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Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2228 (2015), by which the Council extended the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) until 30 June 2016 and requested that I report every 90 days on the implementation of the mission's mandate. The report provides an update and analysis of the conflict and the political situation, and the operational environment in Darfur from 25 September 2015, the date of issuance of my previous report ([S/2015/729](#)), until 15 December 2015. It further presents the achievements of UNAMID in implementing its strategic priorities, endorsed by the Security Council in resolutions 2148 (2014), 2173 (2014) and 2228 (2015), and in achieving its benchmarks (see [S/2014/279](#) and resolution 2228 (2015)). In addition, the report highlights the main challenges to the effective implementation of the mandate and provides updates on the further implementation of the 2014 strategic review, the transfer of tasks to the United Nations country team, and the exit strategy.

II. Conflict dynamics and security situation

A. Current trends and conflict dynamics in Darfur

2. The level of fighting between the government forces and the armed movements was low during the reporting period, which coincided with the rainy season. The number of intercommunal clashes over land and livestock also decreased from September to December, while violence against civilians and internally displaced persons by armed elements continued. Criminality also remained prevalent across Darfur, while security measures adopted by State Governors (*Walis*) contributed to the significant reduction in the number of criminal incidents in some of the population centres.

Fighting between government forces and rebel groups

3. Clashes between the government forces and rebel groups were reported only in relation to the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW). Owing to the continued lack of access to East Jebel Marra, however, UNAMID was not able to



confirm the media reports on the exchange of artillery on 4 November purportedly initiated by SLA/AW elements against the government forces in Deribat, South Darfur, or of air strikes by the Sudanese Armed Forces on 9 November in the area of Fanga Suk, North Darfur. The area remained under government control since the takeover of Fanga Suk from SLA/AW in January 2015, with the government forces maintaining checkpoints and regulating traffic therein, including routes along Nertiti, Guldo, Sorong, Killing, Tera and Bardani.

4. Similar to the previous reporting period, there was no report of military engagement involving government forces and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). With respect to the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi (SLA/MM), which the Government accused of being involved in the conflict in Libya, the Sudanese Armed Forces enhanced their presence along the northern corridors of the known movements of SLA/MM forces, from Tine and Wadi Hawar to the west and the boundary between North Darfur and Northern Kordofan to the east.

5. On 1 and 3 December, SLA/MM and JEM, respectively, claimed that the government-allied Rapid Support Force attacked Zaghawa-populated Um Rai and Anka in North Darfur. UNAMID confirmed with community representatives that attacks by Arab militia on board gun-mounted vehicles had taken place from 27 to 29 November and from 1 to 3 December. In the attack against Anka on 3 December, at least seven civilians were killed and the village was burned. Surrounding villages were also looted and destroyed, and the majority of the population fled the area, including approximately 150 families that reached Um Baru internally displaced persons camp.

Local conflicts and intercommunal violence

6. The number of intercommunal conflicts was also lower during the reporting period. UNAMID recorded 7 incidents involving 38 fatalities, in comparison to 13 incidents involving 164 fatalities during the previous period. These clashes took place in North, Central, and South Darfur, mostly between Arab communities (such as Rezeigat, Beni Halbah, Habbaniya, Salamat, Ma'alia and Misseriya), over disputes relating to land and livestock. The local governments intervened to contain the situation by deploying security personnel and facilitating dispute settlements, including the payment of blood money (*diya*).

7. In contrast to the lull in military action, incidents of attack, harassment and intimidation of civilians, including internally displaced persons, increased, especially in North and West Darfur. During the reporting period, a total of 132 cases of attack, harassment and intimidation against civilians inclusive of internally displaced persons were recorded (38 in North Darfur, 35 in West Darfur, 32 in Central Darfur, 21 in South Darfur, and 6 in East Darfur), in comparison to 8 cases involving 31 fatalities during the previous reporting period. In the majority of these cases, perpetrators were reported to be armed men associated with nomadic Arab tribes. In West Darfur, on 1 October, members of the Awlad Zaid clan of Northern Rezeigat attacked several villages in the vicinity of El Geneina (Muli, Tandikoto, Allah Maraga, Doroti, Atya and Birtaino), all inhabited by Massalit, allegedly to retaliate against the killing of Awlad Zaid by unidentified persons in Atya the day before. According to witnesses and victims of the attacks, the perpetrators were in various types of military and police attire, including those of the Sudanese Armed Forces, the Rapid Support Force, and the Central Reserve Police. The incident resulted in

the death of 1 Massalit and the injury of 12 others, as well as the abduction of 7 persons. The security situation in the area remained fragile, with another murder of a Massalit on 22 October.

Land disputes

8. On 22 October, fighting erupted between Salamat and Misseriya in Salyle, Central Darfur, as a result of Salamat cultivating a Misseriya farm, which led to the death of one Misseriya. The *Wali* of Central Darfur and the Chairperson of the Darfur Regional Authority visited the area on 25 October to reduce tension, and Salamat agreed to pay *diya* to the family of the deceased. In West Darfur, Awlad Zaid and Zaghawa clashed in Kulbus on 12 November over a dispute involving a water point, which resulted in the killing of two Awlad Zaid and a Zaghawa. Awlad Zaid and Zaghawa signed an agreement on 13 December to resolve the conflict. In another area of West Darfur, Massalit farmers and Arab pastoralists clashed in Arana on 18 November, because of an argument over farmland. The incident led to the injury of six persons from each side, and prompted the deployment of the Sudanese Armed Forces and police personnel to contain the situation.

