



Security Council

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Situation in South Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution [2567 \(2021\)](#), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to 15 March 2022 and requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the Mission's mandate every 90 days. The report covers political and security developments, the humanitarian and human rights situation and progress towards the implementation of the Mission's mandate from 1 September 2021 to 30 November 2021.

2. The Mission continues to implement the three-year strategic vision as requested by the Security Council in its resolution [2567 \(2021\)](#). In this connection, the Mission is moving into a new phase of political engagement. Furthermore, with the successful transition of four out of the five protection of civilian sites, UNMISS enhanced its focus on hotspots throughout the country where the protection needs are the greatest, and on stabilization, outreach and political engagement, while recalibrating capacities and resources between the Mission components towards increased mobility, partnerships, coordination and innovation.

II. Major political developments

3. Since its reconstitution on 30 August, the Transitional National Legislative Assembly has made minimal progress owing to delays in the formation of various specialized committees as a result of disagreements among the parties on the structure and composition of the committees. This has hampered legislative oversight and delayed the passage of critical legislation.

4. After a significant delay, the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir, reconstituted and appointed members of the State assemblies in Central Equatoria, Lakes, Upper Nile and Western Equatoria States on 6 November, in Eastern Equatoria, Warrap, Jonglei and Northern Bahr el-Ghazal States on 17 November and in Unity on 26 November. The State assembly in Western Bahr el-Ghazal is yet to be reconstituted.

5. Following President Kiir's intervention on 16 September, the disagreement among the Other Political Parties coalition over how to divide its parliamentary seats was resolved. Subsequently, on 17 September, President Kiir appointed 28 members



of the coalition to the Transitional National Legislative Assembly and 8 to the Council of States.

6. On 18 October, the Council of Ministers reviewed and adopted the Constitution-Making Process Bill 2020/2021. Once the reconstituted Transitional National Legislative Assembly is fully operational, the bill will be debated and is expected to guide the permanent constitution-making process. On 18 October, the Assembly passed the Conduct of Business Regulations 2011 (as amended in 2021).

7. Addressing the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) National Youth League meeting in Juba on 11 September, President Kiir stressed that the end goal was to conduct free, fair and credible democratic elections and called on youth to prepare for peaceful campaigns and engage at the grass-roots level.

Implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan

8. On 12 September, South Sudan marked three years since the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. The international community, religious leaders and members of civil society expressed concern over the delays and missed deadlines in the implementation of the Agreement, especially in the implementation of provisions related to the transitional security arrangements.

9. On 7 October, the presidency met with the chairs of the security mechanisms and discussed security-related issues in the Revitalized Agreement, including the graduation of the Necessary Unified Forces. To date, despite numerous reassurances that the establishment of a single, unified command structure was imminent, no tangible progress has been achieved. UNMISS has been requested to assist in transporting audit teams to the 18 training centres, a preliminary step before unification. The Mission has agreed to assist but the visits have yet to start.

10. On 28 October, the 19th meeting of the reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission raised concerns about the lack of progress in the implementation of the transitional security arrangements, especially the unification of forces and their deployment, and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. The Commission called on the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity to expedite the approval of the critical bills and make financial resources available to complete the transitional security arrangements.

11. Addressing the governors' forum held on 29 November, President Kiir associated the delays in the implementation of the transitional security arrangements with the arms embargo against South Sudan and the continued disagreement over the command-and-control structure and share ratios of the Necessary Unified Forces. He called on the Community of Sant' Egidio to resume the Rome peace talks with the non-signatory parties.

Split in the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Army in Opposition

12. On 19 September, President Kiir announced that he had authorized his Presidential Adviser on National Security, Tut Gatluak, to negotiate with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO) Kitwang faction. On 22 September, a Kitwang faction leader, General Simon Gatwech Dual, confirmed the group's readiness to engage in a negotiation with the Government or the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Subsequently, on 2 October, under the auspices of the Government of the Sudan, the Kitwang faction leaders, General Gatwech and General Johnson Olony, met with a delegation of SPLM led by Tut Gatluak in Khartoum. The meeting confirmed the readiness of the Kitwang faction

to participate in the next round of formal talks with the Government under the mediation of IGAD. On 3 October, the Kitgwang faction published its position paper for the talks, in which it called for the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement, especially the transitional security arrangements. Civil society groups welcomed this development as a pathway for resolving political grievances within the opposition and a positive move towards the implementation of the Agreement.

13. Subsequently, SPLM/A-IO stated that the meeting between SPLM and the Kitgwang faction had violated the terms of the Revitalized Agreement, which prohibited the switching of allegiances. It alleged that one of the parties to the Agreement had been encouraging defection from the opposition to weaken and undermine the implementation of the Agreement.

14. While the talks between SPLM and the Kitgwang faction have been delayed due to political unrest in the Sudan, General Gatwech has rejected the SPLM proposal to move the talks to Juba. General Gatwech was reported to have returned to Megeinis on 8 November.

Regional developments

15. On 10 and 11 October, President Kiir made an official visit to Egypt, during which South Sudan and Egypt signed several agreements on irrigation, trade and industry.

16. Following the military coup d'état in the Sudan on 25 October, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation issued a statement affirming the country's solidarity with and unwavering support for the Sudan. The statement expressed confidence that Sudanese leaders would make the best decisions for their people. On 31 October, the Ministry indicated that Tut Gatluak had travelled to Khartoum to deliver a message from President Kiir urging the Sudanese leaders to resolve their differences through dialogue.

Economic situation

17. The macroeconomic situation remained stable, including the foreign exchange rate, which remained at about 400 South Sudanese pounds per United States of America dollar. Despite the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, trading throughout the country saw some recovery. The decade-long closure of the border with the Sudan had been scheduled to come to an end on 1 October, but its reopening was delayed due to the security situation in the Sudan.

