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Situation in South Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution [2729 \(2024\)](#), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to 30 April 2025. The report covers political and security developments, the humanitarian and human rights situation and progress towards the implementation of the Mission's mandate between 16 February and 15 July 2024.

II. Political and economic developments

2. With five months remaining before elections in December 2024, limited progress has been made on implementing key benchmarks for elections as set out in the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan. Some steps have been taken towards the operationalization of the technical electoral bodies and the implementation of transitional security arrangements.

3. In February and March, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), its aligned groups and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO) expressed opposing positions on holding elections in December 2024, with the latter maintaining that the country is not ready. In March, the High-Level Standing Committee, a senior ministerial level body that guided the previous extension of the implementation of the peace agreement, began a review of the road map and finalized its status of implementation report in early July. The meeting of the Presidency to consider the report and recommendations on the way forward, including the type and timelines of elections, has yet to take place. In March and April, respectively, the visiting Chairperson of the African Union High-level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan, President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, and the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Workneh Gebeyehu, encouraged the parties to dialogue and implement outstanding tasks.

4. In May, the political focus shifted to the High-Level Mediation for South Sudan, known as the Tumaini initiative. Launched in Nairobi on 9 May under the auspices of the Government of Kenya, the Tumaini initiative is a continuation of efforts in Rome under the Community of Sant'Egidio to facilitate talks between the transitional Government and non-signatory groups. However, with the participation of actors



beyond the South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance (SSOMA), including the Chairperson of the South Sudan People's Movement/Army, Stephen Buay Rolnyang, a splinter faction of the National Salvation Front (NAS) called the Revolutionary Command Council and civil society representatives, it is a more inclusive process than the one held in Rome. Notably absent from the talks are Thomas Cirillo of NAS and Simon Gatwech of Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Army in Opposition Kit-Gwang. On 6 June, UNMISS was granted observer status.

5. The government delegation, the opposition and the stakeholders have now agreed on the main themes, which will become the subject of protocols, and what the product of their negotiation will be: the "Tumaini consensus". The government delegation returned to Juba on 20 June and 2 July to update principals. On 15 July, participants at the Tumaini initiative signed off consensus protocols and continued to work on matters of divergence.

6. Limited progress was reported on operationalizing key electoral and political institutions. In April, the National Elections Commission and the Political Parties Council received, respectively, partial funding of approximately 22 billion South Sudan pounds (SSP) out of the approximately SSP 253,594,678,735 requested and SSP 7.6 billion out of SSP 40 billion requested. In June, the National Constitutional Review Commission received approximately SSP 1.2 billion of its requested SSP 43,794,227,620.

7. The National Elections Commission announced on 13 June the postponement of voter registration from June to July. On 19 June, the Commission announced the formation of state high elections committees in all 10 states. This followed the Commission's visits to the states in May, facilitated by UNMISS, to consult with stakeholders and begin the establishment of state committees.

8. On 5 July, the National Elections Commission, citing legal obligations under the National Elections Act, announced 22 December as the election date. In a joint statement issued on 11 July, UNMISS, the African Union Mission in South Sudan and IGAD urged the parties to the Revitalized Agreement to reach a consensus on the way forward and clarify the electoral timeline. On the same day, the National Elections Commission swore in all 50 members of the state high elections committees, with 5 members for each state. The newly appointed members were advised to identify voter registration centres and commence civic education activities.

9. Currently, only the SPLM party is involved in campaigning activities. On 25 May, SPLM held a rally for greater Equatoria, where the President, Salva Kiir Mayardit, was endorsed as the party's candidate for the election. During his remarks, the President warned that an extension of the electoral timetable risked a return to conflict.

10. According to the Political Parties Council, 29 political parties wishing to participate in upcoming elections have registered. Tensions continued around the political parties' registration fee. On 20 May, in response to a petition by 14 political parties, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs said that it considered the \$75,000 fee for full registration of political parties to be illegal. While SPLM-IO has yet to register, in early April, its Secretary General called for the lifting of movement restrictions on the First Vice-President, Riek Machar, to allow him to campaign. On 30 June, the Council stopped the registration process. SPLM-IO stated that it had been prevented from registering because it still had a militia that had yet to be integrated into the Necessary Unified Forces and therefore did not meet the conditions for registration.

11. The President and the First Vice-President met and agreed on 3 May to commence training of the second batch of the Necessary Unified Forces, and

SPLM-IO submitted a list of officers for appointment to mid-level command structures across the security sector. On 29 May, the South Sudan Opposition Alliance (SSOA) also submitted a list of officers for integration into the national army and police. No further developments on the mid-level command structure or the training of the second batch have been reported. Despite claims by the Government that the majority of the first batch of Necessary Unified Forces were deployed across the security sector, the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism stated that deployment remained at approximately 7 per cent of the planned 83,000 forces and was limited to the South Sudan People's Defence Forces.

Other political developments

12. The Transitional National Legislative Assembly, on recess since mid-December, resumed work on 3 April. On 12 July, the Assembly presented four bills for presidential assent, including the National Security Act 2014 (Amendment) Bill (2024), which retains provisions giving the National Security Service powers of arrest.

13. The President made numerous changes in key government positions, including the Minister of Finance and Planning, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Minister of Trade and Industry, as well as the Managing Director of the State-owned oil company Nile Petroleum Corporation (Nilepet). The governors and deputy governors of Central Equatoria, Unity, Jonglei, Western Equatoria and Northern Bahr el-Ghazal States, as well as chief administrators in the Greater Pibor and Ruweng Administrative Areas and numerous state legislators and county commissioners were also changed. Reshuffles involved members of SPLM, SPLM-IO and SSOA.