Cattle-rustling

9. During the reporting period, four incidents of cattle-rustling were registered. In North Darfur, on 21 October, an exchange of fire broke out between Berti and Beni Omran supported by Zayadiya, following the theft by the latter of cattle belonging to the former, and four Berti and two Beni Omran were injured. In South Darfur, on 19 November, Beni Halba attacked Salamat in Kubum and Markundi villages, in response to cattle-rustling by the latter. Four Salamat and two Beni Halba were killed, and following the deployment of the government security forces to the area on 21 November, the two groups agreed to resolve the tension. In East Darfur, on 20 September, fighting erupted after Southern Rezeigat stole camels from Ma'alia in Adola Mountain area, and 2 Ma'alia and 10 Southern Rezeigat were killed. The *Wali* of East Darfur deployed troops to the area, and on 27 September, the two communities reached a settlement on the incident. However, on 6 December, Rezeigat stole livestock again from Ma'alia in Abu Karinka, and Ma'alia retaliated by abducting two Rezeigat. Government forces intervened to secure the release of the Rezeigat captives.

Access to farmland

10. The annual migrations of nomadic groups in search of pastureland and water from May to November, as well as the crop harvest season from September to November, rendered farmers especially vulnerable to attacks by armed herders. In South Darfur, reports of attacks and harassments by nomads against farmers, including crop destruction, were received from a number of localities around Graid and Kass. In Graid, following clashes between Rezeigat and Massalit over access to land on 20 and 27 November, which led to the death of two Rezeigat nomads and one Massalit farmer, the local authorities deployed security personnel, and the two groups signed a peace agreement on 11 December. Rezeigat also clashed with Misseriya in the vicinity of Mira on 12 December, when camels belonging to Rezeigat destroyed Misseriya farms, and four Rezeigat and seven Misseriya were killed. The local authorities deployed troops to prevent the further mobilization of the two groups. Similar attacks and harassment were also reported in North Darfur,

and in the case of Tawilla, the local authorities reported that 85 per cent of the community were displaced owing to farm-related incidents. In Thabit, another area of North Darfur, a group of armed nomads arrived on 7 December and chased villagers into towns to turn their farms into pastureland. In Central Darfur, two farmers were killed in the Surray area on 4 December when they attempted to rescue a girl from being raped by an armed Salamat. In West Darfur, near Sirba, Arab nomads shot dead an Erenga farmer in Ma'amaga village when he attempted to stop them from grazing their animals on his farm on 4 December, and, following an exchange of fire between the nomads and Erenga, another Erenga was killed before the assailants were apprehended by the Sudanese Armed Forces. A group of nomads shot and killed two other Erenga on 7 November, when they tried to stop livestock from grazing on their farms.

11. Internally displaced persons were particularly subjected to access restrictions and other forms of harassment while farming. In North Darfur, internally displaced persons reported rapes on the farms outside Fata Borno and Babanusa internally displaced persons camps, crop destruction in the vicinity of Siniet internally displaced persons camp, and robbery while collecting grass in Tawilla. In South Darfur, UNAMID received reports of an attack against internally displaced farmers from Graidia camp resulting in the death of one internally displaced person, abduction of another from Otash camp while working on a farm, and the rape of three internally displaced women from Al Salam internally displaced persons camp on farms. In Central Darfur, similar attacks and harassment of internally displaced persons conducting farming and other livelihood activities were reported in Bindisi, Garsila, Hamidiya, Hassahisa, Thur, and Shadad internally displaced persons camps, as well as the rape of two minors gathering grass near Hassahisa internally displaced persons camp by Arab men. In one of these incidents, on 26 October, approximately 16 armed Arab men stopped internally displaced persons from Garsila, New South and South internally displaced persons camps and other civilians collecting water in Nertiti and robbed them at gunpoint. At the request of UNAMID, the deputy commissioner of Nertiti deployed police personnel to the area to disperse the perpetrators. In West Darfur, internally displaced persons from Aradamata, El Hujaj, Foro Baranga, SiSi, Straha, Tanjikei and other internally displaced persons camps in El Geneina also reported access restrictions, crop destruction, and other incidents of harassment of them.

12. The *Walis* intensified efforts to curb incidents related to farm destruction, particularly in North and South Darfur. The *Wali* of North Darfur established a committee for the resolution of disputes between farmers and nomads in the western localities, including El Fasher, Tawilla, and Darussalam, headed by the Deputy *Wali*. A crop protection committee was also established in South Darfur and West Darfur, with the participation of the National Intelligence and Security Services, the police, and other state authorities. In East Darfur, the *Wali* established the state supreme council for peace and reconciliation to examine all disputes related to farming. On several occasions, local security personnel involved in farm protection efforts came under fire, including during an attack against police personnel in Deleij, Central Darfur, and in Wadi Ferjani, West Darfur.

Criminality and banditry

13. A total of 385 criminal incidents, resulting in 376 fatalities, were recorded compared to 391 incidents and 93 fatalities in the previous reporting period. The

most common crimes included murder (32), rape (34), shooting incidents (102), armed robberies (63), attempted robberies (26), assault/harassment (120), burglary/break-in (44), abductions (22), arson (8), ambushes (13) and livestock theft (26). In addition, there was a report involving drug smuggling in East Darfur, where the Savannah militia on gun-mounted vehicles seized approximately 80 sacks of cannabis from drug smugglers who, in turn, ambushed the militia and killed 12 of them on 10 December. The Sudanese Armed Forces arrived on the scene and arrested three of the militia members.

