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African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution [2429 \(2018\)](#), by which the Council extended the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) until 30 June 2019 and requested me to report, every 90 days, on its implementation. The report provides an update on and analysis of the conflict, the political situation and the operational environment in Darfur for the period from 4 October 2018 to 3 January 2019. It outlines activities undertaken in accordance with the indicators of achievement for the benchmarks for the mission's exit and highlights the main challenges to the effective implementation of the mandate. It also provides an update on the progress made by UNAMID in implementing the recommendations contained in the special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic review of UNAMID ([S/2018/530](#)).

II. Conflict analysis

2. The security situation in Darfur has remained relatively stable, except for intermittent clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW) faction in Jebel Marra that resulted in civilian displacement. No major episodes of intercommunal violence were reported. Incidents of crop destruction, which often spark local-level confrontations, were also on the decline. The reduction in the number of incidents of intercommunal violence corresponds to the overall decrease in counter-insurgency operations and associated militia mobilization, in addition to the concerted efforts of UNAMID, the United Nations country team, national and local authorities and communities to resolve disputes and pursue peaceful coexistence. Nevertheless, the root causes of intercommunal conflict remain unaddressed: this includes land disputes, which also affect internally displaced persons returning to their places of origin occupied by others. The seasonal cattle migration from North to South Darfur during the harvest season also raises potential for a spike in intercommunal violence in some parts of the region.

3. The reporting period saw some progress in the Darfur peace process. Together with the Sudan Liberation Movement/Transitional Council (SLM/TC), the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi (SLA/MM) and the Justice and Equality Movement



(JEM/Gibril), which are non-signatories of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, renewed their unilateral cessation of hostilities on 9 November, until 8 February 2019. On 6 December, SLM/MM and JEM/Gibril signed a pre-negotiation agreement with the Government, supported by UNAMID. Meanwhile, the implementation of the Doha Document itself remained slow and beset with challenges.

Fighting between the Government of the Sudan and armed groups

4. Clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces and SLA/AW continued to occur in central, western and southern Jebel Marra. On 4 October, Government forces attacked SLA/AW elements in Lango, near Golo, Central Darfur, followed by another clash on 6 October that killed one SLA/AW combatant and a Fur civilian in the same area. On 12 October, Government forces raided SLA/AW positions in the Gur Lambung-Gubbo area near Kass, South Darfur. The announcement by the Government on 20 October of its renewed commitment to a ceasefire led to a brief pause in hostilities, but the situation remained tense, as, on 5 November, the Commander of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Mohamed Hamdan, referred to a possible launch of military operations to dislodge SLA/AW.

5. Fighting resumed on 11 November, when SLA/AW forces ambushed an RSF convoy travelling from Jawa to Deribat, South Darfur, killing seven RSF personnel and injuring eight others. In retaliation, the Sudanese Armed Forces attacked Deribat market on 12 November, which resulted in the deaths of two children and one woman, as well as the displacement of civilians to the neighbouring mountains. That action provoked SLA/AW to shell a Sudanese Armed Forces base in Deribat with mortars, on 15 November, killing one Sudanese Armed Forces soldier and injuring two others. In addition, on 12 November, in the vicinity of Golo, SLA/AW allegedly abducted three members of Military Intelligence in the Manabu area, killing two of them, and the Sudanese Armed Forces and SLA/AW clashed at Kauri village on 15 November, which resulted in the death of one Sudanese Armed Forces soldier and injuries to two others, and again in Komobai and Fuju villages on 21 November, with several casualties reported on both sides. On 24 November, SLA/AW claimed that Government forces attacked the Sabun El Fagur area between Gubbo and Gur Lambung, South Darfur. According to the internally displaced persons in the area, Sabun El Fagur and nearby villages were burned by Government forces. On 25 November, Government forces attacked Daya village in the south-west of Rockero, Central Darfur, which was followed by another clash between a Sudanese Armed Forces patrol and SLA/AW elements on 16 December in the same area, resulting in the deaths of two Sudanese Armed Forces soldiers.

6. Meanwhile, SLA/AW continued to suffer from fragmentation over issues pertaining to the peace process and field command. The military pressure from the Government, coupled with the increasing shortage of supplies, appears to have had a debilitating impact on the cohesion of the movement. From 12 to 31 October, disagreements between SLA/AW groups triggered a series of incidents of infighting in Jokosti, Daya and Jebel Gheit in the vicinity of Golo and Dar al-aman near Rockero in Central Darfur. Those internal clashes resulted in the deaths of eight SLA/AW fighters, including the movement's political and legal adviser. In addition, there have been reports implicating SLA/AW in criminal activities, including robbery, looting, animal rustling and the ransacking of local clinics, indicating its desperate need for sustenance supplies.

Intercommunal conflicts

7. Although no major intercommunal clashes occurred during the reporting period, there were 2 incidents of violence, resulting in 3 fatalities, compared with 6 incidents and 18 fatalities in the previous reporting period.

