



Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC)

JMEC Chairperson's Closing Remarks – March 24, 2016

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:

Easter is a time of renewal. I echo the call of the Bishop that we should all work together so that the country can rise from the ashes of destruction.

Let me summarize today's meeting as follows:

I welcome the Government's report that the chief of the army has given explicit orders to all units to ensure that all roadblocks are removed. I would endorse the request of the United Nations that copies of these orders be freely provided to all humanitarian actors to help facilitate their work. I further welcome the call of the SPLM (In Opposition) for closer cooperation between the Parties and the humanitarian agencies. I am, however, still concerned that civilian movement across the Nile at Malakal is not being permitted, and urge the Government to take action to address this matter.

I am very pleased to hear that the obstacles that have impeded the return of the 1,370 SPLA (In Opposition) troops to Juba have been overcome. I echo what the Parties have themselves said: there are no remaining difficulties to the return of the First Vice President designate and the formation of the new transitional government. This is long overdue. I am reassured by the commitments made by the Government and the SPLM/A (In Opposition), but I feel compelled to remind all Parties that commitments are only meaningful if they are fulfilled. Let us fulfil them.

The assistance of Ethiopia in the transport of weapons and the collective efforts of the United Nations, China, Norway, the United States and the United Kingdom to finance and facilitate this return have been crucial. I thank all of the partners for their efforts, which underlines their critical commitment to supporting this Agreement and to the establishment of the Transitional Government of National Unity.

Despite these positive developments, I remain concerned at the impediments reported by the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM), particularly with respect to the verification of the redeployment of government forces from Juba. I urge the parties to provide the necessary documentation to CTSAMM so that it can verify the redeployment of troops from Juba. As I stated in my opening remarks, and as has been reaffirmed by the Parties today, CTSAMM is mandated to determine whether SPLA (In Opposition) forces are present in

Equatoria and Bahr el Ghazal, and I urge the Parties to assist CTSAMM to conduct this verification as expeditiously as possible.

I have just been informed that the aircraft transporting the SPLA (In Opposition) police and SDSR members have left Pagak minutes ago and are on their way to Malakal. I hope this will therefore lead to the reconvening of the SDSR Board in the very near future, as well as the work required to begin the formation of the Joint Integrated Police.

Before I conclude, let me also add that Easter is also a time for reconciliation. As we near the formation of the transitional government, we should also begin to turn our minds to the questions of forgiveness, of tolerance, of memorializing those that have lost their lives in this conflict. Reconciliation is part of the promise of the Agreement.

But to realize this promise, serious attention to the economic situation will also be required. It was not formally part of our agenda today, but it remains the case that JMEC can be a forum to address the economic and financial crisis the country faces. Without action on economic reform and restructuring, the Agreement will be imperilled. As we enter the Easter season, therefore, let us work actively on all fronts – security, governance, economic, social – so that the Agreement can succeed. Thank you.