14. The *Walis* adopted security measures to curb criminality, including the deployment of additional security forces to population centres, as in the case of Tawilla, Mellit, Kabkabiya and Kutum in North Darfur and Labado in East Darfur, instituting a ban on the carrying of weapons and the use of unregistered vehicles, removing illegal checkpoints, and taking punitive action against the security personnel involved in crimes. These measures contributed to the reduction of criminal incidents in some population centres, including in Nyala, South Darfur (from 42 to 24), El Daein, East Darfur (from 10 to zero), and El Geneina, West Darfur (from 46 to 32), while the numbers remained the same in El Fasher (27) and increased in Zalingei, Central Darfur (from 20 to 25). Overall, however, criminality remained pervasive across Darfur, with the number of incidents increasing from 89 in August to 116 in September and 159 in October 2015 and decreasing slightly to 158 in November.

B. Political developments

15. The Government and the opposition groups remained divided on the process of the national dialogue, which was launched by President Bashir on 10 October, despite a number of major political parties, including the National Umma Party, the Communist Party, and the Reform Now Party, and key Sudanese armed opposition movements, boycotting the process.

16. The main opposition groups, including the coalition known as the Sudan Call and the Sudan Revolutionary Front, had decided to reject the government-led national dialogue. They demanded a pre-dialogue meeting in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel to agree on the modalities of the dialogue, while offering a six-month cessation of hostilities, when they met in Paris from 9 to 14 September. On 15 September, the National Intelligence and Security Services detained the chairman of the Sudanese National Alliance Party for several hours at the airport in Khartoum when he returned from the meeting in Paris. Three other opposition leaders had been barred by the Services from traveling to Paris to attend the meeting.

17. Despite the lack of consensus, President Bashir proceeded with preparations for the national dialogue, and issued two decrees on 22 September, one to declare a two-month ceasefire in several conflict areas, including Darfur, and another to offer amnesty to members of the rebel groups choosing to participate in the national dialogue.

18. The national dialogue opened as scheduled, with six committees established to produce a “national document” in three months, each focusing on the following: peace and unity; economy; governance and implementation of the outcome of the dialogue; external relations; identity and culture; and freedom and basic rights.

From Darfur, only signatory parties to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and smaller breakaway factions of the Sudan Liberation Movement joined the process.

19. While the national dialogue was in progress, President Bashir further announced, on 19 October, that a referendum to determine the administrative status of Darfur would be held in April 2016, as per the terms of the Doha Document. The signatories of the Doha Document and some Darfuri parliamentarians cautioned against the timing of the proposed referendum and stressed the need for an inclusive process, particularly for internally displaced persons, while other armed movements rejected it categorically.

20. On 19 November, the High-level Implementation Panel convened talks between the Government, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)-North, and the Darfur armed movements in Addis Ababa on the cessation of hostilities in Darfur and Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States ("the Two Areas"). The synchronized talks were conceived as the basis for further negotiations on humanitarian access, security arrangements, a permanent ceasefire, and the participation of the opposition groups and armed movements in the national dialogue. The talks on the cessation of hostilities in Darfur were attended by SLA/MM and JEM/Gibril factions, but SLA/AW did not participate. On 23 November, the talks ended without an agreement on either front, since the parties could not resolve some of the contentious issues, such as the sequencing of the ceasefire and political dialogue. The pre-dialogue meeting demanded by the armed movements as a prerequisite for the national dialogue, also scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa on 7 and 8 December under the auspices of the Panel, did not materialize either. Chief among the disagreements among the parties was the scope of participation, namely whether or not other stakeholders, such as civil society organizations and representatives of internally displaced persons, could be included in the meeting.

21. Meanwhile, within Darfur, there were several reports of crackdowns and arrests involving students. In Central Darfur, on 18 November, Sudanese police personnel were stationed in front of Zalengei University in advance of a planned protest against the expulsion of 19 students who were alleged to be part of the United People's Front, a student union group accused of sympathizing with SLA/AW and SLA/MM. On 19 November, the United People's Front clashed with another student group allied to the ruling National Congress Party and several students received minor injuries. The police were deployed again to Zalengei University in response to further demonstrations on 22 and 24 November. In South Darfur, five students of Nyala University were detained by the National Intelligence and Security Services on 11 November, after having participated in an event organized by the United People's Front inside the campus. One of them was released on the same day, but two students who were later released claimed that they had been subjected to torture and ill-treatment. Two others remained in detention. On 1 December, the National Intelligence and Security Services arrested another student of Zalengei University from the Hamidiya internally displaced persons camp. It was reported that an unknown number of other students had also been arrested by the National Intelligence and Security Services, but their identity and whereabouts remained unknown.

22. On 2 December, a representative of the Popular Congress Party criticized the death sentences pronounced on 26 November against 18 SLA/MM combatants convicted of undermining the constitutional order and taking up arms against the

State, citing the release of all prisoners as a necessary condition to convince the armed movements to participate in the national dialogue. On the same day, a legal counsel for JEM/Sudan announced the suspension of death sentences against seven JEM/Sudan members who had been convicted by the Special Court for Darfur Crimes of killing personnel of the Central Reserve Police personnel in South Darfur in 2010.

C. Humanitarian situation

23. With the lull in armed confrontations, new displacements were minimal during the reporting period. The verified number of new internally displaced persons for 2015 remained at about 100,000, while humanitarian partners were unable to confirm reports of an additional 66,000 internally displaced persons, owing mainly to access constraints. In Central Darfur, the absence of fighting in Jebel Marra allowed for the return of 4,000 civilians in November out of a total of 6,000 people estimated to have been displaced there during the second phase of the military Decisive Summer campaign. In East Darfur, the vast majority of the 13,200 internally displaced persons who had taken refuge from fighting near the team site of UNAMID in Labado since 2013 returned to their home villages by the end of November.

