



# Security Council

Distr.: General  
7 December 2022

Original: English

---

## Situation in South Sudan

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution [2625 \(2022\)](#), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to 15 March 2023 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 to 30 November 2022.

#### II. Major political developments

2. During the reporting period, the parties made progress in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, in particular the graduation of forces and the passing of critical bills, such as the constitution-making process bill and the national budget.

3. The road map to a peaceful and democratic end to the transitional period of the Revitalized Agreement, adopted on 4 August, was endorsed on 1 September by the reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission. The reconstituted Commission also endorsed the extension of the transitional period for two years, with 37 out of 42 members of the opposition and diplomatic and civil society voting in favour of the extension. The adoption of the road map was due primarily to delays in the implementation of the Agreement. The troika of Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America abstained, as did the European Union (a member of the reconstituted Commission), raising concerns over the lack of inclusivity in the consultations prior to the adoption. On 21 November, the reconstituted Transitional National Legislative Assembly passed an amendment to the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, 2011, extending the transitional period to last from February 2022 to February 2025 and incorporating the road map into the Transitional Constitution.

4. Other stakeholders, including the National Democratic Movement, and non-signatory parties, including the South Sudan United Front/Army and the National Salvation Front (NAS), rejected the road map, arguing that the extension of the transitional period was a result of diminished political will to implement the



Revitalized Agreement. The views of civil society stakeholders on the extension varied, with most accepting it but calling for more inclusivity and consultations going forward.

5. On 22 September, an agreement was reached by the parties to the Revitalized Agreement, on the allocation of the nine management positions of 17 national commissions as follows: five to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), two to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO), one to the South Sudan Opposition Alliance (SSOA) and one to other political parties.

6. After the resolution of the impasse that had led to the boycott of the reconstituted Transitional National Legislative Assembly by SPLM-IO, the constitution-making process bill (2022) and the national wildlife service act (amendment) bill (2022), were passed again on 24 and 26 October, respectively. On 7 November, the bill to amend the South Sudan national police service act (2022) was also passed.

7. Notably, the graduation of the first batch of necessary unified forces in the Greater Equatoria region that started on 30 August was completed on 19 September, with a total 26,184 forces graduating in Juba, Maridi and Torit. On 27 September, the Joint Defence Board held a graduation ceremony in Bor, Jonglei State, for 1,007 forces. On 4 November, 13,491 trainees graduated in Wau, Bahr el-Ghazal State. On 10 November, 1,366 forces graduated in Moum, Unity State. On 21 November, 9,958 forces graduated in Malakal, Upper Nile State.

#### **Peace process developments**

8. The security situation in various parts of the country deteriorated with the intensification of intercommunal violence. On 12 September, the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, commissioned two investigation committees to examine incidents of insecurity, including extrajudicial killings, in Mayom County, Unity State, and in Rualbet Payam, Tonj North County, Warrap State.

9. Clashes between the two SPLM-IO Kit-Gwang factions (Agwelek and pro-Gatwech forces) continued to dominate the conflict in Upper Nile. On 2 October, the Kit-Gwang faction led by Simon Gatwech declared in a statement that it opposed the idea of holding elections in the current political context and called upon all the opposition groups resisting the Government to unite under an opposition umbrella. In this regard, Mr. Gatwech met with a NAS delegation on 15 October and with the leader of the South Sudan People's Movement/Army, General Stephen Buay Rolnyang, on 19 October.

10. On 3 October, the President announced that the Government would no longer confer ranks and positions upon rebel leaders as an incentive to join the peace process. He emphasized that peace was everyone's responsibility and he cautioned that the days of rewarding those who caused harm had come to an end.

11. On 6 October, as part of the agreement signed in Khartoum on 16 January between SPLM and the Agwelek forces, led by Johnson Olony, 500 integrated security forces comprising South Sudan People's Defence Forces and Agwelek elements were deployed to Megeinis to safeguard the area along the border between Upper Nile State and the Sudan.

12. On 20 October, the Acting Secretary-General of SPLM, Peter Lam, made recommendations to its Political Bureau, including that the National Liberation Council dismiss the First Vice-President of South Sudan, Riek Machar, and the former SPLM Secretary-General, General Pagan Amum, from party membership, as they had remained outside it despite the Agreement on the Reunification of SPLM. On 24 October, SPLM-IO opposed the recommendation for dismissal, stating that the

three factions (SPLM-in-Government, SPLM-IO and Real SPLM) constituted SPLM and that no faction could dismiss a member of another faction. SPLM-IO noted that any dismissal or replacement could only be a decision of the SPLM National Convention. In response, SPLM called on those who wished to leave their parties and return to SPLM to do so before the forthcoming meeting of the National Liberation Council, now scheduled to be held in January 2023.

13. On 24 October, the Community of Sant'Egidio announced that the factions of the South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance led by General Thomas Cirillo Swaka, General Paul Malong and General Amum had agreed to reunite. On 2 November, Sant'Egidio convened a meeting of the non-signatory groups, with the participation of UNMISS, to discuss a way forward on the South Sudanese peace process. The non-signatory groups underscored their previous calls for a national round table outside South Sudan, with participation by all relevant stakeholders, to chart a new way forward for the country. They expressed their intention to engage with the Government's delegation on that subject. However, on 24 November, the Minister for Presidential Affairs, Barnaba Marial Benjamin, in a letter to the Sant'Egidio Community, suspended the peace talks, accusing the non-signatory groups of buying time to wage war.