18. The approval of the national budget for 2021/22 and the launch of the revised national development strategy were delayed. Challenges continued, as commercial debt and oil advances constitute about 65 per cent of the country's public debt. To sustain economic recovery, the Government will need to continue with the public finance reforms already initiated and the implementation of the public finance management reform strategy.

III. Security situation

19. South Sudan continued to experience conflict at the subnational level, especially in Upper Nile, Unity, Jonglei, Warrap, Lakes, Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria, where factional fighting, intercommunal and intracommunal competition, lack of security and resource scarcity fuelled conflict and violence. Clashes involving non-signatory groups in the Equatorias threatened civilians. United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) remained the targets of criminality and faced threats of violence from youths in Upper Nile, Jonglei and Western Equatoria over job opportunities.

Greater Upper Nile region

20. The situation in Upper Nile continued to be affected by the split within SPLM/A-IO. While fighting between SPLM/A-IO and its Kitgwang faction appeared to have subsided, isolated clashes continued. On 13 September, the two sides fought in Khor Amut, about 25 kilometres from Megeinis, resulting in at least 65 casualties among the Kitgwang faction. The number of casualties among SPLM/A-IO is not known. Instances of violence also followed the switching of allegiances. On 7 September, some SPLM/A-IO forces based in Nyitut village (a few kilometres from Nasir) defected to the Kitgwang faction and relocated to Mandeng, following which some White Army elements supporting these defectors opened fire at the remaining SPLM/A-IO forces at the Nyitut base. In a separate incident on 6 October, SPLM/A-IO forces clashed with their defectors in Wandang, along the Ulang-Akobo border, after attempts to reintegrate them had failed. Clashes also occurred in Longochuk on 6 and 7 September between SPLM/A-IO and its defectors led by General Thomas Tut Ding, who joined the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF).

21. In Unity, tensions rose between the Government and SPLM/A-IO over political appointments and access to resources and revenues. Appointment-related altercations in Mayendit culminated in clashes between the security forces of the Mayendit County Commissioner and SPLM/A-IO on 29 and 30 September. On 6 October, the protection force of the Koch County Commissioner and SPLM/A-IO soldiers escorting civilian commuter boats clashed at Port-Nyaruob over the collection of revenues from traders and boat passengers.

22. In Jonglei, tensions within SPLM/A-IO arose from the secession of the Kitgwang faction. On 26 September, a small group of SPLM/A-IO in Pieri declared their defection to the Kitgwang faction and moved to Parateat village in Uror County, where they clashed with SPLM/A-IO on 30 September. Jonglei also saw recurrent small-scale incidents of attacks in Duk, Akobo, Uror, Nyerol, Twic and Bor Counties, which were attributed to the Murle.

Greater Equatoria region

23. The National Salvation Front (NAS) remained active in southern Central Equatoria, engaging in attacks, forced recruitment, harassment and abductions. At least 10 clashes took place between alleged NAS forces and SSPDF and SPLM/A-IO. Suspected NAS soldiers attacked a security checkpoint in Lutaya, along the Yei-Lasu road, on 16 September and on 19 and 20 October. NAS and SSPDF also clashed on multiple occasions throughout Central and Western Equatoria.

24. Tensions and violence continued in Western Equatoria, especially Tambura, due to conflict between the pro-Azande and pro-Balanda armed factions. Forces loyal to Major General James Nando and SPLM/A-IO troops, supported by their associated armed militias, engaged in multiple skirmishes. High-profile attacks were directed at prominent figures from both ethnic groups. In Yambio, the houses belonging to the Mayor of Yambio and the State Minister of Information came under attack. General Nando's house in Yambio and the Renzi Primary School in Tambura, which was occupied by Nando's forces, were also attacked. Additionally, on 13 and 14 October, General Nando's convoy was ambushed by armed youth loyal to SPLM/A-IO at Mabaiku, 5 kilometres from Tambura. At the end of October, after the intervention of the Joint Defence Board select committee, the opposing forces started moving to the Maridi training centre, while on 27 October General Nando and pro-Balanda militia leader Angelo Davido signed a memorandum of understanding committing themselves to restoring peace and stability in Tambura. On 30 October, General Nando and his deputy arrived in Juba. On 4 November, a ceasefire transitional security arrangement monitoring and verification mechanism team observed 484

forces loyal to General Nando at the SSPDF Division VI headquarters, along with some 88 SPLM/A-IO forces at the Maridi training centre.

Greater Bahr el-Ghazal region

25. The security context in the greater Tonj area (Warrap) was dominated by cycles of revenge attacks between armed Dinka Lou Paher from Marial Lou (Tonj North County) and allied Dinka sub-clans of Thiik, Akok, Adoor, Apuk-Patoc and Awan (Tonj East County) on one side and the Dinka Luanyjang (Tonj East) on the other. On 3 October, in Kacuat, fighting occurred between Luanyjang and Thiik youth from Kacuat, drawing in Lou Paher youth and resulting in the killing of over 30 people. On 16 October, in Marial Lou, armed Luanyjang youth attacked the family of the Warrap State Minister of Labour and Public Service (a Lou Paher). On 20 October, the Lou Paher shot and killed two Luanyjang men during an attack on the Nyangor cattle camp in Paweng Payam, Tonj East. On 25 October, suspected armed Luanyjang youth attacked a Lou Paher cattle camp in Mangany village, killing one youth and injuring another. From 29 to 31 October, multiple armed clashes took place in Greater Tonj between Luanyjang, Thiik and Lou Paher communities, in which at least 24 people were killed.