24. There were several public health emergencies, including the outbreak of viral haemorrhagic fever, during the reporting period. According to the Federal Ministry of Health, 469 suspected cases of viral haemorrhagic fever, including 120 fatalities, were reported in Darfur between 29 August and 27 November, with West Darfur state accounting for 70 per cent of these cases. The Government activated a response plan, and on 16 November the World Health Organization (WHO) reported a consistent reduction in the number of deaths. In addition, as of 1 November, the total number of confirmed cases of measles in the Sudan reached 3,438, with 71 fatalities, with the highest number of reported cases in West Darfur (667) and the highest number of deaths reported in North Darfur (23).

25. Delays in conducting needs assessments and delivering humanitarian assistance remained a major concern, including continued lack of access to several areas in and around Jebel Marra. Exceptionally, on 11 November, humanitarian organizations undertook the first assessment mission to Fanga Suk in Central Darfur since 2011, together with national counterparts and UNAMID. The mission identified 18,000 people in urgent need of food, emergency shelter, health, and other assistance, and a humanitarian convoy composed of 29 trucks for 7,875 internally displaced persons and 10,000 members of the host communities, with UNAMID escorts, arrived in Fanga Suk on 5 December.

26. A significant funding gap remained for the Humanitarian Response Plan for Sudan in 2015, with only 57 per cent of the total appeal of \$1.04 billion fulfilled, forcing humanitarian organizations to scale down activities in some areas, including Kubum and Ed Elfursan localities in South Darfur.

D. Operating environment

Attacks against UNAMID

27. Incidents affecting personnel and assets of UNAMID increased, with a total of 42 criminal cases during the reporting period, compared to 29 in the previous period. These incidents consisted of the following: 1 attack on a UNAMID convoy; 3 shooting incidents at a UNAMID team site; 1 robbery, which led to the death of a national staff member; as well as 22 cases of break-in, burglary and theft; 12 of stone throwing; 2 threats and harassment, and 1 carjacking.

28. On 27 September, unidentified armed men ambushed a UNAMID convoy with assault weapons and machine guns at a location approximately 10 kilometres north of its team site in Mellit, North Darfur. In the ensuing exchange of fire, which lasted nearly two hours, one peacekeeper was killed and four others were injured, while the number of casualties among the perpetrators remained unknown. In South Darfur, shots were fired at the team site of UNAMID in Tulus on 4 and 9 October, and assailants fled on both occasions when UNAMID fired back. One peacekeeper was injured in the first of the two incidents. Gunshots were heard again at the team site in Tulus on 2 December. In Central Darfur, a UNAMID national staff member was shot and killed on 8 October, as a result of an armed robbery in Kunjar near Zalingei.

Attacks against United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations and humanitarian personnel

29. A total of 8 criminal incidents were recorded against humanitarian actors from September to December 2015, compared to 25 in the previous reporting period. They included an armed attack, two carjacking incidents and five criminal activities, five of them taking place in North Darfur and three in South Darfur. Five incidents involved the targeting of United Nations agencies, two involved international NGOs, and one involved a donor agency.

Restrictions of movement, access denials and denial of clearances imposed on UNAMID

30. While access to Jebel Marra continued to be denied, other movement restrictions by the Sudanese authorities decreased from 13 to 9 during the reporting period. They included the denial of a confidence-building patrol from Malha to Tulul in North Darfur on 20 October by the Sudanese Armed Forces, on the basis of insecurity in the area, and the stopping by the National Intelligence and Security Services of a routine patrol from El Daein to Um Haroina and Neem internally displaced persons camps in East Darfur on 20 November, on the grounds that UNAMID personnel were taking photographs, and further advising UNAMID on 23 November to refrain from interacting with internally displaced persons until further notice. In Central Darfur, the Services stopped a routine patrol from Mukjar to the nearby internally displaced persons camp in Central Darfur on 28 October, demanding a separate clearance for UNAMID civilian personnel to join the patrol. The Sudanese Armed Forces also stopped a UNAMID convoy from Zalingei to Garsil on 6 November and another UNAMID verification patrol to Tridge village on 5 December, citing the lack of prior coordination and security clearance. In South Darfur, on 2 November, the National Intelligence and Security Services stopped an

inter-agency mission comprising UNAMID and humanitarian personnel to Um Dafog, claiming the lack of instructions regarding the mission, after weeks of planning and obtaining necessary approvals from various Sudanese authorities.

31. UNAMID also continued to experience flight restrictions, as Sudanese security agencies rejected manifests or cancelled flights. During the reporting period, 8 regularly scheduled UNAMID flights for 17 destinations were cancelled owing to the lack of clearance.

Access denials and restrictions imposed on humanitarian actors

32. Humanitarian access to Jebel Marra remained particularly challenging. An inter-agency monitoring mission to Adilla and Abu Karinka localities, scheduled from 12 to 14 October, was aborted as the Military Intelligence denied clearance for UNAMID to provide escorts. In addition, on 13 October, the Military Intelligence advised that the United Nations must postpone the inter-agency humanitarian needs assessment missions planned for East Jebel Marra areas on 18 October, claiming that the area remained insecure. Repeated requests for an assessment mission to Golo town and surrounding villages in Central Jebel Marra continued to be denied.

