

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
9 December 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/1188</a>	Letter dated 14 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

## 8. Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

During the period under review, the Council held six meetings in connection with the item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan”. Three of those meetings took the form of briefings and three were convened for the adoption of a decision.<sup>165</sup> In addition, Council members held 18 videoconferences and adopted 10 resolutions under the item.<sup>166</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and decisions, and on the videoconferences is given in tables 1 to 6 below. In addition to meetings and videoconferences, in 2020 Council members held informal consultations of the whole and an informal interactive dialogue in connection with the item.<sup>167</sup> The Council also held one closed meeting with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#).<sup>168</sup>

Consistent with prior practice, the Council considered several distinct topics under the item, namely the situation in the Sudan and the mandates of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the newly established United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS); bilateral relations between the Sudan and South Sudan, the situation in the Abyei Area and the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA); and the situation in South

Sudan and the mandate of UNMISS.<sup>169</sup> The Council also discussed the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1591 \(2005\)](#) concerning the Sudan, the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#) concerning South Sudan and their respective Panels of Experts,<sup>170</sup> as well as the implementation of resolution [1593 \(2005\)](#), by which the Council had referred the situation in Darfur to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

In relation to the Sudan, Council members were briefed three times by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, and once by the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support.<sup>171</sup>

In her briefing at the first open videoconference, held on 24 April,<sup>172</sup> the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs stated that, six months after the establishment of the transition, the Sudan continued to face significant challenges, including political fragility, difficult humanitarian and socioeconomic conditions and a risk of wider spread of COVID-19.

In a subsequent videoconference, held on 8 December,<sup>173</sup> the Under-Secretary-General added that the humanitarian situation had been gripped by severe flooding, intercommunal violence, prolonged displacement and the arrival of over 48,000 people fleeing the conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. She called on the international community to continue

<sup>165</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.

<sup>166</sup> For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

<sup>167</sup> See [A/75/2](#), part II, chap. 27. See also [S/2020/258](#) and [S/2020/344](#).

<sup>168</sup> Held on 3 March under the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#), annex II, sections A and B” (see [S/PV.8740](#)).

<sup>169</sup> For more information on the mandates of UNAMID, UNISFA, UNITAMS and UNMISS, see part X.

<sup>170</sup> For more information on the Committees and their respective Panels of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.B.

<sup>171</sup> See [S/2020/336](#), [S/PV.8761](#) and [S/2020/1183](#).

<sup>172</sup> See [S/2020/336](#).

<sup>173</sup> See [S/2020/1183](#).

to support the economic recovery of the Sudan and welcomed the intention of the United States to rescind the country's designation as a State sponsor of terrorism, which would facilitate access to critical international financial assistance. Regarding the peace process, the Under-Secretary-General noted the signing of the Juba Agreement for Peace in the Sudan between the Transitional Government of the Sudan, the Sudanese Revolutionary Front alliance and the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi on 3 October 2020. The agreement provided for a 39-month transitional period, membership and participation of the signatories in the Sovereign Council, the Transitional Government and the Transitional Legislative Council, and the establishment of an advisory Council of Partners for the Transitional Period. The Under-Secretary-General called on all parties to ensure the functioning of clearly defined institutions that were inclusive and effective. In addition, she noted that women remained underrepresented in transitional structures, with only 3 women among the 18 cabinet ministers and with only one female representative in the Council of Partners.

At the meeting of the Council held on 25 September, <sup>174</sup> the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs informed Council members that following the establishment of UNITAMS on 3 June 2020 the Mission would, in accordance with its mandate, focus on four objectives, namely, assisting the political transition; supporting peace processes; bolstering peacebuilding, civilian protection and the rule of law; and promoting the mobilization of economic, development and humanitarian assistance. At the videoconference held on 8 December, <sup>175</sup> the Under-Secretary-General welcomed the steps taken by the Transitional Government to ensure the protection of civilians in Darfur, including through the formulation of the national plan for civilian protection. The effective protection of civilians, however, would be achieved only through key efforts such as the implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement, which was a major step towards ending years of conflict, addressing the root causes and building sustainable peace.

