



Security Council

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Situation in Abyei

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 35 of Security Council resolution [2760 \(2024\)](#), in which the Council requested to be informed of progress in implementing the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). It covers the period since the issuance of the previous report of the Secretary-General ([S/2024/740](#)), from 2 October 2024 to 15 April 2025. The report provides updates on, among others, political and security developments, women and young people, peace and security, human rights and the humanitarian situation, as well as on the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. It also provides updates on the impact of the ongoing conflict in the Sudan on Abyei and on UNISFA operations.

II. Abyei

Political developments

2. The political process in Abyei continued to be affected by the ongoing conflict in the Sudan and by internal challenges in South Sudan. No progress was made on the final status of Abyei and border questions during the reporting period. The Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa, in coordination with the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, continued to engage with stakeholders, reiterating the need for stability in Abyei.

3. South Sudanese security forces, comprising at least 600 South Sudan People's Defence Forces soldiers and South Sudan National Police Service personnel, remained deployed in southern Abyei, in violation of the 2011 Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on temporary arrangements for the administration and security of the Abyei Area. That figure represents an increase from the estimated 400 South Sudanese security forces observed in the previous reporting period. UNISFA sent notes verbales on this subject to the Government of South Sudan on 31 December 2024 and 14 January 2025 protesting the continued presence of South Sudanese security forces. Mission leadership reiterated the need for security forces to withdraw during in-person meetings with South Sudanese authorities in several visits to Juba (two in December 2024, two in February 2025 and another in March 2025). As part



of separate engagements with Abyei stakeholders in Juba on 25 and 26 March, UNISFA leadership met with a delegation from the South Sudan National Committee for the Final Status of Abyei to exchange views on issues related to Abyei.

4. On 27 October, Abyei Voice for Security and Stability, a local civil society group, held a peaceful demonstration at UNISFA headquarters involving approximately 200 persons and submitted a petition to UNISFA asserting the right of Ngok Dinka to self-governance. The Government of South Sudan convened the eighth Governors' Forum in Juba from 26 November to 2 December. After holding discussions on Abyei, the governors adopted a resolution that includes eight recommendations directly related to Abyei and UNISFA. Among those is a recommendation that the Abyei Administrative Area Legislature should discuss and endorse the results of the 2013 Abyei community referendum and convey its decision to the Government of South Sudan for adoption or endorsement. The governors also made recommendations regarding the operationalization of Khadhian (Athony) Airport and the deployment of South Sudanese police to the Abyei area. The 2013 referendum, which was boycotted by the Misseriya community and not endorsed by the international community, demonstrated the desire of the Ngok Dinka community for Abyei to join South Sudan.

5. In accordance with the resolution adopted at the Governors' Forum, the Abyei Administrative Assembly officially endorsed the referendum results on 27 December 2024. On 15 January 2025, the Governance Cluster of the Government of South Sudan endorsed the adoption process for the 2013 community referendum and submitted a memorandum on Abyei to the Council of Ministers, which has not yet placed the matter on its agenda. Meanwhile, on 19 January, a group of Misseriya leaders, including the Paramount Chief, transmitted a letter to the United Nations rejecting the steps taken to adopt the community referendum. On 25 January, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan publicly expressed concern at statements made by South Sudan officials regarding Abyei, noting that they constituted a violation of the 2011 Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

6. From 18 to 21 November 2024, UNISFA leadership held discussions in Port Sudan with Sudanese officials, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defence, the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee Co-Chair for the Sudan and other stakeholders to exchange views on the political and security situation in Abyei. During those meetings, Sudanese government officials expressed their readiness to resume meetings of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism and the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee.

7. On 15 and 16 December 2024, and again on 5 February 2025, UNISFA sent notes verbales to the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan reaffirming the mission's readiness to support the revitalization of existing joint political mechanisms.

8. On 18 February, the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, removed the Chief Administrator of the Juba-appointed Abyei administration, Chol Deng Alak, and replaced him with Charles Abyei Jok. On 20 February, at the swearing-in ceremony for the Chief Administrator and the newly appointed Governor of Warrap State, Magok Magok Deng, the President instructed that they take decisive actions to end the persistent intercommunal conflicts in their respective jurisdictions and urged community leaders residing in Juba to refrain from fuelling violence at the grass-roots level.

9. The Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, visited the region, including Abyei, Port Sudan and Juba, in February 2025. Among the key issues discussed with representatives of the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan were the need for the full deployment of United Nations police as authorized

by the Security Council and the need to ensure the demilitarized and weapon-free status of Abyei. The Under-Secretary-General also highlighted the importance of resuming dialogue between the Sudan and South Sudan through joint political mechanisms.

10. On 24 February in Juba, the Under-Secretary-General, as part of his visit to the region, met with the Juba-appointed Chief Administrator of Abyei to discuss the dynamics in the Abyei Area. The Under-Secretary-General reiterated the commitment of the United Nations to working with the Chief Administrator and his administration towards peace and stability in Abyei.

