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Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan

(covering the period from 20 August to 9 November 2015)

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2241 (2015), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 15 December 2015 and requested me to report on the implementation of the mandate within 45 days. The present report provides an update to my previous report dated 21 August 2015 (S/2015/655) and covers developments from 20 August to 9 November.

II. Political developments

South Sudan peace process

2. Following the signing in Addis Ababa on 17 August of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan by the leaders of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A in Opposition) and the former detainees, international and regional partners intensified efforts to persuade the President, Salva Kiir, to sign the peace agreement within the 15-day period granted for additional consultations. During a ceremony on 26 August in Juba, the President signed the agreement in the presence of regional leaders and other representatives of the international community. The Government distributed detailed reservations concerning 16 provisions of the agreement.

3. Subsequently, within the 72-hour deadline, the President and the former Vice-President, Riek Machar, each decreed a permanent ceasefire, instructing their forces to cease all military operations, to remain in their current positions and to return fire only in self-defence. The ceasefire came into effect on 29 August at midnight. The agreement was unanimously ratified by the National Legislative Assembly and adopted by the National Liberation Council of SPLM/A in Opposition on 10 September.

4. Although delayed by a week, a workshop on the permanent ceasefire and transitional security arrangements, mandated by the peace agreement, was held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 18 September. The parties, among other things, reached consensus on the withdrawal of allied State security actors, the establishment of a national architecture for the unification of forces and the introduction of monitoring



mechanisms, including a joint technical committee and a ceasefire transition security arrangements monitoring mechanism. The workshop ended, however, without the endorsement by SPLM/A in Opposition of security arrangements for Juba or of a concept for the joint integrated police. To facilitate further consultations on the latter, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) mediation team convened a follow-up meeting, from 21 October to 3 November, during which SPLM/A in Opposition signed the minutes of the workshop and the parties agreed on the composition of the transitional security arrangements for Juba.

5. On 26 September, the African Union Peace and Security Council issued a communiqué in which it expressed its commitment to supporting the implementation of the peace agreement, together with IGAD, the United Nations and other international stakeholders. It also requested the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to release the report of the African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan and the separate opinion, for public information, and to proceed with the establishment of an African-owned and African-led hybrid court. The Council also endorsed transitional justice processes and mechanisms, encompassing truth-telling on human rights violations, reparations, national consultations and traditional justice and conflict resolution mechanisms in accordance with formal accountability processes. The report was released on 27 October.

6. On 29 September, on the margins of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, I hosted a high-level event on South Sudan to galvanize international support for the implementation of the peace agreement. The meeting was co-chaired by the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Erastus Mwencha, and the Chair of IGAD and Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Hailemariam Dessalegn. The President of South Sudan addressed the event from Juba via video link. The Vice-President, James Wani Igga, Riek Machar and the SPLM Secretary-General, Pagan Amum, the last-mentioned representing the former detainees, attended the event. In the final communiqué, the participants called upon the signatories to the agreement to proceed with its full implementation and urged the international community to address the humanitarian funding gap, which now stands at \$687 million, among other recommendations.

Other political developments

7. On 8 September, the National Legislative Assembly adopted the national budget for fiscal year 2015/16, with an approximate ceiling of 10.3 billion South Sudanese pounds (\$3.2 billion at the official exchange rate of 3.16 South Sudanese pounds to the dollar). While an amount of 6.8 billion South Sudanese pounds is expected to come from national oil and non-oil revenue, some 3.8 billion South Sudanese pounds will be required in the form of grants and loans from external sources.

8. On 2 October, the Political Parties Council issued a press statement in which it announced a political party registration process from 15 October 2015 to 15 January 2016. It, among other things, noted that, in accordance with the Political Parties Act of 2012, the requirements for registering political parties included membership of no fewer than 500 members in at least 8 of 10 states.

9. On the same day, in an address to the nation, the President announced the issuance of an establishment order (No. 36/2015) that would create 28 states. He said that his decision was aimed at devolving power and bringing resources closer to the people, reducing government expenditure and promoting development. While the

order was well received by some communities, the reactions from SPLM/A in Opposition, the former detainees, a national alliance of opposition political parties and several other political and civil society groups reflected concerns over the order's constitutionality, its timing and its potential impact on the implementation of the peace agreement.

10. The IGAD Special Envoys, the Troika and the European Union criticized the decision and urged the President to defer its implementation until the Transitional Government of National Unity had been formed. On 16 October, the national alliance of opposition political parties petitioned the Supreme Court to stay the execution of and invalidate the order. On 20 October, the Council of Ministers introduced a constitutional amendment seeking parliamentary consent for the creation of additional states.

11. On 16 October, the President, in his capacity as Chair of SPLM, convened an extraordinary meeting of the party's National Liberation Council. The Council decided to dissolve the SPLM general secretariat and announced that an extraordinary national convention would be convened a month later to endorse the party's constitution and manifesto.

III. Security situation

12. The declaration by both government and opposition military leaders of a permanent ceasefire notwithstanding, clashes in the greater Upper Nile region continued during the reporting period. On 17 August, a splinter group of former SPLM/A in Opposition members calling itself the Federal Democratic Party and its military wing the South Sudan Armed Forces issued a statement in which it warned that it would not respect any peace agreement negotiated without it.