### **Regional engagements and developments**

14. On 19 September, the Office of the First Vice-President issued a statement opposing a proposal, made in May by some Ngok Dinka representatives, that Abyei be allowed to self-govern pending a resolution to the issue of the area's status. SPLM-IO stated that the destiny of Abyei was a national issue whose resolution should be based on the collective views of the people of South Sudan.

15. On 27 September, the President issued a statement indicating that the status of Abyei would be discussed bilaterally between South Sudan and the Sudan. He noted that the 2013 referendum was indicative of the fact that the residents of Abyei saw themselves as South Sudanese. On 4 October, the President reconstituted the committee on Abyei, tasked with defining the final status of the disputed area.

16. On 29 September, the African Union Peace and Security Council discussed the situation in Abyei and pledged to support both countries in determining the final status of Abyei. The Sudan, having been suspended from the African Union and its activities, objected to the holding in its absence of discussions about Abyei.

### **Economic situation**

17. The macroeconomic situation remained challenging as a result of the country's fragility, instability, weak performance in key sectors, and external factors, such as climate change and higher food and fuel costs. The South Sudanese pound remained unstable and continued to depreciate against the dollar.

18. On 27 September, the parliament passed a budget of \$3.2 billion for 2022/23, with a deficit of \$1.2 billion. The budget is expected to be funded by oil revenues in the amount of \$1.6 billion and non-oil revenues in the amount of \$269 million. By law, the budget should be submitted to the national legislature no later than 15 May of each year, but this benchmark has been missed for the past two years.

19. On 16 November, the Government of South Sudan and the United Nations country team signed a United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework for the period 2023–2025. The framework represents coherent and strategic United Nations support for the national development priorities in the Revised National Development Strategy (2021–2024) and the Government's vision of transitioning from a humanitarian to a development focus. Strategic priorities of

the 2023–2025 framework include political and legitimate governance, economic governance, public sector reform, gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women, empowerment of young people, and capacity development.

### **III. Security situation**

20. In the riverine corridor between the Upper Nile and Jonglei states, fighting between the Kit-Gwang factions and with armed groups, as well as cattle raids, affected the overall security situation and resulted in the displacement of civilians. Meanwhile, intercommunal clashes along the boundary between Warrap State and the Abyei Administrative Area resulted in 110 people killed and 67 injured. In Central Equatoria, attacks by suspected NAS elements and harassment of civilians by armed forces increased the level of insecurity. Floods across the country exacerbated the security challenges.

#### **Greater Upper Nile region**

21. Kit-Gwang factions continued to clash in Upper Nile and northern Jonglei over control of strategic strongholds, principally Tonga, New Fangak, Diel and Atar, along the Nile River corridor. The fighting displaced over 30,000 civilians in Malakal and New Fangak. On 7 September, pro-Gatwech forces attacked an internally displaced persons site in Adidiang, Panyikang County. Over 50 civilians were killed during attacks along the Nile River corridor, with a recent concentration in Fashoda County. Mobilization and clashes among all parties around the area continue to pose a security threat to the region. In addition, violent clashes over long-standing boundary disputes between the Maban and Melut counties have sparked concerns over the continued ethnicization of subnational conflicts.

#### **Greater Equatoria region**

22. Activities carried out by NAS elements and South Sudan People's Defence Forces continued to destabilize security in Yei River County, Central Equatoria. Several abductions, killings and incidents of harassment of civilians were attributed to NAS elements. On 4 and 27 October, suspected NAS elements abducted two traditional leaders in the Morobo and Kajo Keij counties. Operations of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces intensified in Morobo County and along the Yei-Maridi road, causing panic among civilians, as many were questioned on their possible affiliation with NAS. On 19 September, NAS reportedly established an area headquarters in Morobo. Looting and harassment of the local population by Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA-IO) forces in the area, allegedly due to a lack of medical and food supplies in the rank and file, resulted in the displacement of over 1,200 people.

#### **Greater Bahr el-Ghazal region**

23. The security situation in Rualbet, Warrap State, improved with the ongoing deployment of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces in the region, following the deadly clashes between local youths and the national armed forces on 25 June, which resulted in an estimated 115 persons killed. In conjunction with the incident, 310 men and 15 women have been arbitrarily arrested.

24. Tonj East County, Warrap State, witnessed a renewed cycle of communal violence between the Luanyjang and Baac communities. The South Sudan People's Defence Forces continued their deployment in the Tonj North and Tonj East counties to disarm local communities with a view to deterring the violence. Between 25 and 29 September, the Luanyjang and Baac communities conducted reprisal attacks,

allegedly to avenge an incident that occurred in 2020, resulting in the death of four men and the injury of three men. On 18 October, continued fighting between the two communities left 18 people dead and 15 injured. The South Sudan People's Defence Forces have been deployed to Ngap-Agok Payam, Tonj East County, to deter further violence, although their operation has allegedly also resulted in human rights violations against the communities, including the rape of six women, four of whom were minors, in Wun Lit Payam on 1 September.

25. From 20 to 25 September, the areas around the southern boundary of the Abyei box witnessed an increase in violent incidents driven by a dispute over the boundary between Twic County and the Abyei Administrative Area. The Anet region in the Abyei Administrative Area witnessed deadly clashes on 25 September and 10 October, with an estimated 57 people killed and 48 injured. Both the Dinka Twic and Dinka Ngok continue to mobilize in their respective regions, and tensions remain high between the communities, despite various engagements and negotiations in pursuit of a peaceful agreement. Of further concern was the involvement of Bul Nuer communities, displaced by flooding in Mayom County and aligning with their respective host communities.

