



Security Council

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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 \(2024\)](#). The report covers political and security developments, the humanitarian and human rights situation and progress towards the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) between 16 January 2025 and 31 March 2025.

II. Political and economic developments

2. During the reporting period, political dynamics were marked by rising tensions between the Parties to the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, and ongoing regional and international efforts to mediate and keep the peace process on track.

3. Between 20 January and 9 February, the Tumaini Initiative talks restarted in Nairobi, but were adjourned without progress on 20 February by the President of Kenya, William Ruto, at the request of the Government of South Sudan.

4. On 10 February, the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, removed and reappointed several government officials, including two vice-presidents. The President appointed the presidential adviser, Benjamin Bol Mel, as Vice-President for the Economic Cluster, replacing James Wani Igga, and the Minister of Agriculture, Josephine Lagu, as Vice-President for the Service Cluster, replacing Hussein Abdelbagi. Hussein Abdelbagi was reassigned as Minister of Agriculture.

5. The same day, Mr. Kiir made changes to the leadership of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), appointing James Wani Igga as the Secretary-General of SPLM, replacing Peter Lam Both. Following the presidential decrees relieving two appointees of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO) – Yolanda Awel as Minister of Health and Alfred Futuyo as Governor of Western Equatoria – the Office of the First Vice-President, Riek Machar, stated that the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO) had not been consulted as stipulated in the Revitalized Agreement, calling the decision unilateral. On 19 March, Mr. Kiir removed the SPLM-IO Governor of Upper Nile State, James Odhok, replacing him with SPLM member General James Koang. SPLM/A-IO also condemned this change as unilateral.



6. At the monthly plenary meeting of the reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission on 20 February, the Government presented a revised implementation plan and budget for the extension of the transitional period until February 2027, totalling \$746 million for security and electoral processes.

7. On 27 February, in a joint press statement, the African Union Mission in South Sudan, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission and UNMISS expressed concerns regarding the escalating tensions in Western Equatoria, Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Upper Nile.

8. On 3 March, Mr. Kiir chaired a meeting on tensions in Nasir, Upper Nile, and in Western Equatoria, attended by the First Vice-President and Vice-Presidents Benjamin Bol Mel and Josephine Lagu. Between 4 and 6 March, senior SPLM-IO members, including the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Duop Lam, the Minister of Petroleum, Puot Kang Chuol, and the Minister of Peacebuilding, Stephen Par Kuol, were arrested in Juba.

9. On 7 March, following the incident involving the UNMISS operation to extract wounded South Sudan People's Defence Forces soldiers from Nasir (see section III below on the security situation), Mr. Kiir, in a televised address, reiterated that the country would not return to war. SPLM-IO minister Mr. Par Kuol was released on the same day. On 8 March, the National Security Service said that arrests would continue, targeting those linked to the violence in Nasir. On 17 March, SPLM/A-IO suspended its participation in joint security mechanisms until all detained SPLM/A-IO officials were released.

10. On 17 March, the Minister of Information, Michael Makuei, confirmed the presence of members of the Ugandan People's Defence Forces in South Sudan, referencing pre-existing agreements between Uganda and South Sudan regarding combating the Lord's Resistance Army.

11. On 20 March, the Chair of the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, Major General Yitayal Gelaw Bitew, said that the situation in Nasir risked a return to a full-scale conflict and called on the parties to exercise restraint.

12. On 26 March, the First Vice-President, Riek Machar, was arrested, a move that drew widespread national and international reactions (see para. 18 below). While the Government stated that Mr. Machar and other detained SPLM/A-IO officials would face trial, an SPLM/A-IO spokesperson said on 27 March that Mr. Machar's arrest meant that the Revitalized Agreement had been "abrogated".

Other political developments

13. On 24 January, the Council of Ministers approved measures to operationalize the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing Act (2024) and the Compensation and Reparations Authority Act (2024).

14. In February, the National Elections Commission finalized a draft election-specific timeline that outlined its operational needs to hold elections by December 2026. On 6 March, the National Constitutional Review Commission organized a programme to assess its preparedness, during which it updated key ministries and the international community on the status of the constitution-making process and appealed for their continued support. The National Constitutional Review Commission also continued advocating with the Presidency on constitution-making, census and election timelines and required funding.

Regional engagements and developments

15. The conflict in the Sudan continued to have an impact on South Sudan. On 16 January, widespread violent protests broke out throughout South Sudan, following the reported killing of South Sudanese nationals by the Sudanese Armed Forces in Wad Madani, the Sudan. On 17 January, in a televised address, the President of South Sudan, Mr. Kiir, condemned the killings and called for calm, stating that the Government had asked the Government of the Sudan to investigate the events. The same day, the Government announced a nationwide dusk-to-dawn curfew, which was lifted on 27 January. It also imposed a ban on some social media platforms from 22 to 27 January. On 18 January, the Vice-President of the Transitional Sovereign Council of the Sudan, Malik Agar, promised to investigate the killings.

