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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 [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 between 1 June and 31 August 2022.

II. Major political developments

2. During the reporting period, the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan saw limited progress. On 30 August, the graduation ceremony of the necessary unified forces finally took place. The event was attended by the signatories of the peace agreement, guarantors, members of civil society, representatives from the region, the international community and the public.

3. On 30 May, the reconstituted Transitional National Legislative Assembly passed the Political Party Act, 2012 (amendment) bill. On 1 June, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Army in Opposition (SPLM-IO) and the Other Political Parties issued a joint statement in which they claimed that the Assembly had overstepped its mandate by amending the bill forwarded by the National Constitutional Amendment Committee. On 14 June, SPLM-IO released a press statement in which it condemned the alteration of the key provisions of the Political Party Act, 2012, while continuing its boycott that started on 9 June. Following a meeting between the President, Salva Kiir Mayardit, and the First Vice-President, Riek Machar, on 11 August, the SPLM-IO parliamentary caucus agreed to end the boycott as from 14 August.

4. On 13 August, the Ministry of Presidential Affairs issued a letter in which it announced that the bills that were discussed during the SPLM-IO boycott period should be submitted again to obtain consensus. The affected bills include the constitution-making process bill (2022) and the national wildlife service (amendment) bill (2022). It was also noted in the same letter that the Political Parties Act, 2012 (amendment) bill had been assented to by the President.



5. On 2 July, SPLM-IO launched the party's membership registration in Juba under the theme "Towards Democratic, United and Prosperous South Sudan".

6. On 9 July, the President addressed the nation on the eleventh anniversary of the independence of South Sudan. He declared that critical bills related to security and constitution-making were in the final stages of consideration by the legislature and stated that those bills were critical to holding fair, transparent and credible elections at the end of the transitional period. The President expressed his concern over the decision made by the United States of America to withdraw support for the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism and the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission as at 3 and 15 July, respectively, owing to the failure of the parties to implement the Revitalized Agreement.

7. On 21 July, the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission held its twenty-third plenary meeting. The interim Chair of the Commission, Major General Charles Tai Gituai, welcomed updates from the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity that a proposed road map to implement outstanding tasks in the Revitalized Agreement had been submitted to the President. He also registered his concern about the serious violations to the transitional security arrangements in Unity and Upper Nile, as reported by the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism.

8. On 4 August, the parties to the Revitalized Agreement signed an agreement on the road map to a peaceful and democratic end to the transitional period of the Revitalized Agreement, in line with the provisions to amend the Agreement. The road map extends the transitional period by 24 months, until 22 February 2025. In his remarks, the President appealed to hold-out groups led by Pagan Amum and General Thomas Cirillo to join the peace process. Speakers from across the political divide and a civil society representative called for more political space, efforts to address intra-alliance conflict and engagement with civil society organizations.

9. UNMISS and the African Union welcomed the agreement and called upon the Government to implement the remaining benchmarks in full to ensure that a conducive atmosphere was created for the conduct of free, fair and credible elections at the end of the extended period. In a statement, the troika of Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States and the European Union called upon the Government to undertake sustained action to implement the road map in order to receive the donor support requested by the Government.

10. The National Democratic Movement, the People's Coalition for Civil Action, the South Sudan United Front/Army (SSUF/A) and the National Salvation Front (NAS) criticized the road map, citing that the extension was a result of deliberate obstruction and lack of political will among the parties of the Government to implement the Revitalized Agreement.

Hold-out groups

11. From 20 to 30 June, two South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance (SSOMA) factions, namely, the Real SPLM and SSUF/A, participated in an induction workshop to be integrated into the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism structure, which was held under the auspices of the Community of Sant'Egidio in Rome. The 15 August deadline for the two factions to join the Mechanism as national monitors was not met.

12. On 13 July, the Non-Signatory South Sudan Opposition Group (NSSSOG), a group of six political organizations (United Democratic Revolutionary Movement/

Army, National Democratic Movement Patriotic Front, NAS, SSUF/A, South Sudan National Movement for Change and Real SPLM), announced its rejection of any extension of the transitional period. NSSOG clarified that, while it was neither a political or military alliance nor a replacement of SSOMA, the group had the common objective of advocating a technocratic Government following the end of the transitional period in February 2023.

Regional developments

13. On 17 June, South Sudan signed two Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) protocols on transhumance and movement of people to regulate the movement of cattle and people in the Horn of Africa region. However, on 22 June, the Eastern Equatoria State caucus in the Transitional National Legislative Assembly rejected the IGAD protocol on transhumance, describing it as an avenue for invasion and occupation of land.

14. On 5 July, the Vice-President, James Wani Igga, participated in the thirty-ninth Extraordinary Assembly of IGAD Heads of State and Government, held in Nairobi. The subsequent communiqué contained a call for the Government to draw up a road map with clear benchmarks and realistic timelines. It also contained appeals to the United States to reconsider its decision to scale down its support for the peace process in South Sudan, given that doing so would cripple the work of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission and the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism.

15. From 1 to 4 June, a delegation from the African Union High-level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan (Algeria, Chad, Nigeria, Rwanda and South Africa) visited South Sudan and met UNMISS, the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission and parties to the Revitalized Agreement. The visit was in solidarity with the people and Government of South Sudan and was intended to understand the challenges in achieving the benchmarks set out in the Agreement. This visit was undertaken in anticipation of the visit of the foreign ministers of the five countries in the third quarter of 2022.

16. On 11 August, in a meeting with the President in Juba, the Deputy Chair of the Sudan Sovereignty Council, General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, stated that the Sudan, as a peace guarantor of the Revitalized Agreement and Chair of IGAD, welcomed the agreement by the South Sudanese peace partners on the road map and extension of the transitional period.