#### **IV. Humanitarian situation**

26. Violent clashes between armed factions in or near the town of Tonga resulted in the displacement of thousands of people across Upper Nile, Jonglei and Unity during the reporting period. Humanitarian partners mobilized to respond to the most urgent needs, including food, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, protection, and health and nutrition services.

27. The armed attacks on the Adidiang internally displaced persons sites resulted in the displacement of over 7,000 people, as well as civilian deaths and injuries. The attack also sparked an influx of internally displaced persons to the Malakal protection of civilians site. Humanitarian partners continued to provide urgent support at the site, but their response was constrained owing to limited funding, access impediments and insecurity. The situation is particularly dire because people have experienced multiple displacements over the past few months, from Tonga to Adidiang and then again to Malakal. Humanitarian partners and UNMISS are currently exploring options for decongesting the site.

28. On 8 and 9 October, fighting between armed factions in several locations in Fashoda County, Upper Nile, resulted in the displacement of an estimated 8,000 people and significant loss of property. As at 9 October, an estimated 441 people from Wau Shilluk in Fashoda County were registered at the Malakal protection of civilians site, with more people reportedly waiting for river transportation to move to the site.

29. According to the rapid needs assessment carried out by humanitarian partners, as at 25 November, heavy rains and floods had affected over 1 million people across South Sudan. Nine of the 10 states were affected, with Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, Warrap, Unity and Western Equatoria accounting for the majority of needs. In 2022, above-normal rainfall for the fourth consecutive year created erratic rainfall patterns and led to prolonged flooding, with water levels in some areas of the Unity and Upper Nile states exceeding the 2021 levels and affecting the areas that had not been flooded in 2021. Torrential rain and floods destroyed crops, property and basic infrastructure, including health and nutrition centres and schools. While the response to the floods was ongoing, insecurity, violence against aid workers, impassable roads, flooded airstrips and access constraints continued to hamper the overall response. At least 36 rapid needs assessments were conducted in Eastern Equatoria, Lakes, Jonglei,

Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile, Warrap, Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Western Equatoria, as well as the Greater Pibor Administrative Area.

30. Between 20 and 25 September, renewed fighting between the ethnic groups in Twic County in Warrap and the Anet settlement in the Abyei Administrative Area resulted in the displacement of approximately 3,500 people. Those displaced from the Anet settlement relocated to Maniel, Mayom, Mading, Anyiel-Kuach and Recayen in Twic County. The arrival of these displaced persons exacerbated the already fragile humanitarian situation in Twic County, where approximately 29,000 flood-affected persons, including 16,240 children, are hosted. Despite access challenges, partners in Warrap scaled up essential services at the internally displaced persons sites.

31. On 29 September, the report of an inter-agency rapid needs assessment was shared during a monthly cluster meeting chaired by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. According to the report, an additional 17,000 individuals were displaced in Mayendit County owing to the floods, bringing the total cumulative numbers for the county to 59,358 persons and 2,834 households. In Leer County, an additional 8,050 persons were displaced, bringing the cumulative total to 48,295 flood-affected individuals. Many of these individuals reside at displacement sites, having fled conflict in 2022.

32. As at 31 October, 424 cases of cholera, resulting in one death, were reported in the town of Rubkona and in the Bentiu internally displaced persons camp. Response activities include public outreach and information campaigns, as well as improvements to water and sanitation infrastructure. So far, 1,584,147 cholera vaccine doses have been administered in the Leer and Rubkona counties, in Unity; Yirol East County, Lakes; and Juba County, Central Equatoria.

33. Meanwhile, the killing of two staff of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on 19 and 25 September in Unity due to sub-clan disputes increased tension among Bentiu internally displaced residents. Flooding in the Mayendit, Leer and Mayom counties displaced over 100,000 civilians to other areas, including to Warrap and the Abyei Administrative Area. The displacements have exacerbated local conflict dynamics in the affected areas.

34. During the reporting period, access constraints, bureaucratic impediments, widespread criminality, intercommunal violence and revenge killings continued to hamper the work of humanitarian actors. Between September and November, 115 incidents related to humanitarian access constraints were reported, of which 75 involved violence against humanitarian personnel and assets. A total of 115 incidents were reported in 10 states. Four humanitarian staff members were killed while on duty, and 57 humanitarian workers were relocated in the Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states. Seventeen incidents of looting and theft of humanitarian assets were reported. Seven attacks on convoys and commercially contracted vehicles occurred in the Jonglei and in Eastern Equatoria and Upper Nile states. Since the beginning of 2022, eight humanitarian workers have been killed while on duty, compared with five in 2021.

## **V. Implementation of the Mission's mandate**

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

35. On 30 August, in line with the African Union Peace and Security Council decision of 11 July, UNMISS, the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), including the reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation

Commission, formed a technical trilateral task force on the constitution-making process for the permanent constitution and on electoral support. On 4 November, in a trilateral meeting, an agreement was reached on the terms of reference to guide the future coordination of activities in support of the peace process.

36. On 20 and 21 September, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of UNMISS engaged separately with the Minister for International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, in that country's capacity as Chair of the African Union High-level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan, and with the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union. The Commissioner expressed the readiness of the African Union to assist and share experiences garnered from similar situations in Africa.

37. From 6 to 8 and from 20 to 22 September, UNMISS and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supported two workshops to develop and finalize the draft South Sudan national land policy. The workshop was attended by 120 participants (including 25 women) and a small technical team of 12 persons (including 2 women). Discussions focused on issues affecting women, such as the right to inherit and register land in their name, the elimination of discriminatory customary practices, and the representation of women in institutions governing land use. These workshops contributed to the Government's effort to finalize the national land policy, which is a key reform identified in the Revitalized Agreement.

