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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 since the previous report, dated 7 December 2021 ([S/2021/1015](#)).

II. Political and economic developments

2. On 31 December, in his New Year's remarks, the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir, outlined the challenges faced by South Sudan in 2021, namely, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, flooding and lingering economic hardships. He noted, however, that the ceasefire had continued to hold, most of the state legislatures had been reconstituted, and the forces of the parties were in training sites awaiting graduation and subsequent unification. Mr. Kiir also reiterated his commitment to the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan.

Implementation of the Revitalized Agreement

3. On 9 December, the Interim Chairperson of the reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, Major General Charles Tai Gituai, expressed concern over the continued delays in the implementation of the transitional security arrangements, including the unification of forces and their redeployment. He urged the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity to conclude the outstanding tasks in the remaining months of the transitional period.

4. On 14 December, the Joint Defence Board initiated the screening and registration of the necessary unified forces after receiving funds from the National Transitional Committee.

5. On 20 December, the reconstituted Transitional National Legislative Assembly passed the constitutional amendment bill (2021), paving the way for the incorporation of the Revitalized Agreement into the Constitution.



Peace process developments

6. On 2 December, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO) held its fourth National Liberation Council meeting in Juba, where the First Vice-President, Riek Machar, called upon party leaders to mobilize for the 2023 elections and strengthen the organization from the grass-roots level. However, he expressed doubt as to whether the elections would be held on time, stating that, until the security arrangements and the permanent constitution-making process were implemented in full, the transition could not be completed.

7. On 6 December, the South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance (SSOMA) factions led by Pagan Amum and General Paul Malong, respectively, expressed their readiness to resume talks with the Government. In that connection, from 14 to 17 December, the Community of Sant'Egidio, in collaboration with the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), convened a technical workshop on the ceasefire agreement in Nairobi. During the workshop, the parties were informed of their obligations, and the modalities for the implementation mechanism were outlined. In a communiqué following the workshop, the two factions agreed to be fully incorporated into the structures of the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism by the end of March 2022.

8. On 16 January, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Kitgwan faction of SPLM/A-IO signed an agreement in Khartoum. The agreement was signed by the leader of the Kitgwan faction, Simon Gatwech Dual, and his deputy, Johnson Olony. The agreement provides for amnesty for the Kitgwan faction, for the recommitment of the parties to the ceasefire under the Khartoum Declaration of Agreement between the Parties of the Conflict of South Sudan, and for the establishment of coordination offices in Juba.

9. On the same day, SPLM signed a second agreement with the Agwelek forces, led by Johnson Olony, the Khartoum Peace Agreement. The agreement addresses inter-ethnic differences and provides for the establishment of the Shilluk area boundaries in accordance with the 1956 maps. In addition, under the Khartoum Peace Agreement, the integration of the Agwelek forces into the South Sudan People's Defence Forces is facilitated, and negotiated political positions are allocated.

10. On 17 January, Mr. Kiir issued a decree granting amnesty to the Kitgwan faction of SPLM/A-IO, led by Simon Gatwech Dual, and to the Agwelek forces, led by Johnson Olony.

Political developments

11. On 3 January, the Speaker of the parliament, Jemma Nunu Kumba, named the chairpersons and deputies of the parliament's specialized committees nominated by SPLM and SPLM/A-IO. Ms. Kumba stated that the representatives of the South Sudan Opposition Alliance (SSOA) and the Other Political Parties (OPP) coalition were not included in the list, as their nominations had not been received. The Third Deputy Speaker of the parliament, a nominee of OPP, has yet to be appointed.

12. On 24 January, the members of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly and the Council of States debated and passed the 2022 emolument and privileges of the members of the Transitional National Legislature bill. The bill addresses the salaries and allowances of the members of the parliament, providing that salaries be raised by 8,500 per cent, from 9,400 South Sudanese pounds to 800,000 South Sudanese pounds per month.

Regional developments

13. On 25 January, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union held a meeting on South Sudan. In a communiqué issued after the meeting, the Peace and Security Council requested the African Union Commission to coordinate, with the United Nations and IGAD, a trilateral evaluation of the electoral and constitution-making needs of South Sudan.

Economic situation

14. The macroeconomic situation remained relatively stable, despite the deterioration of the foreign exchange rate from about 400 South Sudanese pounds to about 435 South Sudanese pounds per United States dollar (about 450 South Sudanese pounds per United States dollar on the parallel market). The newly appointed Central Bank Governor, Moses Makur Deng, pledged to preserve foreign exchange stability and increased hard currency auctions from \$5 million to \$13 million.

15. In December, inflation rose by 12.7 per cent, driven by an increase in the price of food and non-alcoholic beverages caused by fuel shortages, supply chain disruptions linked to COVID-19 restrictions, and floods. This was reflected in the very high degree of food insecurity in South Sudan, where the level of hunger was classified as alarming under the Global Hunger Index. On 24 January, the Governments of South Sudan and Saudi Arabia signed a general cooperation agreement with the objective of encouraging investment and the exchange of expertise. The current price of oil is about \$90 per barrel, higher than the price of \$63 per barrel assumed in the 2021/22 national budget.

III. Security situation

16. Security dynamics continued to manifest through local-level political conflict with non-signatory groups, fragmentation and fighting within SPLM/A-IO, intercommunal and intracommunal violence, community-level disputes over land and resources, and violent criminal activities. Multifaceted factors, notably unresolved political strife, ethnic divides, economic depression, resource scarcity and seasonal migration, have contributed to the conflicts and violence, creating serious challenges for the protection of civilians.