11. On 23 and 24 March, UNISFA leadership held meetings with the Government of the Sudan. Among the issues discussed was the threat posed by the Rapid Support Forces to the freedom of movement of UNISFA in the light of the incident that occurred on 28 February, in which Rapid Support Forces fighters blocked a UNISFA logistics convoy in Nyama, West Kordofan, the Sudan. Other issues discussed were the outstanding deployment of United Nations police in accordance with the UNISFA mandate and political, security and operational matters.

Conflict dynamics and the security situation

12. Despite an increase in overall crime, intercommunal tensions and the presence of armed groups, the overall security situation in the Abyei Area remained generally stable. There were 66 arms-related crimes, 6 carjackings, 2 armed clashes and 17 other incidents reported. In total, 91 incidents were reported, an increase over the 82 reported in the previous reporting period. Twenty-two people were killed in those incidents, a decrease from the 27 killed in the previous reporting period, and 56 were injured, an increase over the 51 injured in the previous reporting period.

13. There were no recorded incidents between the Ngok Dinka and the Misseriya related to migration. The December 2024 agreement between the two communities following a pre-migration conference facilitated by UNISFA and other partners contributed to this outcome. Nonetheless, the arrival in late January 2025 of 400 displaced Nuer individuals from Unity State, South Sudan, ignited some tensions among local communities. One notable incident of violence occurred on 1 March, when the displaced Nuer clashed with the Misseriya in Leu, Sector South, resulting in eight fatalities.

14. The ongoing conflict in the Sudan remained a destabilizing factor in Abyei, in particular in the north and around the Amiet market. The combination of economic hardship and dire humanitarian conditions, exacerbated by an influx of refugees and returnees, contributed to an increase in incidents. Notably, on 12 November 2024, five Ngok Dinka individuals were abducted in Nyama, West Kordofan State, the Sudan, and later rescued by the joint protection committee at Amiet market. In addition, five carjacking incidents involving UNISFA vehicles occurred in Sector North, with no casualties among United Nations personnel. Three vehicles have been recovered.

15. On 7 November 2024, in southern Abyei, armed young persons attacked the community protection committee station in Abyei town in an attempt to release a detainee, resulting in the death of one community protection committee member. Family members of the deceased retaliated shortly thereafter by attacking those whom they believed had been involved in the attack, leading to another four deaths. In response, UNISFA provided force protection to the community protection committee station.

16. During the reporting period, the South Sudan People's Defence Forces increased their personnel in southern Abyei from 400 to approximately 600. The South Sudan People's Defence Forces have established positions in the Agok area, set up

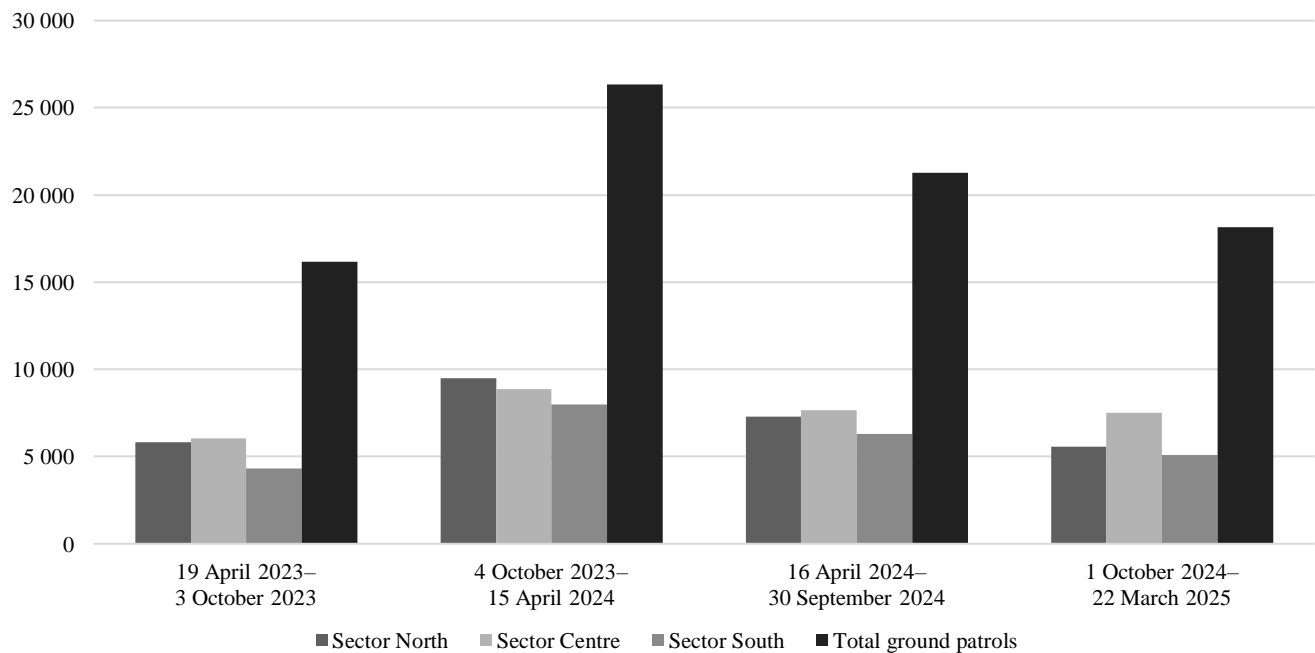
checkpoints at Athony junction and Korioch and occupied civilian structures, including three schools and the Agok community protection committee station.