26. Local cattle-related violence in Lakes affected Cueibet, Rumbek East and Rumbek North Counties. From 5 to 7 September, there were two clashes between armed civilians and security forces in Rumbek East and Cueibet Counties, which led to the deaths of nine people, including two soldiers.

IV. Humanitarian situation

27. Widespread flooding, ongoing violence and subsequent displacement continued to deepen humanitarian needs in South Sudan. Since May, an estimated 850,000 people have been affected by flooding. Some of them fled their homes after their communities were submerged, taking refuge on higher ground or in communal structures. Flood-affected and displaced people in Bentiu, Unity, are in a dire situation. As at 12 November, some 310,000 affected people had received some form of assistance. Physical access remained a major challenge to humanitarian response. Despite ongoing efforts to address the immediate needs of flood-affected people, the level of need is high and varied. Resources and funding are needed urgently.

28. Similar to previous years, flood-induced displacement of some groups into areas perceived to be traditionally associated with other groups continued. In Bentiu town, people have been forced to move due to rising water, which could stoke tensions over land rights.

29. The food security situation remains precarious. With farmlands and crops inundated and destroyed by the floods, the situation is at risk of further deterioration. Increased food insecurity, illness and poor access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation heightened malnutrition levels among children under 5 years of age. Some 1.4 million children and 480,000 pregnant or lactating women were estimated to be acutely malnourished and in need of treatment in 2021, the highest number since 2013.

30. Subnational violence in Tambura displaced an estimated 80,000 people. Fighting in Lainya and Yei Counties in Central Equatoria displaced people to surrounding areas and into neighbouring countries.

31. Humanitarian access remains challenging. Between 1 September and 5 November, 89 humanitarian access incidents were reported, including 13 ambushes and 5 lootings, a 47 per cent increase compared with the previous reporting period.

Insecurity forced the relocation of 82 aid workers from Pibor and Gumuruk in Jonglei, and Tambura in Western Equatoria, between 1 September and 5 November.

32. Access violations continued, including looting and destruction of humanitarian supplies, which had a significant impact on the ability of humanitarian workers to respond to people in need. Threats and operational interference remained, resulting in the disruption and suspension of humanitarian action. A humanitarian convoy carrying 121 tons of food supplies was attacked in Yei County on 17 September. Threats by youth groups had led to the suspension of non-life-saving humanitarian activities in Pibor, Renk and Tonj in recent months. Through engagement at various levels, youth groups in Pibor and Renk withdrew the threats they had made against aid workers and agreed on the unconditional resumption of humanitarian operations. Meanwhile, poor road conditions, compounded by heavy rain and floods, led to access challenges and slowed the response in the flood-affected areas.

33. With the rains and floodwaters, the risk of malaria and other waterborne diseases remains high. The cumulative number of confirmed hepatitis E cases since the beginning of 2021 among people living in the Bentiu internally displaced persons camp is 1,136, with 5 deaths. Humanitarian organizations are responding to contain the outbreak. South Sudan remained on alert for an increase in COVID-19 cases. However, the World Health Organization has flagged the limited capacity to cope with an increased caseload of in-patient requirements. A declaration of an Ebola outbreak in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo on 8 October is a cause for renewed concern.

34. Between January and September, nearly 4.7 million people were reached with humanitarian assistance and protection services. As at 30 November, \$1.13 billion had been secured against the \$1.68 billion requested in the 2021 humanitarian response plan.

V. Implementation of the Mission's mandated tasks

A. Supporting the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and the peace process

35. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and his deputy continued to exercise their good offices by engaging the parties and stakeholders to address critical outstanding issues in the implementation of the Agreement. In this connection, on 16 September, UNMISS led an international delegation, composed of representatives from IGAD, the reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Norway, the Sudan and Uganda, and the acting Humanitarian Coordinator, to Yambio and Tambura, Western Equatoria State, to defuse tensions and ensure a cohesive response. The delegation met with the State and local government authorities, displaced civilians and the Joint Defence Board team in the area. On 19 September, in a joint press statement, the delegation cautioned that without urgent action by the Government to end the fighting, there was an imminent risk of further escalation. The delegation stressed that the root causes of the conflict could be addressed only through the full implementation of the Agreement, especially the unification of forces and their deployment, and called on the Government to implement the recommendations of the Board.

36. On 30 September and 1 October, UNMISS hosted a two-day civil society forum on the role of civil society during the electoral process. The forum discussed the electoral framework of South Sudan, including key legislation and the interaction between constitution-making and electoral processes, requirements and strategies for holding peaceful credible elections, the timing and sequencing of electoral operations,

strategies to enhance the political participation of women and an overview of the United Nations electoral assistance framework.

37. On 7 September, UNMISS and Community Empowerment for Rehabilitation and Development, a local NGO, organized a two-day stakeholders' consultation workshop on the draft constitution-making process bill. A follow-up session, with facilitation by the South Sudan Democratic Engagement, Monitoring and Observation Programme, a local NGO, was held on 30 September to review observations and finalize suggested amendments. Both events enhanced understanding of the draft bill, reviewed the text, identified gaps and points of entry for reforms and generated recommendations to the Transitional National Legislative Assembly on possible amendments. On 16 and 17 November, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNMISS supported the Union of Journalists of South Sudan in convening a capacity-building workshop for 35 media practitioners on the constitution-making process and parliamentary reporting. On 25 and 26 November, UNMISS supported Community Empowerment for Rehabilitation and Development and the South Sudan Democratic Engagement, Monitoring and Observation Programme in holding a workshop on a legitimate and effective constitutional framework for 94 parliamentarians and youth. The workshop discussed the constitution-making process and youth legislative priorities.

38. On 26 and 27 October, UNMISS and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly organized a political parties forum, in which political leaders discussed the challenges, opportunities and priorities for the transitional period, including the role of political parties in oversight and implementation. Over 90 members (17 of them women) representing national and subnational political parties and civic organizations deliberated and issued a communiqué on key governance, security, financial management and transitional justice issues.