Visas

33. During the reporting period, a total of 640 entry visas were granted to 15 civilians, 116 military and 208 police personnel, 198 contractors, and 95 consultants and official visitors and 8 dependants, including the 12-month visa for the Deputy Joint Special Representative, Bintou Keita. The Government denied 33 applications, including 9 visa requests for the Security Section and 5 visa requests for the Protection of Civilians Section. Other visa denials were concentrated on substantive civilian areas, such as the Rule of Law, Political Affairs, Civil Affairs, Legal Affairs, Communication and Public Information Sections, Gender Advisory Unit, and the Office of the Deputy Special Representative, and those entities critical to the sustainability of UNAMID, such as Life Support Services, Aviation Safety, Mission Support Centre, Contingent Owned Equipment Unit, and Engineering. The posts of the Chief of the Protection of Civilians Section and the Senior Women Protection Adviser remained vacant, as entry visas for the selected candidates were rejected repeatedly.

34. In October, the Government also changed the practice concerning resident visas. Instead of renewing visas for 12 months, as was previously the case, 94 applications submitted for the renewal of resident visas were extended for six months only. An additional 11 resident visas were renewed for two months only, including for the Deputy and Acting Joint Special Representative and the Head of Office for West Darfur, while two applications for visa extension, involving communications and engineering sections, were rejected.

35. During the reporting period, delays in customs clearance also led to a crisis involving food rations for UNAMID peacekeepers. By early October, a total of 219 containers had been held in Port Sudan, 185 of which were carrying food rations to sustain the military and police contingents of UNAMID for approximately 84 days. With the level of stock down to less than 20 days, UNAMID put in place contingency plans, including the procurement of supplementary food items from the local market that would meet the food safety and health standards applicable to United Nations personnel. Following a series of diplomatic engagements, the Government released

130 containers on 10 November, but the remaining containers still awaited customs clearance, including those with spare parts for helicopters contracted by UNAMID (held since June 2015), general supplies (held since July 2015), and aviation safety equipment and electrical supplies (held since October 2015).

III. Mandate implementation

A. Support for an inclusive peace process

High-level mediation

36. On 10 November, the Acting Joint Special Representative/Joint Chief Mediator met with the Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Qatar in Doha to discuss the current state of the peace process for Darfur. The Acting Joint Special Representative/Joint Chief Mediator thanked the State of Qatar for its support to the implementation of the Doha Document on Peace in Darfur, while appealing for additional funding for the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation.

37. On 13 November, UNAMID together with the United Nations Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs participated in a preparatory meeting convened by the High-level Implementation Panel and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Sudan and South Sudan for talks on the cessation of hostilities in Darfur and the Two Areas in Addis Ababa. The parties and the Panel addressed a number of areas of common concern prior to the launch of the talks.

Implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur

38. Limited progress was made in the implementation of the Doha Document, owing in part to the leadership struggle within the Darfur Regional Authority. On 8 September, the tenth meeting of the Implementation Follow-up Commission of the Doha Document was convened in Doha, Qatar, in which the signatory Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) was represented by its two splinters, the National Liberation and Justice Party led by Tijani Seisi and Liberation and Justice Party led by Bahar Abu Garda. The Justice and Equality Movement-Sudan (JEM-Sudan) was also in attendance. While reaffirming the Doha Document as the framework for resolving the conflict in Darfur and calling on non-signatories to join it, members of the Implementation Follow-up Commission expressed dissatisfaction with the internal splits and disagreements among the signatory movements, and underscored the importance of taking forward the internal dialogue and consultations process for local-level reconciliation.

39. The second phase of the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultations continued, with local-level meetings held in 21 localities throughout Darfur, each attended by 150 to 200 representatives of various communities, discussing the root causes of conflict in Darfur and recommending possible solutions for long-term peace, security and development. The continuation of the local-level consultations in an additional 43 localities would be contingent on the disbursement of funds pledged by the Government, in the amount of \$2 million.

40. Some progress has been made in the implementation of Final Security Arrangements. Following a series of consultations among UNAMID, the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and

the Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, the demobilization of 1,183 ex-combatants from LJM, JEM-Sudan, and signatories of the 2006 Darfur Peace Agreement took place in Nyala, South Darfur. UNAMID provided a range of logistical support, including tents, transportation arrangements, as well as the payment of transitional safety allowance of 1,500 SDG to each demobilized combatant. WFP provided dry rations and UNDP undertook an assessment of reintegration options. In parallel, the Government implemented the demobilization of 116 members of the Sudanese Armed Forces and 200 combatants of the Popular Defence Forces from 11 September to 23 October in South Darfur, without the support of the international community.

41. On 8 and 9 December, the First Vice President of the Sudan and the Deputy Prime Minister of Qatar inaugurated two model villages for returnees in Thabit and Um Dai, North Darfur. The Chairperson of the Darfur Regional Authority announced that an additional 10 model villages, 2 for each state, would be constructed in early 2016.

B. Protection of civilians

Provision of physical protection

42. UNAMID continued protection activities in civilian areas, with a particular focus on internally displaced persons camps, villages and towns, markets, and areas of internally displaced persons return. The military personnel of UNAMID conducted a total of 18,932 patrols, compared to 19,260 during the same period in 2014, comprising 6,059 routine patrols, 7,385 short-range patrols, 335 long-range patrols, 2,544 night patrols, 308 humanitarian escorts, and 2,301 logistics and administrative escorts, covering 5,398 villages and 2,293 internally displaced persons camps. In addition, the police personnel of UNAMID conducted a total of 8,217 patrols, as compared to 7,132 patrols conducted in the same period in 2014, including 4,134 confidence-building patrols to internally displaced persons camps and an additional 4,083 patrols to respond to the security needs of internally displaced persons, particularly women and children, engaged in livelihood activities outside camps. During these patrols, 429 criminal cases were reported to UNAMID, compared to 398 cases reported in the same period in 2014, which resulted in 94 arrests. Seven of these cases were forwarded to the courts. A total of 128 joint patrols were conducted with local community policing volunteers, with a view to enhancing their participation in crime prevention within internally displaced persons camps.

