

REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF HIGH-LEVEL BREAKFAST DISCUSSION AND STRATEGIC THINKING ON PEACE PROCESS IN SOUTH SUDAN



PROFESSIONALIZATION AND PRACTICAL REFORMS OF SECURITY AND DEFENCE SECTOR: CANTONMENT, ENCAMPMENT, INDOCTRINATION, TRAINING AND REORGANIZATION OF FORCES DURING THE PRE-TRANSITIONAL PERIOD AND BEYOND IN SOUTH SUDAN



INTRODUCTION

The Center for Strategic and Policy Studies (CSPS) organized a HIGH-LEVEL BREAKFAST DISCUSSION AND STRATEGIC THINKING ON PEACE PROCESS IN SOUTH SUDAN at Pyramidd Continental Hotel in Juba on 22nd November 2018. The event brought together 30 policy and decision makers from government of South Sudan (military and technical professionals), civil society, academia, diplomatic missions/attachés, and UNMISS Peace Keeping/RPF in a unique conducive venue in a prime morning time. The participants arrived at the venue in time and took Breakfast in a reserved section in the main Restaurant (07:30h – 08:30h a.m.) before converging in the conference room prepared for the Breakfast Discussion (08:35h to 10:40h). The topic of the discussion was “*Professionalization and practical reforms of security and defence sector: cantonment, encampment, indoctrination, training and reorganization of forces during the pre-transitional period and beyond in South Sudan*”

Gen (Rtd) Daniel Ishmael Ojande—MGH CBS NDU (USA) PSC (UK) and former Vice Chief of General Staff in Kenya and Commander of UNTAG, UNAMSIL, UNMIL and UN-Kashmir— honored the event by travelling from Nairobi to Juba to give his insights and analysis the discussed topic based on his experience and expertise on peace processes in Africa and through UN Peacekeeping System.

Hon. Prof. George Bureng Nyombe—Chairperson of the Specialized Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in the National Legislative Assembly (TNLA) of South

Sudan, former Head of Cease-Fire Political Commission (CPC), Minister of Foreign Trade, of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and of Investment of the Sudan—moderated the session and guided the deliberations where the participants deliberated constructively and proposed well-informed way forward for restoring stability during the transition from war to peace in South Sudan. The Objectives of the discussion were:

- 1). Change of perceptions for better understanding of Cantonment and its significance for maintaining Cessation of Hostilities, Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements in South Sudan.
- 2). Expedite implementation of the necessary practical reforms and professionalization of unified conventional defense and security institutions of South Sudan.
- 3). Improve security and defense governance with participation of local population in ownership and direction for legitimacy of this sector and its positive image.
- 4). Develop mutual positive attitude between the civilian population and the cantoned forces for screening, DDR, training, unification and deployment with responsibility to protect and secure the Republic of South Sudan.
- 5). Sourcing and managing cantonment funding adhering to and adopting strictly, transparency and accountability with an utmost prioritization during pre-transitional period and beyond.

Prior to the Discussion, the CSPS shared the summary of Chapter II on Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements (PCTSA) of the September 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), which had to be disseminated to all fighting forces and allies/affiliates with ceasefire taking effect within 72 hours, including disengagement and separation of forces in close proximity. The allied troops and all non-South Sudanese armed groups had to withdraw from South Sudan. Prisoners of war and detainees had to be released under supervision of International Committee of the Red Cross. Recruitment or training of the unauthorized and child soldiers had to be prohibited. The Implementation of PCTSA had to offer conducive environment for voluntary repatriation, resettlement, rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees and IDPs. Training for the unified Army, National Security Service, Police, Wildlife, Prisons, and Fire Brigade) had to be conducted via these mechanisms—Commanders-in-Chief of Warring Parties, Joint Defence Board (JDB), Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC), Joint Transitional Security Committee (JTSC), Forces Command From All Parties, Area Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (AJMCC), Area Joint Military Ceasefire Teams (JMCTs) for Sector 1/Equatoria Area Committee, Sector 2/Upper Nile Area Committee, Sector 3/Bahr El Ghazal Area Committee and their Monitoring and Verification Teams (MVTs).

All these have to be done in coordination with Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC), Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM), National Pre-transitional Committee (NPTC), and Strategic Defence and Security Review Board (SDSRB) in supportive coordination with the regional and internationally.

PCTSA requires cantonment sites to be selected in consultations with local communities and had to be easy to protect and control; accessible by river, road or air for delivery of non-military logistical supplies of water, food, shelter, medical care; and distanced from civilian areas and borders of neighbouring countries. The cantoned forces had to be screened, classified, re-organized, disarmed, demobilized, reintegrated, trained and redeployed for securing and defending South Sudan and its legitimate constitutional order in accordance with professional code of conduct. They had to be reconciled and healed with themselves and civilians, including accountability against those who have obstructed the

movement of citizens, goods and services in breach of international humanitarian and human rights law. Also all civilian areas had be demilitarized—schools, service centres, occupied houses, IDP camps, POCs, villages, churches, mosques, ritual centres, etc. PCTSA had to be strategized in stages as follows:

Stage 1 (120 days) for assessment and examination of military and non-military security challenges, analysis of all state and non-state actors and allied armed groups, clarification of security policy framework and responsibilities of the established mechanisms in responding to challenges of management and oversight, revising the defence policy based on outlined vision for modernization with role and mission of national army and other organized services.