In his briefing on 25 September, <sup>176</sup> the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations stressed the need to translate the Juba Peace Agreement into a single and unfractured vision for the future of the Sudan, bring all stakeholders on board, create the joint security forces and secure sufficient international

support. In his briefing on 24 April, <sup>177</sup> he informed Council members that with regard to the security situation in Darfur, intercommunal fighting in late 2019 and early 2020 had left 65 people dead, 46,000 internally displaced and 11,000 as refugees in Chad. Briefing the Council on 8 December, <sup>178</sup> the Under-Secretary-General informed the members that there had been a spike in clashes involving elements of the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid and a continuation of attacks against internally displaced persons and protestors. He welcomed and expressed support for the commitment of the Transitional Government to assume responsibility for the protection of civilians in Darfur and noted the beginning of the deployment of a Sudanese civilian protection force.

In connection with the drawdown of UNAMID, at the open videoconference held on 24 April, <sup>179</sup> the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations informed Council members that the Transitional Government's emergency restrictions in response to the pandemic, coupled with the suspension of United Nations peacekeeping rotations, had had a severe impact on the ability of UNAMID to implement its mandate and had rendered the scheduled drawdown and liquidation plan by the end of the Mission's mandate on 31 October 2020 unrealistic. In his briefing at the open videoconference on 8 December, <sup>180</sup> he noted that following discussions between the African Union, the United Nations and the Sudan within the framework of the Tripartite Coordination Mechanism, it had been recommended to terminate UNAMID by 31 December 2020, followed by a six-month period of drawdown and liquidation. Noting that the process would be a major undertaking, he underscored the need for coordination of international support for the Transitional Government and the parties to the Juba Peace Agreement, for the transition to UNITAMS to consolidate the gains made in peacebuilding, and for coordinated political advocacy to support an orderly and safe drawdown and closure of the UNAMID team sites.

At the same videoconference, the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support brought to the attention of Council members key operational aspects of and challenges to the expected drawdown and closure of UNAMID and the start-up of UNITAMS. The orderly and safe drawdown of the personnel of a mission of the size of UNAMID would take no less than 6 months, followed by a period of

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<sup>174</sup> See [S/PV.8761](#).

<sup>175</sup> See [S/2020/1183](#).

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<sup>178</sup> See [S/2020/1183](#).

<sup>179</sup> See [S/2020/336](#).

<sup>180</sup> See [S/2020/1183](#).

9 to 12 months for asset disposal and liquidation the ongoing full cooperation of the Transitional Government and local authorities. Moreover, a streamlined coordination mechanism with the Government would provide a basis for addressing challenges in the drawdown, while the leadership of remaining United Nations personnel and the full cooperation of countries contributing troops and police was also important for a safe and orderly drawdown and handover of programmatic responsibilities to UNITAMS.

In their discussions during the meeting and videoconferences, Council members welcomed the progress made in the political transition, in particular with the signing of the Juba Peace Agreement. They expressed concern about the humanitarian and socioeconomic situation in the Sudan, including the potential impact of the pandemic and the arrival of refugees from Ethiopia, and underscored the need for increased international financial support to the country. Several Council members called for the lifting of sanction measures imposed against the Sudan.<sup>181</sup> Some Council members expressed concern about the increase in intercommunal violence in Darfur and called on the Transitional Government to ensure the protection of civilians.<sup>182</sup> Council members stressed the importance of a responsible and orderly drawdown and closure of UNAMID that took into account the situation on the ground<sup>183</sup> and ensured close coordination with the Transitional Government.<sup>184</sup> Council members also addressed the mandate and objectives of UNITAMS, with particular emphasis on that Mission's support for the Government's priorities during the transitional period<sup>185</sup> and the strengthening of the capacities of the Sudan to protect civilians.<sup>186</sup>

<sup>181</sup> See [S/2020/336](#) (China, Indonesia, Russian Federation and South Africa); and [S/PV.8761](#) (China, South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia) and Russian Federation).

<sup>182</sup> See [S/2020/336](#) (Estonia and Germany); [S/PV.8761](#) (United Kingdom, France and United States); and [S/2020/1183](#) (Belgium, United Kingdom and United States).

<sup>183</sup> See [S/2020/336](#) (China, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, South Africa and Viet Nam); and [S/2020/1183](#) (Estonia, France and Niger).

<sup>184</sup> See [S/2020/336](#) (China, France, South Africa and Viet Nam); and [S/2020/1183](#) (Germany, Indonesia, Niger and Russian Federation).