16. From 15 to 17 January, the African Union High-level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan visited Juba and met with Mr. Kiir, Mr. Machar and cabinet ministers. On 28 January, the Ad Hoc Committee proposed appointing an African Union Special Representative for South Sudan to oversee implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and noted growing demands by the Government to lift the arms embargo imposed by resolution [2428 \(2018\)](#).

17. On 12 March, IGAD held an extraordinary summit on South Sudan, attended by the Chair of IGAD, Ismaïl Omar Guelleh, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Executive Secretary of IGAD, Workneh Gebeyehu, the President of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, and the foreign ministers of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. In a communiqué, the leaders reaffirmed the importance of the Revitalized Agreement and called upon the Presidency of South Sudan to conduct regular meetings on its implementation. The meeting, which was not attended by South Sudan, also established an IGAD ministerial subcommittee to assess the modalities of an inclusive dialogue. On 18 March, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union held a meeting on South Sudan. On 19 March, in a joint statement, UNMISS and the African diplomatic corps encouraged all parties to de-escalate the conflict and accept mediation.

18. Following the arrest of the First Vice-President, Riek Machar, on 27 March the African Union and IGAD in separate statements expressed concern over escalating tensions and called for restraint. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, stressed the imperative for all South Sudanese stakeholders to de-escalate, uphold the spirit and letter of the Revitalized Agreement and engage in constructive dialogue. On 31 March, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union held an emergency meeting on South Sudan. In a statement, it called for the immediate and unconditional release of Mr. Machar, and emphasized that political differences should be resolved through dialogue within the established mechanisms under the Revitalized Agreement, urging South Sudanese authorities to initiate an all-inclusive and genuine dialogue to restore trust, national unity and peace. It also requested the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to dispatch the Panel of the Wise and appealed to the African Union High-level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan to support the peace efforts of the African Union and IGAD.

Economic situation

19. Inflation remains relatively high, despite showing signs of slowing down. On a monthly basis, the consumer price index rose by 7.6 per cent in February 2025, a decrease from the 9.6 per cent recorded in January 2025. One of the contributing factors to this is the continued depreciation of the South Sudan pound, which has led to higher prices for imported goods.

20. On 13 March, the World Bank, in a newly released report, assessed that the economy of South Sudan is projected to contract by 30 per cent in fiscal year 2024–2025, primarily due to the disruption of oil production. According to the World Bank’s Republic of South Sudan Poverty and Equity Assessment, multidimensional poverty has risen, with 92.6 per cent of the population experiencing deprivation in education, access to services, assets ownership and housing quality in 2024 compared with 84 per cent in 2023.

21. On 21 February, Vice-President Bol Mel committed to clear salary arrears for civil servants and to pay the civil service and organized forces on the twenty-fourth of every month. Salaries are currently 12 to 13 months in arrears.

III. Security situation

22. The onset of the dry season aggravated communal violence in the tri-state area and Eastern Equatoria. In January, nationwide anti-Sudanese unrest resulted in violence and looting for several days until security forces restored order. Incidents involving government and opposition forces continued to escalate in Western Bahr el-Ghazal, Western Equatoria, Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile States.

Greater Upper Nile region

23. In Upper Nile, tensions between the South Sudan People’s Defence Forces and Nuer youth in Nasir continued to escalate, with fighting reported on 14 February that left 5 killed, 12 injured and at least 18,000 civilians displaced. An UNMISS patrol was caught in the crossfire and one peacekeeper suffered minor injuries.

24. On 18 February, UNMISS and the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism issued press statements condemning the clashes and calling for restraint and calm. Similar statements were issued by IGAD, the European Union and the Troika.

25. On 3 March, fighting resumed in Nasir, resulting in 110 combatants killed, including 70 members of the South Sudan People’s Defence Forces, and 172 injured, including 100 members of the South Sudan People’s Defence Forces. The White Army, consisting of armed Nuer youth, ultimately took over the military barracks of the South Sudan People’s Defence Forces in Wei-Yar-Adiu. On 4 March, the Government requested that UNMISS airlift the stranded members of the South Sudan People’s Defence Forces in the area with a guarantee of safe passage from all parties involved in the conflict as well as the national, state and local level government authorities. On 6 March, in the second extraction attempt, the helicopter successfully airlifted 10 South Sudan People’s Defence Forces soldiers from Nasir. On 7 March, however, the helicopter came under attack, resulting in 18 deaths, including 1 UNMISS crew member, and 17 members of the South Sudan People’s Defence Forces, including the general in command, and seven injuries, including two UNMISS pilots. On 9 March, the bodies of the deceased crew member and the general were extracted to Juba. Despite aerial bombings by government forces in subsequent days, the barracks remained under the control of the White Army.

26. In Jonglei, intracommunal and cattle-related violence continued, involving the Murle of the Greater Pibor Administrative Area in particular, with at least 36 incidents recorded, resulting in 75 casualties and 21 abductions. Despite interventions, the situation continues to be compounded by competition over scarce resources, severe food insecurity and increased mobility in the dry season. There were also five attacks on humanitarian convoys, resulting in two injured.