8. In North Darfur, farm destructions occurred in Kunjara, Tha'alibah, Haskanita and Susuwa, all within the vicinity of Tawilah, and increased tensions were reported between farmers and pastoralists at Gallab and Kolgay. In Tawilah, throughout the months of October and November, the large presence of migrating animals belonging to the Shataya, a subclan of the Northern Rizeigat, resulted in an increase in farm destructions and criminal acts against Zaghawa farmers in the area. On 4 October, incidents of farm destruction by grazing migrating animals were also reported in the Tagali Magali mountains and the Sharafha and Umboji areas. Incidents of crop destruction occurred in Bilalah Juruf farming area in Korma and Jomar East village, surrounded by nine nomadic settlements, on 1 and 31 October and on 4 November. Local sources reported the involvement of former border guard elements in the extortion, harassment and intimidation of farmers in the area, who reportedly pressured them not to report those incidents to RSF, indicating remaining tensions between the former paramilitary groups.

9. In Central Darfur, crop destructions occurred in the Arkis farming area and Thur on 1 and 16 October, 6 and 13 November and 1 and 4 December. In West Darfur, following the destruction of several farms in Jemmeza Nabagaya village by Nawaybah herders on 9 October, the Sudanese police intervened, and compensation was paid to farmers. Those developments notwithstanding, in what seemed to be a retaliation, over 20 armed Nawaybah herders attacked the farmers on 25 October, injuring eight, including three women. The police arrested one perpetrator following the incident.

10. In South Darfur, a Massalit farmer in the Donkey Abiad area was killed on his farm by a member of the Fallata tribe on 6 October, which led to an escalation of tensions between the two communities with a history of conflict. On 15 October, a Fallata group attacked a commercial vehicle, killing two members of Massalit community, fuelling further tensions and threatening to derail the implementation of a peace agreement that both tribes signed in July 2018.

Violence against civilians and human rights violations

11. Both the number of crime-related incidents and the number of human rights violations declined during the reporting period. Internally displaced persons were affected by 48 crime-related incidents, which led to three fatalities, and other civilians were affected by 111 crime-related incidents, resulting in 14 fatalities. In comparison, during the previous reporting period, internally displaced persons and other civilians were affected by 181 and 376 crime-related incidents, respectively, leading to the deaths of 34 internally displaced persons and 91 other civilians. The incidents reported in the past three months included murder (10 cases), armed robbery (14 cases), attempted robbery (1 case), assault/harassment (35 cases), burglary/break-in (15 cases), looting (2 cases), abduction (1 case), arson (1 case), shooting (20 cases), attack/ambush (3 cases), threat (2 cases), others (1 case) and livestock theft (6 cases).

12. The areas most affected by violence were around Golo, Nertiti and Thur in Central Darfur, Kass in South Darfur, and Sortony in North Darfur, all located in the greater Jebel Marra. The Fur community are the main victims of crimes against internally displaced persons and other civilians. SLA/AW elements were also involved in five criminal cases: rustling camels from herders in Komombai, South Darfur, on 4 October; assaulting local Fur farmers and stealing their farm produce in Kurambe, North Darfur, on 18 October; robbing a commercial vehicle of passenger belongings in an area south of Thur on 18 October; and rustling camels in Maylo and ransacking local clinics in Tarib and Kauri villages, all in the vicinity of Golo, on 2 November.

13. While the Sudanese police assumed responsibility for the security of internally displaced persons camps in Salam, Dereige and Otash in South Darfur, following the closure of UNAMID community policing centres in those camps, security in some camps remained a matter of concern, in particular in Kalma, where violent confrontations continue over return issues, with the involvement of SLA/AW elements.

14. There were 75 new cases of human rights violations and abuses involving 140 victims, including 32 children, compared with 90 cases involving 173 victims, including 21 minors, during the previous reporting period. Violations of the right to life accounted for 7 cases involving 10 victims. Violations of the right to physical integrity (assault) accounted for 25 cases involving 62 victims. Arbitrary arrests and illegal detention accounted for 8 cases involving 30 victims. Abductions accounted for four cases involving five victims. UNAMID confirmed the occurrence of 46 cases of human rights violations and abuses involving 78 victims, while the remaining 29 cases involving 62 victims are yet to be verified owing to various challenges including access restrictions. Of the 75 documented cases, 21 cases involving 55 victims were reportedly perpetrated by the Sudanese Armed Forces, Military Intelligence, the National Intelligence Security Services and RSF. Seven cases involving seven victims were reportedly perpetrated by civilians, while 45 cases accounting for 73 victims were allegedly perpetrated by armed men. Two cases involving five victims were attributed to the SLA/AW rebel movement. A total of 20 suspects were arrested in 43 reported cases.

15. The threat of sexual violence remained significant, restricting women's freedom of movement to undertake livelihood activities around camps for the displaced and in areas of return, including during flight for those displaced because of the conflict in Jebel Marra. During the reporting period, there were 31 incidents of sexual and gender-based violence. Those incidents included conflict-related sexual violence in the form of rape involving 34 female victims, including 19 minors. Conflict-related sexual violence was committed mostly in Jebel Marra, notably in the context of confrontations between Government forces and SLA/AW.

III. Political situation

16. Against the backdrop of economic downturn and ongoing efforts by the Government to reduce public expenditure, the Walis of North, West and Central Darfur appointed their new cabinets on 18, 23 and 24 October, respectively, each composed of five ministers and one chair of the High Council of Peace, a reduction from eight ministers in the previous formations. The ruling National Congress Party held 50 per cent representation in the new cabinets, while other political parties and Doha Document for Peace in Darfur signatories, including the Liberation and Justice Party, the Justice and Equality Movement/Dabajo, the National Liberation and Justice Party and the Democratic Unionist Party were also represented in the new state governments. The Chairman of the High Council of Peace positions were occupied by representatives of armed movements that signed bilateral peace agreements with the Government and acceded to the national dialogue document.