Unity State

13. The tense security situation in Unity State was characterized by numerous ceasefire violations, with fighting between government forces (the Sudan People's Liberation Army) and opposition forces primarily taking place in Rubkona, Koch and Leer counties. In Rubkona County, government forces regained control of Nhialdiu on 25 August after opposition forces had temporarily gained control of the area on 23 August. In late August, opposition forces told UNMISS that government soldiers from Thar Jath had attacked the town of Koch and surrounding villages, causing them to withdraw to nearby swampland. On 13 September, tensions rose when fighting between government and opposition forces broke out in the town of Guit, killing at least 5 government soldiers and wounding 20. On 2 October, opposition forces launched coordinated offensives on the towns of Leer and Koch, reportedly managing to hold Leer for a few hours. Small-scale clashes between government and opposition forces were also reported in the village of Jazeera, Rubkona County, and government forces reportedly occupied the opposition-controlled area of Buaw, Koch County, for a few days. Reports of mass rape and abduction of women and girls accompanied those offensives and counter-offensives. On 10 October, government forces aligned with the South Sudan Liberation Army and armed young people attacked opposition forces in Jazeera, Ding Ding, Ngop and Kaljak, Rubkona County. On 25 October, government forces, supported by armed Koch Jagiey Nuer young people, carried out what was reported to be a particularly brutal offensive in Pilling, Adok, Tutnyang,

Lual and Gando, capturing and killing 53 young people. Civilians continued to be targeted, with rape, killings, looting and burning of tukuls reportedly widespread.

Upper Nile State

14. In Upper Nile State, the security situation remained volatile, with government and opposition forces remaining in close proximity to each other on the west bank of the River Nile near Malakal. Clashes occurred on 31 August when three government barges carrying troops travelling north on the river clashed with opposition forces in Fangak County, Jonglei State, and Papojo near Tonga, Panyikang County. The opposition forces claimed to have destroyed one barge and captured another, while the third reportedly retreated. They also claimed to have captured 115 soldiers. On 2 September in Malakal, two government helicopters were observed firing rockets towards the west bank of the river and explosions were heard from the direction of the villages of Lelo, Detang and Warjok. Government forces reportedly crossed the river, and the following day, firing was observed from their positions towards the west bank as a government cargo aircraft landed at the airstrip. On 7 September, opposition forces launched a counter-attack using barges to retake the lost villages. An UNMISS delegation travelled to Tonga on 17 September to meet an opposition general, Johnson Olony. It confirmed the presence of the captured soldiers and observed a sunken barge. Early in October, government forces in Malakal were observed firing towards the west bank and additional troops later crossed the river into the areas of Lelo and Warjok. Olony later claimed that his forces had repulsed that attack.

15. In Maban County, skirmishes have twice occurred since 25 September between government and opposition forces in Liang, 15 km south of Bunj. Furthermore, fighting was reported in Tor Gwang, Wadekona and Gabat, located north of Kaka, Manyo County, between government forces and a Shilluk militia affiliated with them. The clashes reportedly broke out after Shilluk militiamen were asked to hand over all heavy weaponry in their possession to the government forces. The Shilluk general, Yoanes Okij, published a press statement in which he established a new group, the “Tiger Faction New Forces”, following growing mistrust between the two forces. The tensions were exacerbated by Establishment Order No. 36/2015, in which the division of ancestral Shilluk lands was proposed.

Western Equatoria State

16. Tensions remained high in Yambio County following clashes involving government forces, the national police, a local self-defence group called the Arrow Boys and local young people early in August. In October, shootings were reported in the town of Yambio amid rumours of the recruitment of hundreds of young people by an unknown armed group. The removal of the former state governor in mid-August exacerbated tensions in several areas. In Mundri West, clashes between government forces broke out in Khor Gullu in mid-September, causing civilian displacement. Three civilians and six soldiers were reportedly killed in a related ambush. Early in October, fighting again broke out in Mundri West between government forces and an unknown armed group, continuing throughout the month. Heavy machine guns, rifles and rocket-propelled grenades were used by both sides. In response to those clashes, the Government sent reinforcements from Mvolo. While most civilians fled, more than 700 internally displaced persons gathered outside an UNMISS temporary operating base seeking protection. In Maridi, shooting incidents by unknown gunmen resulting in five civilian casualties were reported in September. Early in November, in

Source Yubu, Tambura County, clashes also erupted between government forces and local young people following an alleged assault on a civilian by soldiers at the local market.

Central Equatoria State

17. During the reporting period, tensions increased in Lainya and Juba counties. UNMISS received reports of an attack on a police station in the town of Lainya on 24 August and that an attack on government trucks in a nearby village had left at least one soldier dead. On 11 September, following reports of clashes in Wonduruba Payam between government troops from Lainya and opposition elements, government forces are alleged to have burned homes, looted shops and targeted civilians whom they suspected of harbouring opposition elements. Reports suggest that 11,000 civilians fled their homes towards Lainya County or into the bush in September. Government forces deployed in the area fall outside the regular command and control structure, making it difficult for the state authorities to solve the crisis. The antagonism between the local community and government forces increased, with displaced persons in Lainya and in the bush fearful of heavy-handed government operations.