39. UNMISS facilitated governors' forums bringing together State executives and representatives of civil society, women and youth in Warrap (23–25 September) and, jointly with UNDP, in the Pibor Administrative Area (14–16 September). In Warrap, the participants drafted a strategic document to work collaboratively on key priorities for security, governance and the rule of law. In the Pibor Administrative Area, the participants developed strategies to address recurrent intercommunal violence, child abductions and cattle theft. In Jonglei State, UNMISS facilitated a capacity-building workshop on 15 October to orient the newly appointed State authorities to the guiding principles of local governance, the decentralized system of local government, the powers and functions of legislative councils, and the state executive.

40. To foster closer working relationships between political entities of the State governments, UNMISS hosted a two-day retreat for the Central Equatoria State executive in Juba on 2 and 3 November. A total of 31 participants (including 11 women) discussed building consensus in work, ensuring security and the rule of law, protecting human rights, reducing gender-based violence, enhancing local capacity and service delivery and reviewing the local tax system and the management of public funds. Participants issued a communiqué outlining the way forward.

41. From 16 to 18 November, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and UNMISS held a three-day workshop on coordination and harmonization of work between the national and State ministers and other senior staff. Over 60 participants, including 8 women, explored the links between the Ministries of Parliamentary Affairs and Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

42. By hosting 11 Radio Miraya round-table discussions, UNMISS enhanced political participation by young women parliamentarians and promoted a culture of peace through equality and social stability. Citizens have been engaged with regard

to peacebuilding processes, elections, the national budget and the proposed laws to prevent gender-based violence, as well as the role and impact of UNMISS.

B. Protection of civilians and mitigating intercommunal conflict

43. The Mission responded to threats against civilians through proactive mobile deployment, a robust force projection and posture of peacekeepers, sustained engagements with military and political leaders, community-level conflict resolution initiatives, the provision of support to rule of law and justice institutions, and other targeted programmatic activities. During the reporting period, 24 temporary operating bases were operational.

44. UNMISS applied an integrated and cross-Mission approach to address conflict hotspots in Western Equatoria and Warrap. In Tambura, Western Equatoria, UNMISS reinforced its temporary operating base to provide a security deterrent and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The Mission stepped up its political engagement and preventive diplomacy with stakeholders in Juba, supported by local conflict resolution initiatives. Concurrently, UNMISS organized a stakeholders' forum in Yambio to reduce tensions in Tambura. The participants included State cabinet members, chiefs, members of civil society, youth, elders and religious leaders. A total of 30 individuals, of which 12 were women, attended the forum.

45. In Tonj, Warrap State, UNMISS overcame adverse weather and accessibility challenges and established a temporary operating base in Marial Lou to reconcile and mediate between the conflicting communities of Tonj North and Tonj East. The base enabled engagement with the surrounding communities and provided community safety, including for humanitarian partners. According to local partners, the base's presence helped build confidence among the local community and internally displaced persons and enabled a primary school to reopen after it had closed due to insecurity.

46. UNMISS also continued to promote inclusive dialogue, reconciliation, and social and interfaith cohesion at the subnational level. In this regard, UNMISS conducted 31 workshops, forums, community dialogues and capacity-building programmes for communities, State and local authorities, traditional leaders, women leaders and youth. A total of 1,804 participants (521 of them women) were reached through these activities.

47. The Mission supported local authorities in assuming their responsibility for protecting civilians. From 22 to 24 September, it organized a conference in Morobo County, Central Equatoria, on strengthening the role of local authorities in local conflict management. In Unity State from 27 September to 14 October, UNMISS facilitated three forums for payam administrators, traditional chiefs, women civil society leaders, youth and faith-based leaders from Koch, Guit and Rubkona Counties, at which the participants adopted resolutions on social and political cohesion, governance and the prevention of intercommunal violence. On 23 and 24 September, UNMISS facilitated a peace dialogue in Wulu County, Lakes State, where conflicting communities adopted recommendations to resolve a long-standing conflict over land ownership and boundary issues.

48. The Mission advanced its efforts with regard to the full, effective and meaningful participation of youth in the peace and security agenda. On 5 and 6 October, UNMISS and UNDP organized a capacity-building forum for the State youth union of Warrap on conflict management and dialogue to promote social cohesion and peacebuilding. Participants developed strategies for peer outreach in cattle camps to prevent recurrent violence. From 25 to 27 October, UNMISS and UNDP organized a three-day reconciliation forum in Warrap to mitigate

intercommunal violence between Thiik, Luanyjang and Lou Paher communities. The participants signed a communiqué outlining immediate, medium and long-term actions to promote peace in the area. On 28 October, in Upper Nile, UNMISS organized a panel discussion between 80 students and teachers (40 of them women) drawn from the protection of civilians site and Malakal town and discussed their role in promoting local peace.

49. UNMISS continued to provide physical protection to 34,056 persons (including 17,375 women) in the Malakal protection of civilians site. Planning for the site's eventual redesignation as an internally displaced person camp is ongoing.

50. UNMISS continued its support for the redesignated former protection of civilian sites in Bor, Juba, Wau and Bentiu. Bentiu experienced challenges associated with population increase as communities from flood-affected areas sought humanitarian support. Capacity-building activities, such as technical advice and training workshops, were delivered for the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, the South Sudan National Police Service and community leaders representing internally displaced persons to ensure unimpeded delivery of humanitarian and protection services. UNMISS also collaborated with humanitarian agencies to defuse tensions between internally displaced persons and humanitarian actors following the reduction of food rations in the Malakal protection of civilians site and the redesignated protection of civilians sites.