Greater Upper Nile region

17. The split and internal fighting within SPLM/A-IO, ethnic strife and land disputes continued to define the security context in Upper Nile. The Kitgwang and pro-Machar factions re-engaged in intense fighting from 25 to 30 December in Magenit and the surrounding areas, which resulted in an undetermined number of casualties on both sides. The State was also affected by clashes between the Mabanese militia and SPLM/A-IO in Liang on 10 and 11 January, sparked by the alleged encroachment of SPLM/A-IO on community fishing grounds. The death of one South Sudan People's Defence Forces soldier also spurred two attacks on the SPLM/A-IO outpost in Maiwut County, on 9 and 13 January. Ethnic debate over land ownership resurged between Shilluk and Ngok Lual Yak Dinka, over a site used for the excavation of white soil for road rehabilitation. That led to a violent demonstration by Ngok Lual Yak Dinka in Malakal town on 13 January, in which they demanded that the Shilluk withdraw their claims over all lands on the eastern bank of the Nile River.

18. Unity State saw a rise in intercommunal and intracommunal violence. Cattle-related intra-Nuer clashes involving armed youth from Mayendit and Leer counties

started on 30 November in Gandor village, near Leer town, and continued into early December. The attacks and revenge attacks resulted in at least 23 deaths, as well as the looting and destruction of *tukul* and markets, the displacement of the local population and the disruption of the delivery of humanitarian assistance to flood-affected people. Insecurity also stemmed from multiple cattle-related acts of communal violence that occurred in Mayendit, Rubkona, Koch and Panyijiar counties, while a number of clashes took place in Panakuach between the Misseriya nomads from the Sudan and the local herders in Panakuach.

19. In January, State authorities reported instances of ongoing conscription in Bentiu and Rubkona, targeted at deserted soldiers. The residents of the Bentiu camp for internally displaced persons located in Bimruor, which hosts people displaced by floods, also reported instances of conscription of youth, some of whom were underage.

20. Persistent small-scale Murle attacks continued to drive insecurity in Uror, Akobo, Nyerol, Duk, Bor and Pochala, disrupting the peace efforts in Jonglei and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area. Those attacks culminated on 23 January in Baidit *payam*, Bor South County, resulting in the killing of some 32 Dinka Bor, including women and children. In one incident on 19 December, individuals suspected to be of Murle origin targeted a convoy of five United Nations vehicles travelling to Duk Padiet and killed a United Nations-contracted staff member. This resulted in the cessation of food deliveries to the area, which is among one of the most food-insecure regions of the country. Skirmishes between SPLM/A-IO factions were another source of violence in Jonglei. On 19 December, the arrival of pro-Machar forces in Kier village, Akobo County, which is allegedly under the control of the pro-Gatwech group, triggered a firefight between the two forces. Tensions escalated on 12 January, when a group of some 20 soldiers who had defected from SPLM/A-IO to the Kitwang faction and had moved to Partet in September 2021 returned to Pieri town, Uror County, in an armoured vehicle.

Greater Equatoria region

21. The southern Central Equatoria region continued to experience insecurity linked to intermittent low-intensity clashes between the National Salvation Front (NAS), the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO. At least six clashes between NAS and the South Sudan People's Defence Forces were reported in Lainya and Yei River counties in December and January. NAS also attacked the SPLM/A-IO bases at Indidapa and Pabanga, Morobo County, on 23 and 24 December. The situation in the state was also marred by intra-Mundari conflict, land-grabbing incidents and ambushes along commercial roads.

22. The security dynamics in Western Equatoria were dominated by forced recruitment into SPLM/A-IO, extortion and criminal activities implicating forces loyal to James Nando, armed Balanda youth and the South Sudan People's Defence Forces. Armed Balanda youth are alleged to have been involved in the killing of three Azande in the Manguru area on Tambura-Yambio Road on 1 January.

23. In Eastern Equatoria, there was a resurgence of tensions between the Toposa and Kenyan Turkana communities in Kapoeta East, while economically generated insecurity and road attacks also continued. A cattle-raiding incident in Kikilai, Lotukai *payam*, Budi County, on 12 December led to the killing of six people, while a series of revenge attacks between armed youth from the Dongotono community and the Lotuko from Lobira *boma* resulted in the death of five civilians from both communities between 31 December and 2 January. On 12 December, a cattle raid by the Logir community from Ikwoto County and a retaliatory attack by the Didinga community from Budi County claimed 10 lives on both sides.

Greater Bahr el-Ghazal region

24. Security in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal was undermined by cross-border violence between pastoralists from the Sudan and local Dinka Malual. Armed Rezeigat pastoralists launched one attack on 6 December in Aweil East County, killing four Dinka Malual farmers, and another on 13 December in Aweil North County. Armed Misseriya from the Sudan have also launched six attacks in Aweil East County since 27 December, which resulted in a number of deaths on both sides. The spike in cross-border attacks was primarily caused by seasonal migration, disputes over land and resources and a lack of accountability measures, including a failure to compensate for previous violence in 2021. The State authorities have closed the road linking Northern Bahr el-Ghazal with West Kordofan State in the Sudan and have indicated that seasonal cattle migration will also remain suspended until both sides resolve the issue.