38. On 24 and 25 September, UNMISS organized a consultative meeting in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal with 69 participants (including 14 women), comprising county commissioners, peace committee members and community leaders, to enhance strategic planning capacity and to promote partnership and collaboration between local authorities and their constituencies. The meeting adopted action plans to promote inclusive governance in line with the 35 per cent quota reserved for women.

39. On 28 September, UNMISS participated in an experts' meeting organized by the National Constitutional Amendment Committee to review the South Sudan Anti-Corruption Act (2009). On 24 and 25 October, UNMISS provided technical assistance at a validation workshop on the draft bill, which is expected to be finalized by the National Constitutional Amendment Committee for submission to the Ministry of Justice.

40. Meanwhile, from 4 to 6 September, the Special Representative travelled to the Sudan to meet with the Chairperson of the Sovereign Council of the Sudan, Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ali Elsadig Ali, and the Minister of Defence, Lieutenant General Yassin Ibrahim Yassin, and called upon the Sudan, as Chair of IGAD and guarantor of the Revitalized Agreement, to mobilize more regional support for the peace process.

41. On 4 October, the Special Representative met with the Executive Secretary of IGAD to discuss the status of the peace process. They agreed to develop a plan for the United Nations, the African Union and IGAD to support the peace process in line with the road map.

42. On 11, 25 and 26 October, UNMISS supported the Strategic Defence and Security Review Board to advance the development of the security sector transformation road map and the drafting of the white paper on defence and security. These documents will outline the national vision for security sector reform in South Sudan, including the operationalization of the unified forces, which was viewed by national stakeholders as a positive step to diversify, right-size and transform the security sector.

43. In Eastern Equatoria from 18 to 20 October, UNMISS and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) facilitated a capacity-building workshop for 80 state legislators, of whom 23 are women legislators, to offer them training on parliamentary procedures and on their roles and responsibilities.

44. In Juba from 21 to 29 November, the Office of the President, in partnership with UNDP and UNMISS, held the sixth Governors' Forum, on accelerating the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement in accordance with the road map. The Forum was preceded by subnational consultations between the Government and civil society on how to enhance civic engagement.

45. In Juba on 24 and 25 November, UNMISS facilitated a workshop on analysing the key aspects of the road map. Approximately 60 participants (including 30 women) from civil society, academia, the Government and the women's parliamentary caucus analysed the road map and identified key challenges related to the constitution-making and electoral processes and the roles of various stakeholders, especially women and young people, in better contributing to these processes.

46. UNMISS also hosted 12 round-table discussions, broadcast on Radio Miraya, thereby continuing to promote the opening of civic and political space and enabling a closer connection between political leaders and the public with regard to the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and related issues.

## **B. Protection of civilians and mitigating intercommunal conflict**

47. UNMISS continued to provide physical protection at the Malakal protection of civilians site, where conflict between SPLA-IO Kit-Gwang factions in Upper Nile and northern Jonglei increased displacement to and congestion at the site. As at 29 October, UNMISS had provided physical protection to an estimated 36,718 persons.

48. UNMISS maintained its support for internally displaced persons camps (former protection of civilians sites) through integrated planning, advocacy and response to alleged incidents of sexual and gender-based violence, criminal activities and alleged weapon smuggling. These efforts involved increased deployment of South Sudan National Police Service and joint police unit officers, supported by United Nations police officers, to maintain the civilian character of locations in Juba and Bentiu.

49. UNMISS has maintained its focus on protection concerns and related displacement outside one protection of civilians site and other internally displaced persons sites to enable early warning and timely responses. UNMISS monitored reports of targeted abductions by suspected NAS and criminal elements in Central Equatoria, targeted revenge killings among Guit communities in Unity, clashes between Dinka Ngok and Dinka Twic along the Abyei boundary and attempts to evict internally displaced persons from the Mahad internally displaced persons site and temporary protection area alongside the Mission's area in Leer. In this regard, UNMISS advocated a more robust approach by the Government to discharge its primary responsibility to protect all civilians (including staff of humanitarian agencies) and ensure that humanitarian access remained unimpeded.

50. UNMISS supported local authorities and humanitarian partners in assessing conditions conducive to a safe and secure return in the Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria and Jonglei states. This support included the verification of 182 internally displaced persons who had expressed their intention to voluntarily return to the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, and the subsequent assessment of return areas.

51. UNMISS continued to promote inclusive dialogue, peaceful coexistence, reconciliation and social cohesion at the subnational level to protect civilians and

manage intercommunal conflicts. 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 young people. A total of 4,928 participants (1,599 women) were reached through these activities.

52. From 1 to 3 September, UNMISS, FAO, and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries organized a national conference on livestock. State governors, chief administrators, members of national and state parliaments and other stakeholders from across the 10 states and the administrative areas participated. The participants discussed violence related to cattle and their migration and explored solutions, including the adoption of a broader national regulatory framework for cattle migration to address such violence and guide the transformation and commercialization of livestock-rearing. It was agreed to continue the discussions and collaboration on mapping migration corridors and livestock movement routes in consultation with the local communities and on enacting related legislation and policies.

53. As part of the process to strengthen the capacity and promote the role of traditional leaders in local conflict management, UNMISS, in partnership with the Local Government Board, organized regional forums in Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria on 6 and 7 September and on 28 and 29 September, respectively. A total of 93 participants (including 11 women) attended the forums.

54. On 16 October, UNMISS facilitated a rapprochement visit of a delegation of senior government officials from Jonglei to the Greater Pibor Administrative Area to discuss issues affecting security and peaceful relations between officials from Jonglei and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area. Both sides agreed to criminalize cattle raids, child abduction, revenge attacks and road ambushes and to establish buffer zones for the joint apprehension of perpetrators. They signed a 15-point action plan to implement the agreed resolutions.