<sup>185</sup> See [S/PV.8761](#) (China and Estonia); and [S/2020/1183](#) (China and Estonia).

<sup>186</sup> See [S/PV.8761](#) (France, Estonia and Dominican Republic); and [S/2020/1183](#) (Belgium, Dominican Republic and Estonia).

Concerning UNAMID, the Council unanimously adopted resolutions [2517 \(2020\)](#) of 30 March, [2523 \(2020\)](#) of 29 May and [2525 \(2020\)](#) of 3 June, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, by which it maintained the Mission's authorized troop and police ceilings and extended the timelines for its decision on the courses of action regarding the drawdown and exit of UNAMID.<sup>187</sup> By resolution [2525 \(2020\)](#), the Council extended the mandate of UNAMID for two months from 31 October to 31 December 2020 and modified its priorities to focus on protection of civilians, including to support the capacity of the Transitional Government in that regard.<sup>188</sup> On 3 June, the Council also unanimously adopted resolution [2524 \(2020\)](#), by which it established UNITAMS for an initial period of 12 months as a follow-up presence to UNAMID to support the political transition, peace processes between the Government and the armed groups, peacebuilding and the protection of civilians, and the mobilization and coordination of economic and humanitarian assistance.<sup>189</sup>

By resolution [2559 \(2020\)](#), adopted on 22 December, the Council unanimously welcomed the signing of the Juba Peace Agreement on 3 October 2020 and encouraged the signatories to begin swiftly the process of implementation, in particular of key provisions pertaining to security arrangements and addressing the root causes of conflict in Darfur and Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States.<sup>190</sup> The Council decided to terminate the mandate of UNAMID on 31 December 2020 and requested the Secretary-General to complete the withdrawal of all uniformed and civilian personnel by 30 June 2021.<sup>191</sup> The Council authorized, for the duration of the drawdown and liquidation period, the retention of a guard unit from within the Mission's existing footprint to protect its personnel, facilities and assets.<sup>192</sup> In addition, the Council urged the Transitional Government to fully and swiftly implement the national plan for civilian protection and to protect civilians in Darfur in accordance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law.<sup>193</sup>

Consistent with established practice pursuant to resolution [1593 \(2005\)](#), the Council heard two briefings in relation to Darfur by the Prosecutor of the

<sup>187</sup> Resolutions [2517 \(2020\)](#), [2523 \(2020\)](#) and [2525 \(2020\)](#), paras. 1 and 2.

<sup>188</sup> Resolution [2525 \(2020\)](#), para. 3.

<sup>189</sup> Resolution [2524 \(2020\)](#), para. 2.

<sup>190</sup> Resolution [2559 \(2020\)](#), eighth and ninth preambular paragraphs.

<sup>191</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 1 and 2.

<sup>192</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 3.

<sup>193</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 4. See [S/2020/429](#).

International Criminal Court in 2020.<sup>194</sup> The Prosecutor noted the transfer of the first of five suspects, Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, to the Court on 9 June 2020 following his surrender to the authorities in the Central African Republic.<sup>195</sup> With respect to the four remaining suspects, she recalled that the former President of the Sudan, Omer Hassan Al-Bashir, was serving a two-year sentence in the Sudan for a conviction relating to financial corruption, Ahmad Harun and Abdel Raheem Hussein were reportedly in the custody of national authorities awaiting criminal charges, while Abdallah Banda remained at large.<sup>196</sup> In October 2020, the Prosecutor had led the first mission of her office to the Sudan in 13 years, during which she stressed to the Transitional Government the need for her investigators to have access to the territory of the Sudan. She underscored to Council members that while fully respecting the principle of complementarity, it was essential to ensure that all suspects were brought to justice through fair, objective and independent proceedings, either before the Court or in the Sudanese courts, guided by the requirements of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.<sup>197</sup>

Council members also heard three briefings<sup>198</sup> by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan on the work of the Committee and its Panel of Experts. The Chair noted that the Panel had submitted its interim report for 2020, in which the Panel stated that the parties in the Sudan continued to transfer arms and other military material into Darfur, in violation of the arms embargo, and that the implementation of the travel ban and asset freeze also remained a challenge.<sup>199</sup> Despite the restrictions due to the pandemic, the Panel had conducted its first visit to the Sudan in October and November 2020.<sup>200</sup> By resolution 2508 (2020) of 11 February, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council had agreed unanimously to renew the mandate of the Panel of Experts for a period of 13 months until 12 March 2021.<sup>201</sup> The Council expressed its intention to establish clear, well-defined and measurable key benchmarks that could serve in guiding the Council to review measures on the Government of the Sudan.<sup>202</sup>

