four selected candidates to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. Once the Executive receives the list of names of the nominees, it will be tabled before the TNLA for vetting and approval before presidential appointment.
87. Regarding the selection process for the non-South Sudanese CTRH Commissioners, the African Union and the United Nations are closely collaborating through a taskforce in

recruiting the three Commissioners. The AU Commission advertised for the three positions of Commissioners to the CTRH in December 2025. More than 150 applications were received for consideration. The Taskforce has begun shortlisting suitable candidates and thereafter is expected to forward six (06) names to the RTGoNU, out of which the latter will select three (03) for vetting and eventual appointment.

88. No progress was registered towards the establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan (HCSS). The Office of the Legal Counsel of the African Union Commission was expected to commence drafting guidelines to guide the RTGoNU and the AUC on steps to be taken towards the establishment of the HCSS. Moreso, there was no progress made in operationalising the Compensation and Reparation Authority (CRA).

Chapter 6: Parameters of Permanent Constitution

89. In terms of the permanent constitution-making process, some progress was registered during this reporting period. The reconstituted National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) commenced the first phase of civic education and public consultations exercises in eight (08) States and one (01) Administrative Area.
90. The teams have rolled out civic education and concurrently conducted public consultations, which were received with huge enthusiasm by the population, which shared a number of priority issues to be included in the forthcoming permanent constitution-making process.
91. According to the NCRC, the civic education and public consultation will continue until all the 10 States and 3 Administrative Areas are covered. In spite of this progress, a proposal by some Parties to the RTGoNU was made to amend the R-ARCSS to delink the constitution-making process from elections.

Chapter 7: Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission

92. Pursuant to its mandate under Article 7.9 of the R-ARCSS, the RJMEC has continued to intensify its diplomatic engagements at national, regional and international levels throughout the quarter.
93. On 7th October, RJMEC held its 4th Extraordinary meeting during which it recommended that, in order to restore fidelity to the R-ARCSS, it urged the RTGoNU leadership and all Parties to the R-ARCSS to take bold steps to urgently address the ongoing political and security impediments and to return the implementation process on track by considering to undertake the following actions:
- 93.1. ceasing all forms of hostilities, embracing inclusive dialogue, reactivating the implementing institutions and mechanisms of the Agreement and fully adhering to the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements;
- 93.2. desisting from taking actions that further erode the political trust and confidence in the Revitalised Agreement and resolving the political crisis through dialogue and through Agreement institutions and mechanisms.
- 93.3. expanding and protecting political and civic space to enable the return of peace partners to the Agreement mechanisms and further creating a conducive

environment for implementation of elections and Constitution-making related tasks, noting that barely 12 months were left to the December 2026 elections;

- 93.4. faithfully adhering to the RTGoNU mandate to implement the R-ARCSS in letter and spirit to realise free, fair and credible elections as scheduled; and
 - 93.5. availing adequate funding to all the institutions to enable timely implementation of their respective mandates.
94. In spite of the aforementioned recommendations, their implementation continued to be challenging.
95. In December 2025, the RJMEC briefed the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) on the status of implementation of the R-ARCSS for the period 1st July to 30th September 2025, noting the stalled progress against the backdrop of serious political and security violations. During the quarterly briefing, RJMEC recommended, among others, that the Transitional National Legislature considers and endorses its report and that the leadership of the Parties to the R-ARCSS should desist from taking actions that further erode the political trust and confidence in the R-ARCSS and to ensure that the political disagreements are resolved through dialogue, and disputes are addressed through agreed mechanisms of the R-ARCSS.
96. In addition, the RJMEC recommended that the RTGoNU should: urgently resolve the current political and security crisis and return to full and inclusive implementation of the R-ARCSS; expedite implementation of the *ad hoc* Judicial Reform Committee's report and recommendations, in letter and spirit; expedite the re-tabling of the NSS Act before the TNLA for reconsideration; further expedite the enactment of the pending laws revised by the NCAC; avail sufficient funding to the NCRC in a timely manner to enable it to roll out the civic education and public consultation campaigns to all parts of the country; expand and protect political and civic space to enable the return of some peace partners to the Agreement mechanisms and further the creation of a conducive environment for implementation of elections and constitution-making-related tasks; and work towards realising free, fair and credible elections in December 2026.
97. As per the parliamentary procedure, the RJMEC Quarterly Report was committed to the Standing Specialized Committees on Peace and Reconciliation and Legislation and Justice for their consideration. On 8th December 2025, the aforementioned specialized parliamentary committees tabled their joint report before the august House, which was subsequently adopted with requisite observations and recommendations to the Executive of the RTGoNU.