Greater Equatoria region

27. Tensions between government and opposition forces in Western Equatoria and near the border with Western Bahr el-Ghazal escalated, with multiple attacks from both sides, leading to 44 casualties (17 civilians), seven abductions and widespread civilian displacement in eight incidents. SPLM/A-IO accused the South Sudan People's Defence Forces of trying to weaken it by encroaching into opposition areas. The heavy deployment and operations of both forces also had an impact on the civilian population, with reports of killings and ill-treatment, especially in Tambura and Nagero Counties. On 8 February, two civilians were arbitrarily arrested and later killed, when they allegedly witnessed government forces burning and looting civilian homes, including a healthcare facility, in Nagero town. Tensions between the two forces were further aggravated by the removal of the Governor, Alfred Futuyo, causing him to flee for his safety as his residence was allegedly attacked on 10 February.

28. In Eastern Equatoria, clashes between the Murle, Dinka Bor and Toposa resulted in 37 killed and 19 injured in 12 incidents. On 31 January, suspected Murle armed elements from the Greater Pibor Administrative Area and Acholi youths from Agoro payam jointly attacked Dinka Bor cattle herders in Magwe County, resulting in 12 killed, several injured, 8 missing and thousands displaced. The clash, triggered by the arrival of the herders in the area, caused damage to crops and followed failed negotiations between the parties to resolve the issue. Following the clash, the herders left the area towards Central Equatoria, where similar tensions with the local population are reported.

Greater Bahr el-Ghazal region

29. In Greater Tonj, Warrap, 55 intra-Dinka communal violence incidents were recorded with the onset of the dry season, resulting in 125 killed, 115 injured and four abductions. In Tonj North, clashes among subclans in Awul, Rualbet and Kirik payams resulted in 34 killed and 48 injured in 12 incidents. Despite interventions by state and religious authorities and the deployment of security forces, there was an increase in revenge attacks. The intervention of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces also reignited long-standing tensions with the Dinka from Rualbet and Bul Nuer youth, who in the past have clashed on several occasions with the security forces.

30. In Tonj East, the conflict between Dinka Akook, Dinka Thiik and Dinka Luanyjang resumed, jeopardizing the implementation of resolutions reached at the Tonj East peace dialogue in November 2024. Clashes resulted in 9 killed and 21 injured in seven incidents. The Luanyjang community have recently been involved in conflicts with nearly all neighbouring communities, isolating themselves in the region. Although the Governor called for disarmament of the youths in Greater Tonj to mitigate communal violence, logistical challenges hinder the operation and previous disarmament efforts have failed.

IV. Humanitarian situation

31. As at 21 March, over 1.1 million people had fled the conflict in the Sudan since the outbreak of fighting in the Sudan in April 2023 and arrived in South Sudan. As at March 2025, South Sudan was hosting 544,437 refugees and asylum-seekers from the Sudan. Projections indicate that 150,000 more refugees, predominantly from the Sudan, will arrive in 2025. Humanitarian actors working with the Government of South Sudan continue to facilitate the movement of South Sudanese returnees from

the Sudan. Returnees experience limited services at transit centres owing to funding constraints.

32. Protests by groups of South Sudanese citizens over the killing of South Sudanese nationals in Wad Madani resulted in over 16,000 displaced across five states. Sudanese-owned businesses in affected locations were vandalized and looted.

33. An estimated 6.1 million South Sudanese people are at risk of experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity or above, including some 31,000 South Sudanese returnees at risk of catastrophe/famine level, or Integrated Food Security Phase Classification phase 5, between December 2024 and March 2025. This number is projected to increase from April to July 2025 during the lean season.

34. Hostilities in Nasir and neighbouring counties continue to drive displacement, exacerbating the humanitarian needs of already vulnerable people. Since late February, the violence in Nasir, Ulang and Baliet Counties has displaced an estimated 63,500 people, 10,000 of whom have crossed into Ethiopia. In addition, an inter-agency rapid needs assessment by partners in Nasir County at the end of January reported that over 67,000 people in 10 payams needed urgent humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian teams remained unable to respond to the needs of people due to safety reasons.

35. South Sudan is grappling with a cholera outbreak, with cases rapidly spreading across the country. As at 23 March, 42,308 cases and 759 deaths had been reported in 42 counties across nine states and two administrative areas. A total of 3,928,962 doses of oral vaccine, 92.3 per cent of the target, have been administered by the Ministry of Health, with support from the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and other partners. Vaccination campaigns are ongoing in other affected locations. On 7 February, the Ministry of Health declared an mpox outbreak in Juba. As at 20 March, six laboratory-confirmed cases of mpox had been identified in Juba and the Malakal protection of civilians site.

36. The humanitarian community in South Sudan continued to face access constraints across the country. Between January and 20 March, 79 incidents related to humanitarian access were reported. On 12 February, unknown armed men attacked a humanitarian food warehouse in Uror County, Jonglei State, killing two security guards. On 24 February, at least nine humanitarian partners, including national and international not-for-profit organizations, relocated 23 staff members from Nasir and Ulang Counties following reports of rising tensions and the possible outbreak of conflict.