Economic situation

17. The macroeconomic situation remains challenging, although the World Bank projected gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 1.2 per cent in 2022. Further GDP growth is contingent on the implementation of the peace process and ongoing macro-fiscal and public financial management reforms, as well as the recovery of oil prices in the medium term. The South Sudanese pound remained unstable and continued to depreciate against the dollar (1 dollar/651 South Sudanese pounds as at 31 August).

18. The revised national development strategy for 2021–2024 was launched on 21 June. The new fiscal year (2022/23) budgeting process was in progress, and on 3 June the Cabinet approved a \$2.71 billion budget for the fiscal year, equivalent to 1.3 trillion South Sudanese pounds. A budget deficit of approximately 558 billion South Sudanese pounds (\$981 million) is projected, with no clarity on how the deficit will be financed.

19. On 20 July, the National Revenue Authority issued a circular to operationalize the Financial Act 2021/2022, repealing the 2019/2020 Act, stating that the new Act

had been passed by the Transitional National Legislative Assembly and signed by the President on 9 June. The Authority, in the circular, revised the exchange rate used for customs valuations from 45 South Sudanese pounds to the dollar to 90 South Sudanese pounds to the dollar. This adjustment implied a 100 per cent increase in taxes and levies imposed on imports and exports, effective 22 August. This tax hike will potentially encourage smuggling and reduce customs revenue.

III. Security situation

20. The security dynamics in South Sudan were affected by continued cattle raids in greater Bahr el-Ghazal, resulting in large numbers of casualties and the displacement of civilians. Similarly, reprisal attacks across the country, in particular in Magwi and Kapoeta, in Eastern Equatoria State, have accentuated intercommunal dynamics, while fragmentation within the Kitgwang faction that split from SPLM-IO further complicates the security dynamics in the Upper Nile region.

Greater Upper Nile region

21. On 20 July 2022, in Unity State, clashes between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and forces reportedly loyal to General Stephen Buay's South Sudan Patriotic Movement/Army (SSPM/A) around Mayom County reignited. UNMISS condemned an attack on 22 July in which 12 security personnel and the county commissioner were killed and 14 others injured (including 2 female civilians). Subsequent skirmishes took place, including an attack on 26 July on a government convoy and fighting in the border region between Mayom County and Twic County in Warrap. On 8 August, four SSPM/A senior officers were reported to have been executed by the local government and military officials. UNMISS expressed grave concern at the incident and called for a fair judicial process.

22. Upper Nile and Jonglei States witnessed heavy fighting between the Kitgwang factions (Agwelek and pro-Gatwech forces), eventually also involving the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA-IO) in Tonga, New Fangak, Diel and Atar areas from 18 to 25 August. The fighting displaced more than 15,000 persons from Tonga, Panyikang County, and approximately 3,500 from Fangak County, with internally displaced persons spilling over into northern Jonglei, Unity State, and the Sudan. As at 30 August, the designated internally displaced persons site in Adidiyang, Panyikang County, has received more than 3,000 internally displaced persons, while 2,246 persons (including 1,133 women) arrived at the UNMISS protection of civilians site. In addition, the fighting reportedly resulted in 11 killed and 58 wounded on all sides and more than 270 Shilluk civilians taken hostage by the pro-Gatwech forces.

23. On 9 and 10 June, heavy clashes ensued between Gawaar Nuer and Lou Nuer young people in Nyerol County. This resulted in the displacement of 4,000 individuals from Pulutruk to Bulbei and Dengdor villages and the reported death of four Lou Nuer, nine Gawaar Nuer and many raided cattle. UNMISS supported the local authorities in northern Jonglei in facilitating the return of the displaced persons.

Greater Equatoria region

24. Cattle rustling and related retaliatory attacks triggered deadly violence in the region. In Mangala payam, Central Equatoria, Dinka Bor cattle herders reportedly established camps in the area and harassed the local population and civilians along the Juba-Mangala road. On 24 and 26 June, Dinka Bor cattle keepers clashed with local young people in Nangala, resulting in several casualties, followed by the alleged abduction of Dinka Bor cattle keepers by local young people, in retaliation for several deadly attacks carried out between 24 and 26 June.

25. Further incidents of intercommunal violence were reported in Eastern Equatoria, including between young people from various communities in Lafon County. On 6 July, the Murle from the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, the Tenet from Lafon County, and the Buya from Budi County jointly attacked the Toposa in Riwoto, Kapoeta North County. The attack resulted in the killing of 271 fighters, the injuring of 86 and the raiding of some 15,000 cattle.

26. Meanwhile, clashes between NAS elements and the South Sudan People's Defence Forces, especially in Maridi County, continued to destabilize the security situation in the area. On 8 June, NAS reportedly attacked South Sudan People's Defence Forces barracks in Embe along the Maridi-Rasolo road. On 13 June, clashes took place between Ngulu-Sai and Meke in Maridi County. There were other reports of abductions and arbitrary arrests of civilians, often attributed to NAS and the South Sudan People's Defence Forces.

Greater Bahr el-Ghazal region

27. Deadly clashes over cattle rustling erupted between local young people and South Sudan People's Defence Forces in Rualbet, Tonj County. The security situation in Twic County on the border with Abyei showed relative improvement. Following a series of clashes between Rualbet young people (Dinka Awan) and residents of Awul payam (Dinka Atok) in Tonj North from 11 to 13 June, 13 civilians (including 3 women) were reportedly killed, 3 were injured and many others were displaced. The local authorities redeployed security forces from Tonj South and Tonj East Counties to prevent further clashes between the two communities. On 16 June, the Warrap State Governor dismissed the Tonj North County Commissioner, citing mismanagement on security and disarmament issues.

