

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM INVESTIGATION INTO JUBA VIOLENCE

The Secretary-General has sent a letter to the President of the Security Council summarising the overall progress of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the Secretariat in implementing the recommendations of the independent special investigation into the Juba violence in July 2016 and the actions of the Mission. As you may recall, the special investigation, led by Major General (retired) Patrick Cammaert, made recommendations targeting issues unique to UNMISS and those more systemic in nature.

To take these recommendations forward, UNMISS worked on implementing the Mission-specific recommendations, while a Headquarters Task Force looked into addressing systemic and strategic issues identified by the special investigation.

In March 2017, an independent follow-up mission led by Maj. Gen. Cammaert returned to South Sudan to assess progress.

On the basis of the conclusions of the assessment, the Secretary-General's letter observes that significant work has been undertaken over the last five months to enhance the ability of UNMISS to protect civilians, better plan and prepare its response to crisis situations and increase staff safety and security. Of particular note is the establishment of a weapons-free zone around the Protection of Civilians (POC) sites and UN House in Juba, which has contributed to a significant drop in reported crime and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence. Peacekeepers are also conducting dismounted patrols within the area throughout the day and night, as well as cordon-and-search operations within the POC sites to disrupt arms trafficking.

The Secretary-General's letter also notes the positive change in the operations and posture of military and police components as a result of corrective actions taken by UNMISS as well as troop and police contributing countries.

The Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support have also made important changes towards enhancing training as well as performance accountability, including working with member states to ensure accountability of uniformed personnel for failure to protect civilians in peacekeeping operations.

The Secretary-General's letter notes that while much has been achieved, more needs to be done to raise and sustain the performance bar, adding that a continuous effort will be made to review and revise strategies to more robustly deliver on mandated tasks.

The Secretary-General is encouraged by the willingness of troop- and police-contributing countries to perform the tasks mandated to the Mission, which is a key factor for the achievement of the objectives set by the Security Council, in particular with respect to the protection of civilians. Equally important is the ability of the Security Council, in coordination with the region, to pursue a concrete strategy to facilitate a cessation of hostilities and resuscitate

an inclusive political process in South Sudan. Without such a political strategy, the demands on UNMISS will continue to increase while its operating environment becomes further constrained.

The full letter can be found [online](#).

19 April 2017