51. To prevent crimes, build confidence and trust, enhance the safety and security of the internally displaced persons sites and foster a secure environment for free, voluntary, informed and dignified returns of internally displaced persons, the United Nations police conducted 1,104 coordinated patrols with the South Sudan National Police Service. The United Nations police also conducted 2,002 patrols, comprising 765 confidence- and trust-building patrols, 129 short-duration patrols, 88 long-duration patrols, 63 dynamic air patrols and 957 high-visibility patrols. Of these patrols, 1,081 included female officers.

52. The process of redesignating protection of civilians sites has enabled the United Nations police to reinvest resources in training activities, workshops and community policing, including support for strategic policy development for the South Sudan National Police Service. To that effect, the United Nations police continued to co-locate with the Service at all police stations and posts located close to the Bor, Wau, Juba and Bentiu redesignated protection of civilians sites.

53. To address the resource constraints of the South Sudan National Police Service, strengthen relationships between communities and police and address crime and public disorder, the United Nations police increased efforts to establish police community relation committees, which increased from 177 in the previous reporting period to 193.

54. The UNMISS force conducted 42,299 patrols, including 1,634 short-duration patrols, 548 long-duration patrols, 205 dynamic air patrols and 27 riverine patrols. A total of 637 patrols were conducted in and around the protection of civilians sites. Some 11.4 per cent of patrols included women uniformed peacekeepers.

55. Across the country, the Mine Action Service conducted 98 explosive ordnance disposal tasks for the Mission, the South Sudan National Police Service and communities, which resulted in 1,643 items of unexploded ordnance being destroyed. In Ngulere, Central Equatoria, 22 items of explosive ordnance and 5,866 rounds of small arms ammunition were destroyed as part of a Safe Ground event, a global campaign to turn minefields into playing fields. To celebrate the newly cleared playing field, participants from the Ngulere Primary School held a football match on

30 September. The Service also provided explosive ordnance risk education to 1,517 internally displaced persons in Malakal.

56. The Mine Action Service also provided survey, clearance and destruction of explosive ordnance as requested by humanitarian and development actors, including for a hospital in Leer and for a new field office and accommodations for the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Bentiu. In Leer, 21 explosive items and 38 rounds of small arms ammunition, identified by communities, were removed and destroyed. The Service removed and destroyed three explosive items as requested by the World Food Programme during a patrol from Torit to Kapoeta.

C. Rule of law and accountability

57. To promote accountability, enhance fair trial rights and contribute to decreasing intercommunal tensions, UNMISS supported special courts in Greater Tonj, Rumbek, Yirol and Cueibet to try serious crimes related to “sectional” conflicts, including rape, culpable homicide, robbery and grievous hurt. In total, these courts adjudicated almost 190 cases.

58. To strengthen the capacity of the judiciary outside of urban areas and promote access to justice, throughout the month of November, UNMISS monitored and provided substantive technical expertise to local justice actors through the deployment of mobile courts supported by UNDP in Maban and Kapoeta.

59. UNMISS continued to advance the South Sudan reconciliation, stabilization and resilience multi-partner trust fund project to mitigate livestock-related violence in the border areas of Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Warrap States. From 4 to 8 October, UNMISS organized a five-day skills development workshop on investigation and prosecution skills. The workshop developed the capacity of prosecutors, investigators and defence attorneys to conduct effective investigations and trials of cases to be adjudicated by the joint special mobile court.

60. On 15 and 16 September, UNMISS supported the Military Justice Directorate of SSPDF in holding a debriefing conference for 31 judge advocates (including 2 women) who participated in the general court martials in Yei, Bentiu, Maridi, Bor, Renk, Juba and Malakal. Participants requested UNMISS to facilitate training sessions on case management and investigations, and to deploy more general court martials to key hotspot locations where conflict-related sexual violence had been reported. UNMISS will continue to engage with the Military Justice Directorate to implement these recommendations.

61. In partnership with the reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, UNMISS supported the Strategic Defence and Security Review Board in advancing the finalization of a security policy framework through a workshop held on 6 and 7 October. The completion of the review process remains a key benchmark of implementation of the Revitalized Agreement. On 23 November, UNMISS also briefed the Board, led by the Minister of Defence, as well as members of the diplomatic community, on the UNMISS strategy for support for the security sector reform process of South Sudan during the transitional period.

D. Creating conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance

62. The flexible deployment of temporary operating bases provided a security umbrella for the provision of life-saving assistance (in Marial Lou, Warrap), built confidence for beneficiaries of local peace-humanitarian-development nexus

programming (in Koch, Unity) and created conditions for the return of assistance that had previously been withdrawn due to conflict (in Tambura, Western Equatoria).

63. To support the delivery of assistance and ensure the protection of humanitarian workers, UNMISS conducted 281 long-duration patrols and 292 short-duration patrols. It provided force protection to 1,421 integrated missions. In addition, it conducted 35 force protection patrols supporting convoys and humanitarian partners, including NGOs. On 9 September, UNMISS supported a United Nations agency with air transportation of non-food items to flood-affected areas of Mayendit County, as well as a humanitarian needs assessment in 16 flood-affected payams in Panyijiar, Unity.

64. To maximize humanitarian service delivery, the United Nations police coordinated with the South Sudan National Police Service on 16 occasions in the Juba and Wau internally displaced person camps, through static deployments and dynamic mobile patrolling around the event locations. On two occasions, the United Nations police provided security for humanitarian food distribution inside the Malakal protection of civilians site.