55. From 24 to 27 October, UNMISS organized a cross-border peace dialogue for 60 participants (including 7 women) representing Panyijiar County, Unity, and the greater Rumbek area of Lakes. The participants signed a 17-point resolution to promote peaceful intercommunal relations and prevent cross-border attacks.

56. UNMISS advocated an integrated and streamlined context in which to address issues related to security and climate change, such as flood mitigation, in the development of resilience and recovery efforts. The pilot projects on partnerships for peace, resilience and recovery were launched in Eastern Equatoria, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Western Equatoria.

57. As at 28 November, the UNMISS force had conducted 2,375 patrols, including 1,406 short-duration patrols, 377 long-duration patrols, 90 dynamic air patrols and 55 riverine patrols. A total of 575 patrols were conducted at and around the Malakal protection of civilians site and internally displaced persons sites. Of the patrols, 8 per cent included uniformed women peacekeepers on routine liaison patrols. The UNMISS force maintained five extended-duration temporary operating bases in Koch, Tambura, Jamjang, Mundri and Domolotto.

58. As at 28 November, United Nations police had completed 5,447 patrols, including 1,969 confidence- and trust-building patrols, 171 short-duration patrols, 53 long-duration patrols, 36 dynamic air patrols, 914 coordinated security patrols and 2,302 high-visibility patrols. Of the 5,447 patrols, 5,157 included women officers.

59. United Nations police carried out 227 instances of access control duties at the Malakal protection of civilians site to prevent and mitigate security incidents and to enhance the safety and security of internally displaced persons. Following recent clashes in Upper Nile affecting the internally displaced persons at the protection of civilians site, United Nations police stepped up its vigilance through an increase in

foot patrols, from 108 to 553. In addition, 16 meetings were held on crime prevention and mitigation with community leaders and community watch groups.

60. The United Nations Mine Action Service responded to 333 requests for identification, removal, disposal and clearance of suspected landmines and explosive ordnance from the Mission and local communities. This work enabled the communities to gain access to 28 agricultural areas, 3 hospitals and 4 natural water sources. The Mine Action Service responses resulted in a total of 21,524 explosive ordnance disposed of, and 597,604 square metres of land released during the reporting period.

61. The Mine Action Service provided awareness training on landmines and explosive remnants of war to 872 UNMISS personnel (including 118 women) to enhance their knowledge of safe behaviour and Mission mobility. In addition, a total of 114,884 civilians (15,537 men, 18,492 women, 41,897 boys and 38,958 girls) were trained on explosive ordnance risk, including approximately 15,175 newly arrived internally displaced persons at the protection of civilians site in Malakal.

### **C. Rule of law and accountability**

62. To facilitate the creation of a protective environment for civilians, UNMISS continued to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to rule of law and justice actors at the national and subnational levels.

63. From 31 October to 14 November, UNMISS supported the South Sudan People's Defence Forces in deploying a general court martial, comprising nine military justice officials, to Torit, Eastern Equatoria. The court martial heard 11 cases involving 12 defendants, which resulted in 6 convictions and 6 acquittals. Victim and witness support, including a civilian victims' counsel, was provided through a local civil society organization, and all the accused were represented by defence counsel.

64. UNMISS promoted structural reforms by facilitating two meetings between officials from the Directorate of Public Prosecutions and the Military Justice Directorate to discuss jurisdiction over crimes involving civilians, with a view to enhancing accountability and promoting access to justice for victims and communities, including with regard to conflict-related sexual violence.

65. To build capacity across the criminal justice chain and increase access to justice in remote areas, including in key areas of return, UNMISS facilitated the deployment of a circuit court to Raja from 26 to 30 September and from 28 November to 2 December. From 26 to 30 September, the circuit court heard four cases, including three alleged rape cases involving children, which resulted in the conviction of four defendants. In Raja, from 27 to 29 September, UNMISS delivered an investigation training with a particular focus on sexual and gender-based violence cases to 44 police officers (including 13 women) to improve their investigation skills, and provided technical assistance to the newly established customary court. In September, UNMISS also delivered a human rights training and a training on gender-responsive prison systems to 71 prison officers (including 30 women) in Juba and a record-keeping and case-management training to 33 prison officers (including 7 women) in Warrap.

66. UNMISS continued to support the South Sudan National Prison Service to address prolonged and arbitrary detention in prisons. To strengthen linkages and coordination across the justice chain, UNMISS assisted the state prison directors in Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Lakes to reactivate prison development committees and supported the establishment of a rule of law forum in Upper Nile. In addition, UNMISS conducted a training for 24 judges, prosecutors and police and prison

officers (5 women) on juvenile justice in Wau from 23 to 25 November. In Bor from 4 to 6 October, UNMISS conducted a training for 42 participants, including 25 traditional chiefs and 7 women, to improve their ability to address disputes in compliance with the law and increase respect for human rights. By building capacity and linkages across the criminal justice chain, including linkages with the informal justice system, UNMISS is promoting an integrated system that can more effectively address crimes, combat impunity and promote respect for human rights.

67. On 3 and 4 November, UNMISS provided an induction training on oversight for the chairpersons of specialized committees of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly. This training is part of the parliament's efforts to enhance its capacity to oversee government spending.

#### **D. Creating conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance**

68. In coordination with and at the request of humanitarian actors, UNMISS facilitated the distribution of humanitarian supplies. As at 26 October, United Nations police had provided security for 112 humanitarian assistance delivery assignments, 12 quick response teams at protection of civilian sites and 166 security escorts for engineers and VIPs. In addition, United Nations police remained deployed at two temporary operating bases and three company operating bases across four states.