25. In Warrap, intercommunal and intracommunal violence continued in the Greater Tonj areas. Of particular significance was the violence involving the Lou Paher from Tonj North and the Luanyjang from Tonj East. On 11 December, Luanyjang youth attacked the Lou Paher in the Angot area; eight people were killed, and four others were injured. Despite the ongoing peace dialogues, the two communities failed to desist from carrying out night attacks, revenge attacks and cattle raids. The tensions escalated on 28 December, when Luanyjang attacked Marial Lou, including the Marial Lou hospital, in retaliation against previous attacks by Lou Paher. Four Lou Paher and three Luanyjang were killed, and another 12 individuals were injured on both sides. The UNMISS temporary operating base in Marial Lou was caught in the crossfire, and its vehicles and facilities were damaged. The violence subsided following the intervention of the State Governor through a nationally constituted peace committee led by a prominent Luanyjang leader and comprising leaders from the Ananatak, Luanyjang and Lou Paher communities and representatives of the National Security Service, the South Sudan National Police Service and the South Sudan People's Defence Forces. The committee's engagements, which started on 29 December, have led to the reconciliation of conflicting communities. Subsequently, UNMISS and other partners facilitated a peace and reconciliation conference in Marial Lou *payam* from 20 to 22 January, during which a number of resolutions to promote peace and reconciliation were agreed upon. The State Governor has constituted a committee to monitor the implementation of those resolutions. A spate of violence also occurred between the Rualbet and Awul communities in Tonj North, resulting in a number of casualties on both sides.

IV. Humanitarian situation

26. The COVID-19 pandemic increased pressure on already weakened health and education services. The closure of schools and broader socioeconomic challenges exacerbated existing education challenges and inequities. Before the school closures caused by COVID-19, about 2.2 million children were already out of school. The school closures further undermined the education of over 2.7 million additional children. The current number of out-of-school children is estimated at 2.8 million. In the health sector, the pandemic shifted the focus from combating malaria, acute respiratory infection and diarrhoea, the leading causes of morbidity, to preventing and responding to COVID-19. The pandemic and the resulting movement restrictions have negatively affected trade, leading to the loss of livelihoods and an increase in the price of basic commodities, affecting the purchasing power of the population.

27. An estimated 835,000 people have been affected by floods since May 2021, with more than 37,000 tons of crops destroyed and nearly 800,000 livestock killed. In areas where floodwaters have receded, some displaced people have returned to their homes.

However, those unable to return have continued to seek sanctuary in host communities, public buildings or open spaces, often under deplorable conditions. Inadequate access to shelter and potable water, and limited health-care and protection services, remain of concern. Limited supplies and funding, the remote nature of locations, and insecurity in some of the flood-affected areas have hindered the response. As at the end of December, humanitarian assistance had reached more than 5.3 million people.

28. Preliminary findings and analysis of the humanitarian situation indicated a growing humanitarian need in 2022. An estimated 8.9 million people, including some 329,000 refugees, are expected to need humanitarian assistance and protection services this year. Approximately 8.3 million people are projected to experience severe food insecurity at the height of the lean season in May and July 2022 as a result of the climate emergency, violence and economic shocks. An estimated 2 million people, including 1.3 million children under the age of 5 and over 675,500 pregnant and lactating women, are expected to be acutely malnourished in 2022, the highest number in four years.

29. Violence continued to displace civilians, reduce access to critical services and disrupt humanitarian operations. At the end of December 2021, violence in Tonj North County, Warrap State, displaced thousands of people, while also causing civilian casualties. Buildings, including houses and part of a hospital, were burned, leaving people with inadequate health services. As a result of several rounds of violence in Tambura County, at least 83,000 people, including 3,000 people who were newly displaced from Tambura to Ezo in January, continue to need humanitarian assistance, particularly health, water and sanitation support. Intercommunal fighting in Pibor County, in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, displaced over 600 people in January. Authorities reported that, owing to a lack of food and basic services, over 3,500 people, mostly women, children and older persons, were displaced on 19 January from Kapoeta East to Kapoeta North County, Eastern Equatoria. The members of an estimated 2,600 households, fleeing an armed attack by Misseriya tribesmen from the Sudan, arrived in Aweil East County, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal. As a result of subnational violence in Bor County, Jonglei, at least 33 people were killed, including 3 children who drowned in the river while trying to escape the attack, 26 were injured and some 7,000 were displaced, with houses being burned and a health facility and a school being looted, according to initial assessment reports.

30. Between 1 December 2021 and 31 January 2022, 227 humanitarian access incidents were reported. Of those, more than a third (37 per cent) related to violence and threats against humanitarian personnel and assets. A total of 15 humanitarian staff were relocated from Lainya County in Central Equatoria State as a result of insecurity and threats during the reporting period. Health and nutrition facilities in Gandor, Guat, Luol and Padeah in Unity were reportedly looted, affecting people's access to much-needed nutrition and health services. Initial reports indicated that an estimated \$80,000 worth of supplies were looted from two facilities in Gandor and Luol; they would otherwise have been three months of health and nutrition supplies for some 14,000 people in need in the area. A humanitarian worker was killed in the crossfire.

V. Implementation of the Mission's mandated tasks

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

31. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General continued to exercise his good offices role by engaging with the parties, partners and stakeholders of the

Revitalized Agreement. For example, he held several meetings with members of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity, civil society and the international community in support of the timely implementation of the Agreement.

32. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General also attended the Wilton Park high-level conference held from 29 November to 1 December in Uganda. The conference brought together key representatives, regional and international partners, and subject-matter experts in order to explore how to support the Revitalized Agreement implementation process.

33. On 8 and 9 December, UNMISS held a political parties' forum in Western Bahr el-Ghazal State under the theme "The role of political parties in the peaceful transition of South Sudan". The forum brought together over 70 participants, including 17 women, from across the political spectrum, including representatives of SPLM, SPLM/A-IO, the National Agenda umbrella group, SSOA and OPP. The discussions were focused on the functions, roles and responsibilities of political parties, democracy within political parties and how political parties can support the implementation of the peace agreement.

34. From 9 to 11 and from 16 to 18 December, the Centre for Inclusive Governance, Peace and Justice and the South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network, with support from UNMISS, organized two 3-day workshops on enhancing parliamentary capacity for sustainable peace in South Sudan, including on achieving the 35 per cent quota for women, as provided for in the Revitalized Agreement. Over 100 participants, including 40 women, comprising members of the parliament and of the Council of States, as well as parliamentary staff, attended. The discussions were focused on key priorities of the Council of States in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement.