E. Monitoring and investigating human rights violations

65. UNMISS documented 145 incidents that negatively affected the human rights and protection situation, including arbitrary killings, extrajudicial executions, injuries, abductions, conflict-related sexual violence, arbitrary arrests and detention (including proxy detention), torture and ill-treatment, forced military conscription and the looting and destruction of civilian property. These incidents resulted in 353 civilian casualties (208 killed and 145 injured), including 17 women and 13 children. Of these incidents, 82 were attributed to community-based militias, 27 to Azande and Balanda militias allegedly affiliated with parties to the conflict, 17 to SSPDF, 5 to the National Security Service, 5 to SPLM/A-IO, 4 to NAS and 2 to the South Sudan National Police Service. Attribution of three other incidents remained pending.

66. Attacks carried out by community-based militias remained the primary source of violence affecting local populations, accounting for 78 per cent of civilian casualties. However, violence involving parties to the conflict and affiliated Azande and Balanda militias in Tambura continued to pose a significant threat to civilians, resulting in at least 65 casualties, as well as continued displacement, looting and destruction of civilian property.

67. UNMISS continued to engage with Government officials to implement lawful measures to address localized violence, including the deployment of mobile courts. This notwithstanding, UNMISS documented three extrajudicial executions in Lakes and five in Warrap. The Mission also confirmed the executions of two death row inmates in Wau. The use of capital punishment remains a concern, in particular owing to the limited ability of the justice system to fully comply with fair trial standards. UNMISS continued to support legal aid providers representing juveniles and other defendants on death row.

68. The Mission also facilitated the release and family tracing and reunification of 27 abductees (11 women and 16 children) held by members of the Murle, Dinka and Nuer communities in Jonglei and the Pibor Administrative Area as part of an ongoing project led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with the support of the South Sudan reconciliation, stabilization and resilience trust fund which has led to the release of 127 abductees since March 2021.

69. UNMISS continued to receive reports of censorship, harassment, and arbitrary arrest and detention by the National Security Service of journalists, activists and other civilians expressing criticism of the Government. At least 16 journalists and human

rights defenders were threatened, arbitrarily arrested or detained in connection with their professional activities. The Government also pursued supporters of the People's Coalition for Civil Action and on 6 October issued a directive to freeze the domestic financial assets of five Coalition leaders. A day of protests, planned for 29 November, did not occur, amid a continued crackdown against Coalition members.

70. UNMISS conducted 144 capacity-building sessions for a total of 4,225 national stakeholders (of whom 1,381 were women), including members of the security forces, State officials, community and traditional leaders, women's and youth organizations and other civil society representatives. These included a validation workshop for the national report for the universal periodic review, in addition to ongoing support for national and State human rights commissions. On 4 November, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women convened an interactive dialogue to consider the initial treaty report of South Sudan, prepared with technical support from UNMISS, marking the country's first such engagement with an international human rights treaty body.

71. UNMISS carried out 17 human rights-related due diligence policy risk assessments before travel, and material assistance was provided to non-United Nations security forces in support of the implementation of the peace process.

Children and armed conflict

72. During the reporting period, 81 grave violations against 70 boys and 10 girls were verified. A total of 54 boys and 2 girls were recruited and used by forces loyal to General James Nando (18 boys and 2 girls) and SPLM/A-IO (10 boys). The killing of five boys and the maiming of two boys and two girls were attributed to SSPDF (1) or remained unattributed as they were caused by crossfire between forces loyal to General James Nando and unidentified perpetrators (1), crossfire between SPLM/A-IO and an armed youth (1) or explosive remnants of war (6). Two girls were survivors of rape attributed to SSPDF (1) and NAS (1). Two girls were abducted by SPLM/A-IO and one by NAS.

73. Violations were verified in Western Equatoria (20 boys and 4 girls), Lakes (18 boys), Upper Nile (16 boys), Western Bahr el-Ghazal (10 boys), Central Equatoria (3 boys and 4 girls) and Jonglei (4 boys and 2 girls). One attack on a hospital by NAS was verified in Central Equatoria.

74. In support of the implementation of the comprehensive action plan to end and prevent all grave violations against children, UNMISS delivered 11 capacity-building training sessions on child protection for 573 participants (102 of them women), including 60 division commanders (of whom 4 were women). UNMISS also supported the formation of the State technical committee for the Pibor Administrative Area on the comprehensive action plan on 12 and 13 September.

75. UNMISS delivered 47 child protection awareness-raising sessions to 2,373 participants (1,055 of whom were women), including 601 members of the Government security forces (including 221 women), 1,664 community members (of whom 793 were women) and 108 Government officials (41 of them women). Additionally, 55 advocacy meetings with the armed forces and Government officials were held on child protection concerns. In Lakes, the efforts resulted in the identification of 18 boys associated with SSPDF at Panda Barracks.

Conflict-related sexual violence

76. UNMISS continued to observe concerning levels of sexual violence perpetrated by the parties to the conflict, community-based militias and other armed elements involved in localized violence. The Mission verified 15 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, involving 15 survivors, including 5 girls and 1 boy. Victims ranging

in age from 7 to 47 years were subjected to rape (9), gang rape (3), attempted rape (1), threat to rape (1) and forced nudity (1). Seven incidents were attributed to SSPDF, two to the National Security Service, two to the South Sudan National Police Service, one to SPLM/A-IO and one to other armed elements. Attribution for two incidents remained pending.

77. In addition, the Mission documented and verified 21 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence that occurred prior to the reporting period, involving 63 survivors, including 5 girls and 7 men. Nine of these incidents were attributed to community-based militias, five to SSPDF and three to the National Security Service. Attribution for three incidents remained pending.

78. On 30 November, with technical support from UNMISS, the Government officially launched the joint implementation committee of the action plan of the armed forces on addressing conflict-related sexual violence, comprised of SSPDF, SPLM/A-IO and the South Sudan Opposition Alliance.