17. In early February, efforts by the Juba-appointed Chief Administrator and the Warrap State leadership in South Sudan to establish a customs checkpoint at Athony junction led to violent clashes between the South Sudan People’s Defence Forces and armed members of the Twic Dinka community. Those confrontation resulted in the deaths of five South Sudan People’s Defence Forces soldiers and four Twic Dinka, prompting a mobilization among the Ngok Dinka and heightening tensions in southern Abyei.

18. In northern Abyei, there has been a continued influx of small arms and light weapons, with reports indicating the presence of individuals affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces as far south as the Amiet market. On 12 March, UNISFA intercepted an individual in Rapid Support Forces attire near the UNISFA base in Diffra. That same day, two individuals claiming to be the commander and deputy commander in charge of Rapid Support Forces fighters in Diffra and a group of protesters gathered at the Diffra base demanding the release of the uniformed individual, who was later released. On 13 April, a UNISFA patrol sighted some 25 uniformed and armed Rapid Support Forces personnel near the village of Mekenis, Sector North, who were reportedly investigating a robbery incident.

19. Throughout the reporting period, UNISFA maintained a strong focus on the physical protection of civilians, conducting a total of 20,936 ground patrols across the Abyei Area, including joint patrols involving peacekeepers from various sectors, military observers and United Nations police, in order to bolster safety and security in areas facing heightened tensions and rising crime.

Force ground patrols, by sector



Source: UNISFA and Joint Mission Analysis Centre.

Freedom of movement violations

20. The presence of South Sudanese security forces in the southern part of Abyei has continued to affect the ability of UNISFA to patrol south of Athony junction, at Kilo 27, and establish a temporary operating base at Athony junction. In addition, on 28 February, a UNISFA logistical convoy travelling from Abyei town to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism headquarters in Kadugli, the Sudan, was blocked and prevented from continuing to Kadugli by Rapid Support Forces fighters in Nyama, West Kordofan, the Sudan. Four peacekeepers and eight contracted drivers were abducted and United Nations equipment was confiscated. The personnel were later released, but eight fuel trucks that were seized have not been returned. On 4 March, the Sudanese Armed Forces denied access to a Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism convoy, preventing it from going beyond the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone at Tishwin and thus hindering its ability to access water supplies from Heglig, the Sudan.

Intercommunity dialogue

21. The joint community peace committee continued to serve as the primary platform for intercommunal dialogue and conflict resolution between the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities. During the reporting period, 16 regular sessions and 3 ad hoc meetings were held, involving 28 representatives, including two women.

22. Relations between the two communities remained relatively stable. One peaceful demonstration was held by Misseriya traditional leaders in Diffra on 19 January to protest against what they perceived as an attempt by the Government of South Sudan to “annex” Abyei. In response, Misseriya representatives withdrew their support for the talks between Misseriya and Ngok Dinka traditional leaders that were scheduled to be held in Todach on 27 January.

23. UNISFA continued to engage with local authorities and traditional leaders to address ongoing challenges. On 7 October, UNISFA leadership urged the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief to disband armed youth groups, such as the Tit Baai operating in southern Abyei. Following the 7 November killing of a member of a community protection committee, UNISFA again expressed concern at the presence and actions of the Tit Baai members who were suspected to have been involved. The Juba-appointed administration disavowed any institutional support for these youth groups.

24. On 25 January 2025, approximately 4,000 Nuer community members from Mayom County, Unity State, South Sudan, arrived in Marial Achak, Abyei, after severe flooding in their home areas led to human and livestock disease outbreaks. Seeking dialogue with the Ngok Dinka host communities, they engaged in peace dialogues on 26 and 29 January that were facilitated by UNISFA in coordination with the joint community peace committee, traditional leaders and the Juba-appointed administration. In parallel, the Juba-appointed administration contacted Unity State officials to negotiate a mutually acceptable arrangement for hosting the displaced population. Those efforts are ongoing.

25. A traditional leaders conference that was scheduled for 10 to 13 February 2025 was not held owing to differing views within and among the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities. While both groups agreed that an inclusive conference could address existing grievances, the Misseriya leadership insisted that the event be held within Abyei, while the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief maintained that it should be held outside Abyei. UNISFA organized online discussions between the Paramount Chiefs of the two communities throughout January 2025 to facilitate communication.

26. From 9 to 12 December, UNISFA, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Organization for

Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Concordis International, hosted the 2024 seasonal pre-migration conference in Noong, bringing together 154 representatives from the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities, including 55 women and 55 young persons (35 male and 20 female). Women and young persons also contributed as rapporteurs and members of the drafting committee. Participants unanimously endorsed a new agreement reaffirming previous commitments to peaceful transhumance and respect for human dignity.