37. The 2025 humanitarian needs and response plan seeks \$1.7 billion to assist 5.4 million people across South Sudan. The 2025 plan includes \$468 million targeting 680,000 projected refugees and host communities. As at 21 March, the humanitarian needs and response plan was 10.5 per cent (\$174.7 million) funded, while refugee response programmes inside South Sudan were 0.1 per cent funded (\$0.6 million). In view of an expected reduction in humanitarian funding, the humanitarian community is making contingency plans for fewer resources.

V. Implementation of the Mission's mandated tasks

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

38. With support from the United Nations integrated electoral assistance team, which includes UNMISS, the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations agencies, the National Elections Commission commenced

refurbishing and constructing offices in all 10 states. This infrastructure support complements the ongoing capacity development, public consultation and trust-building initiatives being supported by the United Nations, as well as ongoing support for infrastructure and capacity-building initiatives of the Electoral Security Committee of the South Sudan National Police Service on security-related planning and capacity preparations.

39. To support civic and political space, on 12 and 13 February, UNMISS facilitated a political parties forum in Juba to build consensus on implementation of the Revitalized Agreement, which included 77 representatives (14 women) of 60 political parties. On 17 and 18 February, UNMISS supported a workshop for the South Sudan National Police Service, raising awareness of legal and institutional frameworks governing civic and political space among the 78 participants from the police (9 women).

40. To support good governance, from 19 to 21 February, UNMISS and the reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, the African Union Mission in South Sudan, IGAD and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance organized a high-level forum on completing the political transition, with 101 participants (27 women) in attendance. Recommendations focused on the constitution-making process, transitional security arrangements and electoral preparations. On 28 and 29 January, UNMISS conducted a two-day consultation on land tenure in Upper Nile for 96 stakeholders (28 women). On 13 and 14 March, a forum brought together 97 youths (46 women) to discuss their roles in the constitution-making process. On 17 March, UNMISS hosted an inter-faith prayer meeting of the South Sudan Council of Churches and the South Sudan Islamic Council, which included almost 90 faith leaders (34 women), to identify practical ways to support political leaders through counsel and advocacy. On 19 and 20 March, UNMISS supported a workshop on the role of the South Sudan Bar Association in the political transition, which included 90 participants (34 women). UNMISS also supported the Ministry of Federal Affairs in a workshop on federalism in Warrap State, three meetings between the National Constitutional Review Commission and international partners on mobilizing resources and one grass-roots community engagement, as well as organizing one “Roundtable” and six “Democracy in Action” radio shows.

41. As a follow-up to the eighth Governors’ Forum held in November 2024, UNMISS facilitated two County Commissioners’ Forums in Central Equatoria and Jonglei States from 12 to 14 February and 18 to 20 February, respectively, which drew 180 participants (24 women). Issues such as governance, peace and security, justice, accountability, revenue and taxes were discussed. On 27 and 28 March, UNMISS facilitated a capacity-strengthening workshop for civil society organizations in Upper Nile, attended by 65 participants (19 women). In Warrap, from 4 to 6 March, UNMISS organized a workshop on empowering women to participate in governance and political processes, which was attended by 40 participants (32 women). In Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, UNMISS facilitated a capacity-building workshop on 5 and 6 March for 60 women to enhance their participation in democratic processes and community stability.

42. On 5 and 6 February, UNMISS supported a workshop for 44 people (14 women) to strengthen the nexus between the media and security institutions. On 19 and 20 February, UNMISS supported the fourth workshop on security sector reform in partnership with a civil society organizations platform, empowering 42 participants (15 women) in the areas of public oversight and democratic control of the security sector transformation.

43. UNMISS launched a community violence reduction project in Eastern Equatoria on 25 February to empower Kraal youth, ex-combatants and gang youths.

B. Protection of civilians and mitigating intercommunal conflict

44. United Nations police completed 4,703 patrols, including 34 integrated patrols and 2,319 patrols that included female personnel. Sixteen quick response teams were on daily standby to respond to security incidents in support of the South Sudan National Police Service in Juba, Malakal and Bentiu.

45. Ninety-two individual police officers were deployed to the Tambura and Akobo temporary operating bases and five company operating bases to support confidence-building, key leadership engagement, capacity-building for the South Sudan National Police Service and service delivery for communities.

46. United Nations police enhanced national capacities through 153 training sessions, including a 44-day training course on crime scene management, traffic management and public order management for 150 participants.