F. Women and peace and security

79. Following the reconstitution of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly, UNMISS supported the participation of women in the legislative and constitution-making process. On 1 and 2 September, UNMISS organized an orientation workshop in Juba with the South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network to introduce some 20 young women members of parliament to legislative procedures and practices of the Assembly. On 7 and 8 and on 21 and 22 October, UNMISS facilitated two workshops for about 120 women members of parliament in coordination with the South Sudan Women's Peace Monitoring and Advocacy Group on gender-responsive governance and leadership. On 14 and 15 October, UNMISS supported the Group in bringing together 40 women members of parliament and 30 civil society leaders to enhance their engagement in the constitution-making process and the integration of gender perspectives into the legislative agenda.

80. The Mission continued its support for the implementation of gender provisions of the Revitalized Agreement. On 27 and 28 September, UNMISS facilitated a consultative workshop in Western Bahr el-Ghazal to strengthen the advocacy skills of women leaders and male gender champions with regard to the affirmative action targets. From 28 to 30 September, UNMISS organized a workshop for 54 senior South Sudan National Police Service officers (including 20 women) from Juba headquarters and five States to promote gender equality and effective responses to sexual and gender-based violence.

81. Together with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and UNDP, throughout October the Mission supported the implementation of a project on gender mainstreaming in security sector reform by providing technical expertise for gender-sensitivity training of the South Sudanese uniformed forces in Rumbek, Kuacjok and Bentiu. On 14 and 15 September, UNMISS facilitated a capacity-building initiative with over 50 journalists, human rights defenders and lawyers (35 women and 15 men), who identified strategies to enhance the meaningful political participation of women at the national and subnational levels.

VI. Mission staffing, the status of deployments, and conduct and discipline

82. As at 30 November, the number of UNMISS civilian personnel stood at 2,644, comprising 852 international staff members, including 239 women (28 per cent); 1,396 national staff members, of whom 207 (15 per cent) were women; and 396 United Nations Volunteers, 164 of them (41 per cent) women.

83. The police strength stood at 1,440 (of an authorized 2,101 personnel), comprising 544 individual police officers, including 213 women (39 per cent); 865 personnel in formed police units, of whom 212 (24 per cent) were women; and 31 corrections officers, 16 of them (52 per cent) women.

84. Of the authorized 17,000 troops, UNMISS troop strength stood at 13,902 military personnel, comprising 222 military liaison officers, including 50 women (23 per cent); 425 military staff officers, 80 of whom (19 per cent) were women; and 13,255 military contingent personnel, 721 of them (5 per cent) women.

85. In line with Action for Peacekeeping Plus, UNMISS continued enhancing the accountability of peacekeepers by updating its misconduct risk registers and action plans through field visits to Wau, Kuacjok and Malakal. The Mission intensified efforts to strengthen the community-based complaint mechanisms, including through increased visibility and support from internal and external partners in conducting outreach activities, through the creation of a social media platform to share conduct and discipline information (especially on sexual exploitation and abuse) among the members of such mechanisms.

86. In accordance with the applicable policy, information on possible unsatisfactory conduct and/or misconduct was processed in a timely fashion. Between 1 September and 30 November, 34 allegations were recorded in the case management tracking system, with no allegations of sexual exploitation. All identified victims of the previously reported allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse continued to receive support from the Senior Victims' Rights Officer in South Sudan.

VII. Violations of the status-of-forces agreement, international humanitarian law and the security of United Nations personnel

87. UNMISS and the Government continued to make significant progress in improving overall communication and coordination to facilitate the Mission's operations, particularly freedom of movement for the Mission's patrols. In this regard, the third high-level coordination meeting was held on 21 October to assess the progress made thus far regarding UNMISS freedom of movement. These initiatives led to fewer incidents of access denials affecting UNMISS patrols.

88. As at 30 November, UNMISS had recorded 27 violations of the status-of-forces agreement, which is a reduction compared with 62 such violations during the previous reporting period. Of the total number of violations, eight involved movement restrictions imposed by Government security forces between September and November. Of that number, five incidents took place in September due to the late communication of UNMISS movements by the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism to the Government security forces manning the checkpoints. One restriction in October was related to the denial of flight safety assurances for an UNMISS casualty evacuation flight in Torit, Eastern Equatoria.

89. After delays, the Mine Action Service was permitted to deploy teams along the roads in Central Equatoria, with the last restrictions along the road from Juba to Yei and Nimule being lifted on 19 November.

90. Three incidents of access denial by SPLM/A-IO and armed militia elements impeded the Mission's ability to monitor and investigate the human rights situation in areas controlled by SPLM/A-IO.

91. The whereabouts of two national staff members arrested in 2014 remain unknown. During the reporting period, Government security personnel arrested 12 members of UNMISS without informing the Mission and without following the procedures set out under the status-of-forces agreement for the arrest or detention of staff members. Eleven of the arrested staff members were released on bail within seven days of their arrest, but one national staff member arrested on 18 August remains in detention in Juba. The arrest and detention of UNMISS members without following the procedures set out under the status-of-forces agreement has an impact on the Mission's ability to account for the whereabouts of its staff and undermines the commitment of the Government to ensuring an environment conducive for UNMISS personnel to work without impediments in support of the Government and people of South Sudan.

92. UNMISS continued to notify the Government of violations through notes verbales and regular engagement. Monthly matrices of the incidents prepared for the Security Council have also been shared with the Government.

VIII. Performance and safety and security of uniformed components

93. Seven UNMISS force enabler contingents (two level II hospitals, a petroleum platoon and a force engineering unit) and two sector headquarters were evaluated during the reporting period. The reports were completed using online tools, and one is currently in progress. Evaluations covered areas such as mandate comprehension and support, command and control, training and discipline, sustainment and health. Three contingents were assessed as above average and five others as excellent.