35. On 16 and 17 December, UNMISS organized a two-day political parties' forum in Juba on the role of youth in peaceful political transitions in South Sudan. Approximately 93 people representing youth wings across 24 political parties, participated in the forum. Participants included 12 women, a number of whom were young women. The discussions were focused on understanding the role of youth in political transitions, transitional justice, accountability, political participation and decision-making.

36. On 10 December, UNMISS supported the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission in hosting the first meeting of the joint technical working group on the development of a nationally led pilot community violence reduction project. The project is focused on the reinsertion and reintegration of ex-combatants and is aimed at preventing and further reducing violence within and among communities, including armed youth at risk of violence.

37. UNMISS supported the movements of the Joint Defence Board screening team from Maridi, Western Equatoria, to Moroto, Central Equatoria, from Kaljiak, Unity, to Juba via Bentiu, Unity, and from Juba to Moroto, Central Equatoria, and back on 20 January. The Mission continues to engage with relevant partners, including the Joint Defence Board and the National Transitional Committee, as they work towards the graduation of the necessary unified forces.

38. UNMISS conducted 66 capacity-building sessions for 1,823 national stakeholders, including 625 women. Those stakeholders included members of the security forces (including 110 women), State officials (including 71 women), members of women and youth organizations and other civil society representatives (including 444 women), and community and traditional leaders. The sessions were predominantly organized as part of the activities marking the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign and the commemoration of Human Rights Day.

B. Protection of civilians and mitigation of intercommunal conflict

39. The Mission responded to threats against civilians in South Sudan through rapid mobile deployments, increased deployment of temporary operating bases, robust posture of peacekeepers, engagements with military and political leaders, community-level conflict resolution activities, the provision of critical support to rule of law and justice institutions and other programmatic activities.

40. UNMISS continued to promote inclusive dialogue, peaceful coexistence, reconciliation and social and interfaith cohesion at the subnational level. In that regard, UNMISS conducted 20 workshops for communities, state and local authorities, traditional leaders, women leaders and youth. A total of 4,142 participants, including 1,454 women, were reached through these activities.

41. With the onset of the dry season, in order to ensure peaceful cattle migration, UNMISS facilitated pre-migration conferences and dialogues between host and pastoralist communities in different parts of the country. On 15 and 16 December, in Lafon County, Eastern Equatoria, UNMISS and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) facilitated a dialogue between the seven communities of Kidepo Valley. From 7 to 9 December, UNMISS facilitated an intra-Dinka Agar conference in Rumbek, Lakes State, and a pre-cattle migration conference in Renk, Upper Nile, on 14 and 15 December. These initiatives concluded with the signing of an agreement between the host community and pastoralists from the White Nile, Sennar and Blue Nile States of the Sudan. A migration conference was held in Tiar-Aliet, Aweil South County, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, on 21 and 22 December.

42. In Warrap and Western Bahr el-Ghazal, UNMISS engaged communities and disseminated the Marial Bai Agreement along state borders. The agreement regulates cross-state cattle migration and sets out provisions for the settlement of disputes, time frames for the commencement of migration and fines related to, inter alia, the destruction of farmlands and cattle theft.

43. To build intercommunal trust and promote social and political cohesion and reconciliation between Upper Nile communities, UNMISS, in partnership with the Upper Nile Religious Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation, facilitated engagement between key political and community leaders of five communities: Shilluk, Nuer, Dinka, Maban and Koma. As part of that effort, an Upper Nile political leaders' conference was organized in Juba on 9 and 10 December, with the participation of 137 leaders, including national ministers, members of the parliament and of the Council of States, and paramount chiefs representing various Upper Nile communities.

44. UNMISS continued to implement activities in order to ensure the full, effective and meaningful participation of youth in the peace and security agenda. In that regard, from 15 to 17 December, UNMISS organized a conference bringing together youth from Yei River County to discuss issues affecting them, and to empower them to promote peace and security. In Malakal, UNMISS facilitated the Upper Nile State youth forum from 7 to 9 December, with the participation of youth representatives from 13 counties, Malakal town and the Malakal protection of civilians site. The forum provided an opportunity to improve collaboration among youth and resulted in the formulation of an action plan to improve the youth and peace and security agenda.

45. UNMISS continued to provide physical protection to 34,056 persons, including 17,375 women, belonging to 5,821 households in the Malakal protection of civilians site. The Mission responded to threats through patrols, which have ensured the security and protection of the civilians in the camp. Planning continues for the redesignation of the protection of civilians site in Malakal as an internally displaced

persons camp, with the aim of transferring responsibility to the Government of South Sudan once the key benchmarks are met.

46. UNMISS also maintained its support for former protection of civilians sites through integrated responses and advocacy, including the holding of Area Reference Group meetings and related workshops on partnership for resilience and recovery. Four state-level task forces were established and operationalized in Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Unity and Western Bahr el-Ghazal.

47. To sustain peace in Western Equatoria following a reduction in intercommunal conflict between the Azande and Balanda communities, UNMISS conducted a series of community peace awareness-raising forums for internally displaced persons and host communities in Ikpiro, Masia, Tindoka, Duduma, Li Rangu, Pazou and Saura. From 6 to 12 December, UNMISS also facilitated a visit from an 11-member delegation of the South Sudan Council of Churches to Ezo, Tambura, Namutina and Nagero to foster reconciliation.

48. UNMISS engaged leaders of internally displaced persons to devise measures to deter youth from criminality. In order to promote the civilian character of internally displaced persons sites, UNMISS supported the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, as the camp administrator, in its efforts to ensure the safety and security of individuals and property, as well as the unimpeded delivery of protection services to the sites.