47. UNMISS continued its efforts in support of the protection of civilians and facilitated the implementation of at least 12 programmes that targeted 1,178 participants (321 women) in Central Equatoria, Northern and Western Bahr el-Ghazal, Jonglei and Upper Nile. On 24 and 25 January, UNMISS facilitated a peace dialogue among communities of Wulu and Rumbek Centre Counties, Lakes, resulting in the establishment of a peace monitoring committee. On 30 and 31 January, UNMISS implemented a forum in Tambura, Western Equatoria, for 70 participants (37 women), to build confidence between military and civilian populations following violence in December. In Juba, on 13 February, UNMISS facilitated a high-level stakeholders' meeting on durable solutions to cattle migration-related violence in Magwe County, Eastern Equatoria. The meeting, chaired by the First Vice-President, was attended by 170 participants (50 women), including three governors, ministers and security officials, state authorities and members of parliament of Jonglei, Eastern and Central Equatoria and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area. The meeting concluded with resolutions, including to immediately implement the Presidential Order of 2017 on the return of cattle to the areas of origin. On 25 and 26 February, UNMISS and partners facilitated a peace dialogue with 40 chiefs and youth leaders in Likuangle County, Greater Pibor Administrative Area, to address continuous conflicts among them.

48. The UNMISS force conducted 18,333 patrols, including 485 integrated patrols comprising United Nations police and civilian personnel for the protection of civilians through presence in strategic areas. The force sustained the capability to respond in a crisis situation through the maintenance of a mobile and responsive force. This was achieved through 833 force protection patrols.

49. UNMISS helped enhance, through training, the protection of civilians capacities of 80 local actors (22 women) representing local authorities, organized forces, traditional chiefs, civil society, returnees, women and youths in Jonglei and Western Equatoria in January. In Tambura County, this resulted in the formation of a 21-member (5 women) community protection committee to bolster early-warning mechanisms.

50. UNMISS launched the implementation of six quick-impact projects to build the office of the Human Rights Commission and a water yard in Lakes, and a solar-power system, classrooms at primary schools expected to benefit 648 pupils (236 girls) and a primary healthcare unit expected to serve 11,299 individuals (2,825 children and 2,825 women) in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal in February. UNMISS handed over the

renovated police training centre in Lakes to the South Sudan National Police Service on 21 March, the Wau Health Sciences Institute in Western Bahr el-Ghazal to the state government in January and the new classroom block in Central Equatoria in February. On 17 March, UNMISS handed over to the community a grinding mill project in Bargel, Lakes and trained 40 individuals (20 women) to use it. Conflicting groups share the service, which is aimed at fostering social cohesion.

51. UNMISS engaged with 154 representatives (5 women) of local authorities, returnee and internally displaced persons communities, and non-for-profit and civil society organizations to explore local opportunities, challenges and strategies in Unity and Lakes to strengthen coordination and implementation of those states' return and reintegration plans. In Lakes, this led to the formal establishment of a state task force. In addition, UNMISS conducted focus group discussions with 36 internally displaced persons (all men) from Rubkona and Mayom Counties to explore strategies for sustained returns on 12 and 13 February.

52. The Mine Action Service responded to 347 requests from UNMISS and local communities for the identification, removal and disposal of explosive ordnance. The activities enabled communities to safely access 61 agricultural areas and 14 water sources, and resulted in the disposal of 1,474 items of explosive ordnance and the clearance of 1,281,249 square metres of land. The Mine Action Service also provided explosive ordnance risk education to civilians across the country, preventing accidents caused by explosive ordnance, which benefited 66,847 people (9,887 men, 11,493 women, 25,565 boys and 19,902 girls), including 5,513 people fleeing conflict in the Sudan.

Climate, peace and security

53. Floodwater receded in some states while Unity, Upper Nile, Warrap and Northern Bahr el-Ghazal States continued to experience varying degrees of flooding in January, resulting in failed harvests, the outbreak of diseases and food insecurity. Early cattle migration triggered by flooding in Western Bahr el-Ghazal overlapped with the cropping period. The delayed return of flood-displaced communities exacerbated tensions with host communities in some high-ground locations in Unity. High temperatures contributed to the explosion of the ammunition stockpile in Bor. Increased mobility during the dry season resulted in cattle-related conflicts in Unity, Jonglei, Central and Eastern Equatoria and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area. UNMISS facilitated discussions on climate security during the County Commissioners' Forums in Central Equatoria and Jonglei to enhance flood preparedness and response.

C. Rule of law and accountability

54. Building on UNMISS support to strengthen the rule of law in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, the first-ever permanent judge was appointed in January, inaugurating the judiciary's presence in the Area and completing the presence of all justice chain actors to ensure adequate access to justice.

55. From 21 to 23 January, the governments of Jonglei and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area hosted a national conference with the support of UNMISS to enhance the rule of law and accountability for crimes. The governments agreed on measures to jointly address crimes that fuel violence.

56. From January to March, UNMISS conducted investigations training for 20 investigators (2 female) in Ruweng Administrative Area, Greater Pibor Administrative Area, southern Unity and Central Equatoria to prepare for court

deployments and establish a National Police Service special protection unit for sexual and gender-based violence crimes in Ruweng Administrative Area.

57. From 15 January to 31 March, UNMISS conducted training on prison and records management and food security for 583 national prison officers (200 women). From 29 to 31 January, UNMISS trained 43 military police in Central Equatoria (5 women) on prison management for South Sudan National Police Service detention facilities.

58. On 29 January, the National Prison Service of South Sudan approved its regulations and its strategic plan for the period 2025–2026 with the support of UNMISS, which strengthened national regulations and compliance with international norms.