28. The area witnessed a deadly cattle raid on 21 June in Warrap town, where Dinka Awan reportedly raided some 130 cattle from an influential local businessman. Consequently, on 25 June, deadly violence erupted between Rualbet young people and the South Sudan People's Defence Forces, when the latter reportedly attempted to recover the raided cattle. Approximately 7,000 people were displaced. The attack reportedly resulted in 115 people killed, of whom 75 were from the Defence Forces (men) and 40 civilians (including 7 women caught in the crossfire), and 32 injured (15 from the Defence Forces and 17 civilians). On 27 June, the President issued a directive to the South Sudan People's Defence Forces to conduct a 21-day operation in Tonj North and restore order. The violence also displaced more than 11,000 residents.

29. Between 1 and 19 July, insecurity in Rualbet continued, with the South Sudan People's Defence Forces reportedly shooting and killing 36 individuals, including children, raping women and burning down 34 homes in retaliatory attacks against the community, following the violent clashes on 25 June. The Chief of the Defence Forces and a high-level security committee tasked by the President with investigating the incident and disarming civilians in greater Tonj arrived in Rualbet on 4 July. On 15 July, a joint United Nations and government delegation visited Rualbet to engage with the high-level security committee, which claimed that no incident had occurred since their deployment. The committee called upon humanitarian actors to provide assistance.

30. The security situation in the Twic-Abyei border areas continued to be marked by low-level criminal activities and clashes between Dinka Twic and Dinka Ngok from the Abyei Administrative Area. The main supply route linking Twic to Abyei saw criminal attacks on commercial trucks, and the South Sudan People's Defence Forces were reportedly providing escorts. In efforts to improve the security situation,

state officials engaged local chiefs to prevent the local young people from looting and allow freedom of movement, in particular for humanitarian actors.

31. Further intercommunal incidents were reported in Akop, Tonj North County. On 22 June, clashes between local young people and the Luanyjang and Lou Paher communities resulted in the arrest of 19 persons by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces disarmament unit. Meanwhile, on 30 June, armed Nuer young people from Mayendit County in Unity reportedly killed 18 Dinka Apuk from Warrap (16 men and 2 boys) and injured 4 men in the border area between the two states.

IV. Humanitarian situation

32. On 9 June, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, released a crop and food security assessment mission report for 2021. The report projects a country-wide population of approximately 12.5 million people by mid-2022 and, accordingly, an overall cereal production deficit of approximately 541,000 tons for the 2022 marketing year (January to December), 16 per cent above the deficit that had been estimated for 2021. As at 31 August, only 34 per cent of the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan launched on 31 March had been funded.

33. Excessive rains and river overflows, in particular in the areas along the Nile and its tributaries, triggered floods in Warrap, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, Jonglei, Upper Nile, Lakes, Unity and Central Equatoria States, affecting some 835,000 people and resulting in significant crop losses and livestock mortality. On 14 June, the World Food Programme announced that almost one third of the acutely food insecure South Sudanese that it planned to support in 2022 would be left without humanitarian food assistance owing to critical funding shortages.

34. Rampant intercommunal violence and attacks by armed cattle raiders in Nangala village displaced 5,600 people in Lirya and Lokiliri payams, Juba County, Central Equatoria. An unconfirmed number of civilians were reportedly killed or injured and an unspecified number of children and women were abducted. Homes and properties were looted and destroyed. Attacks by armed young people, suspected to be from the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, on a cattle camp at Lokitela in Wokobu payam, Kapoeta North County, Eastern Equatoria, on 20 June, reportedly resulted in the displacement of 5,000 people and the killing of several others.

35. On 7 July, intercommunal violence between conflicting communities in Riwoto payam, Kapoeta North, in Eastern Equatoria, resulted in an unverified number of combatants killed or injured. Local authorities reported that the local population had been moved out of the area ahead of the fighting, and the humanitarian impact was yet to be assessed.

36. With continued intercommunal tensions in the Abyei Administrative Area, an estimated 41,200 people were displaced to Twic and Gogrial West Counties in Warrap and Aweil East in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal. Renewed fighting on 26 June displaced another estimated 2,000 people.

37. The rains intensified in July, resulting in flooding in some areas of Unity and Warrap. Dyke and berm improvement and construction helped to prevent the impact of floods. Torrential rain and floods affected an estimated 2,384 people in the Abeidaw internally displaced persons site in Wunrok, Twic County. The flood response task team, set up by the Humanitarian Coordinator, continues to implement and monitor preparedness and response activities.

38. Between 1 June and 31 August, 104 incidents related to humanitarian access constraints were reported, of which 56 involved violence against humanitarian personnel and assets. A total of 105 incidents were reported in nine states. One humanitarian staff member was killed while on duty in Eastern Equatoria. Twenty-eight humanitarian workers were relocated in Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria. Incidents of looting and theft of humanitarian assets were reported. Two attacks on convoys and commercially contracted vehicles took place in Eastern Equatoria. The continued violence targeting humanitarians and their assets had a significant impact on vital life-saving humanitarian support.

39. On 18 July, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management unilaterally signed the South Sudan country agreement between the Government and international non-governmental organizations, without prior consultations with those organization on the contents of the Agreement.