Regional engagements and developments

14. Mr. Kiir toured the region as the Chairperson of the East African Community. In February and March, he met with counterparts in Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. Relatedly, on 16 April, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo officially reopened their shared border.

15. Regarding the Sudan conflict, on 26 March, IGAD appointed the former presidential legal adviser Lawrence Korbandy of South Sudan as its Special Envoy for the Sudan. The vice-president of the Sovereign Council of the Sudan, Malik Agar, visited Juba on 3 April for talks on bilateral issues and the conflict in the Sudan. From 23 to 25 April, as part of its shuttle diplomacy, the African Union high-level panel on the Sudan visited Juba to meet with regional leaders to reinforce the commitment to peace in the Sudan. In May, Juba facilitated a consultative meeting between the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-North on humanitarian access to the Sudan.

Economic situation

16. The economy of South Sudan worsened, in part due to oil export disruption related to the war in the Sudan, leading to a deterioration in the exchange rate and driving up food and fuel prices. On 16 March, the Sudan declared force majeure on crude oil deliveries through the Upper Nile pipeline due to conflict-related interruptions. The exchange rate has remained above SSP 2,000 to the dollar since March and reached SSP 3,700 in June. Some civil servants in South Sudan have not received salaries for nine months.

17. In this context, the Government has tried to address economic instability by raising non-oil revenue, including by introducing new taxes and fees on imports and exports in March, supplying subsidized fuel to Juba in June and auctioning hard

currency. However, disagreements over payments and the applicability of the new taxes and fees have caused import blockages, including for the Mission and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

III. Security situation

18. Cattle-related intercommunal violence, including killings and abductions, continued to impact the security situation in the country, particularly in Jonglei and along the tri-state border area of Warrap, Lakes and Unity. In Western Equatoria, the security situation deteriorated, with tensions rising along political and ethnic lines, as the Tambura peace conference was postponed for the fifth time. Confrontations between NAS and the South Sudan People's Defence Forces in the greater Equatoria region continued to pose protection of civilians concerns.

Greater Upper Nile region

19. In Upper Nile, tensions between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and armed Nuer youths were observed in Nassir County following clashes on 11 February that resulted in at least 18 people killed. In response, the Government sent a high-level delegation to investigate. Tensions escalated again in July, when South Sudan People's Defence Forces fired on civilian areas around Nassir County, allegedly in response to the deaths of two of their soldiers, leading to civilian displacement. Separately, on 4 April, Agwelek forces, led by General Johnson Olony, were integrated into the South Sudan People's Defence Forces. On 30 May, Shilluk residents of the protection of civilians site were attacked outside the site in Both, Fashoda County by suspected Dinka elements. Between 30 May and 1 June, following the initial attack, 10 people were killed in Malakal and Fashoda County and the relocation of returnees from Renk to Malakal was disrupted. UNMISS enhanced security measures at the protection of civilians site and the Government acted to contain the situation, including by deploying security forces, engaging with stakeholders and disseminating peace messages.

20. Cross-border clashes occurred from 22 to 24 June between communities from Rubkona, Unity State and the Ruweng Administrative Area, resulting in 19 deaths, as well as displacement and property loss. UNMISS reinforced its presence at its company operating base in Pariang (Ruweng Administrative Area) to increase patrols and help protect civilians.

21. In Jonglei, communal tensions were exacerbated by persistent attacks attributed to Murle elements. Since February, at least 58 incidents have been recorded in Jonglei and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, resulting in at least 100 civilians (15 women) killed and 73 (31 women) abducted. While Dinka and Lou Nuer have not engaged in large scale mobilizations in response to these attacks, on 8 May, Lou Nuer elements attacked Lokurumuch in Likuangole County, abducting nine civilians and raiding cattle. The attack triggered the displacement of approximately 4,600 individuals towards Pibor town. As the Lou Nuer youth returned to Akobo town, clashes ensued around the town between the youth and Murle elements. Fears over further clashes resulted in displacement to Akobo town.

22. The security situation in Jonglei was also affected by ambushes on commercial and humanitarian convoys, with at least six incidents reported along the roads connecting Jonglei State and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area. The killing of the Jabal Boma County Commissioner in an ambush in March exacerbated tensions between the Murle and Anyuak communities. On 31 March, Murle elements attacked Anyuak in Pochala, resulting in 10 people killed.

Greater Equatoria region

23. Violence attributed to Murle armed youth was also reported in Eastern Equatoria. On 26 April, Murle from the Greater Pibor Administrative Area attacked the Toposa in Kauto Payam, Kapoeta East County resulting in 30 people killed, 90 women and children abducted and over 1,000 livestock raided.

24. Operations by South Sudan People's Defence Forces against NAS continued to raise protection of civilians concerns in Central and Western Equatoria States. In March, NAS elements allegedly launched an attack on South Sudan People's Defence Forces in Minga Payam, Mundri East County, resulting in 17 South Sudan People's Defence Forces killed, including their commander, and triggering the displacement of over 4,000 civilians to Central Equatoria. Since May, there has been an increase in abductions attributed to NAS and continued reports of arbitrary arrests of suspected NAS supporters by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces. In addition, defections within NAS were reported, with another splinter group formed in June.

25. In Western Equatoria, the postponement of the Tambura peace conference resulted in the resurfacing of grievances between the Balanda and the Azande communities, with community leaders accusing each other of subversive activities. This, along with increased incidents of violence in Tambura, prompted hundreds of civilians to seek protection in internally displaced persons camps in the area. Following an integrated assessment, UNMISS is implementing a comprehensive response plan covering the three tiers of protection of civilians action.