59. From 30 January to 28 February, a mobile court was deployed to Renk County, Unity, with the support of UNMISS. The court decided 54 cases, including 14 sexual and gender-based violence cases, and convicted 48 accused persons.

60. On 27 February, the Directorate of Public Prosecutions and the South Sudan People's Defence Forces Military Justice Directorate convened a workshop with the support of UNMISS to discuss jurisdictional issues with representatives from the security sector.

61. Since 11 March, a mobile court deployed to the Greater Pibor Administrative Area with the support of UNMISS has adjudicated 26 cases, including 11 criminal cases, resulting in seven convictions.

62. From 11 March, a high court judge was deployed to Malakal with the support of UNMISS. As at 31 March, the judge had adjudicated 54 criminal cases.

63. From 23 to 25 March, UNMISS trained 45 customary court officials, police investigators, local leaders, refugees, returnees, and youth and women leaders from Raja County, Western Bahr el-Ghazal, on sexual and gender-based violence crimes and referral mechanisms.

D. Creating conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance

64. United Nations police facilitated the safe, efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance by establishing secure perimeters and overseeing aid distribution to protect humanitarian workers and recipients.

65. The UNMISS force conducted 180 long-duration patrols, 443 short-duration patrols and 833 force protection tasks to help create conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to ensure the protection of humanitarian workers.

66. The Mine Action Service escorted UNMISS patrols for 1,294 km and continued clearing land for the establishment of resettlement sites for displaced persons in Unity and Upper Nile, following requests from the Government, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and supported the rehabilitation of roads in Eastern Equatoria, Warrap and Jonglei.

E. Monitoring and investigating human rights violations

67. UNMISS documented and verified 233 incidents of human rights violations and abuses affecting 798 civilians, including 94 women and 51 children (31 boys and 20

girls). A total of 338 civilians were killed, 280 were injured, 115 were abducted and 65 were arbitrarily arrested and detained. Community-based militias and/or civil defence groups accounted for 68 per cent of the incidents, while 26 per cent were attributed to the parties to the conflict and other non-State armed groups.

68. Extrajudicial executions remained a significant human rights concern, with UNMISS documenting five extrajudicial executions by state authorities and security personnel.

69. On 27 February, UNMISS published its fourth quarterly brief on violence affecting civilians, in which it documented 233 incidents affecting 866 civilians (86 women and 114 children). Community-based militias and/or civil defence groups were responsible for 69 per cent of incidents and 77 per cent of victims. Warrap was the most affected by violence.

70. UNMISS documented 304 civilian casualties (39 killed and 265 injured) during the civil unrest against Sudanese nationals across the country from 16 to 24 January, triggered by the reported killings of South Sudanese nationals in Wad Madani. In addition, information that may amount to misinformation, disinformation or hate speech related to the tensions was circulated on social media platforms, which prompted the Government to impose a ban on some social media platforms that was lifted following advocacy by the South Sudan Bar Association and civil society organizations. These developments represent a significant infringement on human rights and the protection of civilians, primarily the Sudanese community who had sought refuge in South Sudan.

71. While the Government's response to the crisis largely complied with its obligation to protect civilians, some potential human rights violations were documented, including the alleged use of live rounds of ammunition by security forces to disperse protesters in Juba and Aweil town, and mass detention, which may amount to unlawful deprivation of liberty.

72. UNMISS conducted 76 capacity-building activities to increase understanding of human rights among 3,393 national stakeholders (964 women), including security forces, local government officials, judicial officials, community leaders and civil society actors, and to promote compliance with human rights norms and standards.

(a) Children and armed conflict

73. UNMISS verified 53 grave violations against 49 children (35 boys, 14 girls). Twenty-seven children were victims of killing (8 boys, 3 girls) and maiming (9 boys, 7 girls), 13 boys were recruited and used, 7 children (5 boys, 2 girls) were abducted and 2 girls were raped. UNMISS verified the attacks on three schools and one hospital by the National Security Service and the South Sudan People's Defence Forces in Western Equatoria and Western Bahr el-Ghazal, respectively. UNMISS also verified the release of seven boys by unidentified armed elements in Western Equatoria and the military use of two schools by the South Sudan People's Defence Forces in Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Western Equatoria. The South Sudan People's Defence Forces subsequently vacated the school in Western Bahr el-Ghazal following persistent advocacy by the mission.

74. Violations occurred in Western Equatoria (24), Upper Nile (11), Central Equatoria (7), Unity (6), Jonglei (4), Northern Bahr el-Ghazal (4) and Western Bahr el-Ghazal (3). Twenty-one were unattributed, as they resulted from unidentified perpetrators, including crossfire between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and the National Salvation Front (1), explosive remnants of war (13) and unknown armed groups (7). The others were attributed to the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (19), the South Sudan National Police Service (6), SPLM/A-IO (6), the

National Salvation Front (3), the National Security Service (3) and forces loyal to Brigadier General James Nando (1).