V. Implementation of the Mission's mandated tasks

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

40. UNMISS continued its good offices with the parties and stakeholders in South Sudan and in the region. Those engagements included several separate interactions between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of UNMISS with the President and the Vice-President, in which both expressed their commitment to the Revitalized Agreement. The Special Representative also held extensive engagements with the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, IGAD, the African Union and the troika of Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States. The engagements focused on preserving the peace framework by calling for a road map to implement the outstanding benchmarks regarding the Agreement, encouraging the key parties to resolve the impasse in parliament as a result of the boycott of SPLM-IO and providing substantive support to peace implementation.

41. On 11 July, the Special Representative addressed the African Union Peace and Security Council session on the situation in South Sudan and stressed the need to see progress in peace implementation, in particular the development of an agreed road map. The Council welcomed the outcome of the thirty-ninth Extraordinary Assembly of Heads of State and Government of IGAD, held in Nairobi on 5 July. It also requested the United Nations, the African Union Commission and IGAD to commence plans by the end of August 2022 on a joint task force to formulate a strategy to mobilize support for constitution-making and electoral processes in South Sudan.

42. On 15 July, UNMISS, together with the South Sudan Council of Churches, met the Western Equatoria State authorities to discuss proposed plans to advance reconciliation among the communities in conflict in Tambura. Relatedly, the Mission, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), commenced a community violence reduction programme in Tambura on 18 July to train more than 300 young people on livelihood skills.

43. UNMISS continued to support key reforms under chapter IV of the Revitalized Agreement on resource, economic and financial management. From 13 to 17 June, UNMISS supported the South Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission during technical consultations on the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Mission also provided technical assistance to the Financial Intelligence Unit in addressing legal gaps in the national anti-corruption framework. On 23 and 24 June, UNMISS

provided technical legal comments to the National Constitutional Amendment Committee consultations on the reform of the petroleum laws.

44. The Mission also supported the Strategic Defence and Security Review Board in its activities to advance key deliverables required under chapter II (security issues) of the Revitalized Agreement. The Board concluded its review of the revised defence policy on 9 and 10 August. The development of the security sector transformation road map was initiated from 22 to 25 August. Completion of the strategic defence and security review process is critical to laying out a national vision for security sector transformation.

45. To support increased civilian oversight of the security sector, UNMISS supported the parliamentary standing specialized committee on defence and veterans affairs with the holding of a workshop, on 11 and 12 August, to finalize its 2022–2023 action plan. The workshop was designed to strengthen the ability of the committee to exercise its constitutional role and responsibility to oversee the performance of security sector institutions and to approve relevant plans, programmes, policies and budgets.

46. UNMISS continued initiatives to promote the expansion of civic and political spaces. The Mission hosted 14 political round-table discussions on Radio Miraya, facilitating dialogue and bridging the gap between the public and political leaders on key issues concerning the constitution-making process, the forum of political parties and progress on peace implementation.

B. Protection of civilians and mitigating intercommunal conflict

47. UNMISS continued to provide physical protection to the 34,529 persons, including 17,740 women, in the Malakal protection of civilians site, in addition to engaging stakeholders on enhancing safety and protection to site residents.

48. UNMISS conducted 19 community consultations and workshops to strengthen protection networks in Central, Eastern and Western Equatoria, Jonglei, Lake, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, Unity and Warrap States, with attendance from 507 state and county officials (including 160 women). UNMISS conducted five women leadership consultations and dialogues on protection of civilians and community violence reduction for 1,250 internally displaced persons (including 1,000 women) in the Bentiu internally displaced persons site. UNMISS also conducted seven events for 573 persons (including 156 women) to build the capacity of national stakeholders in conflict management and mitigation.

49. UNMISS facilitated a two-day workshop, on 7 and 8 June, for state government representatives in Yambio, Western Equatoria, bringing together 100 participants (including 30 women). From 14 to 16 June, UNMISS facilitated the engagement of religious leaders under the South Sudan Council of Churches who are leading the Tambura peace process. From 23 to 25 August, UNMISS and partners assisted the South Sudan Council of Churches in bringing together key Azande and Balanda politicians based in Juba and Yambio in a dialogue. The initiatives promoted political cohesion and trust as part of broader efforts to address continuing political and ethnic tensions in Tambura.

50. On 7 and 8 June, UNMISS facilitated Kidepo Valley inter-county dialogue for cattle camp young people comprising 48 participants (including 6 women) from five counties in Eastern Equatoria. As a result, a mechanism for monitoring violations of established regulations was developed, and the young people committed themselves to maintaining peace along the Kidepo Valley corridor.

51. Similarly, to encourage local efforts in early warning and mediation, UNMISS conducted a capacity-building workshop for rural youth peace and security committees of Yirol West, Lakes, on 15 and 16 June. Forty-eight people (including five women) from the payam and boma levels participated.

52. In facilitating the work of the joint border peace committees in Aweil, UNMISS, in collaboration with the state government, organized conflict management training, involving 55 participants (including 9 women), on 22 and 23 June and on 30 and 31 August. It fostered community ownership of the joint border committees (formed in 2018), which remains instrumental in promoting peace and harmonious relationships among host communities and cattle herders in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal.

53. UNMISS continued its support for national and local efforts to mitigate tensions between Dinka Twic and Dinka Ngok along the Abyei Administrative Area and Twic County borders. The Mission engaged with government officials, key personalities and community leaders. Six preparatory meetings were conducted between UNMISS, the office of the Vice President for the Services Delivery Cluster, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei, UNDP and the International Organization for Migration to organize a follow-up peace conference in Aweil in October.

54. From 16 to 21 August, UNMISS assisted the Fashoda ecumenical conference for peace and development in organizing a peace dialogue conference in Kodok, Upper Nile. The conference drew 400 participants from civil society, military and political actors, faith-based leaders and community representatives, and was aimed at encouraging peace and reconciliation in the region.