Greater Bahr el-Ghazal region

26. Violence continued in the tri-state border area of Warrap-Lakes-Unity, with communities fighting over grazing land, border demarcations and cattle. Tensions between the Dinka Luanyjang and Dinka Pakam in the Maper area along the border between Warrap and Lakes were particularly concerning. Attacks and reprisals between the communities resulted in 335 killed (28 women), 223 injured (12 women) and 12 abducted. Instances of fighting with the South Sudan People's Defence Forces were also reported during attempts to apprehend suspects.

IV. Humanitarian situation

27. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification for the period between April and July, an estimated 7.1 million people (56.3 per cent of the population) are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, including 79,000 people at risk of famine. The most food-insecure locations are those significantly affected by climate-related shocks, the economic crisis, conflict and insecurity and refugee/returnee flows from the Sudan.

28. South Sudan will likely experience floods between July and December due to above-normal rainfall and the decision to release large volumes of water from Lake Victoria into the Nile River system. The worst-case scenario foresees 3.3 million people affected across Warrap, Upper Nile, Unity, Jonglei/Greater Pibor Administrative Area and Northern Bahr el-Ghazal. The draft flood preparedness and response plan jointly developed by the Government and partners seeks \$264 million to assist 2.4 million out of the 3.3. million people projected to be affected based on the current analysis.

29. As at 14 July, 742,366 returnees, refugees and asylum-seekers have crossed into South Sudan since conflict erupted in the Sudan in April 2023, a daily average of 1,600 people. Screening for malnutrition among returnee and refugee children

revealed a global acute malnutrition rate of 22 per cent, which is above the World Health Organization's emergency threshold of 15 per cent.

30. On 10 May, an inter-agency humanitarian mission in Tambura reported that nearly 25,700 people were displaced due to intercommunal violence in 15 locations in Tambura, Ezo and Nagero Counties in Western Equatoria. Partners provided life-saving humanitarian assistance to more than 21,000 vulnerable people.

31. Since February, outbreaks of measles, hepatitis E virus, novel cases of vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2, meningitis and yellow fever have been reported across the country. A surge in measles cases has been observed in all counties of Northern Bahr el-Ghazal State, with Aweil East and Aweil West being the most affected. On 22 April, the Ministry of Health declared an outbreak of conjunctivitis in Nimule, Eastern Equatoria and Juba, Central Equatoria.

32. Between 16 February and 30 June, 188 incidents related to humanitarian access restrictions were reported, 98 of which involved violence against humanitarian personnel and assets. Thirty-nine incidents of looting and theft of humanitarian assets were reported. Four humanitarian staff were relocated due to active hostilities and fear of armed clashes between armed groups. Nine humanitarian personnel were detained by the authorities. Seventeen attacks on convoys and commercially contracted vehicles, including riverine transportation, took place in Jonglei, Warrap, Unity and Lakes. There has been a noticeable increase in bureaucratic and administrative impediments imposed by the state and county authorities, especially regarding the disposal of assets during an organization's phase-out period.

33. Since February, humanitarian partners have been forced to suspend delivery of significant amounts of humanitarian support due to Government-imposed taxes and fees on humanitarian delivery. This forced the halt of aid airdrops to 145,000 people and caused delays in the pre-positioning of humanitarian supplies ahead of the rainy season. United Nations Humanitarian Air Service flights were reduced by half, complicating the transport of supplies and aid workers. Following intensive dialogue with the Government, the fuel importation situation has eased and Air Service operations are returning to normal.

34. The 2024 humanitarian needs and response plan, which calls for \$1.8 billion to assist 6 million people across South Sudan, is 20.1 per cent funded as at 11 July, halfway through the year. Given the funding reductions, humanitarian partners have prioritized their response to 31 counties in Upper Nile, Jonglei and Unity States and Abyei Administrative Area, which have the greatest needs.

V. Implementation of the Mission's mandated tasks

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

35. UNMISS continued to provide technical assistance to electoral and political institutions. UNMISS and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported the National Elections Commission's Board of Commissioners and senior officials with electoral planning and operational timeline development. UNMISS also facilitated the Commission's state-level visits and capacity-building training series for the Commission, the media and civil society, using the Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections modular curriculum. Over 670 officials (40 per cent women) have attended these trainings across the country. UNMISS supported the Commission in drafting and finalizing standard operating procedures, electoral regulations and codes of conduct and it organized voter registration orientation and

awareness-raising workshops. UNMISS continued to support the Political Parties Council with party registration, associated regulations and funding, and maintained regular engagement with the judiciary, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs.

36. Since February, via Radio Miraya, UNMISS aired 16 Democracy in Action programmes to inform the public of the fundamental principles of the democratic system ahead of the elections. It aired nine round-table discussion programmes on contemporary contested political issues.

37. To advance civic and political space at the subnational level, UNMISS facilitated a capacity-building workshop on constitution-making and electoral processes on 16 February for 160 internally displaced persons (87 women) in Unity. Consultations on the constitution-making process targeting 50 women leaders in Warrap were held on 27 and 28 February.

38. On 21 March, UNMISS and UNDP supported a national civil society conference convened by the South Sudan Civil Society Forum, which led to the adoption of the Juba resolutions on the way forward in implementing the Revitalized Peace Agreement. Quarterly engagements between UNMISS senior leadership and civil society organizations were organized in March and June. These engagements drew over 200 civil society organization representatives (more than 60 of them women) from across the country to share information and affirm collaboration around constitution-making, electoral processes and the expansion of civic and political space.

39. UNMISS organized a consultative forum on 24 and 25 April on the land tenure system in South Sudan within the framework of the permanent constitution-making process following a request from the National Constitutional Review Commission. The forum was attended by 61 participants (19 women) and culminated in recommendations for land reforms. On 18 and 19 June, UNMISS, in collaboration with the Ministry of Federal Affairs, organized a workshop on the role of traditional leaders in constitution-making and electoral processes, which was attended by 79 participants (23 women).