75. UNMISS delivered 59 training sessions that raised awareness of the need and means to ensure child protection among 2,709 participants (849 women), including 1,837 community members (669 women), 652 members of security forces (136 women), 103 protection partners (35 women), 75 government officials (9 women), 41 SPLM/A-IO members (all men) and 1 South Sudan Opposition Alliance (SSOA) member (man). In addition, UNMISS delivered 10 child protection training sessions to 600 participants (141 women), including 248 members of government security forces (24 women), 161 members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA-IO) (45 women), 79 government officials (20 women), 77 community members (40 women), 34 protection partners (12 women), and 1 SSOA member (man).

(b) Conflict-related sexual violence

76. During the period under review, UNMISS documented and verified 17 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, affecting 21 survivors (10 women, and 11 girls), aged from 7 to 35 years. These incidents occurred in Western Equatoria, Western Bahr el-Ghazal, Unity, Central Equatoria, Lakes, Warrap and Jonglei and were attributed to unidentified armed elements, the South Sudan People's Defence Forces, community-based militia/civil defence groups, SPLM/A-IO, the National Salvation Front, the National Security Service and the South Sudan National Police Service. Fourteen of the survivors received urgent medical assistance and one was referred to psychological care.

77. On 12 February, UNMISS convened its quarterly meeting with the Joint Consultative Forum, a consortium of South Sudanese non-governmental organizations that work on conflict-related sexual violence. The meeting, attended by 16 participants (12 women), explored ways to strengthen support to survivors and preventive efforts, promote reporting and identify collaboration opportunities among the organizations. The discussions also highlighted the nexus between conflict-related sexual violence and trafficking in persons and the need to consider the interconnectedness of both crimes.

78. UNMISS, in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, hosted an online discussion on the nexus between conflict-related sexual violence and small arms and light weapons on 25 February. At the meeting, emphasis was placed on the need for stronger collaboration among mission components on this matter and in documenting the types of weapons used to commit conflict-related sexual violence.

79. UNMISS continued to support the implementation of the National Police Service action plan to address conflict-related sexual violence, including support for a quarterly meeting on 6 March.

F. Women and peace and security

80. On 20 and 21 February, UNMISS and the Gender Equality and Social Support Organization conducted a workshop to empower young women in civic and political participation. Attended by 120 women, it concluded with the drafting of collective and individual action plans, including demands from participants for more civic education in constitution-making and electoral processes.

81. Following the establishment in November of the national task force on sexual and gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence under the leadership

of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, UNMISS has been supporting the creation of subnational task forces, which comprise representatives from all relevant government sectors. As at 24 March, one subnational task force had been created in Bentiu.

82. On 7 and 8 February, the national task force on trafficking in persons was convened with support from UNMISS, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and IOM to advance the drafting of a comprehensive trafficking in persons act. On 28 January and 15 February, UNMISS supported the task force's monthly meetings, which were focused on developing a legal framework and coordination between the 22 task force members.

83. From 25 to 27 March, UNMISS conducted a capacity-building workshop to build young women's leadership skills, particularly during the electoral and constitution-making process. Attended by 58 young women from civil society at the national and subnational levels and political parties, the workshop concluded with the creation of a forum for young women change agents united in purpose.

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

84. As at 25 March, the number of UNMISS civilian personnel stood at 2,657, including 660 women (25 per cent).

85. UNMISS police strength stood at 1,592 (of an authorized 2,101 personnel), including 454 women (29 per cent).

86. Of the authorized 17,000 troops, UNMISS troop strength stood at 13,888 military personnel, including 1,152 women (8 per cent).

87. Between 1 December 2024 and 28 February 2025, 24 allegations of misconduct were recorded in the case management tracking system. One allegation of sexual exploitation and abuse was recorded during this period. 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

88. As at 20 March, UNMISS had recorded 384 incidents related to the status of-forces agreement, of which 381 involved movement restrictions imposed by government authorities, affecting UNMISS patrols in 10 states. In total, 362 UNMISS dynamic air and ground patrols were cancelled due to the non-acknowledgement by the authorities of the Mission's sharing of information and flight safety assurance. The significant increase is attributed to the heightened security situation and administrative challenges within the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism headquarters in Juba.

89. On 31 January, in Western Bahr el-Ghazal, armed soldiers in a South Sudan People's Defence Forces vehicle chased an UNMISS vehicle and forcefully entered its base after an alleged traffic accident. The soldiers attempted to pull the UNMISS driver out of the car, with one soldier cocking his rifle.

90. Seventy-three incidents of crime and harassment of United Nations and international non-governmental organizations personnel were recorded. These included burglaries, theft, armed robberies, harassment and intrusions into facilities.

Harassment of United Nations staff by host government security actors remained common at Juba International Airport, as well as during road stops.

91. In Juba, 28 incidents of criminality were recorded between 16 January and 24 March. Notably, on 17 February, national staff fell victim to two separate armed robbery incidents. Four more armed robberies targeted national staff in Western Equatoria during the reporting period.