With respect to the Abyei Area and relations between the Sudan and South Sudan, Council members were briefed twice by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa.<sup>203</sup> In his briefing on 28 April,<sup>204</sup> the Under-Secretary-General said that, despite improving relations between the Sudan and South Sudan, it remained very unlikely that progress would be made in determining the final status of the Abyei Area in the short or medium term. Moreover, the situation in Abyei remained volatile, with episodes of heightened intercommunal tensions, most notably following the killing of 33 Ngok Dinka by Misseriya armed elements in Kolom on 22 January 2020. At his briefing on 22 October,<sup>205</sup> the Under-Secretary-General informed the Council members that minimum progress had been made with respect to implementing the benchmarks of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the decisions of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism of 19 February 2020 because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including opening the border crossing corridors, border demarcation and the operational activities of the Joint Border Mechanism. Furthermore, delays in the issuance of visas for the UNISFA police component, including the formed police units, had had a very negative impact on mandate implementation.

In his briefing on 28 April,<sup>206</sup> the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General stated that the Sudan and South Sudan had been consolidating their improved relations, notably through the constructive roles played in each other's peace processes and cooperation on oil management. At the meeting of the Council on 22 October,<sup>207</sup> the Special Envoy highlighted the signing of the Juba Peace Agreement and the initiation of bilateral discussions on 6 September 2020 to review the 2012 cooperation agreements, including on the Abyei Area. In his earlier briefing,<sup>208</sup> the Special Envoy had expressed the hope that the rapprochement and strengthened relations between the two countries would subsequently provide incentives to address the outstanding issues under the cooperation agreements, including Abyei. In their statements following the briefings, Council members noted the improvement in relations, with several members stating that the momentum should be used to resolve outstanding

<sup>194</sup> See [S/2020/538](#) and [S/2020/1192](#).

<sup>195</sup> See [S/2020/1192](#).

<sup>196</sup> See [S/2020/538](#).

<sup>197</sup> See [S/2020/1192](#).

<sup>198</sup> See [S/2020/528](#), [S/2020/913](#) and [S/2020/1235](#).

<sup>199</sup> See [S/2020/913](#).

<sup>200</sup> See [S/2020/1235](#).

<sup>201</sup> Resolution 2508 (2020), para. 2.

<sup>202</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 4.

<sup>203</sup> See [S/2020/351](#) and [S/PV.8772](#).

<sup>204</sup> See [S/2020/351](#).

<sup>205</sup> See [S/PV.8772](#).

<sup>206</sup> See [S/2020/351](#).

<sup>207</sup> See [S/PV.8772](#).

<sup>208</sup> See [S/2020/351](#).

issues related to the Abyei Area and the border.<sup>209</sup> In addition, noting with concern the impact of restrictions on the ability of UNISFA to implement its mandate, a number of Council members urged the parties to fully support UNISFA in the deployment of additional police personnel, the appointment of a civilian deputy head of mission and the establishment of the Abyei police service.<sup>210</sup> Some Council members stressed the importance of considering the views of the parties, the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and countries contributing troops with respect to the future mandate of UNISFA.<sup>211</sup>

By resolutions [2519 \(2020\)](#) of 14 May and [2550 \(2020\)](#) of 12 November, the Council twice unanimously extended the mandate of UNISFA to support the Joint Border Mechanism and, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, also extended the Mission's mandate in connection with the Abyei Area, while maintaining its authorized troop and police levels.<sup>212</sup> By resolution [2550 \(2020\)](#), the Council reiterated its request to the Sudan and South Sudan to demonstrate measurable progress on border demarcation, including with respect to facilitating the work of the Joint Border Mechanism, withdrawing their forces from the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and reopening border crossing corridors. The Council requested the Secretary-General to hold joint consultations with the Governments of Ethiopia, South Sudan and the Sudan and relevant stakeholders to develop options no later than 31 March 2021 for the responsible drawdown and exit of UNISFA, including an option that was not limited by the implementation of the 2011 agreements on Abyei.<sup>213</sup>