40. Following a series of political parties forums on the code of conduct organized by UNMISS since September 2023, a political parties forum on 4 April culminated in the endorsement of a voluntary code of conduct for political parties. Separately, from 28 to 30 May and from 2 to 4 July, UNMISS supported state-level political parties forums in Central Equatoria and Lakes States as part of a series that will be rolled out across all 10 states.

41. To extend security sector reform and community violence reduction support, UNMISS conducted technical workshops between February and May for local stakeholders in Malakal, Wau and Bentiu, which reached 383 participants (111 women). The workshops mobilized national and local expertise to support security sector reform and trust-building between security actors and communities.

42. On 25 April, the Strategic Defence and Security Review Board, with assistance from UNMISS and the reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, announced the finalization of strategic defence and security policy documents. These included the security sector transformation road map and the white paper on defence and security.

43. In May, UNDP, the Mine Action Service and UNMISS trained 33 South Sudan National Police Service officers (4 women) in weapons and ammunition management.

B. Protection of civilians and mitigating intercommunal conflict

44. UNMISS implemented 37 programmes throughout the Mission's area of operations to support the Government and local communities in mitigating intercommunal conflict. A total of 4,852 participants (1,896 women) were reached. In Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, UNMISS and its partners facilitated two peacebuilding and conflict management conferences: from 3 to 5 March, a conference between Dinka Malual and Luo host communities and Rizeigat nomads from the Sudan, and from 13 to 15 March, a conference between Misseriya nomads and host communities. A total of 240 participants (13 women) attended both conferences, which aimed to promote peaceful coexistence and prevent reprisal attacks during the seasonal cattle migration. From 7 to 9 May, UNMISS implemented a trilateral peace dialogue between Murle, Dinka and Lou Nuer armed youth in Gumuruk, Greater Pibor Administrative Area. The peace dialogue brought together 70 youth from the three communities and addressed cattle-related conflicts and abductions to de-escalate tensions in greater Jonglei.

45. UNMISS trained 1,188 subnational actors (415 women), including security forces, local authorities, host communities, returnees and internally displaced persons in Central and Western Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, Upper Nile and Unity, on the protection of civilians. Specifically, 42 former female combatants, active female security forces and community leaders in Upper Nile received training in community violence reduction mechanisms to enhance the protection of civilians.

46. UNMISS, alongside the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), facilitated the review of the South Sudan strategy and action plan on return, reintegration and recovery for the period 2024–2028. A total of 493 representatives (96 women) from government entities, civil society, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), traditional chiefs, women's associations, internally displaced persons and returnees participated. Recommendations were focused on security deployment and strengthening of the rule of law, addressing land and housing issues and restoration of services, especially in areas with high numbers of returnees. UNMISS also continued to advocate with the Commission for the full implementation of the national action plan enshrined in chapter III of the Revitalized Agreement.

47. UNMISS completed a three-month vocational skills enhancement training for 30 participants (20 women) with a local partner in Nzara County, Western Equatoria. UNMISS also strengthened the capacity of 55 (five women) community leaders, local authorities and representatives of community-based organizations on project management and implementation using quick-impact project funds in Ikotos County, Eastern Equatoria. Six quick-impact projects, including a Human Rights Commission office, two police posts, one courthouse and one primary school, were handed over in Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes and Western Equatoria States.

48. During the reporting period, the UNMISS force had conducted 6,422 patrols, including 602 integrated patrols, comprising United Nations police and civilian personnel for protection of civilians purposes. A total of 1,120 patrols were conducted by the UNMISS force in and around the Malakal protection of civilians site.

49. To increase operational reach, deter attacks against civilians and secure main supply routes, the UNMISS force maintained three extended-duration temporary operating bases in Tambura (Western Equatoria), Koch and Jamjang (Unity), and established two new temporary operating bases in Abiemnom (Unity) and Maper (Lakes) on 26 February and 15 March, respectively. From 27 April to 20 May, the UNMISS force and United Nations police reinforced the temporary operating base in

Tambura as a precautionary measure due to increased tensions between the Azande and Balanda communities.

50. Similarly, United Nations police completed 907 patrols, including 313 integrated patrols and 615 patrols that included women. Eight quick response teams were on standby to respond to security incidents in support of the South Sudan National Police Service in Juba, Malakal and Bentiu. United Nations police delivered five workshops on gender awareness and sexual and gender-based violence to 120 South Sudan National Police Service officers (57 women) and two public prosecutors (1 woman); two human rights-related workshops to 69 South Sudan National Police Service officers (32 women); and two workshops on child protection to 60 South Sudan National Police Service officers (21 women). United Nations police supported the development and distribution of a handbook in English and Arabic on protection of women and children (2,000 copies) to South Sudan National Police Service authorities.

51. A total of 110 individual police officers were deployed to four company operating bases in Yei, Akobo, Pibor and Kodok to support confidence-building, key leadership engagement, capacity-building for the South Sudan National Police Service and service delivery for communities. United Nations police provided 75 security escorts of engineers and others.

52. The Mine Action Service responded to all 937 requests from UNMISS for identification, removal and disposal of suspected landmines and explosive ordnance. This included the survey and clearance of land for a proposed relocation site for internally displaced persons in Bor, Jonglei. The activities enabled communities to safely access 188 agricultural areas, 12 hospitals and 36 water sources. The responses resulted in the disposal of a total of 3,035 items of explosive ordnance and the release of 2,946,208 m² of land during the period. The Mine Action Service also provided explosive ordnance risk education to civilians across the country to enhance their knowledge of safe behaviour and thereby prevent accidents caused by explosive ordnance, benefiting 160,765 people in total (25,962 men, 30,288 women, 56,174 boys and 48,341 girls), including 17,172 people fleeing conflict in the Sudan.