43. UNAMID has established integrated field protection teams in 19 of 34 team sites to identify early warning indicators and recommend preventive measures. UNAMID also continued negotiations with the Government to establish a team site in Adilla, East Darfur, to enhance its presence and protection of civilians from intercommunal clashes.

44. UNAMID continued to address the threat posed by explosive remnants of war in Darfur. Since activities relating to clearance faced a setback due to delays in the issuance of an entry visa for an international implementing partner, a greater focus was placed on risk education to prevent accidents, involving a total of 47,167 beneficiaries comprising 19,167 men, 8,411 women, 10,146 boys and 9,443 girls. In addition, at the request of the Government and in line with its ongoing support for

the safe management of weapons and ammunition, UNAMID completed the refurbishment and handover of two small containers for arms and ammunition storage to the Sudanese police stations in Al Nahda, South Darfur, and Medeina, West Darfur.

Logistical and security support to humanitarian operations

45. While UNAMID continued to provide humanitarian escorts, including the protection of 17 convoys for WFP delivering 671 tons of food, the humanitarian needs in Darfur continued to surpass the capacity of UNAMID to provide escorts. Thus far in 2015, 33 humanitarian missions had to be cancelled, delayed or rescheduled, owing to the competing demands on UNAMID resources. In an additional nine cases, the Government did not grant permission for UNAMID to accompany humanitarian missions. These challenges amounted to delays in the assessment of needs or provision of assistance for more than 300,000 people.

46. UNAMID also assisted humanitarian partners in early warning and early response to humanitarian crises in Darfur. For example, emergency relief items from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for East Jebel Marra were prepositioned in two of the team sites of UNAMID in South Darfur, while coordination and information-sharing was enhanced to allow UNICEF and other partners to respond to crises.

Promoting a protective environment

47. During the reporting period, UNAMID documented 123 new instances of human rights violations and abuses involving 242 victims (including 32 children), compared to 113 incidents involving 403 victims during the previous reporting period. The violation of the right to life accounted for 27 cases involving 38 victims, and the right to physical integrity accounted for 48 cases affecting 139 victims, 17 of whom were children. Sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, accounted for 34 cases involving 43 victims (including 14 children), as well as 6 cases of attempted rape involving 6 victims. There were 6 cases of arbitrary arrest and illegal detention involving 15 victims and 2 cases of abduction involving 2 victims were also documented. Of these cases, 34 incidents affecting 81 victims were reported to have been perpetrated by the government security forces and their proxy militias. In the remaining 89 cases involving 161 victims, perpetrators were described as Arabs. UNAMID confirmed the occurrence of 77 cases, and also found that the remaining 46 cases, though unconfirmed, were highly likely to have taken place, on the basis of corroboration received from various sources.

48. Victims of human rights violations continued to face difficulties in pursuing justice and accountability, due to the lack of investigation by the Sudanese police and the low number of prosecutions. Of 58 cases reported to the Sudanese police by victims, witnesses, and community leaders during the review period, only 21 were investigated resulting in 14 arrests.

49. The lull in military action did not lead to a reduction in sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, with a total of 40 cases recorded during the reporting period, in comparison to 14 cases in the previous reporting period. As occurred in the previous period, new cases of sexual violence and rape continued to emerge in North Darfur, especially in Tawilla, Shangil Tobaya, and Kutum localities, close to the Jebel Marra area.

50. Efforts to raise awareness on child rights and protection through the engagement of local communities, national institutions, and parties to the conflict led to the increased number of participants in the training of UNAMID on the subject. During the reporting period, 1,137 (including 597 female) participants received training on child rights and protection issues, compared to 523 in the previous period, inclusive of 254 police and prisons officers, 63 members of JEM/Peace Wing and JEM-Sudan, and 820 internally displaced persons and community members. On 9 October, the Justice and Equality Movement/Gibril faction reissued the order for all its members to refrain from the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and reiterated full adherence to the applicable international legal norms and standards, as well as the Sudan Child Act of 2010.

51. In collaboration with UNAMID and UNDP, the National Commission for Human Rights convened a consultative workshop in Khartoum from 18 to 19 October to explore the expansion of its presence and activities across Sudan. With support from the Government of Japan, it was agreed at the workshop that the first sub-office of the Commission would be located in El Fasher and inaugurated in December 2015.

52. UNAMID also continued activities to enhance the capacity of rule of law institutions. During the month of September, UNAMID provided human rights and prison management training for 200 newly recruited prison officers. During the same period, UNAMID monitored two significant criminal trials at the General Courts in El Fasher and Nyala and found that in both cases, the courts observed procedural safeguards and delivered a fair trial. UNAMID also completed the training of 32 rural court judges in Central and East Darfur States on mediation and conflict resolution, in collaboration with the Federal Training Judicial Institute.