69. As at 28 November, UNMISS had conducted 377 long-duration patrols and 1,406 short-duration patrols to support the delivery of assistance and ensure the protection of humanitarian workers. The UNMISS force provided protection to 471 integrated missions and 447 force protection patrols supporting convoys and humanitarian partners, including NGOs. UNMISS also completed 13 requests for force protection and logistics support from humanitarian partners.

70. To facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, the Mine Action Service surveyed and cleared 503 km of road and verified a total of 64 helicopter landing sites and airstrips.

#### **E. Monitoring and investigating human rights violations**

71. UNMISS verified 162 incidents that had a negative impact on the human rights and protection situation, including 63 arbitrary killings, 19 injuries, 22 abductions, 18 cases of sexual violence, 34 incidents of arbitrary arrest and detention, 3 incidents of ill-treatment, 3 attacks against humanitarian aid workers, and the looting and destruction of civilian property. Those incidents involved 984 civilians (including 84 women and 60 children) subjected to violence, of whom 229 were killed and 303 injured. Of the incidents, 58 were attributed to the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and other government security services; 59 to community-based militias and armed elements; 15 to NAS; and 14 to SPLA-IO and splinter groups. Attribution remained subject to verification for the 16 remaining incidents, involving 28 victims.

72. On 16 November, UNMISS published its 2022 third quarter brief on the human rights situation in South Sudan, covering the period from July to September 2022. At least 142 incidents were verified, documented and reported (compared with 188 in the previous quarter), involving at least 745 civilians (922 in the previous quarter) subjected to one of the four major forms of individual harm (killing, injury, abduction and sexual violence). The 25 per cent decrease in violent incidents (from 188 to 142) and the 19 per cent decrease in the number of victims (from 922 to 745) are due in part to the decline in incidents of localized violence involving community-based

militias, which accounted for 30 per cent of civilian casualties during the period from July to September. Of the civilian casualties, 62 per cent were attributed to the conventional parties to the conflict, while 7 per cent were attributed to unidentified armed elements.

73. UNMISS continued to monitor civic space where civilians expressing critical views continued to be at imminent risk of arrest, detention and ill-treatment. During the reporting period, UNMISS documented incidents of arbitrary arrest and detention affecting at least 48 civilians in relation to public demonstrations denouncing government policies or malfeasance of government appointees with regard to public resource expenditure.

74. UNMISS continued to monitor and support accountability initiatives by the Government. On 15 September, the Government paid compensation to five victims of human rights violations committed by soldiers of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces in Yei River County, Central Equatoria, in accordance with a general court martial ruling of 27 June.

75. During the reporting period, UNMISS approved 17 human rights due diligence policy risk assessments for the provision of United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces.

76. UNMISS conducted 84 human rights capacity-building and awareness-raising activities for stakeholders, including government officials, organized forces and civil society organizations. These activities reached 2,781 people, 867 of whom were women, and bolstered the capacity of state and civil society organizations to positively contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights in South Sudan.

## **1. Children and armed conflict**

77. The United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting verified 129 grave violations affecting 61 children (24 boys, 34 girls, 3 sex unknown). Fourteen boys were verified as victims of recruitment and use, 8 children were killed and maimed (3 killed, comprising 1 boy and 2 girls, and 5 maimed, comprising 2 boys and 3 girls), 22 girls were subjected to rape and other forms of sexual violence and 17 children were abducted (7 boys, 7 girls, 3 sex unknown). The task force also verified 52 attacks on schools (46) and hospitals (6) and 9 incidents of denial of humanitarian access. Seven children were subjected to multiple violations. Children were most affected in Upper Nile (24), Central Equatoria (14), Jonglei (6), Warrap (6), Eastern Equatoria (4), Western Equatoria (3), Northern Bahr el-Ghazal (3) and Unity (1) states.

78. Most violations (64), including 27 attacks on schools and 7 incidents of denial of humanitarian access, were perpetrated by government security forces, including the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (51), the South Sudan National Police Service (10) and the Wildlife Service (3). There were 18 violations attributed to Kit-Gwang, 9 to NAS, 8 to Agwelek forces and 7 to SPLA-IO. Twenty-three violations remained unattributed, as they had occurred during the 18 incidents of cross-fire between SPLA-IO Kit-Gwang factions (18) or had been perpetrated by unidentified armed groups (5).

79. UNMISS delivered 70 awareness-raising sessions on child protection to 4,102 participants (2,416 men, 1,686 women), including 2,924 community members (1,619 men, 1,305 women), 1,056 government security forces (696 men, 360 women), 88 government officials (77 men, 11 woman), 13 SPLA-IO (all men) and 21 protection partners (11 men, 10 women). UNMISS also delivered 20 training sessions on child protection to 770 participants (638 men, 132 women), including 395 government security forces (351 men, 44 women), 231 community members

(180 men, 51 women), 142 government officials (105 men, 37 women), 1 SPLA-IO (a man) and 1 SSOA (a man).

80. In addition, UNMISS conducted 59 induction and mainstreaming sessions that benefited 1,157 United Nations personnel (928 men, 229 women), including 704 military officers (620 men, 84 women), 359 United Nations police (249 men, 110 women), 89 civilians (55 men, 34 women) and 5 corrections officers (4 men, 1 woman). The training sessions focused on sensitizing United Nations personnel on the rights of children and efforts under way to enhance the protection of children during armed conflict in line with the mandate of the Mission.