Intercommunal conflict

18. UNMISS continued to receive reports of intercommunal violence in Lakes and Warrap States. Early in September in Lakes State, six people were reportedly killed when young people from the Jiek section of the Dinka Agar from Yirol East County raided a cattle camp in Akot Payam, Rumbek East County. On 10 October in Warrap State, 94 people were reportedly killed and 144 injured during fighting between the Akok community of Nabagok Payam and the Luac Jang community from Makuac Payam, both in Tonj East County, reportedly sparked by the appointment of a new county commissioner. Tensions have also been reported at the borders between Warrap and Unity States. On 29 August, three people were reportedly killed when armed men from Unity State attacked Tonj North Payam in Gogrial East County. The situation in Jonglei State remained relatively calm, but tensions persisted between the Lou Nuer and Murle communities. In a bid to placate local communities, the Greater Pibor Administrative Area Chief Administrator, David Yau Yau, emphasized that the community had no intention of attacking its neighbours. Nevertheless, in late September, a Murle group from Likuangle killed an opposition lieutenant colonel while raiding Bumath Payam, Akobo County.

IV. Humanitarian situation

19. More than 2.3 million persons are currently displaced by the conflict, comprising 1.66 million who are internally displaced, 178,906 of whom are residing in six UNMISS sites for the protection of civilians, and 642,199 who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. In addition, South Sudan continues to host 265,700 refugees. In Unity State, the fighting south of Bentiu on 2 October caused civilians to seek refuge to the north in the UNMISS site, to the south in Nyal and Ganyiel and near Old Fangak in Jonglei State. In Upper Nile State, internally displaced persons from the west bank of the River Nile continued to arrive in Malakal, although in smaller numbers than in August. In the Equatorias, civilians were displaced by fighting in and around Katigiri and Wonduruba, Central Equatoria State, and Mundri,

Western Equatoria State. The national caseload of separated, unaccompanied or missing children now exceeds 10,000.

20. Food security in South Sudan continues to deteriorate, with Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile States being the worst affected. It is noted in the most recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report that an estimated 3.9 million people, or 34 per cent of the population, are severely food and nutrition insecure (3.1 million in phase 3 (crisis) and 800,000 in phase 4 (emergency)) and were unable to meet their food needs in September, an increase of 80 per cent compared with the same period in 2014. Of particular concern are an estimated 30,000 people in Unity State, classified as in phase 5 (catastrophe), with deterioration into famine considered likely if humanitarian actors are not given immediate access. In September and early October, preventable diseases continued to spread, causing illness and death. Malaria was the main cause of death reported among internally displaced persons, and at least 30 counties have exceeded the epidemic threshold. A measles outbreak was declared at an UNMISS protection site in Juba on 1 October after three cases were confirmed. Cholera cases rose to 1,818, including 47 deaths, with a case fatality rate of 2.58 per cent, in Juba, Kajo Kaji and Bor. Fewer cases and deaths have been reported to date in 2015 compared with 2014, however.

21. Humanitarian partners worked to expand the response at the UNMISS protection sites in Malakal and Bentiu, with specific efforts being made to tackle child mortality at the latter. The United Nations Children's Fund and Médecins sans frontières undertook an intensive anti-malaria campaign, treating 16,000 children. At the site in Malakal, health partners completed the second round of a cholera immunization campaign, reaching more than 42,300 internally displaced persons. Partners have now provided nearly 44,200 people with food, including 15,500 new arrivals, while 8,300 children under 5 years of age have received nutrition supplements. An integrated polio, measles and vitamin A campaign began on 7 October, targeting 7,350 children. As at October, more than 3.4 million of a targeted 4.6 million persons had received humanitarian assistance in 2015.

22. Insecurity and active hostility towards and harassment of aid workers, in addition to the looting of supplies and misuse of humanitarian assets, have characterized the operating environment. During the resumption of fighting in Unity State early in October, humanitarian compounds were looted and aid workers threatened, forcing humanitarian partners to relocate their staff. At least one aid worker was killed during the fighting. In Juba, a rise in crime has had a major impact on humanitarian operations owing to the loss of assets and threats against staff. There have been at least 32 intrusions into non-governmental organization compounds since 20 August, in addition to those at the International Organization for Migration and United Nations Children's Fund compounds. Incidents in Juba have reached alarming levels, especially in July when multiple attempted break-ins became a daily occurrence. In September, a humanitarian aid worker was killed by intruders, bringing the number of aid workers killed since December 2013 to at least 41. Moreover, female aid workers have also reported increasing incidents and threats of sexual violence.

23. As previously reported, the humanitarian community revised the humanitarian response plan for 2015 in June, taking into account the deepening vulnerabilities and new humanitarian requirements. The revised plan requires \$1.63 billion to assist 4.8 million people with life-saving aid in 2015. Funding constraints remain a key challenge, however. As at 6 November, only some \$945 million (58 per cent) had been

pledged against the total requirements of \$1.6 billion, leaving a funding gap of \$687 million.

V. Implementation of the Mission's reprioritized mandated tasks

A. Protection of civilians

24. The signing of the peace agreement and the declaration of a permanent ceasefire notwithstanding, the need to protect civilians remains high and in some areas continues to increase. In line with its mandate, UNMISS continued efforts to ensure that civilians were protected from the threat of physical violence, to deter or respond to such violence, to maintain public safety and security within the sites for the protection of civilians and to coordinate with police and civil society actors on protection-focused activities. Implementation follows a three-tiered approach.