27. From 9 to 12 April, 60 youth leaders (including 16 women) from the Ngok Dinka and Twic Dinka communities gathered for a dialogue in Wau, South Sudan, that was facilitated by UNISFA, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), FAO, IOM, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Concordis International and the South Sudan Council of Churches. At the end of the four-day meeting, participants signed an agreement on peaceful coexistence that includes resolutions committing to an immediate cessation of hostilities, the reopening of key routes to enable free movement of people and goods, and collaboration on countering misinformation, disinformation and hate speech.

28. UNISFA implemented four quick-impact projects during the reporting period. Those projects included the construction of a teacher training centre in Abyei town, a primary school at Dokura and a secondary school and a new community protection committee detention facility in the village of Abatok.

Rule of law

29. There was a significant increase in general crime during the reporting period, in the context of an increase in the number of displaced persons and economic and humanitarian challenges. Between 2 October 2024 and 6 April 2025, a total of 1,314 general crimes occurred. Under the guidance of United Nations police, the community protection committees and the joint community protection committee apprehended 947 suspects, including 111 women.

30. There was no progress towards the establishment of the Abyei Police Service, as outlined in the 2011 Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. Accordingly, UNISFA continued to support community-based mechanisms, including 52 community protection committees and the joint protection committee in Amiet market. A total of 1,223 community protection committee members, including 194 women, and 56 joint protection committee members, including 5 women, served as volunteers.

31. Support provided by UNISFA during the reporting period for efforts to enhance the rule of law included the screening and profiling of 157 community protection committee members and 26 joint protection committee members, while working closely with traditional and local authorities to foster transparency and accountability. Uniforms and identity cards were provided to help identify community protection committee members. In order to further enhance the operational capabilities of community protection committee members, the United Nations police organized 38 training sessions that were attended by 1,035 members, including 299 women. Those sessions covered such topics as early warning, criminal investigation techniques, crime prevention and detection, community-oriented policing and traffic management.

32. The South Sudan People's Defence Forces and the South Sudan National Police Service continued to occupy the Agok community protection committee facilities, significantly hindering the ability of the United Nations police to co-locate with the Agok community protection committee and provide the necessary mentoring and support.

33. From 16 to 26 February, as part of the rule of law support strategy for Abyei, UNISFA, in collaboration with Concordis International, conducted a capacity-building programme aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya community-based protection and justice mechanisms to support law and order processes, manage disputes and promote access to justice in line with human rights principles. This initiative benefited 232 community members, including 78 members of the community protection committees and the joint community protection committee (including 14 women), 26 judges from customary courts (including 2 women), 28 members of the joint community peace committee (including 2 women), 50 young persons (including 12 women) and 50 women representatives from both the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities. At the end of the workshop, participants adopted standard operating procedures for addressing conflicts and criminal incidents.

34. UNISFA conducted 258 visits to detention facilities and conducted 127 awareness-raising sessions with Ngok Dinka and Misseriya community members to evaluate and enhance their engagement in addressing safety and security in Abyei.

Human rights situation

35. The humanitarian and security situations continued to adversely affect the human rights situation in Abyei. Several incidents, including the ongoing occupation of civilian structures in Agok by South Sudan National Police Service, have created fear and affected civilians' rights to education, livelihood and health.

36. UNISFA continued to assess risks related to support provided by the mission in accordance with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces.

37. Between 4 and 23 December 2024, seven programmes were conducted to commemorate Human Rights Day. In that connection, UNISFA and IOM conducted a seminar on 4 December in Abyei town and another seminar on 5 December in Diffra.

38. In addition, UNISFA conducted a human rights sensitization programme in Athony. Five mobile radio interviews featuring human rights defenders were aired on Abyei FM radio and human rights films were screened in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights. At least 500 Misseriya and Ngok Dinka community members participated in the events.

39. On 10 December 2024, UNISFA conducted community activities to launch the Abyei Human Rights Society. The Society provides a means for community-based human rights monitoring and advocacy while enhancing community ownership of initiatives. The Society has contributed to two monthly monitoring reports and assisted in organizing five out of seven human rights promotional activities.

Humanitarian situation

40. The demand for humanitarian aid in Abyei surged, primarily owing to an increase in the number of displaced persons. At least 58,468 people were documented as displaced, of whom 30,000 were displaced owing to the lack of security in the southern region of Abyei and 24,468 because of flooding. Some 4,000 displaced persons were Nuer cattle herders, with thousands of cattle in tow, who had been affected by floods in Unity State and south-eastern Abyei. Intercommunal violence and continued flooding, the main causes of displacement, continued to be equally serious impediments to the return of displaced persons to their villages.

41. During the reporting period, the IOM population movement monitoring desk at Amiet market recorded the arrival of 7,828 individuals (4,148 men and 3,680 women)

from various conflict-affected regions in the Sudan. That number is in addition to the 31,136 individuals who have entered since the onset of the conflict in the Sudan.