55. Owing to flooding, a lack of dissipation in the interim dry season and restrictions imposed by military forces, access to large areas of the country remained restricted. This caused significant challenges when planning and conducting patrols across sectors and reduced engagement opportunities at the local level.

56. As at 31 August, the UNMISS force had conducted 1,799 patrols, including 1,472 short-duration patrols, 68 long-duration patrols, 106 dynamic air patrols and 153 riverine patrols. The active participation of women peacekeepers in the patrols are being ensured in furtherance of the Mission's mandate. A total of 1,948 patrols were conducted in and around protection of civilians sites. Eight per cent of patrols included women uniformed peacekeepers on routine liaison patrolling. UNMISS completed six requests for force protection from humanitarian partners. Of eight temporary operating bases, five (Duk Padiet, Kajo Kaji, Aduel, Rokon and Ueli-Roja) had been completed and three (Koch, Tonj and Tambura) were ongoing.

57. As at 31 August, United Nations police had completed 6,215 patrols, including 2,661 confidence- and trust-building patrols, 183 short-duration patrols, 38 long-duration patrols, 83 dynamic air patrols, 637 coordinated security patrols and 2,613 high-visibility patrols. Of those patrols, 2,789 included women. The patrols increased protection for internally displaced persons, enhanced a secure environment, prevented crime, deterred violence and restored confidence. The United Nations police has expanded its operational footprints to daily co-location at several police stations and posts, which includes mentoring, advising and monitoring the South Sudan National Police Service.

58. United Nations police collaborated and coordinated with the National Police to respond and manage crimes and sexual assaults inside protection of civilians sites and internally displaced persons camps, leading to the apprehension and detention of suspects. Nine residential blocks were identified as hotspot locations and are under a proactive patrolling and policing posture. United Nations police conducted 8 search operations and 636 access control operations in Malakal to reduce the fear of physical harm and enhance the safety and security of internally displaced people. A total of

737 quick-response teams were in place on active standby to respond to security incidents in support of the National Police in Juba, Malakal and Bentiu, to enhance operational response capability and maximize the protection of civilians mandate delivery.

59. The Mine Action Service responded to 33 requests for the identification, removal, disposal and clearance of suspected landmines and explosive ordnance. That response prevented injury and loss of life by landmines and explosive ordnance and enabled the communities to gain access to 44 agricultural areas, 1 hospital and 8 natural water sources. A total of 7,840 items of explosive ordnance were disposed of and 2,695,962 m² of land was released during the period. The Mine Action Service provided awareness-raising training on landmines and explosive remnants of war to 834 UNMISS personnel (246 of whom were women). To support safe and voluntary return and resettlement, 55,502 civilians (9,414 men, 10,613 women, 18,905 boys and 16,570 girls), as well as 850 refugees and 1,000 internally displaced persons residing in the Doro refugee camp and protection of civilians site in Malakal, were provided with explosive ordnance risk education.

C. Rule of law and accountability

60. UNMISS continued to facilitate the creation of a protective environment for civilians by providing technical assistance and capacity-building support to rule of law actors at the national and subnational levels.

61. In June, the Mission provided technical legal assistance and logistical support to the Military Justice Directorate of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces to deploy General Courts Martial to Bentiu, Unity, and Yei, Central Equatoria. In total, the Bentiu and Yei General Courts Martial concluded 22 cases involving 34 accused, including 6 convictions in 5 sexual and gender-based violence cases. UNMISS also supported civil society organizations in providing victims and witnesses with counselling and other services.

62. On 29 June, UNMISS supported the induction of six judge advocates (including three women) into a specialized conflict-related sexual violence team responsible for investigating allegations of conflict-related sexual violence across South Sudan and for conducting targeted training for personnel of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces.

63. Between 6 and 24 June, UNMISS supported the third deployment of the joint special mobile court to Gette, Western Bahr el-Ghazal, to address cases of intercommunal violence. For the first time, the joint special mobile court convicted two accused for three separate sexual and gender-based violence incidents. Communities where the joint special mobile court has deployed continue to advocate its return, given that it is perceived as breaking cycles of violence.

64. UNMISS supported the deployment of justice actors to Raja, Western Bahr el-Ghazal, from 27 June to 1 July to increase presence in areas of return and to address criminal cases for the first time in six years. Seven sexual and gender-based violence cases were adjudicated, resulting in six convictions. To build capacity across the criminal justice chain, UNMISS also provided technical assistance to the police and conducted training for 44 prison officers (including 19 women), and 23 customary chiefs (including 2 women).

65. The Mission provided technical and coordination support to launch prison development committees in Aweil, Rumbek and Bentiu. UNMISS also provided technical advice to the National Prisons Service of South Sudan induction committee in anticipation of the absorption of personnel into the prison service in relation to the

integration process of the necessary unified forces. UNMISS also supported integrated training of police and prosecutors in Aweil, Wau and Kuajok in June and July to effectively investigate and prosecute serious crimes, including sexual and gender-based violence. UNMISS continued to support the reform of the national criminal laws, including through support for the South Sudan Law Review Commission in holding public consultations on the review of the Criminal Procedure Code on 27 and 30 June.

66. On 9 June, UNMISS, in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund and UNDP, supported the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the parliamentary specialized committee on youth, sports and culture in holding public consultations on pending youth-related legislation and policies, including the draft national youth development policy and the ratification of the African Youth Charter, both of which are now before parliament for consideration.