Climate, peace and security

53. South Sudan experienced exceptionally high temperatures towards the end of the dry season. Atypical droughts fuelled communal tensions and conflict over scarce resources.

54. From April onwards, extreme rainfall across East Africa caused record high water levels in Lake Victoria. On 6 May, the Government of South Sudan warned of severe flood risks across the country after the Government of Uganda announced that it had opened the floodgates of the Jinja Dam. UNMISS contributed to the United Nations system-wide flood risk analysis and joint flood preparedness plan.

55. UNMISS and the United Nations country team continued to build the capacity of various stakeholders, including by organizing two workshops focusing on climate security risks and responses and integrated climate security analysis. UNMISS also undertook a climate security assessment and reporting project in Unity State.

C. Rule of law and accountability

56. UNMISS supported the Government's investigation mission to Mayom County from 15 April to 5 May and subsequently deployed a mobile court from 6 to 24 May. That was the first time that the formal justice system had adjudicated criminal cases in the county since 2011. The investigation mission opened 60 investigations and

finalized 35 of them, while the mobile court heard 31 cases, including 24 criminal cases. A total of 22 defendants were convicted and 6 were released. Members of the community and government requested regular mobile courts in Mayom County and the permanent presence of the judiciary in Unity State.

57. Under the Kong Koc project funded by the South Sudan reconciliation, stabilization and resilience trust fund, UNMISS and UNDP supported the deployment of a High Court circuit court to Tonj town, Warrap State, to hear cases of serious crimes. Out of 47 cases tried, verdicts were issued in 24 rape cases, leading to the conviction of 23 individuals and one acquittal.

58. UNMISS, through the trust fund, also facilitated training for community paralegals, customary actors, administrators and law enforcement actors in Tonj East and Tonj South Counties who operate in justice-underserved areas.

59. UNMISS-supported interventions resulted in the release of a total of 369 prisoners (58 women and 16 juveniles) across South Sudan to address overcrowding caused by prolonged and arbitrary detention. Training sessions were conducted for 282 officers (151 women) in Wau, Torit, Yei, Rumbek, Bentiu, Malakal, Juba, Bor and Yambio on the management of vulnerable groups in detention, prison security, record-keeping, agricultural best practices and the development of gender-friendly prisons. Specialized training on riot control and first aid was imparted to 57 prison officers (18 women) in Juba.

60. From 11 to 13 June, UNMISS supported the South Sudan Prison Service in the holding of its annual leadership conference, a crucial platform for reviewing and discussing the implementation of the strategic development plan for the period 2021–2024 and advancing the reform agenda of the Service. Between 24 and 28 June, UNMISS organized a Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism workshop with senior officers of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces. Seventy persons attended the workshop, including six women.

61. Between February and July, UNMISS supported the South Sudan People's Defence Forces to deploy an assessment and case collection mission to Western Equatoria, which reviewed 34 cases, including four involving sexual violence, allegedly committed by members of the armed forces, including the South Sudan People's Defence Forces, SPLA-IO and the Necessary Unified Forces. The cases reviewed were referred for trial by a general court martial to be deployed to Maridi, Western Equatoria between July and August.

62. Through quick-impact projects, UNMISS handed over critical rule of law infrastructure projects to authorities in Yambio (Western Equatoria), Pibor (Greater Pibor Administrative Area), Malakal (Upper Nile), Kuacjok (Warrap) and Raja (Western Bahr el-Ghazal) to enable the deployment of formal judicial officials to those areas. Prison infrastructure was also completed in Thuro Majok (Central Equatoria), Rumbek (Lakes) and Raja (Western Bahr el-Ghazal), and renovations started on the Lologo training academy for prison personnel in Central Equatoria.

D. Creating conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance

63. As at 15 July, the UNMISS force had conducted 276 long-duration patrols, 2,353 short-duration patrols and 677 force protection tasks to create conditions conducive for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and/or in support of the delivery of humanitarian assistance to ensure the protection of humanitarian workers.

64. To ensure the mobility of peacekeepers and humanitarian partners from the threat of explosive ordnance, the Mine Action Service verified and cleared 321 km of road as prioritized by UNMISS and escorted 1,166 km of UNMISS patrols. It also supported Mission engineering in the rehabilitation of the 319 km-long Bor-Pibor-Akobo main supply route, as well as sections of the Malakal-Paloich and Turalei-Ajak-Kuach routes and surveyed and cleared 56,189 m² of land for the establishment of two temporary operating bases. It continued clearing land for the establishment of a refugee camp and a resettlement site for internally displaced persons in Northern and Western Bahr el-Ghazal States, respectively, following requests from UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration.

E. Monitoring and investigating human rights violations

65. UNMISS documented and verified 408 incidents of violence, which affected 1,727 civilians, including 157 women and 184 children (135 boys and 49 girls): 713 civilians killed, 478 injured, 252 abducted, 272 arbitrarily arrested and detained and 12 unlawfully detained and ill-treated. Seventy-six per cent of the incidents were attributed to community-based militias and/or civil defence groups, while 28 per cent were attributed to government security forces and other armed groups and 6 per cent to unidentified armed elements. During the reporting period, UNMISS documented 41 extrajudicial executions. Extrajudicial executions by state authorities and security personnel escalated in Warrap State, despite advocacy with authorities.

66. On 18 March and 17 May, UNMISS published its 2023 fourth-quarter and 2023 annual briefs on violence affecting civilians in South Sudan. The 2023 quarterly brief documented 223 incidents (killing, injury, abduction and sexual violence) affecting 862 civilians. Community-based militias and/or civil-defence groups accounted for 86 per cent of perpetrators, primarily in Warrap. The annual brief documented 885 incidents of violence affecting 3,340 civilians (1,524 killed, 1,052 injured, 601 abductions and 163 cases of conflict-related sexual violence) in South Sudan between January and December 2023.