III. Key Observations and Recommendations

Observations

98. Throughout the last quarter of 2025, the R-ARCSS continued to face challenges as a result of persistent serious political and security violations. Compounding these challenges are persistent and escalating armed clashes between the SSPDF and SPLA-IO, which constitute a serious breach of the Permanent Ceasefire. These confrontations have heightened fears of a relapse into full-scale conflict, undermined ongoing efforts to consolidate peace and stability and undercut trust which was built among the parties over the years, as well as confidence in the peace process.

99. Further, RJMEC is concerned about the persistent practice of taking political decisions, including the removal and replacement of opposition-nominated representatives from their various portfolios in the Executive of the Revitalised Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) and the Transitional National Legislature at national and state levels, without consultation and consensus of the affected parties. Such actions contravene the letter and spirit underpinning the R-ARCSS and deepen divisions within the RTGoNU.
100. The current trajectory of the peace process, therefore, calls into serious question the commitment of the Parties to implement the R-ARCSS and deliver the elections as scheduled. Unless urgent measures are undertaken to restore inclusive dialogue, uphold the sanctity of the R-ARCSS, and ensure inclusivity, South Sudan risks sliding back into instability, jeopardising the hard-won gains of the peace process.

Recommendations

101. In light of the aforementioned, the following measures are recommended to the Parties to the Agreement and Relevant Stakeholders, the RTGoNU, IGAD, AU and International Partners and Friends of South Sudan to safeguard the sanctity of the R-ARCSS, avert a relapse into widespread armed conflict and hold the elections as scheduled at the end of December 2026:

a. To the Parties to the Agreement and Relevant Stakeholders:

- encourage all signatories to the R-ARCSS to cease hostilities, engage in inclusive dialogue and agree on practical steps to realise free, fair and credible elections and a democratic end to the Transitional Period as provided for under the R-ARCSS;
- further encourage the RTGoNU to adhere to the provisions of the R-ARCSS, including Articles 1.9.4.1 and 8.4 of the R-ARCSS on the initiation of any amendment of the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (TCRSS) 2011 (as amended) and R-ARCSS through consultation, consensus and agreement of all the principals to the R-ARCSS;
- condemn and abandon all actions that undermine the R-ARCSS, particularly unilateral decisions and breaches of the ceasefire resulting in loss of life, property and displacement, in order to guarantee humanitarian access and civilian protection; and
- move with urgency and revert back to implementation of the R-ARCSS in letter and spirit.

b. To the RTGoNU:

- adhere strictly to R-ARCSS provisions, including by reinstating the unilaterally dismissed opposition members to their portfolios as per the responsibility-sharing arrangements;
- resolve the current political and security impasse through an inclusive political dialogue and return to full and inclusive implementation of the R-ARCSS;
- ensure the protection and expansion of political and civic space to facilitate the conduct of free, fair and credible democratic elections;
- avail sufficient funding to the Agreement institutions and mechanisms to facilitate the expeditious implementation of the critical tasks of the R-ARCSS, including for

the completion of the unification of forces, the making of the permanent constitution and preparations for elections; and

- reconsider National Security Services Act as amended and return the same to the TNLA for reconsideration and amendment.

c. To the TNLA:

- prevail on the Parties to the Agreement to cease all forms of hostilities, embrace inclusive genuine dialogue, re-activate the implementation mechanisms of the Agreement and fully adhere to the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements;
- prevail on the Executive of the RTGoNU to expedite implementation of the JRC report and its recommendations, in letter and spirit, especially the review and amendment of the Judiciary Act and reconstitution of the JSC to implement the reforms; and
- consider expediting the enactment of all the pending amended legislation in support of the implementation of the R-ARCSS.