25. Under tier one, protection through dialogue and engagement, UNMISS continued to work closely with stakeholders to assist local conflict resolution efforts. During the reporting period, UNMISS civil affairs teams held 413 meetings with local authorities, community leaders, young people and women throughout the country to identify threats and mitigating measures. UNMISS also led 23 conflict management, mitigation and resolution workshops for community, traditional and faith leaders, women, young people, cattle keepers and internally displaced persons both inside and outside protection sites and undertook additional community engagement in gathering early warning information on political changes such as the establishment order on the creation of 28 states. UNMISS also supported dialogue activities led by the Government, community leaders and non-governmental organizations, including by partnering on four workshops aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict with a cross-section of community leaders and members, including women.

26. The Mission continued to engage with community leaders at protection sites on intercommunal issues in Unity and Upper Nile States. Activities included a conflict management workshop in Malakal for women leaders, training sessions for new community watch group recruits and the promotion of dialogue between community leaders and state authorities in Bentiu.

27. In Rumbek, Lakes State, and Tonj North County, Warrap State, UNMISS assisted communities in identifying causes of intercommunal conflict and remedies while emphasizing the role of women in resolving and preventing conflict and in peacebuilding. In Jur River County, Western Bahr el-Ghazal State, workshops addressed land disputes and pastoral migration. In Western Equatoria State, UNMISS worked with faith leaders to mediate tensions between local authorities, government forces and armed young people in Mundri West County and facilitated discussions on land issues in Ibba County. It continued to nurture relations between the Greater Pibor Administrative Area and neighbouring communities. With the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei, it facilitated dialogue between Sudanese pastoralists (Misseriya and Rizeigat) and South Sudanese and Abyei stakeholders (Dinka Malual, Dinka Twic and Dinka Ngok) with regard to the migration of Sudanese pastoralists into South Sudan through Abyei and Northern Bahr el-Ghazal State.

28. Under tier two, provision of physical protection, UNMISS was providing protection to some 180,000 internally displaced persons at six protection sites,

including some 100,000 in Bentiu, more than 47,000 in Malakal and 28,000 in Juba, as at 9 November. The number of civilians seeking safety at the sites reached nearly 202,000 in late August. While a number of displaced persons have since voluntarily left, persisting insecurity and food shortages have led to an influx in Malakal, where an additional 12,000 persons have been registered since late August, including 2,500 new arrivals from Wau Shilluk.

29. During the reporting period, 273 security incidents were reported at the sites, including armed robbery, domestic violence, rape, armed incursions, ethnic tensions and threats against humanitarian and UNMISS staff. Six UNMISS police personnel were injured during efforts to maintain public safety and security at the sites in Bentiu and Juba.

30. To mitigate the concerns, UNMISS adjusted security measures by undertaking preventive patrolling and community policing activities, actively involving community watch groups and referring events to community-led informal mitigation and dispute resolution mechanisms. The Mission also streamlined referral pathways and case management with protection partners to improve emergency response services and effectively address protection concerns. It continued to mitigate external security threats to site residents through targeted hotspot patrolling, which provides a degree of safety and freedom of movement around the sites.

31. UNMISS continued to operate four holding facilities at the sites in Juba, Bentiu, Malakal and Bor for perpetrators of incidents affecting public security at the sites. As at 8 November, 45 suspects, including a woman, were being held. According to the framework agreed to by the Government and UNMISS for the transfer of suspects from the sites to the national authorities, UNMISS handed over four suspects to the national police on 7 October. The individuals were, however, released by the Government shortly thereafter. The issue was raised with the Prosecutor General, who acknowledged that due process should have been followed after the handover, terming the release an error on the part of the police officer in charge of the investigation. Instructions have been issued to rearrest the individuals so that due process can be followed.

32. UNMISS has intensified its outreach into areas affected by conflict and those with high concentrations of internally displaced persons. During the reporting period, it conducted 5,666 short-duration, 214 long-duration, 52 dynamic air and 407 integrated patrols. It launched Operation Unity 2, carrying out road and air patrols into the central and southern counties of Unity State, in particular south of Koch County and north of Panyijar County. The Mission is working towards the short-term establishment of a force presence in Leer, southern Unity State, to be followed by the establishment of a temporary operating base in the medium term. UNMISS also established a temporary operating base near Mundri, Western Equatoria State, where recent violence resulted in the displacement of the local community, with some 700 people seeking shelter near the base. Following the outbreak of violence in Wonduruba Payam in Juba County, Central Equatoria State, UNMISS engaged in an integrated field mission to the area between 17 and 19 September and found it deserted but for government commandos. Although a second UNMISS patrol on 7 October was denied access by government forces, other patrols are being planned. Furthermore, the UNMISS early warning system successfully assisted in patrol planning to pre-empt and reduce the scale of potential conflict.

33. In support of UNMISS and humanitarian partners, the United Nations Mine Action Service conducted a route survey and explosive ordnance clearance for an UNMISS patrol to Dhorbor, south of Bentiu, Unity State. It also investigated an unexploded ordnance accident that killed a child and injured three others in Bentiu and an anti-tank landmine accident in Torit, Eastern Equatoria State. From 20 August to 9 November, the Service cleared 1,126,108 m² of land and destroyed 187 landmines, 7,212 explosive remnants of war and 160,671 rounds of small arms ammunition. It provided risk education to 51,405 civilians (18,658 boys, 14,658 girls, 9,650 men and 8,439 women). It also assisted in providing improvised explosive device training for 600 staff of an UNMISS-contracted security company securing the Mission's premises in Juba.