49. UNMISS conducted two workshops for 105 people, including women representatives of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and other stakeholders from Juba, Central Equatoria, and Kodok, Upper Nile, to enhance their knowledge and capacities with regard to return, reintegration and resettlement frameworks.

50. United Nations police conducted a total of 607 patrols at one protection of civilians site and four internally displaced persons camps. A total of 204 access control activities were conducted in the Malakal protection of civilians site as part of operational measures designed to prevent and mitigate security incidents.

51. United Nations police conducted an additional 1,883 patrols outside protection of civilians sites and internally displaced persons camps from 1 December to 29 January. The patrols included 990 confidence- and trust-building patrols, 66 short-duration patrols, 14 long-duration patrols, 32 dynamic air patrols, 8 riverine patrols and 773 high-visibility patrols, and were aimed at fostering a secure environment for the free, voluntary, informed and dignified return of internally displaced persons.

52. From 1 December to 6 February, the UNMISS force conducted at least 889 short-duration patrols, 29 long-duration patrols, 100 dynamic air patrols and 9 riverine patrols. A total of 63 patrols were conducted in and around protection of civilians sites. Around 8.5 per cent of patrols included women uniformed peacekeepers, who constitute some 6 per cent of the military component.

53. As part of the community violence reduction project, UNMISS and its partners organized workshops on intercommunal governance structures in Pibor and Ayod, Jonglei, as part of efforts to peacefully resolve ongoing conflicts between the Dinka, Murle and Lou Nuer communities. The workshops were funded by the South Sudan reconciliation, stabilization and resilience multi-partner trust fund in December and February.

54. The Mine Action Service conducted 83 explosive ordnance disposal tasks for the Mission, the South Sudan National Police Service and communities, clearing 9 fields contaminated with explosive ordnance and disposing of 691 items of unexploded ordnance, 19,484 rounds of small arms ammunition and 16 landmines. The demolition of explosive ordnance by the Mine Action Service enabled access to

one school, seven agricultural areas and three natural water sources that had previously been contaminated. The Service also provided explosive ordnance risk education to 61,203 beneficiaries (9,330 men, 11,312 women, 21,563 boys and 18,998 girls) who were at risk of explosive ordnance accidents as a result of forced displacement, including internally displaced persons, returnees from Uganda and refugees from the Sudan. According to the surveys administered before and after the training course, 90 per cent of beneficiaries demonstrated an improvement in their knowledge of the differences between unsafe and safe practices after receiving explosive ordnance risk education.

C. Rule of law and accountability

55. To promote accountability and mitigate intercommunal tensions, UNMISS continued to support special courts in Rumbek, Yirol and Cueibet, in Lakes State, in trying serious crimes related to “sectional” conflicts.

56. In December, UNMISS monitored and provided substantive technical expertise to local justice actors deployed through mobile courts supported by UNDP in Ruweng Administrative Area and Terekeka, Central Equatoria State. The mobile courts adjudicated 93 cases involving 106 individuals, including 6 cases of sexual and gender-based violence.

57. To improve detention conditions and strengthen the security of prisons as part of wider rule of law reform efforts, UNMISS trained 133 officers (including 37 women) of the National Prison Service of South Sudan on prison management and operations, human rights, and case management and record-keeping. UNMISS also supported the National Prison Service in developing a road map for the implementation of the three-year strategic development plan, which was endorsed by the Minister of the Interior and senior National Prison Service leaders from the national and state levels on 2 December.

58. 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 24 January to 28 February, UNMISS provided logistical and technical assistance to a second deployment of the joint special mobile court.

59. From 24 to 31 January, UNMISS supported the Military Justice Directorate of the South Sudan People’s Defence Forces in undertaking an assessment mission to Wau in preparation for the deployment of a general court martial.

60. On 8 and 9 December, UNMISS supported the South Sudan Law Reform Commission in facilitating further consultations on the reform of the Penal Code. From 13 to 17 December, UNMISS and UNDP facilitated a workshop for civil society and representatives of the legal community on developing a victim and witness protection framework. A second consultation took place in February, with policymakers.

D. Creating conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance

61. UNMISS continued to create conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance through the deployment of temporary operating bases to provide a broad security umbrella in areas affected by insecurity. During the reporting period, a total of 17 temporary operating bases were deployed. Temporary operating bases in Koch, Marial Lou and Tambura were extended and remain operational, in

view of the prevailing security conditions. As at 16 January, UNMISS, in coordination with humanitarian partners, had conducted 5 long-duration patrols and 91 short-duration patrols to support the delivery of assistance and to ensure the protection of humanitarian workers. UNMISS also supported the delivery of agricultural food items to flood-affected areas, particularly the Pageri area of Magwe County, other flood-affected areas in Eastern Equatoria, and Akobo. It provided force protection to 96 integrated missions.