67. UNMISS documented 25 incidents of infringement on civic and political space affecting 49 individuals (4 women), allegedly perpetrated by government security forces and state and county authorities: 12 cases of arbitrary arrest and detention of civil society activists (26 men, 3 women), 11 cases of intimidation and death threats against civil society activists, lawyers, journalists and parliamentarians (19 men, 1 woman), one ban on public gatherings and one incident of hate speech and incitement to violence. Media censorship, denial of access to information, restrictions on peaceful assembly and threats to and intimidation of outspoken members of civil society, lawyers, journalists and political activists have hindered public debate on elections and the constitution-making process.

68. UNMISS conducted 173 human rights capacity-building activities, reaching 8,728 participants (2,835 women). These activities were aimed at strengthening the capacities of government officials, security forces and civil society organizations in South Sudan, enabling them to effectively advocate for and protect human rights. UNMISS further provided technical assistance to the South Sudan Human Rights Commission and representatives of civil society organizations to conduct field visits to Malakal in Upper Nile and Kuacjok in Warrap to facilitate the Commission's work in monitoring, investigating and reporting on human rights violations and abuses.

1. Children and armed conflict

69. The United Nations verified 58 grave violations against 49 children (43 boys, 5 girls and 1 sex unknown): the killing (4) and maiming (2) of 6 children (5 boys, 1 sex

unknown); the recruitment and use of 40 children (38 boys and 2 girls); and the rape of 3 girls. Nine boys suffered multiple violations of both recruitment and use and abduction. UNMISS interventions resulted in the release of 27 children. UNMISS also verified the military use of three schools in Western Equatoria by the Necessary Unified Forces and the vacation of two schools by the South Sudan National Police Service (one) in Lakes and the Necessary Unified Forces (one) in Western Equatoria following intense UNMISS advocacy. Violations occurred in Western Equatoria (37), Lakes (7), Jonglei (6), Central Equatoria (5), Unity (1) and Upper Nile (2).

70. The majority of the violations (40) were unattributed, as they were perpetrated by unidentified armed elements (36), resulted from exploded ordnance (3) or occurred during crossfire between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and unidentified perpetrators (1). Violations were attributed to the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (12), NAS (2), SPLMA-IO (1), SSOA (2) and the Necessary Unified Forces (1).

71. UNMISS delivered 151 child protection awareness-raising sessions to 8,046 participants (2,935 women), including 5,086 community members (2,066 women), 2,092 government security forces (623 women), 369 government officials (113 women), 278 protection partners (119 women), 114 Necessary Unified Forces (12 women) and 107 SPLMA-IO members (all men). UNMISS delivered 38 child protection training sessions to 1,794 participants (345 women), including 1,083 government security forces (129 women), 250 community members (139 women), 215 SPLMA-IO members (31 women), 169 government officials (28 women), 53 Necessary Unified Forces (17 women), 23 SSOA members (1 woman) and 1 protection partner (a man).

2. Conflict-related sexual violence

72. UNMISS documented and verified 70 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence affecting 93 survivors (56 women, 35 girls and 2 men). Survivors' ages ranged from 9 to 65 years of age. Fifty-eight survivors received medical assistance and 10 were referred to psychosocial care. Forty-one incidents were reported to the South Sudan National Police Service. These incidents occurred in Central Equatoria (21), Western Equatoria (18), Eastern Equatoria (12), Western Bahr el-Ghazal (7), Unity (6), Jonglei (5) and Warrap (1) and were attributed to community-based militias (34 incidents), the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (19), NAS (2), the South Sudan Prison Service (1), the South Sudan National Police Services (3), SPLM/A-IO (2), the National Security Service (5) and unidentified armed elements (4).

73. The Action Plan for the Armed Forces on Addressing Conflict-related Sexual Violence in South Sudan has been renewed for three years (2024–2026) after expiring on 31 December 2023. However, the Joint Implementation Committee has been inactive since the beginning of the year because the South Sudan People's Defence Forces have not yet nominated their members to this body. Consequently, UNMISS has been unable to continue its technical cooperation for the past six months.

74. The International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict was marked with a series of engagements with civil society organizations and survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, the distribution of informational materials and participation in media activities. A workshop on legislative provisions for investigating and prosecuting conflict-related sexual violence was held in Juba on 12 June, in response to the 2014 joint communiqué of South Sudan and the United Nations.

F. Women, peace and security

75. On 23 February, during their visit to South Sudan, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of

Africa met in Juba with representatives of 10 women-led civil society organizations. They emphasized the importance of continued United Nations support to South Sudan and expressed hope for free and fair elections.

76. On 17 and 18 April, UNMISS organized an orientation workshop on women, peace and security and gender equality for the National Constitutional Review Commission, the National Elections Commission and the Political Parties Council. The workshop, attended by 67 participants (31 women), was aimed at promoting the equal participation of women in political, electoral and governance processes and translating priorities related to women, peace and security into recommendations for defined actions in the work of the three institutions.

77. From 2 May to 26 June, United Nations police conducted an eight-week training programme on leadership for 40 female South Sudan National Police Service officers to equip them with essential skills for effective decision-making.

78. From 21 to 23 May, UNMISS supported the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, which organized a workshop on enhancing women leadership in governance for 44 participants (32 women) from the Government, political parties, academia and civil society.

79. On 28 May, in partnership with the NGO Don Bosco Network, UNMISS completed a project in Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Warrap States on empowering women and youth to achieve financial sustainability and contribute to community violence reduction and gender-based violence reduction. The project equipped 150 youth at risk, including 116 women, with technical and vocational skills.