34. Under tier three, UNMISS and protection partners continued to support the creation of a protective environment. In support of the confidence and trust-building policing strategy of the national police, UNMISS began a review of the police integrated awareness-raising programme to train officers in community policing techniques for deployment in areas of potential voluntary return. The review is aimed at accommodating the additional officers to be deployed as part of the joint integrated police in Juba.

35. Consistent with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), UNMISS monitored the participation of women in IGAD-led peace processes and, more broadly, their representation in appointed offices, given their limited level of participation in peace processes, representation in local government and involvement in public decision-making. It continued to engage in advocacy and capacity-building to promote the participation of women in conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding activities.

36. In support of transitional solutions for displaced persons currently residing in protection sites and following the signing of the peace agreement, engagement is continuing with the displaced and their host communities on their perceptions of peace and potential return and reintegration.

B. Monitoring and investigating human rights

37. UNMISS continued to investigate reports of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, as well as human rights abuses, in connection with the conflict. Interviews with internally displaced persons arriving at the protection site in Bentiu from central and southern Unity State indicate that the hostilities in those areas have resulted in serious human rights violations by government and opposition forces, as well as armed groups. Reported violations included killings, sexual violence, looting, cattle raiding, the burning of homes and forced recruitment, including of children, with several abuses being perpetrated after the ceasefire came into effect on 29 August. Reports of human rights abuses gathered during joint patrols to several affected counties, including Koch, Mayom and Panyijar, corroborated the reports. On 23 October, the protection cluster released a detailed report on incidents in southern and central Unity State, in which it highlighted reports of violence in more than 20 locations since the signing of the peace agreement. As a result of the insecurity, all static humanitarian operations were suspended in Leer and Koch counties, leaving an estimated 250,000 people without assistance. Between 4 and 22 October, at least 80 civilians were reportedly killed in Leer County. Among them were at least

57 children, 29 of whom drowned while fleeing attacks. Widespread sexual violence was also noted, with sources on the ground reporting more than 50 cases of rape.

38. In Upper Nile State, UNMISS continued to follow up on cases of alleged human rights violations, including inside and around the protection site in Malakal. Frequent reports of forced displacement, extrajudicial killings and abductions immediately outside the gates were investigated. On several occasions, government soldiers prevented displaced men from Wau Shilluk from entering the site owing to suspicions that Shilluk forces were regrouping there with the intention of attacking government positions. Inside the site, a climate of ethnic tension and violence persists. UNMISS and protection partners conducted focus-group discussions with displaced Nuer who reported facing oral and physical harassment from displaced Dinka. In late August, there were clashes inside the site, including an attack by a mob of internally displaced persons from Wau Shilluk on two plainclothes soldiers, leaving at least one person dead.

39. While the conflict is most intense in the greater Upper Nile region, there is evidence of violence and insecurity having an impact on individuals' rights elsewhere. Incidents of ethnically motivated violence continued to be reported at the protection sites in Juba. Between 22 and 25 August, UNMISS investigated three shooting incidents by unidentified armed men in which two internally displaced persons and two foreigners were injured. In Western Equatoria State, reported abuses in and around Yambio in September left at least four people, including a 3-year-old child, dead and several injured. The county commissioner also acknowledged a number of killings by an unidentified armed group.

40. UNMISS continues to receive reports of serious violations by government soldiers in Wonduruba Payam, Juba County, including killings, forced disappearances, looting and burning of homes following a clash between government forces and opposition affiliates in September. The government forces now maintain a regular presence in the area. Attacks and intimidation have resulted in the displacement of an estimated 16,000 people.

41. Threats against and harassment of the media continued during the reporting period, raising serious concerns about the deteriorating state of freedom of the press. In August, the National Security Service shut down two newspapers, *The Citizen* and *Al Rai*, as well as a media capacity-building organization, Free Voice South Sudan. All remained closed throughout the reporting period. The Service also targeted the *Juba Monitor*, demanding the retraction of an article published on 17 September blaming government forces for alleged atrocities in Wonduruba, Central Equatoria State. The newspaper retracted the story on 22 September. Meanwhile, the *Nation Mirror* reopened in October, eight months after its closure by the Service.

42. Continued challenges to the administration of justice in accordance with international human rights standards were noted. At the Tambura prison in Western Equatoria State, UNMISS found 15 detainees who had been held on remand for more than five years, reportedly owing to the absence of a statutory court. In Upper Nile State, the lack of statutory courts in Maban County left many inmates subject to trials in customary courts that failed to follow due process. UNMISS found that not all detainees had been properly registered, some were shackled, some had been awaiting trial for years and food was in short supply. In Warrap State, dire sanitary and health conditions were observed at the Kuajok prison, prompting UNMISS to urge the state prison director to intervene.

43. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights began the deployment of a 10-member assessment team to South Sudan in the final week of October, pursuant to resolution 29/13 of the Human Rights Council, in which the Council requested the Office urgently to undertake a mission to engage with the Government, to monitor and report on the situation of human rights and to undertake a comprehensive assessment of allegations of violations and abuses of human rights with a view to ensuring accountability and complementarity with the African Union Commission of Inquiry. The assessment report will be submitted to the Council in March 2016 and include recommendations for appropriate follow-up action.