E. Monitoring and investigating human rights violations

62. UNMISS documented a total of 184 incidents that had a negative impact on the human rights and protection situation, including arbitrary killings, extrajudicial executions, abductions, conflict-related sexual violence, arbitrary arrests and detention (including proxy detention), torture and ill-treatment, forced military recruitment and the looting and destruction of civilian property. The incidents resulted in the killing of 245 civilians and injury to 125 others, including 40 women and 22 children. Of those incidents, 127 were attributed to community-based militias and other armed elements; 21 to the South Sudan People's Defence Forces; 7 to the pro-Machar SPLM/A-IO; 5 to NAS; 10 to the National Security Service; and 1 to the South Sudan National Police Service. Attribution remained under verification for 13 incidents. On 10 February, UNMISS published the 2021 brief on violence affecting civilians. According to the brief, more than 982 incidents were documented, reported and verified between January and December 2021 (compared with 1,197 in 2020), involving at least 3,414 civilians (compared with 5,850 in 2020) subjected to one of the four major forms of individual harm (killing, injury, abduction and conflict-related sexual violence). This constitutes an 18 per cent decrease in the number of incidents and a 42 per cent decrease in the number of victims, compared with 2020. All forms of harm affecting civilians decreased, compared with 2020: killings declined by 21 per cent (from 2,425 in 2020 to 1,907 in 2021), cases of injury declined by 48 per cent (from 1,531 in 2020 to 842 in 2021) and abductions declined significantly, by 72 per cent (from 1,683 in 2020 to 471 in 2021), while the number of victims of conflict-related sexual violence declined by 8 per cent (from 211 in 2020 to 194 in 2021). In 2021, subnational violence accounted for most victims (87 per cent, or 2,875 civilians).

63. UNMISS continued to monitor restrictions placed by the Government on the right to freedom of expression and assembly, and reports of censorship, harassment and arbitrary arrests and detention of journalists, activists and other civilians who had expressed dissent or criticism of the Government. The shrinking of civic space and increased censorship affected not only civil society actors but also the media. On 9 December, the operating licence of the *Number One Citizen*, a newspaper outlet in Juba, was suspended by national media authorities, which alleged that its editor-in-chief was not listed in the national register of journalists. Reportedly, the authorities had taken issue with the newspaper protecting its sources. It was subsequently allowed to resume operations on 18 January.

64. UNMISS documented four cases of extrajudicial execution, three involving civilians in Warrap and one involving a police officer in Unity State. All of those extrajudicial executions were carried out at the instructions of senior government officials. In January, UNMISS provided technical and logistical support to the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan for the conduct of an extensive independent investigation into extrajudicial executions in Lakes and Warrap. The investigation report is pending release by the Commission.

65. The use of capital punishment remained a concern. Moreover, the justice system continued to demonstrate limited ability to comply fully with fair trial safeguards.

Nine executions (including of one woman) were documented in 2021. Five men were executed during the reporting period. On 16 December, three men were executed for the killing of a Kenyan priest. On 8 December, a 44-year-old man was executed for murder. On 7 January, a 24-year-old university student was executed following his conviction by the High Court of South Sudan on 1 August 2020 for the killing of three siblings in Juba.

66. UNMISS received preliminary, unverified and disturbing reports from a health service provider of an increase in incidents of sexual violence reported by women and girls living in the towns of Bentiu and Rubkona and the surrounding areas, as well as in the Bentiu internally displaced persons camp. UNMISS is conducting extensive investigations into the reports, in collaboration with its gender-based violence subcluster partners, and has continued to enhance prevention measures, including by increasing patrols within the larger Bentiu internally displaced persons site and scaling up the sexual and gender-based violence prevention patrols by United Nations forces.

67. During the reporting period, UNMISS continued to support the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs in the implementation of chapter V of the Revitalized Agreement, on transitional justice, accountability, reconciliation and healing. A joint Peacebuilding Fund project on building peace through the promotion of inclusive and participatory transitional justice processes and mechanisms in South Sudan, involving UNMISS, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNDP and other partners, was approved. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, in cooperation with the Office and UNMISS, convened a three-day high-level conference in Nairobi from 13 to 15 December under the theme “Sustaining momentum for transitional justice in South Sudan”.

Children and armed conflict

68. During the reporting period, 28 grave violations against 27 boys and 1 girl were verified. A total of 18 boys were recruited and used by the South Sudan People’s Defence Forces (9 boys), SPLM/A-IO (5 boys) and SSOA (4 boys). Five boys and one girl were abducted by unknown armed persons (3), the South Sudan People’s Defence Forces (2) and SPLM/A-IO (1). The violations against four children were unattributed, as the children were killed (1) or maimed (3) by explosive remnants of war.

69. Violations were verified in Western Bahr el-Ghazal (7 boys), Jonglei (6 boys), Unity (5 boys) and Western Equatoria (5 boys and 1 girl), Lakes (3 boys) and Northern Bahr el-Ghazal (1 boy).

70. From 2 to 4 February, UNMISS delivered a three-day child protection capacity-building training course for 43 paramount chiefs from across the country. The training addressed their role in preventing grave violations against children, as the chiefs are sometimes used by armed forces and groups to mobilize fighters during armed conflict.

71. In support of the implementation of the Comprehensive Action Plan to End and Prevent All Grave Violations against Children, UNMISS delivered two child protection capacity-building training sessions for 101 members of the security forces (96 men and 5 women), including 96 from government forces (92 men and 4 women) and 5 from SPLM/A-IO forces (4 men and 1 woman). In addition, UNMISS supported the verification exercise for unified forces, which resulted in the identification of children associated with government forces and groups.

72. UNMISS delivered 28 child protection awareness-raising sessions to 1,547 participants (1,115 men and 432 women), including 970 members of the government forces (796 men and 174 women), 8 SPLM/A-IO forces, 518 community members (267 men and 251 women) and 51 government officials (44 men and 7 women). In addition, 36 advocacy meetings on child protection concerns were held with the government forces and government officials. In Jonglei, the efforts resulted in the identification of six boys associated with the South Sudan People's Defence Forces in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area.

Conflict-related sexual violence

73. Despite an overall decrease in political violence, the reporting period was marked by the continued use of conflict-related sexual violence by the parties to the conflict. In December 2021, UNMISS verified seven incidents involving nine victims (one girl, six women and two men). Six of the incidents occurred in Central Equatoria and Upper Nile. They involved two male survivors, who were subjected to forced nudity/strip search (one incident), six women survivors, who were subjected to gang rape (two incidents, involving three survivors) and rape (three incidents, involving three survivors). Five incidents were attributed to the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and one to a community-based militia. Attribution of one incident of gang rape of a minor girl attributed to an unknown armed group in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal remained pending.