d. To IGAD:

- encourage the leadership in Juba to desist from taking actions that further erode the political trust and confidence in the Revitalised Peace Agreement and ensure that the political disagreements are resolved through dialogue and disputes are addressed through the mechanisms of the R-ARCSS;
- urge the RTGoNU to limit any proposed TCRSS amendments to the provisions only necessary for the conduct of peaceful and timely elections while upholding the integrity of the R-ARCSS;
- further urge the leadership of the RTGoNU to reinstate the unilaterally dismissed opposition members to their agreed portfolios;
- urge the RTGoNU to guarantee political and civic space for purposes of agreeing on how to end the Transitional Period through free, fair and democratic elections; and
- assist the RTGoNU to resolve the current political and security impasse and secure the release of the First Vice President and all political detainees in order to facilitate meaningful dialogue and a return to the implementation of the R-ARCSS.

e. To the African Union:

- in support of the South Sudan peace process, consider mobilising and extending financial and logistical support to facilitate expeditious implementation of the critical tasks of the R-ARCSS, including completion of the unification of forces, the making of the permanent constitution and preparations for elections;
- call upon the RTGoNU to reconstitute itself as per the provisions of the R-ARCSS, particularly by restoring the SPLM-IO portfolios and move with urgency to implement the R-ARCSS in letter and spirit, and to adhere strictly to its provisions, including upholding its supremacy;

- appeal to all the Parties to the R-ARCSS to embrace dialogue and to agree on practical steps to realise free, fair and credible elections and a democratic end to the Transitional Period as provided for under the R-ARCSS;
- engage the RTGoNU with a view to expediting the establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan to investigate, and if necessary, prosecute those bearing responsibility for any crimes committed during this Transitional Period;
- the AU C5 could consider convening a high-level leadership retreat of the RTGoNU and Parties' leadership to resolve their outstanding political differences; and
- consider putting in place stringent measures to hold accountable all individuals or entities who are spoilers and violators of the R-ARCSS.

f. To the United Nations:

- urge the leadership of the SSPDF and SPLA-IO to immediately halt all hostilities, fully comply with the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements, and refrain from any acts of violence that undermine peace and stability; and
- in coordination with IGAD and the AU, consider putting in place measures to hold spoilers and violators of the R-ARCSS accountable.

g. To the International Partners and Friends of South Sudan:

- encourage and support inclusive political dialogue among all parties to the Revitalised Peace Agreement, ensuring participation of all political entities, stakeholders, civil society and marginalised groups;
- enhance coordinated humanitarian aid and development support to address urgent needs arising from ongoing displacement, insecurity and economic hardship in South Sudan; and
- consider supporting the constitution-making, electoral, judicial and reconciliation processes, including by directly funding critical mechanisms and providing them with technical and logistical support.

IV. Conclusion

102. The South Sudan peace process stands at a critical crossroads, demanding urgent and coordinated action from national, regional, and international stakeholders to prevent total collapse of the permanent ceasefire and safeguard the integrity of the R-ARCSS and ensure its successful implementation to the end. Recent developments underscore the fragility of the status quo and the need for deliberate, collective efforts to restore confidence among the parties and for a renewed momentum towards sustainable peace.

103. To achieve this, priority must be given to restoring the Permanent Ceasefire, initiating inclusive political dialogue, recommitting to the inclusive implementation of the Agreement, and expediting the completion of the unification of the forces and redeployment. These measures are essential to prevent further deterioration of security, restore inclusive transitional governance, and create an environment conducive to democratic transition.

104. In accordance with Chapter VII of the R-ARCSS, the RJMEC reaffirms its commitment to continue monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on the status of implementation of the

R-ARCSS, as circumstances demand, and intervene to break any deadlock that may emerge during implementation. It will regularly provide reports and briefings to the RTGoNU, the reconstituted TNLA, the Chairperson of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the Chairperson of the IGAD Council of Ministers, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and to the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Security Council of the United Nations.

105.RJMEC remains steadfast in its commitment to accompany the peace process to its successful conclusion and encourages all stakeholders to redouble their efforts towards achieving lasting peace and stability in South Sudan.

END