42. Of those 7,828 individuals, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees refugee transit centre in Abyei received approximately 2,172 refugees, comprising 1,286 men, 886 women and 1,135 children (670 boys and 465 girls). UNHCR continued to transfer refugees to Wedweil refugee camp in Aweil, South Sudan. The movement of additional returnees from Amiet market to destinations in South Sudan and the transfer of refugees to Wedweil was delayed owing to the lack of security on the access routes, the outbreak of cholera in Aweil and violence against Sudanese nationals in destination areas in South Sudan.

43. Traditional leaders in northern Abyei reported the presence of approximately 15,000 Sudanese individuals who have settled in Diffra and surrounding villages, as well as another roughly 10,000 individuals dispersed in and around Amiet market who have arrived since the beginning of the conflict in the Sudan. Their presence in Amiet market has evolved into an informal settlement in which there is an uncontrolled oil trade and the risk of disease and fire outbreaks.

44. The operating environment for humanitarian aid was affected by humanitarian access constraints. On 8 November 2024, local community members blocked the main gate of the mission's headquarters in response to rumours, which proved incorrect, that a visiting delegation from the Sudan was seeking to close Amiet market. As a result, humanitarian operations were halted for the day. Humanitarian aid to people in north Abyei continues to be limited owing to the restricted capacity of humanitarian partners, whose humanitarian networks throughout the Sudan have been disrupted by the ongoing conflict that country.

45. Between 2 October 2024 and 31 March 2025, humanitarian response reached approximately 206,330 persons (about 58 per cent of the estimated total population) with aid in the areas of food security, health and nutrition; shelter and non-food items; water, sanitation and hygiene; education; and protection, including refugee response. Food insecurity accounts for the greatest need in Abyei. Food aid reached 118,162 persons, of whom 60,086 (50.9 per cent) were men and 58,076 (49.1 per cent) were women.

46. The capacity of the health system is severely limited, with a physician-to-patient ratio of 1 doctor for every 70,000 persons. The prevalence of malnutrition stands at 18.3 per cent, which exceeds the emergency threshold level set by the World Health Organization (WHO).

47. Eighteen healthcare facilities, including 16 primary healthcare centres and primary healthcare units, as well as 2 hospitals, provided services to 63,708 persons (30,766 men and 32,942 women), focusing on curative health and nutrition.

48. The arrival of internally displaced persons in Abyei town placed pressure on the schools, which have an average classroom size of 120 students. In Abyei town, crowded classrooms led to the introduction of double shifts for teachers, and as a consequence of the dire shortage of space and education materials, 435 children dropped out of school between October 2024 and March 2025. UNICEF and its partners built eight classrooms across three schools. Meanwhile, the World Food Programme (WFP) and its partners provided meals to 13,000 students, and 80 teachers were trained in order to enhance the quality of education.

49. FAO vaccinated 169,328 cattle and provided livelihood kits to 3,500 people. In addition, humanitarian partners provided shelter aid to 31,218 people and rehabilitated 36 boreholes to provide safe drinking water.

Women and peace and security

50. UNISFA continued to advocate for the direct, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes and security mechanisms. Women's participation in the pre-migration conference held in December 2024 increased (150 participants, including 55 women) when compared with the post-migration conference held in May 2024 (137 participants, including 41 women). Women's participation in the joint protection committee in Amiet increased to 5 out of 56 members. Women's membership in the community protection committees was unchanged, despite efforts to increase participation. Women comprise 15 per cent of the community protection committees across Abyei (1,223 members, of whom 181 are women).

51. Regular meetings were held with women leaders to strengthen and empower women's civil society organizations and networks. On 8 March 2025, UNISFA supported the community-led celebration of International Women's Day, during which civil society and local stakeholders affirmed their commitment to advance gender equality in Abyei. More than 350 community members attended the event. UNISFA organized nine activities during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, reaching 2,000 persons in 11 communities across the Abyei area in November and December 2024. The activities raised awareness on sexual and gender-based violence, drew attention to the campaign's global theme on femicide and invited partners and communities to recommit to the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in Abyei. In addition, during the reporting period, 167 sensitization sessions on sexual and gender-based violence were organized for 2,889 persons (652 women, 426 men, 889 girls and 992 boys).

52. The UNISFA community-based gender desk continued to function as a referral system for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, in particular women and girls who are most at risk. During the reporting period, six cases of violence were documented, including two rapes, one attempted rape, one domestic violence case and one case of spousal abduction. The suspect in one of the rape cases was convicted in the local courts, and the other case is under investigation. In the attempted rape case, the suspect died after the incident and the survivor withdrew the case from the traditional court. The suspect in the domestic violence case was convicted, while the abduction case remained under investigation.

53. On 16 December 2024, UNISFA organized a workshop on gender-sensitive reporting, reporting on cases and prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation for 23 journalists, including 4 women, in order to leverage journalists and media as partners in advancing gender equality and the women and peace and security agenda in the Abyei area.

