



Security Council

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Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 21 of Security Council resolution 2104 (2013), in which the Council requested that I continue to inform it of progress in implementing the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and to bring to its attention any serious violations of the 20 June 2011 Agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area (S/2011/384, annex).

2. The report provides an update on the situation in Abyei and on the deployment and operations of UNISFA since my previous report of 17 May 2013 (S/2013/294). In addition, it provides an update on progress in the implementation of the additional tasks mandated to the Force under Security Council resolutions 2024 (2011) and 2104 (2013) with respect to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism.

II. Security situation

3. The security situation in the Abyei area remained generally calm, but unpredictable, owing to tensions between the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities, exacerbated by the 4 May incident that resulted in the killing of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief, Kuol Deng Kuol, and the proliferation of small arms and the continued absence of local Government institutions, particularly the Abyei Police Service and other law and order local institutions. In addition, approximately 120 to 150 personnel of the Sudan Oil Police Force remained in the Diffra Oil Complex, in violation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement and Security Council resolutions 1990 (2011), 2031 (2011), 2046 (2012), 2047 (2012), 2075 (2012) and 2104 (2013).

4. Following the 4 May incident that resulted in the killing of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief, the probability of intercommunal violence between the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities increased. Members of the Misseriya community living in Abyei town and surrounding areas, fearing reprisal attacks by the Ngok Dinka, fled and moved north of Goli village (approximately 35 km from Abyei town).



5. In a communiqué issued on 9 May, following the 374th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council, the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan, the African Union and the United Nations agreed to conduct a joint investigation into the 4 May incident in order to establish the facts surrounding it, to determine whether the incident constituted a violation of relevant agreements and to provide recommendations, including on actions and measures to be taken by all involved, namely the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan and the traditional leadership of the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities, to prevent the reoccurrence of such incidents. On 3 July, the African Union Commission appointed Anil Gayan, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mauritius, to chair the investigation team. The United Nations is represented on the team by Lieutenant-General Joseph Owonibi, a retired Senior Officer of the Nigerian army. The joint investigation mission started on 15 July and is scheduled to last for four weeks.

6. The widespread presence of small arms in the Abyei Area remained a significant security threat. The prevention of the overt carriage of arms by communities continued to be a top priority for UNISFA. During the reporting period, UNISFA troops disarmed members of both communities in several locations, recovering weapons and ammunition. In Faruk, in northern Abyei, UNISFA disarmed two Misseriya carrying rifles and ammunition on 19 May and 7 June. UNISFA also disarmed two Misseriya carrying rifles and ammunition, on 28 May in Um Khariat, and on 10 June in Diffra. In central Abyei, four Misseriya carrying rifles and ammunition were disarmed on 29 May in Noong, while one Misseriya man was arrested in Goli. The firearms are in the temporary custody of the mission until they can be handed over to the relevant authorities.

7. There have been cases of illegal roadblocks, armed robbery and cattle raiding during the reporting period. On 5 June, a UNISFA patrol dismantled an illegal roadblock in Diffra manned by four Misseriya youth who were attempting to extort money from local traders. On 8 June, six trucks that had been stolen from a Sudanese construction company on 6 June at Abu Ghazala were recovered by UNISFA troops and returned to the company.

8. On 20 May, three trucks belonging to Sudanese contractors hired by UNISFA to transport sand from Diffra to Dokura were stopped on their way back near Dokura and their drivers were attacked by Ngok Dinka youth. The drivers sustained injuries and the youth also confiscated one of the trucks, which is yet to be recovered. On 11 June, 28 Misseriya youths on 14 motorcycles armed with AK-47 rifles and other small weapons attempted to loot South Sudanese vehicles at Abu Gazala, but were apprehended and disarmed by UNISFA troops.

9. On 1 July, local residents informed UNISFA that around nine unidentified assailants, dressed in military uniform and armed with AK-47 rifles, stormed Galary village near Dokura in central Abyei. They shot and killed a 19-year-old Ngok Dinka youth and took with them approximately 60 head of cattle belonging to local residents. The attackers fled but the stolen livestock was later recovered. On 6 July, a group of unidentified men killed a 60-year-old Ngok Dinka man and stole around 38 head of the victim's cattle. UNISFA immediately mounted a tracking and cordoning operation and succeeded in recovering and returning all of the stolen livestock, although the perpetrators were able to escape under the cover of darkness.