44. During the reporting period, 103 incidents, including casualties, sexual assault, recruitment and use of children in military operations, attacks on and military occupation of schools and abductions, affecting 3,836 children (1,928 boys, 1,780 girls and 128 children of unknown sex) were reported to have occurred. The country task force on monitoring and reporting verified 73 incidents affecting 1,367 children (735 boys and 632 girls). However, the numbers may still increase as reports from remote locations are registered.

45. Allegations of sexual violence, including rape, gang rape, sexual slavery and abductions of women and children, continued to be of concern. Civilians reaching the protection site in Bentiu continued to report serious violations of international human rights law, including sexual violence, by government forces, SPLM/A in Opposition and other armed groups. Between 20 August and 9 November, at least 75 women and girls fell victim to conflict-related sexual violence, reportedly perpetrated by government forces, SPLM/A in Opposition and armed militias affiliated to both sides in southern Unity State. Crimes such as rape (26 victims), gang rape (24 victims) and abduction (25 victims, including at least 4 minors) were documented. In one instance, a mother of four children said that she had been ambushed by a group of soldiers and armed civilians; five of them had raped her on the roadside as her children watched, whereupon two other soldiers had dragged her into the bush and raped her there. Upon her return to the roadside, her children had disappeared, their whereabouts unknown. Many more cases remain unreported and unaddressed, owing to a lack of services for survivors and movement restrictions in conflict areas.

46. On 18 December 2014, Riek Machar signed a communiqué on preventing conflict-related sexual violence in South Sudan. The Office of my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, in coordination with UNMISS, supported the development in September of a one-year implementation plan to promote the prevention of and accountability for conflict-related sexual violence. Notwithstanding the commitments made by the Government and the opposition, and the establishment of implementation mechanisms, no perpetrators have yet been held accountable.

C. Creating the conditions for delivery of humanitarian assistance

47. As armed conflict and a subsequent lack of freedom of movement for UNMISS, humanitarian personnel and internally displaced persons continue in the greater Upper Nile region, UNMISS and humanitarian personnel continuously assess logistics to mitigate the challenges of maintaining their presence to deter violence and to deliver humanitarian assistance.

48. UNMISS continued to invest substantial resources in the improvement of living and security conditions inside and outside protection sites, in coordination with humanitarian partners and the donor community. Its work included extensions of the sites in Bentiu and Malakal, upgraded drainage systems for the sites in Juba and Bor and the creation and protection of a humanitarian hub within the UNMISS premises in Bentiu.

49. Through close collaboration with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Juba and local humanitarian partners and representatives in the sectors, UNMISS undertook 4,226 force protection tasks to provide security to food drops, road convoys, barge movements and other humanitarian activities. On several occasions in September and October, it provided safe passage to internally displaced persons travelling from the west bank of the River Nile to the protection site in Malakal, as well as to those voluntarily returning to their villages on the west bank.

50. To facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid, the United Nations Mine Action Service deployed 14 technical teams to conduct survey and clearance operations throughout South Sudan. To ensure access in areas of greatest need, it regularly verified the safety of the airstrip in Malakal and surveyed areas in advance of World Food Programme food drops in Bentiu.

D. Supporting the implementation of the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism/Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism

51. UNMISS continued to support the IGAD Monitoring and Verification Mechanism through the IGAD Joint Technical Committee, including through the provision of force protection and air assets, when required and if available, and planning support. It directly supported IGAD monitoring teams in and projecting from Malakal, Bentiu and Bor with seven force protection and joint mission patrols. In addition, it offered logistical and administrative support to the teams co-located at UNMISS bases, including in terms of accommodation, transport, water, food, fuel, electrical power and medical cover. UNMISS also conducted a mission analysis to ascertain how best to support the Mechanism in the transition to the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism, while maintaining its ability to meet its primary responsibilities relating to the protection of civilians.

E. Supporting the implementation of the peace agreement

52. Following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2241 (2015), UNMISS realigned its activities with the additional task of supporting the implementation of the peace agreement, while continuing to implement the four mandated tasks outlined above. In a letter dated 16 October, the Chair of IGAD informed the former President of Botswana, Festus Mogae, of his appointment by the IGAD Heads of State and Government to chair the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission. The Commission is responsible for monitoring and overseeing the implementation of the peace agreement and the mandate and tasks of the Transitional Government of National Unity. UNMISS, as a formal member of the Commission, is currently consulting the Chair to determine what form the Mission's support will take.

53. Meanwhile, the agreement struck by the parties notwithstanding, there has been no progress towards the establishment of national architecture for the implementation of the permanent ceasefire and the unification of forces. Although an agreement was reached on 3 November on transitional security arrangements for Juba, its implementation has not yet begun, nor has the development of strategies to address disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform activities.

54. In support of the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism, UNMISS, in coordination with IGAD, began to plan for the deployment of an additional four monitoring and verification teams. The monitoring and verification of the separation, assembly and cantonment of forces is a principal task for the Mechanism, including activities relating to the registration and screening of personnel. UNMISS is developing a road map to support its operations. In a letter dated 30 October, the Ministry of Defence of Ethiopia informed the IGAD Special Envoys for South Sudan that it had appointed Major General (Rtd.) Molla Hailemariam to chair the Mechanism.