In connection with the situation in South Sudan, Council members were briefed four times by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan and Head of UNMISS<sup>214</sup> and twice by the

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.<sup>215</sup> Council members also heard three briefings from representatives of civil society organizations.<sup>216</sup> In his briefing on 4 March,<sup>217</sup> the Special Representative reported notable progress in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan of 2018. On 15 February 2020, the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, had agreed to return South Sudan to its pre-2015 position of 10 states, while adding three administrative areas. With that shift, Riek Machar, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition, had accepted the challenge to join the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity as First Vice-President. At his briefing on 15 December,<sup>218</sup> the Special Representative informed the Council that with the formation of the Transitional Government, 9 out of 10 governor positions had been filled, the Council of Ministers had commenced its meetings and most national institutions were functioning, at least at a basic level. However, the implementation of other aspects of the Revitalized Agreement was lagging. Transitional security arrangements aimed at unifying security forces were stalled, leaving combatants in training centres often without adequate food or shelter. The initial hold-up in the appointment of governors and county commissioners had left a local vacuum of power and made it difficult to nip in the bud brewing intercommunal violence. Moreover, in 2020, more than 2,000 civilians had lost their lives in local-level conflict, which was being weaponized by external actors acting in their own economic or political interests.

At his briefing on 16 September,<sup>219</sup> with regard to the mandate of UNMISS the Special Representative stated that the political violence of the past had largely subsided, despite delays in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement. Given that the external threats that had led to the establishment of sites for the protection of civilians no longer existed, UNMISS was gradually withdrawing its troops and police from static duties at those areas and redeploying them to hotspots where people were in immediate danger. In his briefing on 15 December,<sup>220</sup> he noted that the Bor, Wau and Juba sites had been successfully transitioned to conventional displacement camps and that planning for the same process was under way at Bentiu. Noting the

<sup>209</sup> See [S/2020/351](#) (Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Indonesia, Niger, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia, United States and Viet Nam); and [S/PV.8772](#) (United Kingdom, Indonesia, Germany, Estonia, France and Tunisia).

<sup>210</sup> See [S/2020/351](#) (Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam); and [S/PV.8772](#) (United States, United Kingdom, Indonesia, Germany, Estonia, Dominican Republic, France, Tunisia and Belgium).

<sup>211</sup> See [S/2020/351](#) (China and Viet Nam); and [S/PV.8772](#) (Russian Federation).

<sup>212</sup> Resolutions [2519 \(2020\)](#), paras. 1, 2 and 3, and [2550 \(2020\)](#), paras. 1 and 2.

<sup>213</sup> Resolution [2550 \(2020\)](#), para. 31.

<sup>214</sup> See [S/PV.8741](#), [S/2020/582](#), [S/2020/914](#) and [S/2020/1237](#).

<sup>215</sup> See [S/2020/914](#) and [S/2020/1237](#).

<sup>216</sup> See [S/PV.8741](#), [S/2020/582](#) and [S/2020/914](#).

<sup>217</sup> See [S/PV.8741](#).

<sup>218</sup> See [S/2020/1237](#).

<sup>219</sup> See [S/2020/914](#).

<sup>220</sup> See [S/2020/1231](#).

outcome of the independent strategic review of UNMISS,<sup>221</sup> the Special Representative observed that the Mission's mandate needed to change as circumstances did.<sup>222</sup> In that context, he underscored the importance for UNMISS to continue supporting the political process as its central task, to be more mobile and undertake increased outreach to protect civilians, and to support police capacity-building, the preparations for elections, security sector reform and, ultimately, disarmament and reintegration.