17. On 8 October, the Council of Ministers submitted the draft electoral law to the parliament (consisting of the directly elected National Assembly and the Council of States, indirectly elected by state legislature) for further deliberations. While the National Congress Party and its affiliates welcomed the draft in anticipation of the elections in 2020, many opposition political parties rejected the amendments, arguing that the process was not inclusive and that provisions did not allow for free and fair elections. A total of 34 political parties that had participated in the national dialogue

also expressed reservations about the draft electoral law and submitted a memo to the Speaker of the parliament detailing their objections to the draft law. However, on 21 November, the parliament approved by majority the bill on the new electoral law, despite the withdrawal of the 34 political parties and movements from the proceedings. Key features of the new electoral law include, inter alia, the appointment of the nine-member national electoral commission by the President with the endorsement of the National Assembly; the election of the President, the National Assembly, the state legislative councils and Walis directly by the people; and the reduction of the number of National Assembly members from 426 to 300.

18. On 4 December, a total of 294 members of the parliament, belonging to 33 political parties, introduced a bill requesting amendments of the constitution to allow President Bashir to run for a third term and to allow the President to dismiss a Wali for a number of reasons, including disloyalty and disobedience to the President. On 11 December, the bill was tabled before the National Assembly and Council of States. The parliament formed an emergency committee headed by the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly to examine the proposed changes.

19. On 19 December, the leader of the National Umma Party and Chair of the Sudan Call coalition, Sadiq Al-Mahdi, returned to Khartoum from his self-imposed exile since 2017 in Cairo and, later, in London. His return coincided with the anniversary of the declaration of independence of the Sudan in 1955, which he claimed was in response to popular demand for political transformation in the country.

20. On the same day, protests over the rising price of bread and other food commodities took place in various states throughout the Sudan, including Khartoum, River Nile, Red Sea, North Darfur, White Nile, Northern Kordofan, Al-Gedaref and Port Sudan. In Atbara town, River Nile State, a National Congress Party office was burned down, while protesters attacked, vandalized and burned police stations and public and private institutions in other areas. As protesters also called on President Bashir to step down, the Government declared a state of emergency and ordered the indefinite closure of schools and colleges in the Sudan. Nevertheless, the protests continued, on 31 December, including in Khartoum, where the police reportedly resorted to the use of tear gas and live ammunition to disperse the protesters. In South Darfur, on 23 December, the security forces also used tear gas to confront approximately 300 students demonstrating in Kass. In West Darfur, the state security services have been deployed to guard strategic locations, in particular banks, fuel stations and government offices. In East Darfur, the National Intelligence and Security Services arrested a total of 11 youth activists between 22 and 25 December, subsequently releasing 4 of them. On 1 January, a group of 22 political parties and opposition groups that had participated in the national dialogue process called for President Bashir to step down and transfer power to a transitional government. The protests continued in the first week of January, including in Khartoum and Omdurman. On 10 January, the Sudanese authorities announced that 22 people had been killed by that date in a series of demonstrations.

IV. Humanitarian situation

21. Security improvements had a positive impact on the humanitarian situation overall, although the clashes in the Jebel Marra area resulted in additional displacement and the suspension of humanitarian missions to several villages in north, central and west Jebel Marra.

22. Since the beginning of 2018, approximately 16,000 people have been displaced into camps and settlements in various localities in the greater Jebel Marra area. Of those, 6,170 people arrived in Otash, 320 people in Bel el Sereif, approximately

4,000 people in Mershing and some 1,700 people in Kass camp and other settlements in South Darfur. In Central Darfur, 1,890 people were displaced to Golo and Koron, while 343 displaced people arrived in Thur and 295 people fled to Nertiti, and another 1,330 internally displaced persons arrived in Rockero. Humanitarian partners conducted an inter-agency assessment in Nertiti and Thur on 15 and 16 October and identified food, medicine and rehabilitation of water supply facilities as key priorities. Internally displaced persons expressed concerns over harassment by armed groups and looting of their belongings and requested protection.

23. Given the relative stability in most parts of Darfur, some people were reportedly returning to their places of origin. A verification mission in October to Tawilah, North Darfur, found 20,000 people who had returned to Tabrat, Martal, Khazan, Tunjour and Dobo al-Omda villages. The returnees identified the need for provision of basic services in the area as a priority.

24. On 5 November, the Wali of North Darfur announced the Government's plan to convert the camps for internally displaced persons in Zamzam (hosting 120,864 persons), Abu Shouk (44,531 persons) and Salam (35,552 persons) into permanent urban settlements for displaced families. According to the plan, each family opting to settle in those areas would receive a 300 m² plot of land, and the Government and local authorities promised to provide basic services in settlement areas and address land issues. It was indicated that Abu Shouk, Salam and Zamzam camps would be renamed Doha, Al Shatti and Zamzam towns respectively.