D. Creating conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance

67. In close coordination with the humanitarian actors, UNMISS supported delivery of humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons and refugees in Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria; assessed humanitarian conditions of displaced populations and returnees in Tambura and Mundri Counties of Western Equatoria; and used its good offices, air assets and force protection to facilitate humanitarian delivery of assorted seeds and fishing kits to 859 flood-affected households in Cueibet County, Lakes. The Mission conducted joint patrols in Malek in Lake State, and Panyijiar and Koch Counties, Unity, to create conditions conducive to delivery of humanitarian assistance. The Mission facilitated joint humanitarian-mission assessments to gather information on humanitarian needs and return conditions in Pochala, Jebel boma, Akobo, Lankien, Ayod, Duk Padiet and Baidit in Jonglei State.

68. As at 31 August, UNMISS had conducted 68 long-duration patrols and 812 short-duration patrols to support delivery of assistance and ensure the protection of humanitarian workers. The UNMISS force provided protection to 253 integrated missions and 31 force protection patrols supporting convoys and humanitarian partners, including non-governmental organizations. UNMISS completed six requests for force protection from humanitarian partners.

E. Monitoring and investigating human rights violations

69. The Mission documented at least 160 incidents that negatively affected the human rights and protection situation, including 84 arbitrary killings, 22 injuries, 8 abductions, 24 incidents of sexual violence, 16 incidents of arbitrary arrest and detention, 5 incidents of ill-treatment, 1 attack against humanitarian workers, and the looting and destruction of civilian property. Those incidents involved 627 civilians (including 71 women and 38 children) subjected to violence, of whom 265 were killed and 128 injured. Of these, 274 cases were attributed to community-based militias and armed elements; 241 to the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and other government security sector elements; 41 to SPLA-IO; 37 to NAS; and 34 to other armed groups. Attribution remained under verification for 24 incidents involving 97 victims.

70. On 3 August, UNMISS published its 2022 second quarter brief on the human rights situation in South Sudan. At least 188 incidents were documented, reported and verified (compared with 173 in the previous quarter), involving at least 922 civilians (754 in the previous quarter) subjected to one of the four major forms of individual

harm (killing, injury, abduction and sexual violence). The 9 per cent increase in violent incidents (from 173 to 188) and a 22 per cent increase in the number of victims (from 754 to 922) can be attributed in large part to violence in southern Unity State, specifically the attacks between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and SPLM/A-IO, which resulted in approximately one third of the civilian casualties in the second quarter.

71. On 17 August, the joint UNMISS and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights report on human rights violations and abuses in southern Unity, covering the period from 12 February and 31 May 2022, during fighting between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and affiliated armed militia and groups, and SPLM/A-IO, was submitted to the Government of South Sudan for its comments and clearance. The report established that at least 173 civilians had been killed (100 men, 24 women and 49 children) and 12 others injured (8 men, 2 women and 2 children). In addition, 131 cases of rape or gang rape (of 113 women and 18 girls) were documented, and 26 women and 11 children were abducted during the attacks.

72. Extrajudicial executions remained a concern. UNMISS documented the execution of 17 individuals (10 in Warrap, 4 in Unity, 2 in Lakes and 1 in Western Equatoria). UNMISS continued to engage authorities at the national and state levels to urge due process of the law.

73. UNMISS continued to monitor the shrinking civic space, in addition to providing technical support to the Union of Journalists of South Sudan in conducting awareness-raising workshops on human rights standards and principles.

74. The Mission also conducted 123 capacity-building and awareness-raising activities for 4,423 persons, including 1,622 women, focusing on basic human rights principles, international humanitarian law, transitional justice mechanisms, and sexual and gender-based violence. Those activities strengthened national and state capacity to contribute to a protective environment.

Children and armed conflict

75. The United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting verified 40 grave violations affecting 37 children (31 boys and 6 girls). A total of 18 boys were verified as victims of recruitment and use and 11 were abducted, 3 children (including 1 girl) were injured, and 5 girls were survivors of rape and other forms of sexual violence. Three incidents of attacks on schools were verified. Children were most affected in Unity (30), Lakes (3), Western Equatoria (2), Western Bahr el-Ghazal (1) and Central Equatoria (1).

76. Twenty-nine violations, against 24 boys and 4 girls, as well as the attack on a school, were attributed to the South Sudan People's Defence Force, 5 to SPLM/A-IO forces, 2 to SSPM/A and 1 to SPLA-IO Kitgwang, and there was 1 case of maiming, which was a result of unexploded ordnance.

77. On 11 June, the President issued a decree on the formation of the National Human Rights Council, which is tasked with advocacy and human rights promotion. It will provide a direct link between the Office of the President and the two high-level committees that spearhead the implementation of the action plan to prevent and halt grave violations against children.

78. UNMISS delivered nine child protection training sessions to 390 participants (332 men and 58 women), including 257 government security forces (including 35 women), 70 SPLA-IO members (including 6 women), 58 community members (including 17 women) and 5 South Sudan Opposition Alliance members (all men). UNMISS delivered 76 child protection awareness-raising sessions to 3,407 participants (including 1,239 women).

79. Furthermore, UNMISS conducted 43 induction and child protection mainstreaming sessions that benefited 650 United Nations staff (including 152 women) including 293 military officers (including 33 women), 266 police officers (including 89 women), 86 civilian personnel (including 26 women) and 5 corrections officers (including 4 women).