80. On 24 and 25 June, supported by UNMISS, 80 representatives (71 women) from civil society organizations and the women's parliamentary caucus of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly discussed the implementation of the women's charter and the women's parliamentary caucus strategic plan for the period 2023–2027 and agreed to develop an action plan. Similarly, in June, UNMISS supported a capacity-building workshop on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence/conflict-related sexual violence and a consultation to review and endorse terms of reference for the establishment of a national sexual and gender-based violence task force, attended by 125 representatives from ministries, security institutions, faith-based and civil society organizations and United Nations entities.

81. During the UNMISS mobile court deployment to Mayom, seven cases involved offences related to sexual and gender-based violence, all resulting in convictions. Five of these cases involved the rape of girls under 18 years of age. Survivors of offences related to sexual and gender-based violence received free legal representation, psychosocial support and transport and accommodation as required.

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

82. As at 15 July, the number of UNMISS civilian personnel stood at 2,659, comprising 878 international staff members, including 273 women (31.1 per cent), 1,398 national staff members, including 234 women (16.7 per cent), and 419 United Nations Volunteers, including 162 women (38.7 per cent).

83. The police strength stood at 1,550 (of an authorized 2,101 personnel), comprising 651 individual police officers (203 women, or 31.2 per cent), 849 personnel in formed police units (206 women, or 24.3 per cent) and 50 government-provided personnel (23 women, or 46 per cent).

84. Of the authorized 17,000 troops, UNMISS troop strength stood at 13,920 military personnel: 237 military liaison officers (73 women, or 30.8 per cent), 435 military staff officers (91 women, or 20.9 per cent) and 13,248 military contingent personnel (956 women, or 7.2 per cent).

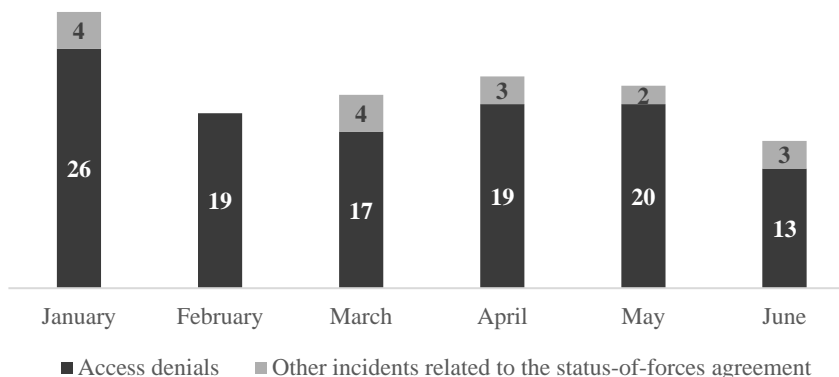
85. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [78/306](#), the General Assembly decided to allocate 1 million dollars for the deployment, within the existing ceiling, of the new military contingents and formed police units that the Mission had requested in its budget submission (see [A/78/754](#)) to render it fit for purpose, as recommended by a military and police capability study. Because of this, the Mission will approach the relevant legislative bodies for additional funds to secure the recommended deployment if the security situation further deteriorates in the lead-up to the first elections.

86. In accordance with the applicable policy, information on possible unsatisfactory conduct and/or misconduct was processed in a timely fashion. Between 1 February and 30 June, 42 allegations of unsatisfactory conduct and/or misconduct were recorded in the case management tracking system. Five allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse were recorded. All identified victims of previously reported allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse continued to receive support from the Senior Victims' Rights Officer in South Sudan.

VII. Violations of the status-of-forces agreement, international humanitarian law and security of United Nations personnel

87. Between February and June, UNMISS recorded 100 incidents related to the status-of-forces agreement. Of these, 88 incidents (nearly 89 per cent) involved movement restrictions imposed by government authorities, which affected UNMISS patrols in all states. UNMISS dynamic air patrols and ground patrols were cancelled due to non-acknowledgement by the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism headquarters in Juba of the Mission's sharing of information and flight safety assurance. In addition, the Mechanism disapproved UNMISS access to some locations, without reasons provided officially. In February, an UNMISS logistic convoy from Wau to Bentiu was denied access at Alel Chok checkpoint by government security forces, even though the convoy possessed the required documentation.

Number of status-of-forces agreement violations, by month and category



Source: UNMISS Legal Affairs Unit.

88. On 1 March, in Central Equatoria, during a routine key leadership engagement meeting with government authorities in Terekeka, a United Nations military observer was physically assaulted, allegedly by government security personnel, causing minor injury. Following the assault, the security personnel also brandished a firearm, threatening further harm to the UNMISS personnel. Since 22 March, an UNMISS staff member has been detained at a National Security Service holding facility, allegedly over a private matter, without due process.

89. The incidents related to the status-of-forces agreement included the imposition of undue taxes and fees on UNMISS and its contractors for the import of consignments for the Mission's exclusive use. On 1 March, the South Sudan Revenue Authority issued a notice implementing an electronic cargo tracking note, which imposes a fee on trucks entering South Sudan with consignments of goods, including UNMISS supplies. The Ministry of Petroleum also issued a directive, effective 1 March, imposing an e-petroleum product accreditation certificate, issued at a per-litre fee, on the importation of fuel. The objection by UNMISS to the implementation of the electronic cargo tracking note and the e-petroleum certificate caused severe disruption to the supply chain of UNMISS, including food rations and fuel at border entry points into South Sudan. The Mission formally protested the imposition of fees and, together with the humanitarian agencies, engaged government authorities at all levels, including through the joint technical committee on tax exemption and related matters. Sustained engagement, however, resulted in the clearance of the serious backlog of UNMISS and humanitarian consignments. On occasion, government authorities alleged that United Nations contractors abused the tax exemption privileges. While UNMISS continues to request evidence to substantiate the allegations, the Government has so far not presented evidence officially to UNMISS.