53. UNAMID provided oversight and technical support for the implementation of a UNDP initiative entitled “Access to Justice Bridge Project 2015”, which involved capacity-building workshops for 50 prison officers in Zalingei, Central Darfur, induction training for four prison officers in Ardamata, West Darfur, and the provision of logistics support for other justice facilities in Shallah, North Darfur, and Nyala, South Darfur. As part of the project, UNAMID also provided sensitization training on human rights and legal issues for leaders in Kass internally displaced persons camp in South Darfur, as well as supporting the rehabilitation and refurbishing of a paralegal centre in the camp and the launch of a Criminal Justice Forum for Darfur on 13 and 14 December in El Fasher to encourage dialogue and coordination among Sudanese stakeholders. This initiative provided the basis and lessons learned for developing a joint rule of law programme in preparation for the transfer of tasks from UNAMID to the United Nations country team.

54. UNAMID, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, continued the implementation of 22 community-based labour-intensive projects, targeting 1,500 youths assessed to be at risk of recruitment into armed movements and criminal gangs. Thus far, 17 of these projects have been completed and handed over to the host communities, with a mechanism put in place by UNAMID to ensure their sustainability through local ownership.

55. To strengthen community policing in Darfur, UNAMID conducted 41 training courses for 1,158 (including 75 female) Sudanese police officers on human rights, democratic policing, ethical and legal conduct, community policing and detention and treatment of suspects, criminal investigation and first aid. UNAMID also

provided training to 725 (including 277 female) community-policing volunteers on roles and responsibilities of community policing, sexual and gender-based violence, human rights and child protection. A total of 259 classes in English language were also conducted for 7,514 (including 4,215 female) internally displaced persons and Sudanese police officers throughout Darfur. In addition, 140 visits were conducted to police stations across Darfur, with a view to ensuring the welfare of detainees in juvenile detention centres or the facilities where detained mothers lived with their young children. On 21 October, UNAMID delivered a session on gender mainstreaming to 60 (including 12 female) corrections officers in the prison in Zalingei, focusing on gender dimensions of prison management.

C. Local conflict mediation

56. UNAMID continued to support the mediation of intercommunal conflicts through the engagement of national and local governments, tribal and community leaders, relevant institutions under the Darfur Regional Authority, and other stakeholders, in addition to early warning, preventive measures, and capacity-building to address the root causes of conflicts.

57. With financial and logistical support from UNAMID, the reconciliation conference to resolve the conflict between Salamat and Fallata in Buram, South of Nyala resulted in a peace agreement on 22 September to address cattle-rustling, management of water resources, as well as acts of criminality. In Mershing, Belail, Kass, and Al Salam localities of South Darfur, UNAMID funded and facilitated meetings between farmers and pastoralists on 3, 6, 7 and 10 October. Over 150 participants from both communities, as well as security committees of these localities, attended these meetings and determined that an agreement on the migration routes was essential to preventing conflicts between the two groups.

58. In Al Kuma, North Darfur, UNAMID funded and jointly facilitated with Al Tagana Women Organization a peace forum for Zayadiya on 17 October to explore their peaceful coexistence with Berti communities. The forum, which was attended by 67 women and 33 youths from Zayadiya, raised a number of issues, including the need to address the root causes of intercommunal conflicts, particularly on land issues, as well as the importance of combating drug abuse among youth, intensifying dialogue among Darfuris, and building the capacity of local institutions in conflict resolution and mediation. In addition, UNAMID held five meetings on 2, 3, 4, 5, and 11 November to further promote reconciliation between Berti and Zayadiya, which resulted in an agreement to conduct peace campaigns in Mellit and Al Kuma. The nine-day peace campaign was launched on 6 December, led by Meidob Native Administration, with the support of UNAMID.

59. Throughout Darfur, UNAMID convened a total of 65 meetings (22 in South Darfur, 12 in North Darfur, 11 in West Darfur, 5 in East Darfur, and 1 in Khartoum) to facilitate peaceful coexistence between farmers and pastoralists and strengthen joint committees to promote intergroup dialogue on practical ways to share access to natural resources. Local authorities, leaders of farmers and pastoralists, and representatives of the agricultural protection committees and the peaceful coexistence committees attended these meetings and discussed mechanisms to prevent disputes during the farming and migratory seasons. In East Darfur, farmers and nomads signed an agreement on 9 December to share water resources in the area, with the support of UNAMID.

IV. Implementation of the strategic review recommendations

A. Improved effectiveness and streamlining

60. UNAMID is in the process of implementing the last phase of the streamlining exercise concerning civilian personnel. The abolition of 476 posts will take effect on 31 December 2015, beyond which these appointments will not be renewed. The vast majority of the affected personnel were national staff, for whom UNAMID started providing placement support.

B. Transfer of mandated tasks to the United Nations country team and exit strategy

61. UNAMID and the United Nations country team continued the planning process for the gradual transfer of tasks, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2228 (2015). The United Nations Rule of Law Coordination Group for Darfur, co-chaired by UNAMID and UNDP, convened the second meeting on 21 October and agreed on the outline for the joint United Nations Rule of Law Programme for 2016-2019, under which the phased handover of mandated tasks would proceed. A forum to consult national stakeholders was also held in Khartoum on 22 November to ensure their support. Progress was also made in the transfer of tasks related to access to justice, namely the handover from UNAMID to UNDP of work related to paralegals and the legal aid desk in the prison in El Fasher, although the country team continued to struggle with the mobilization of resources to secure its field presence.

62. Regarding the transfer of tasks related to HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS and the Resident Coordinator's Office in Khartoum began developing a concept note in collaboration with UNAMID for mobilizing resources necessary to take over outreach activities from the Mission.