In his statement to the Council on 16 September,<sup>223</sup> the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs reported that, despite some encouraging developments since the signing of the Revitalized Agreement and the formation of the Transitional Government, humanitarian needs were again rising as a result of more violence, floods and the COVID-19 pandemic, which was bringing a host of health and wider consequences, including increasing food insecurity. A total of 7.5 million people needed humanitarian assistance. Violence in 2020 had resulted in hundreds of deaths, another 157,000 people becoming displaced and the abduction of large numbers of women and children. Although 1.1 million displaced people had been able to return, 1.6 million remained internally displaced and another 2.2 million were refugees in neighbouring countries. Women and girls faced extreme levels of sexual and gender-based violence. The pandemic, along with increased violence in some areas, had magnified humanitarian access challenges, while humanitarian workers had faced an increase in attacks and a deteriorating operational environment. The Under-Secretary-General sought the support of the Council in continuing to back efforts to find a political solution to end the violence, to use its influence to ensure that humanitarian relief operations were facilitated and aid workers were protected and to provide additional resources for the Humanitarian Response Plan for South Sudan. In his remarks at the open videoconference held on 15 December,<sup>224</sup> the Under-Secretary-General reported that, according to the global Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, five counties in Jonglei, Warrap and Northern Bahr el-Ghazal States faced "catastrophic" levels of food insecurity, with a sixth county presenting a "famine likely" situation. At nearly \$2 billion, the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2020, the largest ever for the country, was only two thirds funded, and the needs were expected to be even higher in 2021.

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<sup>221</sup> See [S/2020/1224](#).

<sup>222</sup> See [S/2020/1231](#).

<sup>223</sup> See [S/2020/914](#).

<sup>224</sup> See [S/2020/1237](#).

In her statement to the Council at the meeting held on 4 March,<sup>225</sup> the Coordinator of the Women's Monthly Forum on Peace and Political Processes in South Sudan, a national civil society organization, expressed the hope that, with the breakthrough in the peace process, the Transitional Government would tackle issues such as the education of girls, child marriage, creating jobs for youth and providing basic services for communities. Serious challenges remained, however, with a critical need for humanitarian assistance, extreme risks of rape and other forms of sexual or gender-based violence against women and girls, inadequate conditions for women at unified police training centres and the need for greater efforts to achieve the 35 per cent quota for women in the transitional bodies. She urged the Council to maintain engagement with the parties to ensure the swift implementation of the peace agreement, express support for transitional justice and accountability for gender-based violence, renew the call for the fulfilment of the 35 per cent quota and ensure that UNMISS consulted a wide range of women's civil society organizations to guide its work in the protection of civilians, confidence-building and mediation.

Briefing Council members on 23 June,<sup>226</sup> the Executive Director of the Community Empowerment for Progress Organization, a South Sudanese civil society organization, stated that the political will to implement the Revitalized Agreement was lacking and noted multiple violations of the cessation of hostilities and the lack of criminal prosecution for violations of human rights and humanitarian law. He urged the Council to insist on the establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan and the Compensation and Reparation Authority, pressure the parties to complete the formation of the transitional legislative, local government and transitional justice institutions and ensure the safety of and access for humanitarian workers. He further urged the Council to support the official launch of the implementation plan on the prevention of sexual violence in accordance with the joint communiqué between South Sudan and the United Nations of December 2014, support the protection of civic space and ensure that peacekeeping forces increased engagement with communities and enhanced protection for individuals and communities. On 16 September,<sup>227</sup> the Gender and Social Justice Manager of the Assistance Mission for Africa, a non-governmental organization, briefed Council members on ways to address the ongoing intercommunal conflicts in South Sudan and how to

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<sup>225</sup> See [S/PV.8741](#).

<sup>226</sup> See [S/2020/582](#).

<sup>227</sup> See [S/2020/914](#).

achieve the meaningful participation of women in governance and peacebuilding. She urged the Council to hold UNMISS accountable for its mandate to protect civilians and consult with communities in the protection of civilians sites so as to ensure that return, relocation and integration efforts were safe, dignified and voluntary.

In their discussions on South Sudan, Council members welcomed the establishment of the Transitional Government and commended the mediation efforts of IGAD, the African Union and other partners. Going forward, they called for full respect of the ceasefire and the implementation of the provisions of the Revitalized Agreement concerning security arrangements, the establishment of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly and transitional justice mechanisms and financial transparency. Council members called on the Government and armed groups to facilitate humanitarian access and to take action to prevent intercommunal violence. Several Council members further called for the meaningful participation of women, youth, civil society and other groups in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement<sup>228</sup> and for the prevention of and accountability for sexual and gender-based violence and violations against children.<sup>229</sup>

Concerning the decisions on UNMISS, by resolution [2514 \(2020\)](#) of 12 March, the Council extended the mandate of the Mission for a period of one year until 15 March 2021, introducing some modifications to its tasks while maintaining its overall composition.<sup>230</sup> The Council requested the Secretary-General to conduct an independent strategic review of UNMISS no later than 15 December 2020, with detailed recommendations for the possible reconfiguration of its mandate and composition to account for developments in the peace process.<sup>231</sup>