25. Above-average rainfall between June and September allowed for crop development and pasture regeneration, contributing to the improvement of food security throughout Darfur. However, the dire economic situation and government austerity measures limited the availability of basic items, such as bread, to the most vulnerable populations. Additionally, limited availability of cash in banks and inability to transfer cash affected humanitarian operations in all parts of Darfur and forced humanitarian partners to postpone activities such as the construction and rehabilitation of water points and livelihood programmes.

26. In October, humanitarian partners supported a campaign against malaria in Nyala, Kass, Buram, Edd al-Fursan, Rehad and Birdi localities in South Darfur and in El-Fasher, Mellit, Dar al-Salam, Tawilah and Sereif localities in North Darfur. Vaccination campaigns were carried out for pentavalent, measles and tetanus toxoid in Buram, Radom and Bileil in South Darfur and for measles in North and West Darfur. Some 4,500 cartons of nutrition supplies were delivered to nutrition centres in central Jebel Marra. In Otash camp for internally displaced persons in South Darfur, humanitarian partners distributed mosquito nets for children, lactating mothers and pregnant women among newly displaced persons and supported the construction of 150 household latrines. In Golo, Central Darfur, partners distributed 87 cartons of nutrition supplies to children under five and pregnant and lactating women; emergency shelter and non-food items to 1,700 households; and agricultural tools to 3,886 households.

V. Operating environment

Attacks and threats of attacks targeting African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, United Nations and humanitarian personnel

27. United Nations and humanitarian agencies continued to be a target of criminal attacks throughout Darfur, although the frequency of such attacks decreased by 50 per cent during the reporting period. A total of 28 criminal incidents targeting United Nations and humanitarian personnel were reported, compared with 57 in the previous

reporting period, including intrusion into United Nations premises, break-ins, shootings, robbery and theft/attempted theft of United Nations property. On 14 October, unidentified perpetrators broke into the UNAMID camp in Nyala, South Darfur, and stole three computer monitors. On 22 October, unidentified armed men fired gunshots near the main gate of the UNAMID team site in Nertiti, Central Darfur, and fled when UNAMID military personnel returned fire. On 25 October, unidentified perpetrators broke into UNAMID camp in Ed Daein, East Darfur, although nothing was stolen during that incident. On 29 October, criminals broke into a World Food Programme warehouse in Ed Daein town and stole non-food items. On 2 November, two UNAMID peacekeepers apprehended two men who were cutting the perimeter fence of a UNAMID waterpoint at Graida, South Darfur. On 12 and 13 November, 25 desktop computers, 1 printer, 10 air conditioners and 1 refrigerator were stolen from the UNAMID camp in El Geneina, West Darfur. Twelve other incidents of theft/attempted theft of United Nations property by unidentified perpetrators at the UNAMID premises were recorded in El Fasher, Nyala, El Geneina, Zalingei, Umm Barru, Nertiti, Kass and Graida. On 17 and 21 October, perpetrators broke into the residences of two UNAMID national staff in Ed Daein town and stole personal belongings.

28. During the reporting period, three cases of arbitrary detentions of UNAMID national staff in Darfur were recorded. On 8 October, at Menawashei market, South Darfur, the police detained a UNAMID national staff member, who was released on 9 October. Similarly, on 1 November, two UNAMID national staff members were detained in Labado, East Darfur, and released on 4 November. Another national staff member was detained by the National Intelligence and Security Services in El Geneina, West Darfur, on 22 December, and remained in detention without charge at the time of the present report.

Access restrictions

29. While UNAMID has cultivated constructive cooperation with the Government on issues related to mandate implementation, its patrols attempting to verify incidents of conflict or protection concerns were denied access in 7 instances by government security services, compared with 18 in the previous reporting period, all on account of the security and safety of peacekeepers or poor road conditions. Most of the restrictions occurred in the greater Jebel Marra, namely, the areas of Nertiti, Thur, Sarong, Golol in Central Darfur and Gur Lambung, Koro, Gubbo and Kass in South Darfur.

Visas and customs clearance issues

30. The Government granted 496 visas, including 10 for military personnel, 147 for police personnel, 65 for official visitors, 62 for contractors, 8 for civilian staff and 7 for dependents. A total of 63 visa requests were still being processed, while 185 visa requests were pending beyond the normal approval period of 15 days, some since April 2017. The Government continued to release food ration containers from Port Sudan. While progress was recorded in clearing other shipments, 44 shipments consisting of 39 containers and 16,959 pallets/packets were still in process.

VI. Progress towards the achievement of African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur strategic priorities and exit benchmarks and indicators

Support for the Darfur peace process and the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur

31. There has been some progress in achieving a pre-negotiation framework to arrive at the signing of a cessation of hostilities agreement and the resumption of political negotiations between the Government and non-signatories of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. In the aftermath of the rejection by Sudan Call in September of the proposal by the Chair of the African Union High-level Implementation panel and chief mediator, Thabo Mbeki, to amend the 2016 Roadmap Agreement for Ending the Conflicts in Sudan signed with the Government, the Berghof Foundation held a meeting with Sudan Call in Berlin on 7 and 8 November, at which Sudan Call discussed its participation in the national dialogue process and issues pertaining to Darfur. More efforts continued, as the Special Envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Counter-terrorism and Mediation in Conflict Resolution of Qatar, Mutlaq al-Qahtani, held a consultative meeting in Doha with a joint delegation of JEM/Gibril and SLA/MM to discuss the resumption of the Darfur political process on 12 November. Qatar also held similar consultations with the Government of the Sudan on 21 November.