10. The security of oil facilities in the Abyei Area is another concern. On 12 June, a pump at fuel station 2, located in Ajaj, 62 km east of Diffra town, caught fire and

exploded. UNISFA troops assisted in extinguishing the fire. The exact cause of the explosion is yet to be ascertained. As a precautionary measure, the mission stationed troops at the pumping station for a week, in addition to increasing patrols in the vicinity of Ajaj. On 8 July, local sources informed UNISFA of the presence of an unidentified armed group in the Dumboloya area near the Baloom oil pipeline in eastern Abyei. A verification patrol deployed by UNISFA could not confirm the veracity of the information, but, as a precautionary measure, the mission deployed troops to patrol the area.

11. The reverse migration of the Misseriya progressed during the reporting period, involving approximately 140,000 Misseriya with about 1,650,000 livestock crossing the Abyei Area from South Sudan en route to the Sudan.

12. The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) continued to contribute to the stabilization of the Abyei Area and to the protection of civilians and supported mission operations. During the 2012-2013 financial year, UNMAS completed the recovery and destruction of 1,432 items of explosive remnants of war and more than 515 kilograms of small arms ammunition. It also assessed over 1 million m² of land, conducted general mine action assessments in 88 villages, surveyed 305 km priority routes and verified or cleared 105 km of roads of landmines and explosive remnants of war. On 1 July, UNMAS suspended its mine clearance operations with the onset of the rainy season.

III. Political developments

13. No progress was made towards the establishment of the temporary institutions in Abyei and the further implementation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement. The Abyei Joint Oversight Committee has not met since the extraordinary session convened by UNISFA on 2 and 3 May, at which the Committee's Co-Chairs from the Sudan and South Sudan resolved to declare the Abyei Area "weapon free" and to speed up the establishment of the Abyei Police Service. No decisions were made, however, at the meeting on the timetable for the implementation of those pledges.

14. Following the killing of their Paramount Chief on 4 May, the Ngok Dinka community of Abyei has rejected the establishment and continuation of any joint institutions between the Sudan and South Sudan, including the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, the Abyei Area Administration institutions and the Abyei Police Service.

15. Since Presidents Omar al-Bashir and Salva Kiir publicly committed, on 24 May, to swiftly address issues related to Abyei, including the temporary arrangements, the parties have focused primarily on the conditions for the holding of the Abyei referendum as a matter of priority. President Thabo Mbeki, in his capacity as Chair of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, raised the issue with both Presidents in the margins of the African Union Summit in late May. Both Heads of State reiterated their commitment to holding a referendum to resolve the final status of Abyei. President Bashir emphasized, however, that he could not agree to certain provisions of the proposal of the Implementation Panel that he believed were in violation of the Abyei Protocol of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Those provisions included the proposed eligibility criteria of "permanent residents" only (whereas the protocol referred to those "residing" in the Area), and the chairmanship of the Referendum Commission by the African Union

(whereas the protocol provides that the two parties form the Referendum Commission). Subsequently, in June, President Mbeki sent letters to both Presidents asking for the names of their representatives to discuss and propose solutions. There has been no further progress on this issue.

16. A meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism was scheduled for 5 June in Juba, following the extraordinary meeting in Addis Ababa on 26 April. The meeting was postponed due to increased tensions between the parties on their respective support and the harbouring of one another's rebel groups. A new date for the meeting is yet to be finalized.

IV. Status of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism

17. The operationalization of the Joint Border Verification Monitoring Mechanism has continued according to the implementation plan approved by the co-chairs of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism on 19 December 2012 and its implementation matrix adopted on 8 March 2013 in Addis Ababa. The plots for the building of Sector headquarters in Malakal and Buram have been identified, in conjunction with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), respectively. On 30 June, the Government of the Sudan formally communicated its consent for the use of the land in Buram. Confirmation from the Government of South Sudan for the use of the land in Malakal is still pending.

18. The security situation in and around the headquarters of the Monitoring Mechanism in Kadugli deteriorated due to the outbreak of fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-North) during the reporting period. Consequently, the Mechanism suspended its operational activities, including monitoring and verification patrols out of Kadugli from 9 June to 21 July.

19. Regular exchanges of shelling and firing between the Sudanese Armed Forces and SPLM-North has been observed since that time. On 14 June, one mortar shell fired by SPLM-North hit the UNISFA logistics base in Kadugli. One Ethiopian peacekeeper was killed and two others were wounded. On 17 and 18 June, heavy shelling was observed within Kadugli town, including in the areas around the stadium, the airport and the headquarters of the Monitoring Mechanism.

20. In an effort to enhance the security and safety of mission personnel located in the area, UNISFA has constructed three security bunkers at the Kadugli base and commenced work on a fourth bunker. The bunkers have been furnished with lighting, ablution facilities, communications and supplies (food, water and medical).