In addition to the regular briefings relating to South Sudan and UNMISS, on 15 December Council

members heard a briefing by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [2206 \(2015\)](#) concerning South Sudan, in which he provided a summary of the four videoconferences and one meeting the Committee held on the item in 2020, including its discussions on the final report of the Panel of Experts.<sup>232</sup> By resolution [2521 \(2020\)](#) of 29 May, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council extended the travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo on South Sudan until 31 May 2021 and the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 1 July 2021.<sup>233</sup> The Council decided to review the arms embargo measures in the light of progress achieved in the implementation of all the provisions of the Revitalized Agreement and adherence to the ceasefire<sup>234</sup> and to review the travel ban and asset freeze in the light of progress on the Agreement and the developments related to human rights violations and abuses.<sup>235</sup> The resolution also provided that the Council would conduct midterm reviews of the extended measures no later than 15 December 2020.<sup>236</sup>

Resolution [2521 \(2020\)](#) was adopted with 12 votes in favour and 3 abstentions, by China, the Russian Federation and South Africa. In the written statements submitted following the vote,<sup>237</sup> the Council members that had abstained underscored the need to adjust the sanctions measures in the light of the improved situation in South Sudan and as a means of facilitating the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement. The delegation of the Russian Federation considered that it was not appropriate to condition the review of the sanctions measures on the human rights situation in the country. In contrast, the delegation of the United States asserted that the resolution recognized the positive steps taken by the leaders of South Sudan to advance the peace process and clearly

<sup>228</sup> See [S/PV.8741](#) (United States, France, United Kingdom, Dominican Republic, Estonia, South Africa, Germany and Tunisia); [S/2020/582](#) (Dominican Republic and South Africa); [S/2020/914](#) (Dominican Republic and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines); and [S/2020/1237](#) (Dominican Republic, Germany and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines).

<sup>229</sup> See [S/PV.8741](#) (France, Dominican Republic, Estonia and South Africa); [S/2020/582](#) (Dominican Republic); [S/2020/914](#) (Dominican Republic and Estonia); and [S/2020/1237](#) (Dominican Republic, Germany and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines).

<sup>230</sup> Resolution [2514 \(2020\)](#), paras. 6 and 7.

<sup>231</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 39.

<sup>232</sup> See [S/2020/1237](#). See also [S/2020/342](#).

<sup>233</sup> Resolution [2521 \(2020\)](#), paras. 3, 11 and 18.

<sup>234</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 4.

<sup>235</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 12.

<sup>236</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 4 and 12. Pursuant to resolution [2521 \(2020\)](#), the Secretary-General submitted a report to the Council containing an assessment of the role of the arms embargo in facilitating the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and articulating options for the elaboration of benchmarks ([S/2020/1067](#)). In a letter dated 16 December 2020 from the President of the Council addressed to the Secretary-General, Council members requested the Secretary-General to conduct a Headquarters-based desk review and consultations and to report to the Council with recommendations on benchmarks to assess the arms embargo measures by 31 March 2021 ([S/2020/1277](#)). For more information on the sanctions measures concerning South Sudan, see part VII, sect. III.

<sup>237</sup> See [S/2020/469](#).

stated that the Council would review the sanctions measures based on progress achieved in implementing the peace agreement. The delegation noted that the renewed measures created space for peace to thrive in South Sudan by reducing the flow of weapons to one of Africa's deadliest conflicts and encouraging the critical

reforms outlined in the peace agreement. Several other Council members<sup>238</sup> noted their decision to vote in favour of the resolution given that the text provided for a future review of the measures.

<sup>238</sup> Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Viet Nam.

**Table 1  
Meetings: reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan**

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.8718</a> 11 February 2020	Letter dated 14 January 2020 from the Panel of Experts on the Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council ( <a href="#">S/2020/36</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by the United States ( <a href="#">S/2020/110</a> )	Sudan		2 Council members (China, Russian Federation), invitee	Resolution <a href="#">2508 (2020)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
<a href="#">S/PV.8761</a> 25 September 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Sudan and the activities of the United Nations Integrated Assistance Mission in the Sudan ( <a href="#">S/2020/912</a> )		Sudan	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations	12 Council members, <sup>a</sup> all invitees <sup>b</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, United Kingdom, Russian Federation, South Africa (also on behalf of the Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tunisia), United States and Viet Nam.