32. On 22 and 23 November, the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative held a meeting with the Darfur holdout movements in Addis Ababa to consider ways of expediting the finalization of the pre-negotiation process. The meeting was attended by the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Smaïl Chergui, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat. The non-signatory movements expressed their readiness to enter negotiations with the Government of the Sudan on substantive issues and initialled the draft pre-negotiation document.

33. On 6 December, in Berlin, the Government of the Sudan, JEM/Gibril and SLM/A MM signed the pre-negotiation agreement to resume the peace talks in Doha. The parties agreed that the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur would serve as the basis for the negotiations and that a new and independent implementation mechanism would be established to implement a future agreement. The agreement further stipulated that negotiations on substantive issues would be preceded by a cessation of hostilities agreement, in accordance with the African Union High-level Implementation Panel-led Roadmap Agreement and that UNAMID, Qatar and the High-level Implementation Panel would work together to mediate further negotiations.

34. The implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur continued at a slow pace, owing mainly to funding constraints. The Voluntary Return and Resettlement Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), organized a workshop in Khartoum on 11 and 12 November to strengthen coordination for sustainable voluntary returns and reintegration in Darfur.

35. On 9 December, the Implementation Follow-up Commission of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur held its 14th meeting in Khartoum. While acknowledging that there has been progress with respect to provisions regarding power-sharing, final security arrangements and the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation, the Commission underscored the urgent need to reinvigorate the implementation of the residual issues of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, in particular those related to the return of internally displaced persons and the

reintegration of former combatants. In addition, the meeting recognized that development remained the most crucial aspect for sustained peace and stability in Darfur and appealed to the international community to honour its pledges and support the much-needed stabilization and development of the region.

36. The Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation Implementation Committee, in collaboration with UNAMID, UNDP, Qatar, the European Union and peace studies centres in the five states of Darfur, organized a two-day conference on 16 and 17 December in Nyala, South Darfur, for internally displaced persons to develop recommendations for durable peace in Darfur. The participants presented nine proposals to the Vice-President of the Sudan involving their safe return, the resolution of land occupation and land ownership, the provision of basic services, compensation, security and socioeconomic opportunities.

Protection of civilians

37. UNAMID integrated field protection teams carried out a total of 153 visits throughout North, West and Central Darfur. In North Darfur, the main protection issues were related to the presence of armed nomads and fears of possible crop destruction by livestock. Similar protection issues were identified in West Darfur which included land disputes that were eventually resolved through local conflict resolution mechanisms. In Central Darfur, the teams found sexual gender-based violence, allegedly committed by Government forces, in particular in Nertiti, Thur and Golo, to be major protection concerns.

38. UNAMID uniformed personnel provided 189 round-trip escorts for humanitarian partners delivering and monitoring assistance and conducting inter-agency verification assessments and other operational activities. UNAMID also continued daily escorts for water-trucking from Kube to the gathering site for internally displaced persons in Sortony, North Darfur, and regular armed escorts for humanitarian supplies between Sortony and Kabkabiyah. UNAMID also provided security for the warehouses and assets of humanitarian agencies. The World Food Programme, under UNAMID escort, distributed 42 metric tonnes of food and 69 tonnes of non-food items to people in need, including internally displaced persons, throughout Darfur.

39. The military component of UNAMID conducted a total of 9,231 patrols, of which 2,667 were for the protection of civilians, including 1,905 visits to villages and 860 visits to internally displaced persons camps. Protection of UNAMID personnel and equipment patrols totalled 6,321. UNAMID police personnel also conducted 1,481 patrols, including 450 confidence-building patrols to internally displaced persons camps, 177 firewood and grass collection escorts, 114 market escorts, 463 patrols to villages, 222 patrols to towns, 34 patrols to areas of return and 21 patrols along migration routes, with a particular focus on women and children engaged in livelihood activities outside of their camps. Formed police units also provided 41 humanitarian escorts to the camps for internally displaced persons in Kalma, Dereige, Bileil and Otash, South Darfur.

40. UNAMID also undertook 17 security coordination meetings with the Sudanese police, civil society organizations, internally displaced persons and community leaders to support the implementation of community policing initiatives and enhanced safety and security in the internally displaced persons camps. In addition, UNAMID continued to support the Sudanese police in the implementation of the standard operating procedures, including through 13 training activities and joint assessments carried out on police capacities and needs in October and November 2018. UNAMID also assisted in the construction of three police stations in East Darfur and a handover of 39 vehicles, 123 containers, office equipment and furniture.

41. In accordance with its human rights mandate, UNAMID undertook 48 human rights monitoring visits to the camps for internally displaced persons, 27 field missions, 15 visits to places of detention, including trial observations in five cases, as well as 59 follow-up exercises on previously reported cases. UNAMID also participated in 93 external advocacy meetings with Government authorities, local communities and civil society partners, 14 workshops on conflict-related sexual violence for women drawn from state institutions, women's and children's networks and civil society groups, 14 human rights promotional and outreach activities in local communities and two workshops for correction officers at the state prisons. However, the ability of UNAMID to independently monitor and verify reported violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law remained a challenge, owing to lack of access to Jebel Marra, in particular in Feina and Sabun el Fagur localities in Central Darfur. Victims and witnesses interviewed reported serious human rights concerns involving the Sudanese Armed Forces, Military Intelligence, the National Intelligence and Security Services and RSF, including alleged indiscriminate killings, sexual violence in the form of rape, arbitrary arrests and illegal detention. Notwithstanding sustained and positive engagement between state authorities and UNAMID, corroborating reports on human rights incidents in Central Darfur continued to be a challenge, owing in part to lack of willingness by law enforcement and judicial authorities to share information with UNAMID.

42. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 39/22 of 28 September 2018 on the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in the Sudan and regarding the establishment of a country office for human rights protection and promotion, a delegation from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights visited the country from 2 to 6 December and held consultations with various stakeholders, with a view to developing common ground for the establishment of the country office before the departure of UNAMID. In another positive development, on 10 December 2018, a new framework of cooperation was signed between UNAMID and the National Human Rights Commission, paving the way for increased cooperation and joint engagement.

43. UNAMID continued to support the Government's efforts to strengthen rule of law and criminal justice institutions in Darfur, including through support for capacity-building and infrastructure rehabilitation. During the reporting period, UNAMID, in collaboration with the Sudan Public Prosecution Office, trained 25 prosecutors to enhance their capacity to investigate serious criminal offences, including gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence. UNAMID also trained, in collaboration with the Sudan Judiciary, 50 rural court judges in Zalingei and El Geneina to enhance their capacity to mediate intercommunal conflict. In addition, UNAMID, together with the General Directorate of Prisons and Reform and El Fasher University, trained 40 prison officers and conducted in-service training workshops for 298 prison officers on human rights approaches to sustainable prison management and the application of standard operating procedures. UNAMID supported the construction of a rural court in Nertiti, Central Darfur, and completed the construction of a women's dormitory in Kutum prison in North Darfur. Furthermore, UNAMID and UNDP handed over to the Government a rural court in Masteri, West Darfur, where internally displaced persons had been returning.

44. In 2018, UNAMID conducted specialized/technical training in investigations and prosecution, dispute mediation, prison management and trial monitoring for 1,031 individuals, including rural court judges, prosecutors and judges of the Special Court for Darfur, prison officers and members of civil society. The training resulted in enhanced performance of the participants in their various areas of intervention. There has been an increase in the number of disputes, including intercommunal conflicts mediated and resolved by the rural court judges, and civil society participants are

better empowered to monitor criminal trials to see whether the fair trial guarantees are being followed during the trial proceedings.

45. UNAMID also supported the construction of prosecution offices in Mornei, West Darfur, Kutum in North Darfur, rural courts in Shataya in South Darfur and in Abu Matariq in East Darfur and Nertiti in Central Darfur and infrastructure upgrades of five prisons in Darfur, including Shalla male and female prisons and Kutum prison in North Darfur, Ed Daein prison in East Darfur and Zalingei prison in Central Darfur, as part of the efforts to improve access to justice. It increased the number of offenders being prosecuted, including armed men in uniform, by the prosecutors.

46. Explosive ordnance remained a threat, with one incident resulting in the injury of two boys during the reporting period. UNAMID carried out surveys, clearance and disposal tasks in 29 villages, in addition to clearing 11 hazardous areas and destroying 3,032 explosive remnants of war and 234,018 small arms ammunitions throughout Darfur, except for the Jebel Marra area, owing to access issues. Following UNAMID clearance operations, four localities, namely, Kulbus in West Darfur, El Fasher in North Darfur, Gorne in Central Darfur and Dimsu in South Darfur were confirmed by the National Mine Action Centre as free of known explosive remnants of war. UNAMID also organized risk awareness initiatives to 9,571 individuals vulnerable to explosive remnants of war, including 951 men, 1,201 women, 4,477 boys and 2,942 girls. Risk education and survey activities were carried out in Aljabel village, South Darfur, Um Barru, North Darfur, and Zalingei, Central Darfur, in anticipation of the return of internally displaced persons.

47. Pursuant to Security Council resolution [1612 \(2005\)](#), UNAMID conducted 16 field missions to South, Central, North and West Darfur to gather information on grave violations against children and verified 11 incidents attributable to unidentified armed men affecting 20 children. Of those, four were incidents of rape affecting six girls; one involved the maiming of five boys; one the killing of three boys by unexploded ordinance; one the maiming by gunshot of one girl and one boy, in which another boy was abducted; while in another three boys were assaulted and injured. UNAMID provided training to 339 peacekeeping personnel, comprising 44 females and 295 males, on child rights and child protection and continued to roll out the mission campaign entitled “Protect children/support efforts of UNAMID: no sexual relations with minors”, aimed at maintaining zero cases of sexual exploitation against minors by mission personnel. UNAMID also trained 208 host communities, comprising community policing volunteers and community leadership, to promote local ownership and create awareness on the protection of children.