21. UNMAS is also a critical enabler for the work of the Monitoring Mechanism, both facilitating access for United Nations and national observers on the ground and providing them with predeployment training. UNMAS has deployed Patrol Support Teams in Gok Machar and Kadugli in preparation for full operations of the Monitoring Mechanism. Three additional demining Patrol Support Teams will deploy to the Buram and Malakal sector headquarters once they are established.

V. Humanitarian situation

22. During the reporting period, humanitarian agencies shifted from a dry season response, focused primarily on meeting returnee needs, to a rainy season response, which concentrates more broadly on food security and the provision of shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene.

23. By the end of June, over 1,500 families in and around the Agok area and around the Abyei town area received non-food assistance, including plastic sheeting and agricultural implements, and seeds were distributed to over 5,000 families. Within the Abyei Area, the World Food Programme (WFP) continued to provide food assistance to close to 80,000 people. Following an inter-agency assessment by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP added 1,297 returnees to its food distribution list.

VI. Protection of civilians

24. UNISFA continued to implement its multifaceted conflict prevention and mitigation strategy, involving monitoring and early warning assessments and the conduct of day-and-night patrols, as well as increasing its air patrols due to the onset of the rainy season.

25. The mission continued to engage local communities, primarily through the joint security committees, to ensure the conclusion of a peaceful migration process. However, the lack of progress in the implementation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement, particularly the absence of commitment from the parties to establish the Abyei Council, Administration, the Abyei Police Service and other local governance and rule of law institutions continues to pose a significant challenge to law and order in the Abyei Area.

26. There have been no new developments with regard to the operationalization of human rights monitoring in the Abyei Area, as provided for under paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 2075 (2012).

VII. Deployment of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

27. As of 5 July 2013, the military component of UNISFA stood at 3,938 of its authorized troop strength of 5,326 authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 2104 (2013) of 29 May 2013 (a ceiling of 4,200 for the Force and 1,126 to enable the mission to fully support the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism). Preparations are under way for the deployment of the force protection unit for the Monitoring Mechanism. The unit will consist of 1,096 troops, divided into four self-sustained companies of 267 troops each and a headquarters element of 28 personnel. The remaining 30 troops will be deployed as staff officers. Members of the force protection unit are currently undergoing predeployment training in Ethiopia.

28. The United Nations and the Government of Ethiopia are working to expedite the deployment of an advance party of the force protection unit in early August, comprising three platoons and a command element (120 troops), which will enable

the Monitoring Mechanism to conduct ground verification from its headquarters in Kadugli. Concurrently, preparations are ongoing for the establishment of the initial operating capability in Kadugli and Gok Machar after the end of the rainy season, in October, with two full companies. The deployment of the remaining two companies to the sector headquarters in Buram (South Darfur, the Sudan) and Malakal (Upper Nile State, South Sudan) will depend on progress that can be made in the establishment of the sector headquarters of the Monitoring Mechanism during the rainy season.

29. The configuration of the UNISFA military component in all three sectors is based on its conflict prevention and mitigation strategy, as well as the location of the Sudan Armed Forces and Sudan People's Liberation Army outside the boundaries of the Abyei Area. The southern sector headquarters has been relocated from Agok to Athony, while the central sector headquarters has been relocated to Dokura, following the completion of construction works at those locations.

30. During the reporting period, UNISFA redeployed its troops in accordance with its rainy season concept of operations. In the northern sector, the battalion relocated its troops from Tajalei and Um Khariat to its headquarters in Diffra. In the central sector, troops from Noong and Donguoup were redeployed to their battalion headquarters in Dokura. In the southern sector, troops from Marial Achak, Arik, Leu, Colognal and Arik were relocated to Athony and Agok. The Force also increased air patrols in those areas. UNISFA team sites at Tajalei and Marial Achack, consisting of military observers, were relocated to Banton. The Um Khariat team site was relocated to Todach, and the Shegei and Alal team sites were relocated to the UNISFA Abyei headquarters.

31. There are still 11 United Nations police officers deployed to UNISFA, including one Senior Police Adviser. The police component continued to support and advise the Head of Mission and UNISFA troops on public order management, crime analysis and community security issues within the Abyei area. The police personnel deployed in Abyei town and Agok monitored security groups of citizen volunteers and tribal justice mechanisms.

VIII. Mission support

32. UNISFA continued to consolidate and expand camp facilities and services to provide hard-walled living and office accommodation in locations where its troops are deployed within the Abyei Area, including company operating bases, temporary operating bases and staff accommodation. The absence of critical infrastructure, including poor road and air connectivity and a lack of warehousing facilities continued to impede its efforts.