<sup>b</sup> The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations participated in the meeting by videoconference.

**Table 2  
Videoconferences: reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan – the Sudan**

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
30 March 2020 <sup>a</sup>	<a href="#">S/2020/267</a>	Letter dated 31 March 2020 from the President of the Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution <a href="#">2517 (2020)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII) <a href="#">S/2020/248</a>

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<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
24 April 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/336</a>	Letter dated 28 April 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
29 May 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/468</a>	Letter dated 29 May 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution <a href="#">2523 (2020)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII) <a href="#">S/2020/461</a>
3 June 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/496</a>	Letter dated 4 June 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution <a href="#">2524 (2020)</a> 15-0-0 <a href="#">S/2020/494</a>
3 June 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/497</a>	Letter dated 4 June 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution <a href="#">2525 (2020)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII) <a href="#">S/2020/495</a>
9 June 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/528</a>	Letter dated 11 June 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
10 June 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/538</a>	Letter dated 11 June 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
15 September 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/913</a>	Letter dated 17 September 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
8 December 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/1183</a>	Letter dated 18 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
10 December 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/1192</a>	Letter dated 16 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
11 December 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/1235</a>	Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
22 December 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/1280</a>	Letter dated 22 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution <a href="#">2559 (2020)</a> 15-0-0 <a href="#">S/2020/1276</a>

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<sup>a</sup> Owing to technical difficulties, instead of an open videoconference to announce the vote on resolution [2517 \(2020\)](#), the videoconference was closed. For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.

**Table 3**  
**Meetings: reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan – the Sudan, South Sudan and Abyei**

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.8772</a> 22 October 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei (S/2020/1019)		Sudan	Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa	11 Council members, <sup>a</sup> all invitees	
<a href="#">S/PV.8774</a> 12 November 2020		Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2020/1098)			2 Council members (Germany, United States)	Resolution <a href="#">2550 (2020)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

**Table 4**  
**Videoconferences: reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan – the Sudan, South Sudan and Abyei**

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
28 April 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/351</a>	Letter dated 30 April 2020 from the President of the Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
14 May 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/408</a>	Letter dated 14 May 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution <a href="#">2519 (2020)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII) <a href="#">S/2020/405</a>

**Table 5**  
**Meetings: reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan – South Sudan**

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.8741</a> 4 March 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in South Sudan (covering the period from 1 December 2019 to 15 February 2020) (S/2020/145)		South Sudan	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, Coordinator of	All Council members, all invitees <sup>a</sup>	

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<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
					the Women's Monthly Forum on Peace and Political Processes in South Sudan	
<a href="#">S/PV.8744</a> 12 March 2020	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in South Sudan ( <a href="#">S/2020/145</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by the United States ( <a href="#">S/2020/197</a> )			2 Council members (Germany, United States)	Resolution <a href="#">2514 (2020)</a> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

<sup>a</sup> The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Coordinator of the Women's Monthly Forum on Peace and Political Processes in South Sudan participated in the meeting by videoconference from Juba.

Table 6  
**Videoconferences: reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan – South Sudan**

<i>Videoconference date</i>	<i>Videoconference record</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision, vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</i>
29 May 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/469</a>	Letter dated 29 May 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	Resolution <a href="#">2521 (2020)</a> 12-0-3 <sup>a</sup> (adopted under Chapter VII) <a href="#">S/2020/462</a>
23 June 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/582</a>	Letter dated 25 June 2020 from the President of the Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
16 September 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/914</a>	Letter dated 18 September 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	
15 December 2020	<a href="#">S/2020/1237</a>	Letter dated 17 December 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council	

<sup>a</sup> *For*: Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam; *against*: none; *abstaining*: China, Russian Federation, South Africa.

## 9. Peace consolidation in West Africa

During the period under review, the Council held three meetings under the item entitled "Peace consolidation in West Africa". One of the meetings took the form of a briefing and two meetings were

convened for the adoption of a decision.<sup>239</sup> More information on the meetings, including invitees, speakers and outcomes, is given in table 1 below.

<sup>239</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II.