55. Pursuant to resolution 2241 (2015), on 12 October the Ugandan army began to withdraw from South Sudan, with the exception of Western Equatoria State, where forces responding to the threat of attacks from the Lord's Resistance Army continue to be stationed, pursuant to the agreement. UNMISS has confirmed the army's withdrawal from Bor and mostly from Juba, and other than its presence in Western Equatoria State, only some equipment remains. At the workshop on the permanent ceasefire and transitional security arrangements held in September, the parties agreed that the disarmament, demobilization and repatriation of non-State security actors would be pursued after the establishment of national architecture for the implementation of the permanent ceasefire and the unification of forces, and the development of a plan for the identification of non-State forces.

56. Similarly, a national constitutional amendment committee is yet to be established. UNMISS stands ready to support the work of that body, which is mandated, among other things, to draft a constitutional amendment bill that will incorporate the terms of the peace agreement into the Transitional Constitution, upon the request of the parties.

VI. Mission staffing and status of deployment of surge capacity

57. As at 4 November, the actual strength of the UNMISS civilian personnel stood at 2,460, comprising 808 international staff members, 1,240 national staff members and 412 United Nations volunteers. As at 8 November, the force strength stood at 11,612, consisting of 11,059 troops from contributing countries, with 358 staff officers and 195 military liaison officers. Some 280 Kenyan troops and 400 Ghanaian troops are expected to be deployed to UNMISS at the beginning of 2016 as part of the surge forces.

58. As at 8 November, the UNMISS police strength stood at 1,230 of the authorized 1,323 officers, comprising 516 individual police officers, 56 corrections officers and 658 personnel in formed police units. The deployment of four new units has been finalized, with two Nepalese units deployed in Juba and Bor and Ghanaian and Rwandan units deployed in Bentiu and Malakal, respectively. Those arrivals allowed the completion of the repatriation process for two Bangladeshi units.

59. To implement initiatives relating to my report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (A/69/779), UNMISS has established a dedicated task force and is continuing to raise awareness among personnel of the zero-tolerance policy. In addition, it is approving and disseminating revised camp rules and regulations that all persons, including United Nations and contracted personnel residing within UNMISS premises, must subscribe to and abide by. It is also conducting risk assessment exercises in line with the zero-tolerance policy.

60. UNMISS continued to implement enhanced measures for the safety of mission air operations, following a flight safety assurance conference held in June. It continued to comply with the requirements of the Department of Field Support aviation risk management programme, to undertake aviation safety risk analysis and to apply mitigating measures for flights operating in high-threat areas. It maintained coordination with the relevant parties to the conflict to obtain the required flight safety assurances. The Mission has also reconfigured its fleet of aircraft, replacing some civilian helicopters with military assets provided by troop-contributing countries.

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

61. During the reporting period, UNMISS recorded 60 violations of the status-of-forces agreement involving UNMISS members, associated personnel, premises and equipment. Of those, 28 were restrictions on movement, affecting land, air and water operations. Other violations included unlawful interference with the Mission's mandate or operations, threats against UNMISS personnel, premises and air assets, threats against persons seeking shelter in protection sites, confiscation of UNMISS property, including impoundment of vehicles, and assault, harassment and intimidation of personnel. Of the reported violations, troublingly, 50 were perpetrated by government soldiers, 4 by the National Security Service, 3 by the national police, 2 by local county authorities, 1 by airport immigration officials and 3 by armed groups opposed to the Government.

62. On three occasions, government soldiers insisted that internally displaced persons travelling from the west bank of the River Nile to the protection site in Malakal should first be interrogated. While the groups were twice allowed to proceed under UNMISS escort, in one of the incidents the soldiers allowed only women and children to proceed, with the men in the group forced to return to the west bank.

63. There has also been a marked increase in movement restrictions imposed by government personnel, in particular soldiers, on UNMISS patrols. The restrictions, including instances in which demands inconsistent with agreed procedures have been made of UNMISS personnel or patrols and convoys, involved harassment, assault and confiscation of Mission property and personal effects. Army personnel at the Division IV headquarters based in Bentiu, in particular, have been placing unwarranted restrictions on the freedom of movement of UNMISS patrols, which has adversely affected the Mission's tasks. Often, the actions are inconsistent with national or state-level government directives, including Ministerial Order No. 2/2015, issued by the Minister of Defence in May, in which soldiers were reminded that they were to comply with international humanitarian law and to grant access to the United Nations and other humanitarian actors working in South Sudan.

64. In a particularly alarming incident, SPLM/A in Opposition forces intercepted 18 UNMISS military personnel and 13 South Sudanese United Nations contractors transporting fuel to an UNMISS base in Upper Nile State on 26 October. They claimed, the prior notification notwithstanding, not to have been informed about the movement and further alleged that five of the barge's crew members belonged to the government forces. The UNMISS personnel were taken hostage and the barge, its cargo and communications equipment and the weapons of the UNMISS personnel were seized. Following high-level negotiations with SPLM/A in Opposition in Addis Ababa, the 18 UNMISS personnel were released on 29 October. However, the SPLM/A in Opposition commander in Kaka refused to release the barge's crew, the barge convoy equipment, its cargo, the weapons and the communications equipment. On 1 November, the remaining 13 United Nations contractors and all three vessels of the barge convoy were released. The cargo and other items, including seven UNMISS weapons, were not returned, however.