33. The mission continued to upgrade roads to enable access to major troop deployment sites during the rainy season, although the pace of works was affected by protracted delays in obtaining supplies of laterite. UNISFA has also worked with its new rations contractor on the construction of a rations and food supplies warehouse in Abyei.

34. In May, the mission commenced weekly flights from Abyei to the sector headquarters of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism in Gok Machar. The former temporary headquarters of the Monitoring Mechanism in

Assosa, Ethiopia, was closed and its stores and equipment redeployed to other sites operated by the Mechanism in Gok Machar, Malakal and Buram.

IX. Observations and recommendations

35. The public administration and rule of law vacuum in Abyei continues to pose a serious threat to the maintenance of security in the area. This also deters displaced communities from returning. I therefore call upon the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan to agree upon the immediate establishment of the Abyei Area Administration, the Abyei Police Service and the Abyei Legislature, in accordance with the 20 June 2011 Agreement.

36. The security situation in Abyei remains extremely fragile, as do relations between the various communities in the area. These problems are exacerbated by the widespread prevalence of arms. I strongly urge both parties to take concrete steps to expedite the disarmament of communities in Abyei in order to ensure sustainable peace and harmony in the area, in accordance with the 3 May 2013 decision of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee to turn Abyei into a weapon-free area.

37. The Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan are both responsible for the implementation of their agreement. In particular, they must prevent the entry of armed elements into the Abyei Area. I call on both Governments to fully cooperate with the African Union-led joint investigation into the 4 May incident, and to ensure that its conclusions and recommendations are fully implemented in order to avoid the reoccurrence of such incidents.

38. With respect to the implementation of the proposals of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel of 27 September 2012 for the resolution of the final status of Abyei, I call on the parties to immediately communicate to the Implementation Panel the names of their representatives for a new round of consultations.

39. The continued presence of the Sudan police in the Diffra oil complex undermines the ability of UNISFA to maintain security in the area. It is critical that the Government of the Sudan redeploy this force outside of the Abyei Area, in accordance with the 20 June 2011 Agreement.

40. It is also imperative that confidence be built between the Sudan and South Sudan. I call upon the two countries to restore their dialogue mechanisms, including the Area Joint Oversight Committee and the Joint Political and Security Mechanism, and to resume discussions under the aegis of the African Union and the African Union High-level Implementation Panel. These instruments are vital to building trust among the communities and ensuring the speedy implementation of agreements between the parties. I urge the parties to return to the table to negotiate a political settlement to all outstanding issues relating to the Abyei Area.

41. I would like to commend the work of my Special Envoy, Haile Menkerios, and the African Union High-level Implementation Panel led by President Thabo Mbeki. I also wish to express my appreciation for their sustained efforts to assist the parties in resolving their issues. In addition, I wish to thank the Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major-General Yohannes Tesfamariam, and his staff in UNISFA for their continued efforts to enhance peace and stability in the Abyei Area, despite myriad challenges, and to support both parties in the implementation of their security agreements.

Annex I

**Composition of the United Nations Interim Security Force
for Abyei military component (including the Joint Border
Verification and Monitoring Mechanism)**

<i>Country</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Benin	Contingent troop	1		1
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Experts on mission	1		2
	Contingent troop	1		
Brazil	Experts on mission	3		5
	Contingent troop	2		
Cambodia	Experts on mission	3		3
Ecuador	Contingent troop	1		1
Ethiopia	Experts on mission	68	10	3 883
	Contingent troop	3 598	207	
Ghana	Experts on mission	1		2
	Contingent troop	1		
Guatemala	Experts on mission	1		2
	Contingent troop	1		
India	Contingent troop	2		2
Indonesia	Contingent troop	1		1
Kyrgyzstan	Experts on mission	1		1
Mongolia	Experts on mission	2		2
Namibia	Experts on mission	1		4
	Contingent troop	3		
Nepal	Experts on mission	1		1
Nigeria	Contingent troop	3		3
Paraguay	Experts on mission	1		1
Peru	Experts on mission	1		2
	Contingent troop	1		
Philippines	Contingent troop	1		1
Russian Federation	Experts on mission	1		3
	Contingent troop	2		
Rwanda	Experts on mission	1		3
	Contingent troop	2		
Sierra Leone	Experts on mission	2		2
Sri Lanka	Experts on mission	1		2
	Contingent troop	1		
Ukraine	Experts on mission	4		6
	Contingent troop	2		

<i>Country</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
United Republic of Tanzania	Experts on mission	1		2
	Contingent troop	1		
Uruguay	Contingent troop	1		1
Zambia	Contingent troop	1		1
Zimbabwe	Contingent troop	1		1
Total		3 721	217	3 938