74. The survivors, aged between 17 and 49, were attacked while carrying out their daily activities, such as collecting firewood, gathering food from farms and travelling on foot to the market. At least six survivors received medical and/or psychosocial support. The Mission continued to partner with the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO to train their forces on conflict-related sexual violence to further implement the joint action plan to address conflict-related sexual violence. In December, three training sessions were conducted for 60 participants from the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and 172 participants, including 29 women, from SPLM/A-IO. The Mission is collaborating with the joint implementation committee of the action plan of the armed forces on addressing conflict-related sexual violence to ensure that the graduating forces are given a clear message on the prohibition and prevention of conflict-related sexual violence in any shape or form.

F. Women and peace and security

75. On 2 and 3 December, the South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network, with support from UNMISS, held an orientation workshop for women members of parliament. Thirty-five women and five men members of parliament attended the first day. The sessions were focused on mentoring for women members of parliament and the sharing of political and legislative experiences for strategic and impactful engagement. There were also thematic discussions focused on the permanent constitution-making process, the role of parliament and legislative priorities.

76. On 7 and 8 December, UNMISS facilitated a workshop for women leaders in Eastern Equatoria in support of the South Sudan Women's Peace Monitoring and Advocacy Group and the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare. The gender-responsive governance workshop, attended by 45 women leaders, was conducted with the aim of building and strengthening the national-subnational nexus to bolster civic space for women leaders and civil society.

77. UNMISS held several gender awareness workshops for various national stakeholders in Bentiu, Torit, Wau and Malakal. Participants were drawn from State institutions, non-State actors, the South Sudan National Police Service, the Relief and

Rehabilitation Commission, the judiciary, youth, and women leaders and their grass-roots networks. The workshops advocated the inclusion of women and other stakeholders in decision-making at all levels.

78. UNMISS also facilitated the creation of a women's network within the security sector, to be headed by the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, to provide enhanced support for the elements of the Revitalized Agreement concerning security sector reforms.

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

79. As at 4 February, the number of UNMISS civilian personnel stood at 2,636, comprising 837 international staff members, including 237 women (28 per cent); 1,403 national staff members, including 212 women (15 per cent); and 396 United Nations Volunteers, including 163 women (41.2 per cent).

80. The police strength stood at 1,422 (of an authorized 2,101 personnel), comprising 540 individual police officers, including 214 women (40 per cent); 850 personnel in formed police units, including 195 women (23 per cent); and 32 corrections officers, including 17 women (53 per cent).

81. Of the authorized 17,000 troops, UNMISS troop strength stood at 13,893 military personnel, comprising 218 military liaison officers, including 52 women (24 per cent); 409 military staff officers, including 77 women (19 per cent); and 13,266 military contingent personnel, including 725 women (5 per cent).

82. UNMISS continued its efforts to ensure maximum compliance by Mission personnel with online conduct and discipline-related training, especially with regard to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Compliance increased from around 77 per cent at the beginning of 2021 to 88 per cent at the end of 2021. Efforts to further increase the compliance rate will continue in the next quarter. In accordance with the applicable policy, information on possible unsatisfactory conduct and/or misconduct was processed in a timely fashion. Between 1 December and 31 January, 23 allegations, including 2 allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, were recorded in the case management tracking system. 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

83. 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 patrols. In this regard, the fourth high-level coordination meeting was held on 14 December to assess the progress made. These efforts have led to fewer incidents of access denials.

84. As at 31 January, UNMISS had recorded 12 violations of the status-of-forces agreement, which is significantly lower than the 27 violations recorded during the previous reporting period. Of the 12 violations, 6 involved movement restrictions imposed by government authorities. The movement restriction incidents included denial of access to Pagak, Maiwut County, Upper Nile State, in December 2021, to Sindiru, Central Equatoria, on two occasions in December 2021 and January 2022,

respectively, and to Anyidi, Jonglei State, in January 2022; the denial of flight safety assurances for a dynamic air patrol to Gemmeiza, Central Equatoria, in January 2022; and the Government's continued delay in acknowledging the UNMISS sharing of information document for the establishment of a temporary operating base in Pageri, Eastern Equatoria, in January 2022.

85. UNMISS also experienced one incident of interference with the implementation of an UNMISS mandated task by the SPLM/A-IO, involving access being denied to an UNMISS-led human rights mission to Faraj-Allah in Western Bahr el-Ghazal on 27 January.

86. Notwithstanding the positive developments related to the Mission's freedom of movement, UNMISS continued to experience other types of status-of-forces agreement violations, including imposition of undue taxes, fees and other restrictions on UNMISS and its contractors for the importation of consignments into the country for the Mission's exclusive use. UNMISS continued to engage with the Government to emphasize that, when the Mission is the actual importer of consignments, the imported goods should be free of all restrictions, taxes and fees, in accordance with the provisions of the status-of-forces agreement.

87. The whereabouts of two national staff members arrested in 2014 remain unknown. During the reporting period, government security personnel arrested five members of UNMISS staff without following the procedures set out under the status-of-forces agreement for the arrest or detention of staff members. Four of the arrested staff members were released on bail within two days of their arrest, but one national staff member arrested on 18 August 2021 remains in detention in Juba.

88. 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 of uniformed components

89. One unit (a level II hospital) was evaluated in relation to specific mission requirements, self-assessment and training gaps to be filled to enhance efficiency and build required skills. The unit is functioning at full capacity with high-grade capability, in accordance with the Mission's mandate. Following the evaluation, the unit increased its focus on acute management of casualties, with regular staff drills and exercises. Between 14 and 28 January, three other contingents were assessed as excellent. All the units were evaluated using an online operation performance report tool.