90. As at 30 June, 40 entry visa applications for incoming UNMISS military personnel were pending clearance with the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism for more than 21 days. The Government has not provided any reason for the delays in processing the visa applications.

91. Forty-six incidents of harassment of United Nations and international NGO personnel and four incidents of access denial to United Nations operations by government security forces were recorded.

92. Since January, six locally recruited staff members of the United Nations and international NGOs were killed. On 16 April, in Yambio town, Western Equatoria, three unknown armed individuals broke into and robbed the residence of a locally recruited United Nations personnel.

VIII. Performance optimization

93. The United Nations force carried out evaluations in all six sectors among infantry battalions, marine units, engineer units and medical facilities. The units were found to be well trained and operationally ready according to United Nations standards.

94. The United Nations police evaluated the Nepal Formed Police Unit in Juba on 18 March and 29 June and the Ghana Formed Police Unit in Bentiu on 21 March and 12 June. In all assessments, the performance of both units was found to be satisfactory overall. The United Nations police also organized a performance assessment and evaluation workshop for the Formed Police Unit Coordinator's office at Mission headquarters in June and for the Rwanda Formed Police Unit in Malakal in July to enhance the Unit's readiness and performance.

95. UNMISS significantly increased its efforts in support of the Organization's environmental strategy. During the reporting period, the Mission completed the solarization of the water treatment plant at United Nations House and continued to maintain key drains adjacent to the airport and UNMISS Topping camp in Juba. The Mission also continues to explore various initiatives to support its transition to renewable energy.

IX. Observations and recommendations

96. In April 2024, I shared my assessment of the minimum political and technical preconditions as envisioned in the 2018 Revitalized Agreement for a peaceful electoral process in South Sudan. I highlighted that the parties are yet to achieve a "critical mass" of implementation necessary for peaceful conduct of free, fair and credible elections, and called for the parties to engage with each other with a view to agreeing on the procedures for peaceful elections and the timeline.

97. Since then, I note that the transitional Government has continued working to provide seed funds to the National Elections Commission, albeit short of the estimated budgetary needs to organize the proposed election. I also note that the National Elections Commission has taken steps to assess the ground-level infrastructure and facilities and has consulted with key stakeholders on the electoral process, in addition to appointing state high elections committees.

98. With only five months left until the prescribed elections according to the road map, however, the transitional Government and parties need to intensify their efforts to advance the implementation of the requirements that they identified as critical for a democratic and successful end of the transitional period. In this regard, I welcome the political dialogue that is under way, including between the parties in the High-Level Standing Committee forum in Juba and the Tumaini initiative in Nairobi, with the non-signatory groups, as a means to find a consensual approach to the end of the transitional period.

99. I welcome the efforts of the Government of Kenya in supporting the Tumaini initiative, which has resulted in the declaration of commitment of 16 May to cease hostilities with the non-signatory groups and to continue dialogue. The Tumaini initiative, however, provides a foundation for the inclusion of the non-signatory groups with a view to sustaining peace and should complement the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement. The Initiative should help to generate consensus and compromise that can be taken into the inter-party discussion and consolidated within the framework of the Revitalized Agreement.

100. I therefore encourage the parties to work together expeditiously to find an arrangement to complete the road map, including with respect to how to approach the outstanding question of the electoral calendar. While the holding of elections is the sovereign prerogative of South Sudan, it is important that electoral decisions are taken in accordance with agreed processes, procedures and timelines.

101. I commend the continued efforts of the African Union, IGAD and UNMISS, including under the trilateral configuration, for their support in progressing the outstanding critical tasks such as determining the type of elections to take place, the constitution-making process, dispute resolution mechanisms, the future of transitional security arrangements and an elections security plan.

102. I remain deeply troubled by the intensifying conflict in the Sudan and its impact on neighbouring countries, in particular South Sudan. The influx of over 700,000 returnees, refugees and asylum-seekers is exacerbating the strain on local communities already grappling with diminishing resources.

103. The impact of intercommunal violence remains concerning, in particular as the country endeavours to create a conducive environment for political campaigning prior to the elections. I encourage the transitional Government to continue with efforts to address intercommunal grievances.

104. I am also concerned about the worsening economic situation, especially as a result of the conflict in the Sudan. This has negative implications for the political and security situation, considering that transition now, more than ever, requires financial outlays. At the same time, the forecasted floods, which might affect over 3 million people, are deeply worrying. These, in addition to other climate-related shocks, a rise in acute food insecurity and mass displacements, will compound the existing challenges for South Sudanese people.

105. I appeal to the international community to amplify its support for the most vulnerable groups in response to the escalating needs. It is also imperative that the transitional Government provide the necessary aid and resources to those most affected, while avoiding actions that restrict the lifesaving operations of the United Nations that seek to alleviate the plight of the most vulnerable.

106. I acknowledge the Government's reversal of the imposition of taxes and fees that affected United Nations peacekeeping, humanitarian and development operations. I encourage cooperation from the host Government with the United Nations to work out a simplified modality that balances the concerns about abuse of the tax exemptions by some third parties and the Government's commitment to uphold its obligations under the applicable legal framework that governs the conduct of United Nations operations in the country and ensures the ability of the United Nations to undertake its work in service to the people.

107. I wish to convey my sincere appreciation for the commitment of UNMISS military, police and civilian personnel, who, under the leadership of my Special Representative for South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom, continue to work courageously to protect hundreds of thousands of civilians, safeguard human rights, facilitate the work of humanitarian workers and promote an inclusive political process. I particularly thank the troop- and police-contributing countries that have provided uniformed personnel and assets to the Mission. I further commend the United Nations country team and NGO partners for their dedication in providing vital humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable population under challenging conditions.