Stage 2 (150 days) for analysis of operational capabilities for addressing the challenges identified in Stage 1 regarding support systems and structures for effective strategic output of human resource, training, equipment, facilities and financial implications.

Stage 3 (180 days) for production of draft models garnered in stages 1 and 2 for Defence and Security White Paper and Security Sector Transformation (SST) to be approved by Council of Ministers and ratified by TNLA; and Stage 4 for implementation of visionary program of defence and security strategy in connection to RTGoNU Annual Plans and Budgets, including DDR and economic sector.

The Commanders-in-Chief of unifying forces shall continue to operate independently but in coordination with partners of R-ARCSS until the end of unification process before the start of transitional period where the JDB shall take full command and control of all forces in coordination with established PCTSA mechanisms. Thereafter, all the unified security forces shall provide security for elections and related tasks at least 6 months before the end of the transitional period.



The Second Session of the HIGH-LEVEL BREAKFAST DISCUSSION AND STRATEGIC THINKING ON THE PEACE PROCESS IN SOUTH SUDAN was successful in its timing; level of frank and cordial practical sharing of ideas; and proposition for way forward regarding cantonment, DDR, training, unification and deployment of post-conflict armed forces of South Sudan from different sectors (army, national security, police, prisons, wildlife and civil defence) in accordance with provisions of Chapter II of R-ARCSS. The keynote talking points by Gen. Opande and moderating entries by Prof. Bureng provided deep insights on what is at stake and what needs to be done correctly for security and defence of South Sudan.

Gen. Opande shared some of his personal experiences and recommended the following action points:

- 1). Accurate identification and documentation of who have weapons and are causing or capable of causing havocs in the country.
- 2). Verification for authentic documentation of number and size of forces and their geo-locations, including the theatre of operations and readiness to engage in battles.
- 3). Profiling the command structure of the warring forces and scrutinizing the real personnel comprising their forces so that they don't use cantonment and DDR as opportunity for regrouping and attracting new recruits.
- 4). Sharing the information about cantonment and DDR process widely to dispel suspicions and mistrust during the planning and execution.
- 5). Offering general amnesty for limited period and deadline for the unauthorized armed individuals or groups to hand over their overt or hidden weapons to the authorized forces designated for disarmament.
- 6). Providing strong and impartial protection and security forces (government or UN or regional) for the cantonment, DDR, training and unification sites.
- 7). Ownership of the cantonment, DDR and other peaceful security arrangements exercise by both government and communities of the concerned country from D-Day to the end of the agreed transition for one national armed forces.
- 8). Distancing the cantonment and DDR sites from bordering areas with the neighbouring countries so that mopped up weapons are not smuggled out easily.
- 9). Producing a sustainable plan of action for comprehensive DDR for unauthorized individuals and groups (militias) who have taken arms for one reason or another so as to free the country from being held hostage by such armed elements.
- 10). Taking good care of personnel that have been disarmed and disqualified to be in the unified national armed force, including according them with alternative means of livelihood for themselves and their immediate families or dependents.
- 11). Designing long-term security and defence reforms strategy based on progressive stages with critical scrutiny for reflection of national character of the nation based on who is qualified for the professional national armed forces without attaching this to the credits of liberation or possession of arms.
- 12). Prioritizing funding from government sources to enable plan of cantonment, DDR, security and defence arrangements (especially the cost of movement and settlement of forces and equipment) to be effective for manageable safer geo-locations.
- 13). Acknowledging the role of civilians, NGOs and media from the beginning up to the end of cantonment,

DDR and reforms of the armed security and defence sector, so that correct information is shared publicly on success or challenges of this task.

- 14). Establishing a responsible national forces free of tribalism, ignorance, illiteracy with government at the lead of ownership of these together with opposition parties and stakeholders (communities, CSOs, NGOs, FBOs, etc).
- 15). Learning from the best experiences and practices of other countries that have gone through similar situation of war and overwhelming militarization of society.

The overall deliberations and discussion produced six key pillars and action points:

- 1). Ownership and commitment by government and opposition to take the lead with plans.
- 2). Outreach and involvement of the people from the beginning to the end of the plans.
- 3). Timely and sufficient government funding for execution of plans with support by partners.
- 4). Strategic communication with correct information about plans and targeted executions.
- 5). Lessons from past experiences with comparative best practices of other countries.
- 6). Nationalistic military doctrine, code of ethics and professional discipline for guaranteed future of peace with right security and defence.