92. On 27 February, at the meeting of the high-level coordination forum with UNMISS, and in a note verbale dated 5 March, the Government affirmed its decision to assume full possession of the Tamping base, located within the Juba International Airport enclave, proposing a three-phase relocation plan, to be completed by 1 June, to allow for planned upgrades of the airport. The Government also reiterated that expired ammunition stockpiles belonging to the troop-contributing countries of UNMISS should be returned to their countries of origin rather than being disposed of in South Sudan.

93. The attack on the United Nations helicopter in Nasir on 7 March constituted a serious breach of international humanitarian law.

VIII. Performance optimization

94. United Nations police evaluated one formed police unit in Juba and one in Malakal on 8 and 19 February, respectively. While the overall assessments were satisfactory, both units had a shortfall of contingent-owned equipment related to the disposal and replenishment of expired ammunition and remained on a performance improvement plan.

95. The UNMISS force planned 15 evaluations in six sectors among the various units for the first quarter. As at 24 March, 13 had been conducted and the units were found to be trained and operationally ready. A 360-degree evaluation of the force headquarters by the sector headquarters is being instituted as force best practice.

IX. Financial aspects

96. The General Assembly, by its resolution [78/306](#) of 28 June 2024, appropriated the amount of \$1,237,887,300 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. As at 24 March 2025, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNMISS amounted to \$374.9 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to \$2,711.0 million. Reimbursement of troop and formed police costs, as well as for contingent-owned equipment, has been made for the period up to 30 September 2024, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

X. Observations and recommendations

97. The spread and intensity of conflict between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and opposition forces in many parts of the country is deeply concerning. With the arrest of the First Vice-President, Riek Machar, and senior SPLM-IO officials, the entire peace process in South Sudan is now at serious risk of collapsing, with a real possibility of a relapse into conflict. I urge adherence to the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access and encourage the parties to fully implement the Revitalized Agreement, most pressingly the transitional

security arrangements, thus safeguarding the gains that are now threatening to unravel.

98. Regional organizations and neighbouring States have similarly called for restraint, to privilege dialogue over conflict, to release the SPLA-IO officials who have been arrested and to engage in the spirit of consensual decision-making in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement. The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, the Security Council, IGAD and various leaders have underlined the actions required now. I continue to encourage joint efforts by all partners to amplify these messages to call on the parties to step back from the brink. I strongly condemn the attack on the United Nations helicopter in Nasir on 7 March that resulted in the loss of lives, including of UNMISS personnel. I call on the leaders of South Sudan to undertake a prompt and thorough investigation and bring to justice those responsible for this heinous act.

99. The impact of the recent conflict on communities is worrying, particularly the indiscriminate use of barrel bombs in Upper Nile and elsewhere that also affect civilians. Incidents involving local militias highlight the necessity for concerted efforts across the rule of law and justice sectors to ensure accountability for those who instigate, mobilize and lead intercommunal violence. The ongoing efforts to strengthen justice chain institutions, including national police capacities and mobile courts, must be reinforced and underpinned by the durable implementation of the Revitalized Agreement.

100. I acknowledge the finalization of election-specific timelines by the National Elections Commission, which outline the operational needs to achieve elections by December 2026. I also note the delayed launch of the civic education campaign and public consultations, marking the beginning of the substantive phase of the constitution-making process. The parties, however, remain short on implementing the progress needed in this regard. I therefore reiterate the “critical mass” of outstanding provisions highlighted by the African Union, IGAD and UNMISS in early 2024, and identified in my assessment of April 2024 ([S/2024/297](#)) as necessary conditions for peaceful and credible elections in South Sudan.

101. Efforts to operationalize the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing Act (2024) and the Compensation and Reparations Authority Act (2024) are positive steps. Progress in this area can help to rebuild the social fabric of this young nation.

102. The current economic and humanitarian situation remains deeply concerning, with an estimated 6.1 million South Sudanese people at risk of acute food insecurity, and women and children particularly affected. This situation is exacerbated by the impact of the cholera outbreak and climate shocks. Resources are urgently needed to support the most vulnerable and prevent a further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis. I urge the Government to facilitate the delivery of essential humanitarian services and implement measures needed to address government revenue shortfalls and mitigate the economic crisis. I encourage international partners to contribute to enable critical support.

103. I commend the generosity of the South Sudanese people for hosting over 1.1 million people who have fled to seek refuge from the ongoing conflict in the Sudan. I also note with concern the public unrest that arose from retaliatory attacks on Sudanese nationals in response to the killing of South Sudanese citizens in the Sudan. I commend the Government for taking measures to protect Sudanese civilians, in line with its obligations to protect civilians.

104. I note the Government’s intention to undertake an expansion of Juba International Airport, and its request that the Mission vacate part of its headquarters

adjacent to the airport site. Given the criticality of this base to Mission operations, UNMISS stands ready to work with the Government to find a solution.

105. Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to the military, police and civilian personnel of UNMISS and to my Special Representative for South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom, as they demonstrate remarkable courage in their efforts to implement their mandates under such difficult circumstances. I also extend special thanks to the troop- and police-contributing countries and applaud the United Nations country team and our humanitarian partners for their unwavering commitment to delivering on their critical mandate in South Sudan even under the most challenging circumstances.