63. In compliance with resolution 2228 (2015) and the communiqués of the African Union Peace and Security Council on 22 June and 31 July 2015, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Deputy Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, and the Foreign Minister of the Sudan held a meeting on 29 September to discuss the framework of cooperation for achieving the benchmarks of UNAMID, as the basis for its eventual exit from Darfur. The United Nations and the African Union emphasized the parameters set by the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council, respectively, for the gradual withdrawal of UNAMID and the need for tangible progress to be made against the benchmarks. Further discussions on the exit strategy will be held in January 2016.

V. Financial aspects

64. The General Assembly, by its resolution 69/261 B of 25 June 2015, appropriated \$1,102.2 million for the maintenance of the Operation for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

65. As at 20 November 2015, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNAMID amounted to \$127.3 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to \$1,411.0 million.

66. Reimbursement of troop and formed police costs has been made for the period up to 31 August 2015, while reimbursement of the costs of contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 30 June 2015, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

VI. Observations

67. A political solution to the conflict in Darfur remains elusive. Without an agreement on the national dialogue process or the cessation of hostilities, displacement continues to be the way of life for almost one third of the population of Darfur that are still in camps, and for the communities that host them. A resumption of military campaigns after the rainy season risks creating new displacement and further suffering for civilians. Intercommunal fighting and criminality, including attacks on and harassment of internally displaced persons, are exacerbated by the organization and arming of nomadic groups affiliated with Government-sanctioned militia, victimizing those who rely on land for crops and water to sustain their livelihoods.

68. An inclusive, credible and comprehensive national dialogue would provide a chance to address the challenges facing the Sudan in a holistic manner. Conversely, a partial process without the participation of major opposition parties and armed movements would not end simmering tensions. I urge the Sudanese authorities to seize the opportunity for dialogue afforded by the proposals for a cessation of hostilities made by the Government and the armed movements in September. I also call on the Government to create an environment conducive to dialogue by guaranteeing human rights and fundamental freedoms. I am concerned about the recent detentions by the Sudanese authorities of opposition leaders and students, which can undermine public confidence in the freedom of expression and assembly. It is regrettable that the talks on the cessation of hostilities for Darfur and the Two Areas adjourned without an agreement, and that plans to resume the talks and hold the pre-dialogue meeting in December did not come to fruition. I reiterate my support for the efforts of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel to find peace in the Sudan and to end the conflict in Darfur. I, once again, call on all parties to make tangible progress in the negotiations.

69. While the national dialogue and the talks facilitated by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel face stumbling blocks, the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur has the potential to bring about concrete improvements in the lives of the people of Darfur. Those in the leading positions of the Darfur Regional Authority must resolve their differences and make further progress for the benefit of the people of Darfur. I, once again, thank the State of Qatar for its continued support to the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. I encourage the Government of the Sudan to fulfil its financial pledge to continue the process of internal dialogue and reconciliation.

70. The humanitarian situation in Darfur continues to be a source of concern, especially in the areas in and around Jebel Marra. I call upon the Government and the armed movements to allow humanitarian access and facilitate the delivery of

life-saving support to those in need of assistance without hindrance, particularly in Jebel Marra. I also urge the Government to ensure the freedom of movement of UNAMID personnel and do more to address the continued attacks against United Nations personnel and humanitarian actors in Darfur, including by undertaking further efforts to ensure their safety, investigating incidents against them, and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

71. Mechanisms of accountability must also be extended, first and foremost, to the people of Darfur. The perpetrators of the increased attacks and harassment of civilians, particularly armed elements associated with government forces, must be held accountable. I welcome the steps taken by the Government, particularly at the State level, to address criminality and intercommunal conflicts. UNAMID stands ready to continue providing support to community-level mediation and reconciliation efforts.

72. I am concerned about delays in the issuance or renewal of visas and rejections and their impact on UNAMID's ability to implement its mandate, particularly those sections directly involved in meeting its strategic priorities. The vacancy rates for international personnel have reached 50 per cent in the Human Rights Section, 40 per cent in the Protection of Civilians Section, and 30 per cent for the Communications and Public Information Section. Visa denials have also affected other sections that underpin the operations of UNAMID, with 50 per cent vacancy rates in the Joint Operations Centre and 30 percent vacancy rates in the Security Section.

73. The food rations crisis experienced during the reporting period was another example of impediments that not only rendered the operations of UNAMID difficult but risked the welfare of its peacekeepers. I welcome the agreement reached during the visit of my Under-Secretary-General for Field Support to Khartoum and Darfur from 4 to 6 December to reactivate the tripartite mechanism with the Government of the Sudan and the African Union in order to address support issues, such as visas, customs clearance, and freedom of movement. I count on the cooperation of the Government on these matters, in accordance with the Status of Forces Agreement.

74. In line with the decisions of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, I remain committed to developing the exit strategy of UNAMID. I seek the full support of the Government in fulfilling the benchmarks of UNAMID, as the basis of further consultations on the subject, as mandated by the two Councils.

75. In conclusion, I would like to welcome the new Joint Special Representative/Joint Chief Mediator, Martin Ihoeghian Uhomobhi, the new Deputy Joint Special Representative, Bintou Keita, and the new Force Commander, Frank Mushyo Kamanzi. I count on the Government of the Sudan to extend them its full cooperation and support. I wish to thank the Acting Joint Special Representative/Joint Chief Mediator, Abiodun Oluremi Bashua, for his stewardship of UNAMID for more than a year. I would also like to express my gratitude to all personnel of UNAMID, the United Nations country team and humanitarian partners who continue to work tirelessly for the people of Darfur.