94. From 1 September to 30 November, four formed police units of 848 personnel (212 of them women) were evaluated. The performance of the units was rated satisfactory. The evaluation assessed the operational and logistical ability to perform mandated tasks and associated levels of performance. It found some shortfalls related to contingent-owned equipment, which, however, do not compromise overall performance.

95. Harassment of United Nations staff members and general criminality has an impact on the safety and security of peacekeepers, which the Mission continues to actively address through interactions with the Government security services, strengthened physical security measures and security training. Overall, 52 such incidents (10 directed at uniformed personnel) were registered during the reporting period.

IX. Observations and recommendations

96. On the third anniversary of the signing of the Revitalized Agreement, I call on the parties to demonstrate their continued commitment to the Agreement, which remains the only viable road map for consolidating peace. While I am encouraged by the progress thus far, I am concerned about missed benchmarks and critical tasks that remain outstanding, in particular those related to constitutional reform and the transitional security arrangements. South Sudan stands to make significant progress in implementing the Agreement if it takes up the legislative programme set out in the Agreement and also undertakes steps that the Government has reiterated that it will take to implement the transitional security arrangements. I therefore urge the Presidency to urgently unify the command of the armed forces and graduate the necessary unified forces.

97. UNMISS continues to implement the Security Council three-year strategic vision to achieve its key mandate priorities, including support for the conduct of free, fair, credible and peaceful elections at the end of the transitional period. In this regard, in line with the outcomes of the electoral needs assessment (see [S/2021/661](#)) and the 27 October 2021 statement of the President of the Security Council ([S/PRST/2021/20](#)), my Special Representative will establish an integrated electoral assistance team, which will provide early technical support to the Government to deliver an inclusive and legitimate electoral process.

98. I acknowledge the efforts of the Council of Ministers to review and adopt the Constitution-Making Process Bill 2020/2021. This bill, once approved by the Transitional National Legislative Assembly, will initiate and guide the permanent constitution-making process, which is a prerequisite for elections. I therefore call on the parties to operationalize the Assembly so that it can consider key legislation, including the establishment of the legal framework to advance election preparation. I also urge the parties to establish State assemblies and other institutions of governance and request them to continue efforts towards reaching the 35 per cent quota for women envisioned in the Revitalized Agreement.

99. While I am encouraged that the permanent ceasefire continues to broadly hold, clashes in the Equatorias, intercommunal violence elsewhere and, separately, isolated skirmishes between the factions of SPLM/A-IO have the potential to derail the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement. I call upon the SPLM/A-IO factions to resolve their differences through dialogue. I welcome the mediation efforts of IGAD in this regard and look forward to its continued support.

100. I am mindful that regional developments risk diverting attention from the situation in South Sudan, which requires sustained international engagement. I am extremely concerned about the unfolding political crises in the Sudan and Ethiopia and the likely impact of further population movements across the borders of South Sudan, where humanitarian efforts are already stretched in meeting the needs of 326,000 refugees and asylum seekers and 1.7 million internally displaced persons. These crises also severely affect IGAD, which remains in the lead of the political process in South Sudan.

101. South Sudan is prone to riverine and flash flooding, which has been of such scale and intensity for the third consecutive year that the affected communities have significantly reduced chances of recovery before the next climatic events could hit. This year's flooding emergency affected a staggering 846,000 people, resulting in new mass displacements and contributing to increased food insecurity, waterborne diseases and heightened malnutrition. Droughts and floods of increasing frequency in recent years demonstrate the high vulnerability of South Sudan to climate change, with implications for peace and security fuelled by competition over dwindling resources. I commend the unrelenting efforts of UNMISS engineers in Unity State, who have made every effort to protect Bentiu town from flooding. I also thank the donor community for its support in meeting immediate relief requirements and note the allocation by the Government of South Sudan of \$10 million for flood relief. I further acknowledge the unity of purpose demonstrated between the Government, the United Nations, Member States, NGOs and civil society to strengthen humanitarian, development and peace collaboration to mitigate climate impacts and collectively respond to the escalation of insecurity and intercommunal and intracommunal conflict.

102. The increasing trend of threats and attacks against humanitarian workers by youth groups and the disruption of aid programmes remains concerning, especially when such animosity fuels ethnic and intercommunal conflict. Humanitarian actors must have firm security guarantees that they are safe from harm. At the same time, these developments underscore the need for viable education and productive

livelihood opportunities for youth, who are facing persistent economic hardship and limited incentives and should refrain from resolving their grievances through violent means.

103. I am encouraged that UNMISS and the Government continued to make significant progress in improving overall communication and coordination to facilitate the Mission's operations, particularly freedom of movement for the Mission's patrols, which has dramatically reduced access denials. I am, however, worried about security threats to humanitarian partners, which has had an impact on their ability to deliver assistance to those in need. I condemn the attacks on humanitarian convoys and the looting and destruction of humanitarian assets and supplies. I call upon the Government to hold perpetrators accountable and to provide necessary protection to humanitarian workers to avoid disruptions in the delivery of life-saving aid.

104. I am also concerned over reports of cases of conflict-related sexual violence and other serious human rights violations, including the extrajudicial executions reported in Lakes and Warrap. I urge the Government, as well as State Governments, to uphold the rule of law and internationally agreed standards and norms contained in international agreements to which South Sudan is a signatory. As South Sudan embarks on the preparations for free and fair elections, it is imperative that the authorities recognize and respect the need for freedom of expression and political space for an open national dialogue on the country's future.

105. Finally, I convey my deep appreciation to the troop- and police-contributing countries and commend the efforts made by the IGAD Heads of State and the African Union. I thank my Special Representative, Nicholas Haysom, the uniformed and civilian personnel of UNMISS and the United Nations country team, who have continued to work towards peace to improve lives in South Sudan.

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