90. From 1 December to 7 February, three formed police units were evaluated. Their performance was rated satisfactory. The evaluation assessed their operational and logistical ability to perform mandated tasks and the associated levels of performance.

IX. Financial aspects

91. The General Assembly, by its resolution [75/304](#), appropriated the amount of \$1,115,633,900 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. As at 7 February, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNMISS amounted to \$337.1 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to \$3,294.2 million. Reimbursement of troop and formed police costs, as well as for contingent-owned equipment, has been made for the period up to 30 September 2021, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

X. Observations and recommendations

92. I acknowledge the near completion, since the formation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity, of the establishment of critical institutions of government at both the national and state levels, including the Transitional National Legislative Assembly and state assemblies. I call upon Mr. Kiir to translate his stated commitments into actions towards full implementation of the peace agreement within the agreed timeline.

93. The peace agreement is at an important crossroads. The parties have a choice to make to address the long-standing delays in preparing for the end of the transitional period. In this regard, I welcome the passing of the transitional constitutional amendment bill (2021), facilitating the incorporation of the Revitalized Agreement into the Constitution. I call upon the South Sudanese leaders to adopt the budget for 2021/22, the security bills and the Political Parties Act and to establish a legal framework to advance election preparation without any further delays.

94. While I am encouraged by the recent progress that the Joint Defence Board has made with regard to the screening of the necessary unified forces, I remain concerned about the stalled efforts to unify the command of the forces. It is vital that the graduation and unification of the forces be expedited and command agreed. Towards this end, I also urge Mr. Kiir to fully establish the transitional security arrangements without further delays.

95. I also welcome the initiative of the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, to host a “principals’ retreat” for South Sudanese leaders to engage in dialogue and address remaining roadblocks to the implementation of the peace agreement. I urge the South Sudanese leaders to seize this opportunity to work towards this goal, and I call upon the international community to support their efforts and speak with one voice at this crucial moment.

96. I take note of the request in the communiqué of the African Union Peace and Security Council dated 25 January 2022 for a trilateral evaluation of the electoral and constitution-making needs of South Sudan, to be conducted by IGAD, the African Union and the United Nations. The United Nations looks forward to working closely with the African Union and IGAD on the implementation of such critical aspects of the peace agreement. At the same time, I am gravely concerned over reports of sexual violence, diminishing civic space and restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and assembly. I must, therefore, caution the international community that, given the current state of civic space and the political environment in the country, it will be extremely difficult to conduct a credible electoral process. Accordingly, I urge Mr. Kiir to take swift action to change this situation and address incidents of censorship, harassment and arbitrary arrest of civilians, activists and journalists. In the same vein, I also strongly urge the implementation of all constitutional provisions outlined in the peace agreement prior to the conduct of elections.

97. I am encouraged by the SSOMA factions signalling their intent to continue their dialogue with the Government under the mediation process led by the Community of Sant’Egidio, and by the steps that they have taken towards being fully incorporated into the structures of the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism. I call upon the non-signatory groups to join the ongoing peace process without preconditions.

98. With the UNMISS mandate renewal approaching, the four pillars of UNMISS continue to remain valid. In this regard, I call upon the parties to the Revitalized Agreement to demonstrate their commitment and sense of urgency by expediting the implementation of the key benchmarks of the Agreement.

99. I remain extremely concerned about ongoing intercommunal violence. The cycle of violence, including killings and cattle raiding, must come to an end. Intercommunal conflict continues to perpetuate trauma and revenge that undermine the prospects for longer-term reconciliation and social healing. In this regard, I acknowledge the ongoing efforts by the state authorities and communities to reduce intercommunal violence and encourage the Government to take immediate measures to bring perpetrators to justice, in order to address the widespread impunity.

100. I also unequivocally condemn the violent clashes between the SPLM/A-IO factions in parts of the country and between NAS elements and the South Sudan People's Defence Forces in the Greater Equatoria region. These incidents exact a heavy toll on civilians and are detrimental to the peace process, which is the only way forward towards long-term peace and stability.

101. South Sudan continues to experience social and economic shocks as a result of flooding, extreme weather patterns, ongoing subnational violence and COVID-19. I am extremely worried about reports that floodwaters have not yet receded in several parts of the country, and with the rainy season approaching, additional flooding would be catastrophic. Already, all indicators point to a deterioration of the humanitarian situation and growing humanitarian needs in 2022. I am concerned about the capacity of humanitarian partners to meet needs and deliver services, owing to dwindling resources. As we move towards a localized humanitarian-development-peace triple nexus approach to supporting the people of South Sudan, I request donors to assist on all fronts.

102. I remain concerned about the security of humanitarian staff, particularly our national colleagues, with another death occurring during the reporting period. These acts of criminality and violence must stop. I urge the Government to fulfil its responsibility to ensure a safe and secure environment for humanitarian partners to deliver life-saving goods and services. Perpetrators of attacks against humanitarian actors must be brought swiftly to justice. I call upon the Government to minimize interference in humanitarian activities and redouble efforts to stamp out illegal checkpoints, which tax humanitarian operations.

103. Lastly, I convey my deep appreciation to the troop- and police-contributing countries and commend the efforts of Mr. Museveni and other IGAD Heads of State and the African Union. I remain grateful to the Community of Sant'Egidio for its efforts and mediation with the non-signatory groups. I thank my Special Representative, Nicholas Haysom, the uniformed and civilian personnel of UNMISS and the members of the United Nations country team, who have continued to work towards peace in South Sudan under difficult conditions.