54. UNISFA conducted 1,129 patrols that included female engagement teams, constituting 8 per cent of the mission's patrols. During the reporting period, UNISFA joined the pilot network for uniformed women of the Department of Peace Operations to provide uniformed women with opportunities to learn and also to network with uniformed women serving in UNMISS and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.

Youth and peace and security

55. Following the Ngok Dinka and Twic Dinka youth peace dialogue held in Wau, South Sudan, the Abyei Youth Union held a meeting at which the Juba-appointed administration, the traditional leaders of the Ngok Dinka community and the Abyei Civil Society Organization heard a briefing on the outcome of the dialogue and expressed their support for the agreement arising from the dialogue. On 15 April, the head of the peacebuilding department of the Juba-appointed administration and the

Abyei Youth Union met with UNISFA discuss support for the implementation of the agreement

Operations of the Mine Action Service

56. As part of the mine action services provided during the reporting period, 243,427 m² of land and 699 km of roads in Abyei were assessed as being safe for UNISFA, humanitarian actors and the local population. The land assessed included UNISFA temporary operating bases, patrol routes and areas identified for the excavation of material for road rehabilitation and construction.

57. As part of the dry season deployment, the clearance of the Todach area began with manual mine clearance. All explosive remnants of war and landmines recovered during clearance activities were destroyed.

58. In addition, 16 small arms and light weapons and 458 rounds of small arms ammunition confiscated by UNISFA were destroyed. A total of 20 explosive remnants of war and 38 rounds of small arms ammunition located through survey activities were also destroyed.

59. A total of 206 sessions on explosive ordnance risk education were delivered to 2,044 people (566 men, 367 women, 798 boys and 313 girls). In addition, 267 explosive ordnance risk education briefing sessions were conducted in the communities, reaching 2,613 people (876 boys, 642 girls, 741 men and 354 women). A series of surveys conducted since November 2024 revealed that an average of 91.5 per cent of respondents demonstrated increased knowledge with regard to distinguishing between safe and unsafe behaviour. In addition, 22 safety training sessions were delivered to 621 personnel and humanitarian actors, of whom 120 were women.

Joint Programme of the Resident Coordinators in the Sudan and South Sudan in Abyei

60. The Joint Programme of the Resident Coordinators in the Sudan and South Sudan in Abyei continued to be implemented, with a view to helping build the conditions necessary for peace in Abyei. The impact of the ongoing conflict in the Sudan coupled with poor road infrastructure posed significant implementation challenges. WHO, in particular, faced challenges in sourcing specialized doctors and gaining access to remote health facilities between November 2024 and March 2025. The impact of the war and the poor roads also hampered the timely delivery of essential medical supplies to communities in urgent need.

61. Despite the challenges, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes completed four projects. Those projects include the skill development programme of IOM, in which 102 students (including 67 women), comprising both host community members and displaced persons, have been enrolled since May 2024. The areas in which students' skills are being developed include catering and hospitality management, tailoring, masonry and construction, computer literacy and business skills. The catering, tailoring and masonry courses ran for eight consecutive months and concluded in January 2025.

62. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) conducted awareness programmes and provided response services to 605 beneficiaries (372 women and 233 girls). UNFPA also provided 22 gender-based violence case management services in the women- and girls-friendly space in Abyei town. UNFPA enhanced skills through specific training courses in sewing, crocheting and craft-making that immediately led to income-generating activities for 40 women out of 200 participants in the women- and girls-friendly space in Amiet.

63. WHO provided life-saving medical assistance, including mobile and outreach health clinics in the remote areas of southern Abyei, and incentives to healthcare providers. In February, WHO and GOAL Global, a humanitarian response agency, provided basic trauma management training to build the capacity of healthcare providers. Through the Joint Programme of the Resident Coordinators, 381 babies have been delivered, 169 patients have been referred from Amiet to AmethBek hospital and 35,077 people have benefited from primary healthcare consultations. Efforts were also made to enhance access to essential health services for over 70,000 women, children and individuals with special needs in Adair, Goli, Mekenis, Al Radiya and Amiet market.

64. From 2 to 4 March, the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators for the Sudan and South Sudan conducted a joint mission to Abyei. They were accompanied by representatives of various United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. The mission was aimed at evaluating the humanitarian and development landscape and needs and determining their implications for the implementation of the Joint Programme. The delegation met humanitarian partners and both the Juba- and Khartoum-appointed administrations. They engaged with community members, including women representatives, and displaced persons at Amiet market and in Diffra and discussed support for livelihood opportunities. Lack of security, sexual and gender-based violence, child labour and early marriage were also discussed.

III. Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism: progress on benchmarks

65. The ongoing conflict in the Sudan continued to affect the implementation of the mandate of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. Sudanese airspace has remained closed, thus continuing to prevent aerial monitoring operations. The conflict has also deterred private contractors from resupplying the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism headquarters in Kadugli, the Sudan, necessitating the conduct of logistical convoys escorted by UNISFA peacekeepers between Kadugli and Abyei. Those convoys encounter various Rapid Support Forces checkpoints along their route, posing a threat to their security. That threat is illustrated by the incident that occurred on 28 February, in which a UNISFA logistical convoy travelling from Abyei to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism headquarters in Kadugli, the Sudan, was intercepted by Rapid Support Forces elements in Nyama, West Kordofan, the Sudan (see paras. 11 and 20). As a result of security concerns along the resupply route, on 9 April, UNISFA began the temporary relocation of 53 personnel from the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism area to UNISFA mission headquarters in Abyei, in order to reduce the operational footprint. The bulk of personnel, totalling 449, remain in the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism area, where mandate implementation has not been affected. Fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North Abdelaziz al-Hilu faction on 3 February 2025 disrupted operations, including troop rotations and resupply.

66. Nonetheless, the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism continued to carry out its mandate through ground monitoring missions and situation assessment patrols from team sites 21 (Tishwin) and 22 (Abu Qussa/Wunkur). The headquarters and team sites of Sector 1 of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism remained non-operational, thus restricting monitoring activities to Sector 2. The Sudanese authorities continued to grant security clearances for air and ground movements from Abyei to Kadugli and the two Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism team sites for the purpose of resupply and

personnel movement. Civil-military cooperation activities, including the provision of medical care to local patients and water distribution, continued.

67. The South Sudan National Police Service operated a checkpoint at Panakuac, 12 km north from the southernmost limit of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, and restricted the movement of Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism patrols beyond the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone area, in contravention of the status-of-forces agreement. The issue was discussed with South Sudanese authorities during recent visits to Juba by UNISFA leadership.

68. South Sudanese security forces remained deployed in Panyikang and Koubre, near team site 22 (Abu Qussa/Wunkur), in contravention of the demilitarized nature of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, and there continue to be no South Sudan national monitors deployed at team site 22 because of security concerns.

69. UNISFA leadership continued to engage officials in South Sudan on the reoperationalization of the Sector 1 headquarters in Gok Machar, South Sudan.

70. Meetings of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism and the Joint Border Commission have not been held since the outbreak of conflict in the Sudan, posing a significant challenge to the implementation of the mandate of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. As a result, little progress has been made on border demarcation and border crossing corridors. Existing border crossing corridors, however, remain open to returnees and displaced persons fleeing the conflict in the Sudan.

IV. Administrative aspects and mission support

71. As at 11 March, the number of civilian staff in UNISFA stood at 301, comprising 176 international staff, 37 United Nations Volunteers and 88 national staff, against an authorized total of 201 international staff, 38 United Nations Volunteers and 96 national staff. Women accounted for 26 per cent of the civilian component, including 26 per cent of senior staff positions.

72. As at 11 March, the United Nations police strength stood at 55 individual police officers, of whom 21 were women. The deployment level mandated by the Security Council is 148. From October 2024 to 11 March 2025, the Government of South Sudan approved visas for 13 individual police officers and one expert, all of whom were deployed. No progress was made on the deployment of the three formed police units, as mandated by the Security Council.

73. As at 12 March, UNISFA had 3,241 military personnel (282 women and 2,959 men). The total comprised 2,989 troops, 127 staff officers and 125 military observers, against the authorized strength of 3,250. Included in these figures, the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism accounted for 533 military personnel (500 men and 33 women), with 491 troops, 13 staff officers and 29 military observers. Women represented 8.7 per cent of all military personnel, including 28.2 per cent of staff officers and military observers and 7 per cent of contingent troops.

74. During the current reporting period, all uniformed and civilian personnel were accommodated in newly constructed buildings. Highway and Agok camps were 95 per cent completed, while Diffra and Athony camps were 85 per cent completed. The construction of a new compound for the Nepal headquarters support company in the mission headquarters camp is 70 per cent completed. Planning for the reconstruction in the dry season of three out of five planned camps (Goli, Tajalei, Marial Achak, Noong and Banton) is at a high level of completion, with procurement action initiated for the prefabricated units.

75. In addition, the security situation along supply routes both within and outside Abyei has raised further challenges for mission resupply. Specifically, United Nations contracted drivers have been hesitant to offer their services because of unauthorized checkpoints and heightened security threats in the southern Abyei, in particular around Kilo 31, Athony junction and Agok and Majbong. On the route between Abyei town and the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism area of operations, security conditions have further complicated the already restricted road options for the resupply of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism headquarters in Kadugli and its team sites.

76. UNISFA continued to provide logistical support to humanitarian partners in Abyei. Between November and December 2024, UNISFA successfully transported 8 tons of dignity kits for UNFPA and 33 tons of medical supplies for WHO from Abyei to Diffra as part of the Joint Programme of the Resident Coordinators in the Sudan and South Sudan in Abyei.

Culture of performance

77. UNISFA continued to collect data in the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System platform and completed one assessment during the reporting period. The Situational Awareness Geospatial Enterprise database taxonomies review was initiated in response to the prevailing security situation.