## **2. Conflict-related sexual violence**

81. UNMISS documented and verified 11 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence affecting 22 survivors, including 4 girls. It also verified 6 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence that had occurred prior to the reporting period, involving 18 women and 2 girls. Survivors ranging in age from 17 to 42 years had been subjected to rape (18) or gang rape (22) and abduction for the purpose of rape (1) or sexual slavery. Out of 42 survivors, 29 were able to receive medical services. These incidents occurred in Central Equatoria (3), Upper Nile (3), Unity (5), Warrap (3), Western Equatoria (1), Jonglei (1) and Western Bahr el-Ghazal (1), and were attributed to the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (6), NAS (1), SPLA-IO (2) and the Agwelek forces led by Mr. Olony (1), while unidentified armed elements were responsible for 7 incidents.

82. UNMISS conducted awareness-raising sessions and capacity-building activities targeting various stakeholders, including the South Sudan National Police Service (84), senior commanders of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (50) and civil society network members (17) to engage with participants on preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence.

83. From 17 to 21 October, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict visited South Sudan. She met with several senior government officials to discuss measures required to address conflict-related sexual violence and engaged with survivor networks, women leaders and representatives of civil society organizations.

## **F. Women and peace and security**

84. The Mission continued to work with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare to support women. On 29 September and 5 October, the Mission assisted in launching women's networks for the Wildlife Service and Civil Defence Service, respectively. These networks aim to ensure the equal participation of women in the security sector and to enhance the gender-responsiveness of services rendered by security sector institutions. During the launch events, women officers selected nine women to form an executive committee to undertake activities that would increase the visibility of women and improve the standing of women personnel, especially in promotions and rank attribution.

85. The Mission continued to build the capacity of key security sector institutions with regard to gender equality and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence. A workshop was held in Juba from 21 to 23 September for 56 officers (including 34 women officers) in the national prison system to sensitize the participants on international gender equality and human rights instruments, including the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).

86. The Mission continued to support efforts by government and non-government stakeholders to enhance the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in public decision-making. This included supporting participation in discussions on legal reforms to enhance substantive engagement on related issues. On 4 October, the Mission, together with UNDP, supported the launch of civic education on elections and constitution-making in Yambio, Western Equatoria, to sensitize 300 women on improving the environment for free, fair and credible electoral processes in South Sudan.

87. The Mission continued to support the formation of women's rights organizations, including women's unions, and their start-up, operationalization and advocacy efforts. In Juba, the Mission assisted the Central Equatoria Women's Union, comprising 138 women, to develop its strategic plan. One of the objectives of the plan was to engage in advocacy to secure a 35 per cent quota for women in the transitional institutions.

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

88. As at 28 November, the number of UNMISS civilian personnel stood at 2,660, comprising 857 international staff members, including 251 women (29.3 per cent), 1,412 national staff members, of whom 226 were women (16.0 per cent), and 391 United Nations Volunteers, of whom 168 were women (43.0 per cent).

89. UNMISS police strength stood at 1,556 (of an authorized 2,101 personnel), comprising 673 individual police officers, including 264 women (39.2 per cent), 846 personnel in formed police units, including 225 women (26.5 per cent), and 34 corrections officers, including 14 women (42.4 per cent).

90. Of the authorized 17,000 troops, UNMISS strength stood at 13,866 military personnel: 197 military liaison officers, including 58 women (29.4 per cent); 398 military staff officers, including 73 women (18.3 per cent); and 13,271 military contingent personnel, including 790 women (6.0 per cent).

91. UNMISS continued to strengthen its outreach to local communities to raise awareness regarding United Nations standards of conduct, in particular in relation to the prevention of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in Aweil, Torit, Yambio, Wau, Malakal and Kuacjok. This outreach was further enhanced by the use of Radio Miraya and social media to communicate internally within UNMISS and externally to the local population. Informational and educational materials were distributed to Torit, Rumbek, Yambio and Aweil in support of these awareness-raising activities. The United Nations Civilian Police women's network was active in raising awareness in local communities and among counterparts in the South Sudan National Police Service regarding the prevention of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

92. In accordance with the applicable policy, information on possible unsatisfactory conduct and/or misconduct was processed in a timely fashion. During the reporting period, 39 allegations of misconduct were recorded in the case management tracking system. No allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse were recorded. 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 security of United Nations personnel**

93. As at 30 November, UNMISS had recorded 23 violations of the status-of-forces agreement, compared with 38 violations during the previous reporting period. Sixteen of the violations involved movement restrictions imposed by government authorities, affecting UNMISS patrols in Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Upper Nile and Western Bahr el-Ghazal.

94. The two national staff members arrested by government officials in 2014, whose whereabouts remained unknown, were both declared dead by national courts on 4 February and 20 July, respectively. UNMISS continued to remind the Government of its obligations under international law to inform the families about the fate of the two staff members to enable the families to achieve closure.

95. United Nations personnel and operations continued to be targeted by criminal actors and subjected to harassment by security forces. During the reporting period, United Nations staff operations experienced 27 recorded incidents of harassment and 11 recorded incidents of denial of access by security forces. Most of these incidents included demands for money for supposed driving violations or incorrect documentation upon entry into South Sudan at Juba International Airport.

## **VIII. Performance of uniformed components**

96. The UNMISS force evaluated 10 units, which included 2 infantry battalions in Tomping and Malakal and 7 enabling units in Bentiu, Tomping, Juba and Malakal. The units were found to be well trained and operationally ready according to United Nations standards. Eight units exceeded the set standard, while the remaining two units met the required standard. In accordance with recommendations, the units have increased efforts in military peacekeeping intelligence, have increased the frequency of casualty evacuation/medical evacuation and emergency response exercises and have improved administrative procedures.