S/N	LEADERSHIP	CITIZENS	STAKEHOLDERS	GUARANTORS	PARTNERS
1.	Commanders-in-Chief of the Government and Opposition forces to take utmost lead and ownership of the planned cantonment, DDR and PCTSA in general.	Communities to embrace what has been planned by the leaders and their parties on cantonment, DDR and PCTSA, and get involved in facilitating the execution.	Civil Society, NGOs, academia, eminent personalities, religious institutions and media houses to create public awareness for ownership of cantonment and DDR processes.	IGAD-Plus member countries to encourage and assist South Sudan own the cantonment, DDR and PCTSA as agreed in the R-ARCSS.	Parties to provide support and checks on the leaders and government authorities on ownership of cantonment, DDR and PCTSA processes.
2.	Leaders of the government and opposition to conduct outreach conferences with the people of South Sudan in their different diversities to explain and get feedback on the best way to execute the plans of cantonment, DDR and PCTSA	Communities and tribes of South Sudan to welcome or demand for outreach awareness from the leaders and be ready to contribute to the success of cantonment, DDR and PCTSA per R-ARCSS.	Civil society to join hands with leaders of the government and opposition to create public awareness on the importance of making the cantonments, DDR and PCTSA a success story for the good of the people of South Sudan.	Experts from IGAD-Plus member countries to join government, opposition and civil society in talking with the people by sharing their experiences in cantonment, DDR and PCTSA.	Troika to assist in facilitating wider outreach by the leaders, parties, civil society and IGAD-Plus experts to the people of South Sudan at grassroots for cantonment and DDR.

3.	Government to earmark sufficient funds for cantonment, DDR and related PCTSA implementation, and ensure that this is managed transparently and accountably for the intended purpose.	Demand from government to prioritize timely release of funds from oil and other revenues for cantonment, DDR and PCTSA as agreed in R-ARCSS.	Check the commitment of the government to avail sufficient funds in time for speeding up cantonment, DDR and PCTSA and help in sourcing more funds from donors.	Encourage government to avail fund from revenues, and assist in mobilizing international donation for achieving the objectives of cantonment and DDR.	Donate willingly to top up the funds provided by the government for purpose of realizing cantonment, DDR and PCTSA in time as agreed in R-ARCSS.
4.	Those assigned for leading and managing the cantonment, DDR and PCTSA to communicate clearly to the public what has been planned and done for cantonment, DDR and PCTSA, including challenges faced and how to overcome them.	Get the information from the right sources and avoid speculations or suspicions about the cantonment, DDR and PCTSA processes of peace-building and future of reformed security and defence sector.	Civil society, NGOs, religious institutions and media to get and share accurate and timely information between the public and government regarding what is planned and is happening with cantonment, DDR and PCTSA	Monitor and evaluate continuously the extent in which information is disseminated to the public regarding the processes of cantonment, DDR and PCTSA, including the challenges faced and successes scored.	Demand from those tasked with cantonment, DDR and PCTSA processes to communicate their achievements as well as challenges clearly to the public and international community for crediting or for help.
5.	Search and contract experts who have done previously the cantonment, DDR and reforms of security and defence sector in South Sudan and abroad so that their experience could guide the plan and execution of this crucial task in time without reinventing the wheel.	Help the government identify experts from South Sudan and abroad who are suitable for involvement in the strategic planning and execution of cantonment, DDR and PCTSA from beginning to end of these processes.	Assist the government with expertise and informed direction for genuine cantonment, DDR and PCTSA, including South Sudanese nationals and expatriates who were involved in such exercise in the past during 1972 Addis Ababa and 2005 CPA.	Contribute with well-experienced experts from the region who had done cantonment, DDR and PCTSA in Namibia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, among others, to be sent to South Sudan to effectively assist in moving this process a head	Contribute with well-experienced experts from their countries who had done cantonment, DDR and PCTSA elsewhere similar to the situation of South Sudan, especially in construction, health and education facilities for barracks.
6.	Government to review or enact legal frameworks for enforcement of nationalistic military doctrines, code of ethics and professional discipline for the cantoned forces and those designated for DDR or unification and deployment at the end of pre-transitional period or beyond.	Press on government, especially the parliament, to ensure that the cantonment, DDR and PCTSA are conducted based on legal guidance, ethics and professional nationalistic discipline of forces with respect to civilian authority.	Assist in reviewing or drafting standardized legal framework for cantonment, DDR and PCTSA, and creating dialogue between the armed forces and civilians for creating cordial relations o with complementary cooperation on security and defence.	Provide experiences of best practices of cantonment, DDR and PCTSA from the region and encourage the government of South Sudan to adopt the suitable one for easing its work without reinventing the wheel	Assist the government and stakeholders in urgent reviewing or drafting of legal frameworks for cantonment, DDR and PCTSA, including sharing of best experiences from their respective countries.

ABOUT THE CENTER

South Sudan Center for Strategic and Policy Studies (CSPS) was established in July 2011 with aims of participating in the development of the country through applied research to enhance the debate on governance, nation and state-building in South Sudan, with the purpose of adding objectivity, critical thinking, nurturing strategic thinking, progressive and well-informed leadership.

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