Conduct and discipline

78. UNISFA continued to enhance its preventive efforts on sexual exploitation and abuse through outreach, training, risk assessments and engagement with the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse network, local communities and humanitarian actors. A total of 52 training sessions were delivered to 1,581 United Nations personnel and eight risk assessments were conducted in the military camps. In addition, UNISFA organized four monthly meetings with the Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Network, in order to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and strengthen the community-based complaint mechanism. No allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse were reported during the reporting period. On 15 December 2024, UNISFA updated its directives and orders to strictly enforce prevention measures on sexual exploitation and abuse and non-fraternization policies.

79. UNISFA distributed material on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, including in Arabic, conducted 13 outreach activities, launched 2 two-day awareness-raising workshops and conducted training on sexual exploitation and abuse prevention and referral pathways for members of the community-based complaint mechanisms and networks on 22 and 23 January in Abyei town and on 24 and 25 February in Diffra.

Public information

80. UNISFA organized seminars for the Juba-appointed administration of Abyei on 9 February and for Ngok Dinka leaders on 12 February to raise awareness about the mission's mandate. Sessions on misinformation were held during the pre-migration conference between Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities on 11 December 2025. Training for the media on gender-sensitive reporting took place on 14 December 2024. Nine briefings were provided to Abyei FM radio and regional media, along with online engagements to clarify the mandate of UNISFA and the need to respect the demilitarized nature of Abyei. In November 2024, a training session on professional journalism was delivered to local media practitioners.

V. Financial aspects

81. The General Assembly, by its resolution [78/297](#) of 28 June 2024, appropriated the amount of \$297.8 million for the maintenance of UNISFA for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

82. As at 17 March 2025, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNISFA amounted to \$121.2 million.

83. Reimbursement of troop costs has been made for the period up to 30 September 2024, and reimbursement for contingent-owned major equipment and self-sustainment has been made for the period up to 30 September 2024.

VI. Observations and recommendations

84. The political situation in Abyei and in the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism area of operations became more complex during the reporting period, as the impact of the challenges facing South Sudan and the Sudan has become increasingly visible in the daily operations of UNISFA. I condemn the abduction by the Rapid Support Forces of 12 United Nations personnel and contractors working to deliver supplies to Kadugli, as well as the seizure of eight United Nations-contracted fuel trucks. The disregard for the safety and security of United Nations personnel and contractors working to help UNISFA and the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism fulfil their mandate is deeply concerning. I reiterate my call to those in possession of the trucks to return them to UNISFA without delay. I also call upon the relevant authorities to ensure that the matter is investigated, in order to hold to account those responsible.

85. The political uncertainty in South Sudan and the ongoing conflict in the Sudan continue to hamper the political process on the determination of the final status of Abyei and related border questions. I am encouraged that the Government of the Sudan has once again expressed its readiness to resume the meetings of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee in order to discuss pressing matters related to the area. I urge the Government of South Sudan to also re-engage in this process. In addition, I hope that the parties will resume the Joint Political and Security Mechanism meetings. The United Nations remains ready to support these joint dialogues as soon as it is requested to do so.

86. The continued presence of South Sudanese security forces in Abyei and the reported presence of the Rapid Support Forces are particularly concerning. I call upon stakeholders to ensure that all armed actors depart Abyei immediately, in conformity with applicable Security Council resolutions and the 2011 Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. I call for the immediate withdrawal of the Rapid Support Forces and other armed actors, in order to allow UNISFA to implement its mandate unobstructed in its entire area of operations.

87. I call on the international community to continue supporting humanitarian needs in Abyei, where the increased arrival of displaced people has placed pressure on the limited resources available and contributed to heightened intercommunal tensions. I also urge stakeholders to continue to support the Joint Programme of the Resident Coordinators in the Sudan and South Sudan in Abyei, which is a key component for peacebuilding and stability between communities in Abyei.

88. I commend the efforts of the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities to maintain peace and calm, including during the resumption of the dry season migration. The peace and calm that prevailed is evidence of the success of the

December 2024 pre-migration conference, which was made possible by the enhanced participation of women and young persons, in particular. It shows that inclusive local dialogue and confidence-building measures can contribute to stability when supported by strong community leadership and international partners.

89. The participation of women in peace processes and security mechanisms is critical to the goal of inclusive peace in Abyei. I call upon all stakeholders to work with UNISFA to build on the efforts made during the reporting period to increase the role of women in the pre-migration conference and the community protection committees.

90. I recognize the challenges facing local peace processes and the rule of law. These challenges include tensions within traditional leaderships, which can hinder community engagement, and the inadequate application of human rights principles. The persistent gaps in rule of law mechanisms further contribute to injustice, human rights violations and criminal activity. Furthermore, widespread misinformation and disinformation undermine the credibility of the efforts of UNISFA. I urge the parties to support UNISFA in deploying the outstanding individual police officers and formed police units mandated by the Security Council and to explore ways to establish the joint Abyei Police Service.

91. I thank the acting Head of Mission and Force Commander of UNISFA, Major General Robert Yaw Affram, for his tireless efforts towards peace and security in Abyei. I also wish to thank all UNISFA personnel and the staff of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Abyei for their dedication to improving the lives of the people in Abyei under very challenging conditions.

Map

