Statement by UNMISS on the situation in Baidit in Jonglei State, South Sudan

*Juba, 25 January 2021:* UNMISS is deeply concerned over recent reports of attack in Baidit, Jonglei State alleged to have been carried out by armed Murle elements resulting in civilian casualties and temporary displacements. According to various independent sources including the independent Human Rights Commission, on 23 January armed youth from the Murle community carried out attacks and cattle raids in Dungrut and Machined villages. According to preliminary reports, some 32 people from the Dinka Bor community were killed that include three women killed by gunshots and three children who reportedly drowned in the river while fleeing and at least 26 others were wounded, including women and children. The attackers also burned down at least five houses and looted properties of the civilians. Reportedly, people fled seeking shelter in nearby bush areas and some are currently unaccounted for.

UNMISS strongly condemns any attack on civilians and urges groups and individuals to take immediate action to avoid further escalations that will endanger vulnerable people. The Mission further calls on authorities to carry out timely investigations and that the perpetrators be held accountable.

While the protection of civilians is the primary responsibility of the Government, UNMISS remains committed to supporting the authorities and the people of South Sudan to ensure the protection of civilians and to build durable peace, including through the implementation of the 2018 revitalised Peace Agreement.

All efforts must be made to restore calm, refrain from engaging in further violence and to promote peace and reconciliation. Any surge in subnational violence will have a devastating effect on communities that have already been impacted by flooding, the COVID-19 pandemic and recurring conflict.

*Contact:* UNMISS Spokesperson Linda Tom at toml@un.org or unmiss-spokesperson@un.org