48. UNAMID continued to prioritize the protection of women and girls through patrols, the expansion of women’s protection networks, as well as regular visits to villages and camps for internally displaced persons. The joint patrols by UNAMID and the community policing volunteers to internally displaced person camps and adjacent local communities significantly reduced the incidence of criminality in Darfur. It also led to confidence-building between the police and the local communities and assisted in gathering and verifying information for early warning system. However, protection of women in Jebel Marra has continued to be a major challenge, and during visits by the women’s protection network, reports were recorded of sexual and gender-based violence and robbery and physical assault of women and girls, perpetrated mostly by uniformed personnel around internally displaced persons camps in Golo, Nertiti, Thur, Rockero and other areas. On the basis of those visits, UNAMID and the United Nations country team continued to engage with national authorities and other stakeholders on the implementation of the national action plan against sexual violence through capacity-building, promotional and awareness-raising activities. Discussions continue between the Government of the Sudan and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in

Conflict regarding a possible framework of cooperation between the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations on prevention of and response to sexual violence in conflict.

49. During the reporting period, the Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, with support from UNAMID, demobilized 1,109 ex-combatants in Nyala, South Darfur. As part of the sharing of best practices, UNAMID facilitated a study tour to the Republic of Rwanda for eight senior officials of the Commission from 1 to 6 October, which included a series of field visits to demobilization camps and reintegration sites and discussions regarding modalities of financial support and service delivery to promote reintegration. The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration commissions of both Rwanda and the Sudan agreed to undertake joint programmes to replicate the former's best practices in the Sudan.

Mediation of intercommunal conflict

50. UNAMID continued to support the mediation of intercommunal conflict, as well as dialogues between farmers and pastoralists, focusing on early warning, preventive measures, capacity-building and efforts to address the root causes of conflicts, in collaboration with Sudanese authorities and institutions, the United Nations country team, native administration and community members, including women and youth. Women's participation in those efforts enhanced analysis of early warning signs and the identification of potential hotspots, on the basis of threats that they encountered during livelihood activities. UNAMID held 29 meetings in Central, North, South and West Darfur with native administrations, local authorities and community leaders, peaceful coexistence and agricultural protection committees and farmers and nomadic herders to curb the recurrent crop destructions and prevent violence between farmers and nomadic herders. Those regular meetings with various stakeholders contributed to the prevention of incidents relating to crop destruction from escalating into violent clashes, as reflected in the reduction in intercommunal incidents during the reporting period.

51. In addition, UNAMID, together with the Ministry of Production and Economic Resources, native administrations and local authorities, conducted 16 dialogue forums for farmers and herders on seasonal migration issues in East and Central Darfur, attended by 1,166 participants, including 394 women. They identified issues pertaining to farming in migration routes, the absence of demarcation for migration routes and the lack of social services along those routes, unilateral land occupation and unresolved land issues as underlying conflict factors. In response to those inputs, the local authorities have begun prioritizing the demarcation of migratory routes and the provision of security and basic services along those corridors, with the assistance of UNAMID and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

VII. Implementation of the reconfiguration of the mission

Uniformed personnel drawdown

52. In accordance with the plan and timetable to reduce the military strength of UNAMID from 8,735 to 5,470 by 31 December 2018, the repatriation of 190 Egyptian troops, 800 Ethiopian troops, 475 Indonesian troops, 310 Bangladeshi troops, 74 Pakistani troops, 25 Kenyan military police, 150 Tanzanian troops and 499 Rwandan troops has been completed. Five team sites have been closed and three others have been handed over to the mission's formed police units. The redeployment of the formed police units also continued to the team sites in areas from which the military personnel have withdrawn, as follows: the Egyptian units to Shangil Tobaya; Burkina Faso units to Khor Abeche; Nepalese units to Tawilah, Jordanian units to

Saraf Omra, and Senegalese and Djibouti units to Kutum. The number of individual police officers has also been reduced from 800 to 760. In the areas from which the military component of UNAMID has withdrawn, internally displaced persons have raised concerns regarding the decrease in security and livelihood escorts. UNAMID intends to scale up its rule of law and livelihood-related services to address those issues.

53. UNAMID continued to strengthen its internal processes to ensure that support for non-United Nations forces complies with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces. During the reporting period, UNAMID received 194 requests for the gifting of materials and the provision of support to non-United Nations entities and granted approval to 18 such requests, while one was rejected on the grounds of a substantial risk of possible violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Administrative processes relating to the closure and handover of 13 UNAMID team sites and community policing centres to the Government of the Sudan were deemed to have been in compliance with the human rights due diligence policy, on the basis of available information, risk assessments and letters of undertaking from relevant local officials to the effect that there were no grounds to believe that the recipients might commit human rights violations. UNAMID and the United Nations country team are scheduled to begin monitoring and verification visits to the vacated team sites in January 2019.

Implementation of the transition concept

54. As the Office of the Joint Special Representative has relocated to Khartoum and other senior leadership, including the Deputy Joint Special Representative, Force Commander and Police Commissioner, together with their respective headquarters and heads of substantive sections have moved to Zalingei, UNAMID concentrated on the development and implementation of the transition concept to begin mandated activities with the United Nations country team outside the greater Jebel Marra area. The transition concept outlines the modalities of state liaison functions, including a common approach regarding legal, administrative and financial procedures to carry out four transition priorities, namely, rule of law (police, justice and corrections), durable solutions for the displaced populations and host communities, immediate service delivery for internally displaced persons and human rights promotion and capacity-building. On 17 December, UNAMID and the United Nations country team held an inaugural meeting of the mission programmatic activities approval committee to grant approximately \$14 million for projects to be implemented by 10 United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. In addition, the Peacebuilding Fund supported a joint initiative by UNDP and UNICEF to strengthen rule of law institutions and support youth participation in peacebuilding activities, while promoting durable solutions for internally displaced persons and returnees in Golo, Jebel Marra.