Conflict-related sexual violence

80. During the reporting period, UNMISS documented and verified 22 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence affecting 51 survivors, including 19 girls. Survivors whose ages ranged from 12 to 43 were subjected to rape (38), gang rape (9), attempted rape (2) and forced marriage (2). Eighteen survivors were able to receive medical aid, among whom six sought legal action. The incidents occurred in Central Equatoria (5), Warrap (7), Western Equatoria (3), Western Bahr el-Ghazal (3), Jonglei (2) and Unity (2) and were attributed to the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (10), SPLM/A-IO (5), SSNPS (2) and community-based militias/civil defence groups (2), while 3 incidents were unattributed.

81. The Mission conducted 12 awareness-raising sessions and capacity-building activities in Juba targeting various stakeholders, including civil society organizations, lawyers, the National Police and Juba University students to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, celebrated globally on 19 June. Several other activities were carried out by the field offices on the prevention of and response to sexual violence. UNMISS provided technical support to the South Sudan Council of Churches and the Islamic Council of South Sudan on messages related to sexual violence to mark the occasion. A workshop on survivor-centred monitoring, investigation and reporting skills for members of the joint consultation forum and two-day consultation to discuss the domestication and operationalization of the model legislative provisions and guidance on investigation and prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence were also organized.

F. Women and peace and security

82. UNMISS partnered with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in launching three women's networks in the police (4 July), the military (6 July) and the prison services (12 July) as part of a Peacebuilding Fund project on gender mainstreaming in security sector reform. The Mission assisted in drafting and finalizing relevant terms of reference and gave presentations on human rights. The networks are intended to mainstream gender and advocate women's appointments in the security sector.

83. The Mission also provided technical support for the validation workshop of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare's five-year strategic plan (2022–2027) to assist in its mandate delivery on gender equality and women peace and security. UNMISS also delivered technical support through a two-day workshop, held in Torit on 28 and 29 June on the roles and responsibilities of political and influential women leaders in good governance and gender-sensitive leadership to discuss measures through which women leaders in the states could influence and advocate gender-sensitive policy making, including the development of a road map to respond to sexual and gender-based violence in Eastern Equatoria.

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

84. As at 31 August, the number of UNMISS civilian personnel stood at 2,662, comprising 864 international staff members, including 252 women (29.2 per cent), 1,420 national staff members, of whom 227 were women (16.0 per cent), and 378 United Nations Volunteers, of whom 165 were women (43.7 per cent).

85. UNMISS police strength stood at 1,493 (of an authorized 2,101 personnel), comprising 616 individual police officers, including 242 women (39.3 per cent), 846 personnel in formed police units, of whom 212 were women (25.1 per cent), and 31 corrections officers, 16 of whom were women (51.6 per cent).

86. Of the authorized 17,000 troops, UNMISS troop strength stood at 13,833 military personnel: 201 military liaison officers, including 59 women (29.4 per cent); 400 military staff officers, including 81 women (20.3 per cent); and 13,233 military contingent personnel, including 770 women (5.8 per cent).

87. During the reporting period, UNMISS conducted visits to field locations in Juba, Bentiu, Aweil, Yambio, Pibor and Kodok to conduct internal training with all categories of UNMISS personnel with respect to United Nations standards of conduct, especially in relation to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and external training and capacity-building, with members of community-based complaints mechanisms to further enhance their capacity to report any information on possible incidents of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. UNMISS also continued to be actively engaged in the prevention of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse task force to ensure implementation of the system-wide strategy to prevent sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in South Sudan.

88. In accordance with the applicable policy, information on possible unsatisfactory conduct and/or misconduct was processed in a timely fashion. Between 1 June and 31 August, 38 allegations of misconduct were recorded in the case management tracking system, including zero allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. 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

89. UNMISS and the Government continued to make efforts to improve overall communication and coordination of the Mission's freedom of movement for patrols.

90. As at 31 August, UNMISS recorded 38 violations of the status-of-forces agreement, compared with 26 violations during the previous reporting period. Twenty-nine of the violations involved movement restrictions imposed by government authorities, affecting UNMISS patrols in Central Equatoria, Upper Nile, Warrap, Eastern Equatoria and Western Bahr el-Ghazal. UNMISS also recorded four movement restrictions by non-government forces: SPLA-IO (two), the SPLA-IO Kitwang faction (one) and Agwelek forces (one), affecting UNMISS patrols in Central Equatoria and Upper Nile.

91. The status-of-forces agreement violations also included the imposition of undue taxes, fees and restrictions on UNMISS and its contractors for importing consignments for the Mission's exclusive use. As from 1 June, the South Sudan customs services division introduced an "accreditation permit" for all consignments

imported into South Sudan, requiring all cargo importers, including UNMISS and its contractors, to pay a standard fee of \$250 per cargo for the issuance of the permit. UNMISS transmitted a démarche to the Government to protest the imposition of the undue taxes and fees and continues to engage with the Government for exemption of any payment of the imposed fees by UNMISS and its contractors for the issuance of the “accreditation permit”.

92. The two national staff members arrested in 2014, whose whereabouts remained unknown, were both declared dead by national courts on 4 February and 20 July 2022. In Juba, the National Police arrested and detained one UNMISS national staff member over a private matter without following the procedures set out in the status-of-forces agreement. The staff member was released after two days in detention.

VIII. Performance of uniformed components

93. The UNMISS force evaluated 13 units, which included 7 infantry battalions, in Yei, Bor, Juba, Tomping, Bentiu, Wau and Malakal, and 6 enabling units in Wau, Tomping, Bor and Malakal. The units were found to be well trained, and seven exceeded the established standards. In line with the recommendations of the evaluation team, the units have put more emphasis on military peacekeeping intelligence, the increased frequency of casualty evacuation, medical evacuation and emergency response exercises and addressed some administrative difficulties.