65. Regular perimeter breaches, including the smuggling of weapons into UNMISS protection sites and violence among internally displaced persons, constitute a direct threat to UNMISS and humanitarian personnel and assets within the sites, as does the high prevalence of alcohol and illicit drug use. Cases include serious assaults, civil unrest, mob violence, robbery, death threats and harassment.

66. As at 7 November, three UNMISS national staff members arrested in August and October 2014 remained in detention at the National Security Service headquarters in Juba. Another national staff member was arrested in July 2015 and remains in the custody of the national police. Monthly visits to check on their welfare continue.

67. UNMISS has regularly and formally notified the Government of the violations through notes verbales and meetings with senior government officials. The monthly matrix of incidents is also shared with the Government.

VIII. Observations and recommendations

68. The signing of the peace agreement and the subsequent declaration of a permanent ceasefire by the warring parties are important milestones towards ending the 20-month-long conflict that has subjected South Sudan and its citizens to unspeakable devastation. I welcome the parties' endorsement of the technical details for the implementation of the permanent ceasefire and transitional security arrangements, in accordance with chapter II of the agreement. I take note of the President's recent address to the nation in which he reaffirmed his readiness to implement the peace agreement in letter and in spirit.

69. I wish to commend the IGAD mediation team for its tireless efforts to bring about the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement. I am heartened by the unity of purpose that regional leaders have displayed in seeking an end to this tragic conflict. Their sustained positive engagement remains essential to restoring peace and security for the aggrieved people of South Sudan.

70. I am deeply disappointed, however, that violence has nonetheless continued, in violation of the permanent ceasefire declared by both parties. The parties must cease all military operations with immediate effect and urgently proceed with the implementation of the permanent ceasefire and transitional security arrangements.

71. In this regard, I welcome the appointments of Festus Mogae to chair the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission and Major General (Rtd.) Molla Hailemariam to chair the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism. I call upon all signatories to the agreement to establish all the institutions stipulated in the agreement as a matter of priority, in particular the Transitional Government of National Unity, the Commission and the Mechanism.

72. The continued fighting has resulted in further displacement of civilians, worsening the already dire humanitarian situation. At the same time, the humanitarian response plan remains critically underfunded. I call upon the Government, which bears the primary responsibility for protecting its people and facilitating the eventual safe and voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees, and upon donor countries, to address the gap in humanitarian funding of \$687 million that must be reduced in order to assist the victims of the conflict.

73. The President's order, issued on 2 October, on the establishment of 18 additional states has resulted in uncertainty about these new states' borders. This has already led to intercommunal tension. Similarly, the decision to dissolve the SPLM general secretariat is perceived as a violation of the Arusha Agreement. I therefore urge the President to defer action on those issues until the Transitional Government of National Unity has been formed, a national constitutional dialogue has been held, in line with the peace agreement, and all SPLM leaders have returned to Juba.

74. Peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel have continued to face unacceptable access restrictions, as well as physical assault, harassment, threats and detention. I condemn in the strongest terms the seizure on 26 October of United Nations personnel and equipment by SPLM/A in Opposition forces in Kaka, Upper Nile State, and call upon Riek Machar to secure the immediate release of the equipment and cargo remaining in the possession of the forces under his command. I also call upon all parties to guarantee the safety, security and unrestricted freedom of movement of all United Nations and associated personnel, throughout South Sudan, in addition to the full, safe and unhindered access of relief personnel, equipment and supplies to all those in need of urgent assistance.

75. In fulfilment of its mandate to protect civilians, UNMISS has intensified its presence and active patrolling in areas at risk of conflict and with high concentrations of displaced persons in an effort to protect civilians from physical violence. In this regard, I renew earlier calls for troop- and police-contributing countries to hasten the deployment of remaining police and military capabilities, including personnel, equipment and other enablers, which are critical to the Mission's ability to carry out its mandated tasks effectively.

76. The conflict has shattered the social fabric of South Sudan. To mend it, the provisions in the peace agreement relating to justice, accountability and reconciliation must be implemented in full. In this regard, I welcome the release of the report of the African Union Commission of Inquiry. I am encouraged by the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council to ensure that the findings and recommendations contained therein and the separate opinion submitted by a member of the Commission inform the engagement of the African Union in South Sudan, in particular its support for the establishment of accountability mechanisms, including a hybrid court for South Sudan, and measures to foster reconciliation and healing.

77. South Sudan today stands at a crossroads. It is now the responsibility of leaders on all sides to ensure that the peace agreement brings an end to the violence, dire humanitarian conditions and grave human rights violations witnessed throughout the conflict. They must remember that the international community is watching them closely and that a return to conflict must not be countenanced. Recognizing that the road ahead will be difficult, the United Nations stands ready to support all parties and stakeholders in the implementation of the agreement, in close cooperation with IGAD, the African Union and international partners.

78. Lastly, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the tireless efforts of UNMISS personnel, who, under the able leadership of my Special Representative, Ellen Margrethe Løj, continue to protect tens of thousands of civilians under threat of physical violence, while working to stabilize the security situation. In particular, I thank the troop- and police-contributing countries that have provided much needed uniformed personnel and assets to the Mission. I also commend the United Nations country team and non-governmental organization partners for their courage and sacrifice in providing vital humanitarian assistance to the population, in often arduous and dangerous conditions.