55. Resource mobilization remains a challenge for the successful implementation of the transition concept. It is important that, for the 2019/2020 fiscal year, substantial funds are secured to implement activities through state liaison functions in the four priority areas and facilitate the transition to the Government and the United Nations country team before the mission's exit.

VIII. Observations

56. For more than a decade, the United Nations and its partners have pursued a sustainable peace in Darfur. Joint African Union-United Nations peacekeepers have

striven to protect the people of Darfur, and the two organizations facilitated peace talks, together with other key bilateral and regional interlocutors, such as Qatar. Humanitarian agencies continue to provide life-saving support. Darfur today has never been more stable since the establishment of UNAMID, and the first hybrid mission has begun preparations for its eventual exit.

57. Yet the fundamental issues that gave rise to the armed conflict in Darfur are not fully resolved. While I welcome the pre-negotiation agreement between the Government and some of the non-signatories of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur to resume talks, the peace process cannot be put to rest until they agree to end the pursuit of military solutions and resolve remaining grievances on substantive issues. A peace agreement, signed by all parties to the conflict in Darfur, will serve as a shared vision and testament to bring forth a durable peace and a path to recovery and reconciliation. I reiterate my calls to the Government of the Sudan and all the non-signatories of the Doha Document to intensify their efforts towards the commencement of political negotiations, on the basis of the Document, as soon as possible.

58. In this regard, I am deeply concerned by continued reports of skirmishes between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid faction in Jebel Marra that continue to cause civilian casualty and displacement. I urge both parties to cease hostilities immediately, recognizing that the conflict cannot be eradicated through the use of force, and that continued fighting would only exhaust communities that have already suffered from destruction and displacement. I reiterate my call to Abdul Wahid al-Nur to join the peace process without conditions, which is the only way out of the current predicament. I also call upon the Government, notwithstanding its improved cooperation with UNAMID, to ensure that peacekeepers and humanitarian actors are allowed access to people in need throughout Darfur, in particular in the Jebel Marra area.

59. I am also troubled by continued human rights violations, in particular sexual- and gender-based violence in the form of rape, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrest and detentions, including those reportedly perpetrated by government security personnel targeting vulnerable populations, such as women, children and internally displaced persons. I seek the cooperation of the Government to rein in those elements, in particular within the armed forces serving in Darfur, responsible for such actions and bring them to measures of justice and accountability.

60. A significant reduction in the intensity of intercommunal violence, coinciding with the decline in counterinsurgency operations, underscores not only contributions made by local authorities, UNAMID, the United Nations country team and other partners to facilitate grass-roots mediation and reconciliation, but also resource dimensions of armed conflict and their implications at the community level. Continued clashes over access to land, water sources, migratory routes and other scarce resources need to be resolved through local and national governance reforms, including the security elements thereof, to cement the level of stability achieved to date. UNAMID, in coordination with the United Nations country team, has supported community stabilization initiatives to provide sustainable solutions to those drivers of conflict, including efforts to mitigate crop destruction with a view to easing tensions relating to seasonal migration and to establish or rehabilitate water resources, local police stations and rural courts.

61. In this connection, the ongoing unrest associated with economic difficulty in the Sudan is a cause for concern. I reiterate my appeals for calm and restraint, in addition to a thorough investigation into violence that has unfolded in response to popular demonstrations, including in Darfur. Testing periods require constructive efforts to

find solutions together, while safeguarding freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

62. Meanwhile, the reconfiguration of UNAMID is proceeding as scheduled, with the relocation of mission assets to Zalingei, Central Darfur, and the repatriation of military personnel and the redeployment of the formed police units. UNAMID and the United Nations country team have also made progress in their collaborative efforts to establish transitional working arrangements and ensure that the United Nations system works as one. A successful transition that entails the development of sufficient capacities for the rule of law and respect for human rights is critical not only for stability in Darfur, but nationally and beyond its borders with neighbouring countries, such as Chad and Libya. The slow implementation of the outstanding provisions of the Doha Document is an alarming trend in that context. I urge members of the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and other donors to assist in the mobilization of financial and technical resources for the reconstruction and development in Darfur, as part of their commitment to sustain peace under the Action for Peacekeeping initiative.

63. A successful transition will also require a strong partnership between the Sudanese authorities, the African Union and the United Nations system. Transitions in other peacekeeping contexts have demonstrated that national and local ownership in peacebuilding, coupled with the sustained engagement of the United Nations, are the prerequisite for long-term stability and the prevention of conflict relapse or the emergence of new risks and threats. It is time to recommit the whole United Nations system, the Government of the Sudan, the African Union and other key partners to the next stage of peace and development in Darfur. I also call upon the international community to assist the transition, including by ensuring that the United Nations country team has sufficient resources for its critical work during that period and after the mission's exit, to consolidate peace and prevent relapse into conflict.

64. In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative, Mr. Mamabolo, the mission leadership and all the personnel of UNAMID, the United Nations country team and humanitarian partners who continue to work collaboratively on transition towards the exit of the mission from Darfur. I also wish to commend former Presidents Thabo Mbeki and Abdulsalami Abubakar and Ramtane Lamamra of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for their steadfast commitment to sustainable peace and stability in the Sudan.