94. As at 31 August, performance evaluations and assessments were conducted for four formed police units in Bentiu, Juba and Malakal. While the assessment results were satisfactory, the units had shortfalls in contingent-owned equipment, training and administration (documentation) and were put on a performance improvement plan.

95. The evaluation of both components covered operations, mandate comprehension and support, command and control, protection of civilians, training, discipline, sustainment and health, among others.

IX. Observations and recommendations

96. I join the African Union and the international community in commending the signatory parties for agreeing to a road map that extends the transitional period for an additional 24 months to enable the implementation of critical outstanding tasks. I take note of the calls by other stakeholders to conduct extensive consultations and call upon the parties to engage, as necessary, as they move forward on the road map.

97. I also encourage the parties to view the road map as a recommitment to the Revitalized Agreement and its implementation benchmarks, and I call upon the international community to provide support to this end. While the extension of the transitional period provides the parties with additional time towards meeting the road map benchmarks, progress continues to be of the essence, and concrete, tangible results are now imperative.

98. I am encouraged by the graduation of the necessary unified forces as part of the first phase of the reunification process. I urge the parties to sustain momentum by making consistent progress on the requisite benchmarks. This includes the reunification of forces, the constitution-making process and ensuring civic space in a manner that brings confidence to South Sudanese that the transitional period will end with peaceful, free and fair elections. The extension of the transitional period must not detract the parties from the urgency of fulfilling these obligations, which remain critical.

99. I am pleased that the SPLM-IO caucus has suspended its parliamentary boycott. The agreement will help to build consensus, and it is important that legislation be discussed in the presence of the opposition.

100. It remains critical that the way forward on the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement be an inclusive process with broad-based discussions and the full participation of all parties, civil society and other key stakeholders. In this spirit, I urge the Government to create the political environment necessary to foster dialogue, confidence and political participation and address the shrinking civic space.

101. I am encouraged that the SSOMA faction will deploy national monitors into the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism structure. I commend the Community of Sant'Egidio's efforts for this accomplishment. While remaining cognizant of the challenges ahead, I urge other non-signatory groups to join the dialogue through the Sant'Egidio peace process.

102. I am, however, concerned about the implications of the withdrawal of funding from the Revitalized Agreement's mechanisms. The curtailment of funds has had an immediate impact on the monitoring and reporting of ceasefire violations and parties' adherence to the obligations of the cessation of hostilities agreement. UNMISS support for the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission and the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism is a stop-gap measure, and I appeal to all partners and stakeholders to explore mitigation arrangements and sustained support.

103. The United Nations will continue to work in coordination with the African Union, IGAD and members of the international community to support the timely implementation of the recently agreed road map.

104. I am gravely concerned about reports of violence in parts of South Sudan. Subnational violence, cattle rustling, abductions, revenge killings and the alarming spike in conflict-related sexual violence incidents continue to take a toll on civilians. This year, more than 80 per cent of civilian casualties have been attributed to intercommunal violence committed by community-based militias. UNMISS continues to proactively deploy and maintain a visible presence in violent hotspots. This strategic pivot to engagement in situations of peace and security across the country, including through the establishment of temporary operating bases, and hub-and-spoke deployments, is part of a broader mission strategy to make the transition from static duties and limited patrolling functions to a nimbler posture prioritizing geographical mobility. This transition has had a possible positive correlation with the consistent reduction in civilian casualties over the past year.

105. I am appalled by the attack and killing of the county commissioner of Mayom County. I am also disturbed by the extrajudicial killing by alleged South Sudan People's Defence Forces elements of those accused of attacking the county commissioner. Such acts have the potential to delegitimize local, state and national authorities, undermine peace gains and fuel further violence. I welcome the assurances from the Government to bring criminals and perpetrators of extrajudicial killings to justice. The justice system in South Sudan must be strengthened, with criminal cases tried in a fair and timely manner with appropriate due diligence resulting in accountability. UNMISS will continue to provide capacity-building support to the Government to enhance the rule of law and facilitate access to justice for the South Sudanese.

106. The humanitarian situation in South Sudan remains dire, amid a challenging operational environment comprising diminished funding, bureaucratic disruptions and rising insecurity. Pervasive insecurity, unresolved housing, land and property issues, and a lack of basic services compound people's vulnerability, and needs are

increasing against a backdrop of limited resources. In this regard, I encourage the international community and donors to facilitate the provision of contributions to ensure that the humanitarian response is commensurate with the needs.

107. This year alone, five humanitarians have lost their lives while delivering life-saving assistance. This is unacceptable. I appeal to the Government to take immediate action to address impediments and violence against humanitarian workers and assets and to bring perpetrators to justice. I applaud the humanitarian community, which continues to prioritize activities, notwithstanding limited resources, and build critical cross-pillar partnerships on protection, durable solutions and the triple nexus approach to programming to support the most vulnerable populations. Ensuring coherence, complementarity and coordination across development and humanitarian and peace actions is essential.

108. I note with concern the deteriorating economic conditions, which have the potential to negatively affect the implementation of the peace agreement and erode the peace gains achieved to date. I call upon the international community to support the Government in undertaking appropriate mitigation measures, including through further strengthening public financial management initiatives, to ensure that the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement continues to progress.

109. Lastly, I remain grateful to the troop- and police-contributing countries. I am thankful to my Special Representative, Nicholas Haysom, for his leadership and for fostering an emboldened political posture through sustained engagement with the parties and greater involvement in the peace processes. I also thank the uniformed and civilian personnel of UNMISS and the United Nations country team, who have continued to work tirelessly towards peace in South Sudan under challenging conditions.

Map