97. Performance evaluations and assessments were conducted for four formed police units. The overall performance was satisfactory, though there were some recommendations for an improvement plan as part of the continuous in-mission training process.

## **IX. Observations and recommendations**

98. While the delays in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement led to the extension of the interim period, the current road map presents an opportunity for the parties to recommit to the full and meaningful implementation of the Agreement along the newly agreed timelines. The road map further articulates a set of revised targets according to which the international community can tailor and align its ongoing support.

99. Following the adoption by the reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission of the road map, which will extend the transitional period by 24 months once endorsed by the parliament, I note with concern that certain early benchmarks have not yet been achieved, including the reconstitution of the Political Parties Council and the National Elections Commission. Further delays in road map timelines are likely to stagnate the process and should be avoided.

100. In this connection, I join IGAD and the African Union in calling upon the Government of South Sudan and the parties to engage with a renewed sense of urgency in efforts to meet the requisite benchmarks according to the agreed timelines.

101. I take note with appreciation of the continued graduation of the necessary unified forces as part of the reunification process of the armed forces. I call upon the Government of South Sudan to capitalize on this momentum by ensuring the adequate sustenance, integration and employment of these forces within an overall vision of a security sector that should, one day, be accountable to the elected civilian authorities of South Sudan and comprise security institutions that operate within the constitutional framework while being respectful of the human rights of South Sudanese people.

102. I am encouraged by the progress on the reconstitution and establishment of key institutions as mandated by the Revitalized Agreement. I welcome the recent passage of the enabling legislation for the constitution-making process by the revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly and note that the process provides the opportunity, as stipulated by the Revitalized Agreement, for a South Sudanese-owned process to agree on a social contract between the Government and the people.

103. I reiterate the imperative of an inclusive and broad-based process for the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement. In this regard, I urge the parties to strengthen the tentative steps already taken towards reaching an agreement on the Political Parties Act. I remain extremely concerned about the resulting restriction of political and civic space, which the Government needs to address urgently. Similarly, I call upon the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity to reconsider the demands placed on journalists and Radio Miraya by the Media Authority, which restrict freedom of expression.

104. I commend the African Union and IGAD for their engagement with the parties and their support for the implementation of the road map. I also commend the Community of Sant'Egidio for its sustained and comprehensive engagement and dialogue with the non-signatory groups through the Sant'Egidio peace process.

105. I remain gravely concerned about reports of violence in Upper Nile resulting in the death of hundreds of civilians and in increasing numbers of internally displaced persons, some of whom have sought shelter at the Malakal protection of civilians site. I call upon the Government to protect the local population and to provide a safe space that enables inclusive dialogue and solutions. I endorse the UNMISS initiative, in cooperation with the parties, to demilitarize the Nile River and make it a humanitarian corridor, facilitating year-round mobility for life-saving services, and to enhance livelihood opportunities.

106. I also condemn violent clashes between the Dinka Ngok and Dinka Twic youth bordering Abyei and Warrap State. I welcome the Government's decision to investigate the clashes and the deployment of troops to the area to mitigate the conflict. I call upon the Sudan and South Sudan to make meaningful progress on determining the final status of Abyei through peaceful dialogue and in line with the efforts of the African Union.

107. I am gravely concerned regarding the recent floods in the northern parts of South Sudan, following yet another season of incessant rains. I am grateful to UNMISS and humanitarian partners who, against considerable odds, managed to assist the affected internally displaced persons.

108. The humanitarian situation in South Sudan remains dire amid rising hunger and insecurity, including deepening food insecurity. Tensions and violence continue to undermine our efforts to reach local populations with humanitarian assistance. Two thirds of the South Sudanese population are likely to face acute food insecurity during

the lean season from April to July 2023, with some communities likely to face starvation if humanitarian assistance is not sustained. While some progress has been made, the decline in food security and the impact of the dramatic rise of floods are exacerbated by climatic conditions and spiralling costs of food and fuel. I applaud the humanitarian community, which continues to respond with life-saving assistance to humanitarian needs despite limited resources, and I encourage the international community and donors to facilitate the provision of contributions to ensure that the humanitarian response is commensurate with needs.

109. I am deeply concerned by the loss of lives of humanitarian workers in the course of delivering life-saving assistance. Humanitarian access to conflict- and flood-affected areas remains challenging. I am alarmed at the undue pressure under which the humanitarian workers have to operate to deliver assistance to the citizens of South Sudan. Bureaucratic disruptions and non-governmental actors hamper the timeliness of the support provided to the affected populations. This worrying trend must stop. I call upon the Government of South Sudan to take immediate action to address impediments to and violence against humanitarian workers and assets, to bring perpetrators to justice and to ensure full respect for and adherence to humanitarian principles.

110. The combination of ongoing humanitarian and security challenges highlights the importance of addressing the underlying causes of fragility and vulnerability. Inclusive sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union provides a long-term comprehensive approach to addressing these causes. The new sustainable development cooperation framework is a welcome development in this regard. Moreover, as United Nations entities ensure coherence across humanitarian, development and peace priorities, I encourage the Government and our partners to undertake similar endeavours.

111. Lastly, I express my gratitude to the troop- and police-contributing countries and thank the Special Representative, Nicholas Haysom, for his leadership in a challenging operational and political environment. I also thank the uniformed and civilian personnel of UNMISS, as well as the United Nations country team and humanitarian partners, who have continued to work tirelessly towards peace in South Sudan under demanding conditions.

