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

During the period under review, the Security Council held six meetings in connection with the item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan”. Three of the meetings took the form of briefings and three were convened for the adoption of a decision. In addition, Council members held eighteen videoconferences and adopted ten resolutions under this item. More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and decisions, as well as the videoconferences is given in the tables 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 this item. The Council also held one closed meeting with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) pursuant to 1353 (2001).

Consistent with prior practice, the Council considered several distinct topics under this 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 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. The Council also discussed the work of the Committees and Panels of Experts concerning the Sudan and South Sudan, as well as the implementation of resolution 1593 (2005), by which the

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182 For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.
183 For more information on the procedures and working methods developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, see part II.
184 See A/75/2, part II, chap. 27. See also, S/2020/258 and S/2020/344.
185 Held on 3 March 2020 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 – South Sudan”, see S/PV.8740.

Part I – Overview of Security Council Activities in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security

Council had referred the situation in Darfur to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.\textsuperscript{187}

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.\textsuperscript{188}

In her briefing at the first open videoconference held on 28 April 2020, 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 the wider spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.\textsuperscript{189}

In subsequent videoconferences, the Under-Secretary-General added that the humanitarian situation was aggravated 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 supporting the Sudan’s economic recovery 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 Sudan Revolutionary Front alliance and the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi on 3 October 2020. The agreement provided for a 39-month transition and the membership and participation of the signatories in the Sovereign Council, the transitional Government, and the Transitional Legislative Council, as well as 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

\textsuperscript{187} For more information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015) concerning South Sudan and their respective Panels of Experts, see part IX, sect. I. B.


\textsuperscript{189} See S/2020/336.
noted that women remained underrepresented in transitional structures, with only three women among the cabinet’s 18 ministers and one representative in the Council of Partners.\(^\text{190}\)

Following the establishment of UNITAMS on 3 June 2020, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs informed Council members that 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.\(^\text{191}\) She 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 only be achieved through key efforts such as the implementation of the Juba Agreement, which was a major step towards ending years of conflict, addressing the root causes and building sustainable peace.\(^\text{192}\)

In his briefings, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations stressed the need to translate the Juba 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.\(^\text{193}\) Regarding the security situation in Darfur, intercommunal fighting in late 2019 and early 2020 left 65 people dead, 46,000 internally displaced, and 11,000 as refugees in Chad.\(^\text{194}\) There was also a spike in clashes involving elements of the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid and a continuation of attacks against internally displaced persons and protestors. The Under-Secretary-General 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.\(^\text{195}\)

In connection with the drawdown of UNAMID, at the open videoconference held on 24 April 2020, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations informed Council members that the transitional Government’s emergency restrictions in response to the pandemic, coupled with

\(^{190}\) See S/2020/1183.

\(^{191}\) See S/PV.8761.

\(^{192}\) See S/2020/1183.

\(^{193}\) See S/PV.8761.


\(^{195}\) See S/2020/1183.
the suspension of United Nations peacekeeping rotations, had a severe impact on the ability of UNAMID to implement its mandate and rendered the scheduled drawdown and liquidation plan by the end of the Mission’s mandate on 31 October 2020 unrealistic. On 8 December 2020, he noted that further to discussions between the African Union, United Nations and the Sudan, within the framework of the Tripartite Coordination Mechanism, it was 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 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 Mission’s team sites.

During the open videoconference held on 8 December 2020, the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support brought to the attention of Council members key operational aspects 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 six months, followed by a nine-to-twelve-month period of asset disposal and liquidation with 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 troop- and police-contributing countries 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, particularly with the signing of the Juba 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

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198 Ibid.

Part I – Overview of Security Council Activities in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security  
Council members called for the lifting of sanctions measures imposed against the Sudan. 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. Council members stressed the importance of a responsible and orderly drawdown and closure of UNAMID which took into account the situation on the ground and ensured close coordination with the transitional Government. Moreover, Council members also addressed the mandate and objectives of UNITAMS, with particular emphasis on the Mission’s support for the Government’s priorities during the transitional period and the strengthening of the Sudan’s protection of civilians capacities.

Concerning UNAMID, the Council unanimously adopted resolutions 2517 (2020), 2523 (2020) and 2525 (2020), acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, maintaining the Mission’s authorized troop and police ceiling and extending the timelines for its decision on the courses of action regarding the drawdown and exit. Moreover, resolution 2525 (2020) of 3 June 2020 extended the mandate of UNAMID for two months from 31 October to 31 December 2020 and modified its priorities to focus on the protection of civilians, including to support the transitional Government’s capacity in this regard. On 3 June 2020, the Council also unanimously adopted resolution 2524 (2020) establishing 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.

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199 See S/2020/336, China, Indonesia, Russian Federation and South Africa; and S/PV.8761, China, South Africa (also on behalf of Niger, South Africa, Tunisia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) and Russian Federation.
200 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.
201 See S/2020/336, China, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, South Africa and Viet Nam; and S/2020/1183, Estonia, France and Niger.
202 See S/2020/336, China, France, South Africa and Viet Nam; and S/2020/1183, Germany, Indonesia, Niger and Russian Federation.
203 See S/PV.8761, China and Estonia; and S/2020/1183, China and Estonia.
204 See S/PV.8761, France, Estonia, Dominican Republic; and S/2020/1183, Belgium, Dominican Republic and Estonia.
206 Resolution 2525 (2020), para. 3.
207 Resolution 2524 (2020), para. 2.
By resolution 2559 (2020) of 22 December 2020, 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, particularly key provisions pertaining to security arrangements and addressing the root causes of conflict in Darfur and Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states. The Council decided to terminate the mandate of UNAMID as of 31 December 2020 and requested the Secretary-General to complete withdrawal of all uniformed and civilian personnel by 30 June 2021. The resolution authorized, for the duration of the drawdown and liquidation, the retention of a guard unit within the Mission’s existing footprint to protect its personnel, facilities and assets. Furthermore, the resolution 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.

In addition to the above and consistent with established practice pursuant to resolution 1593 (2005), the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court briefed Council members twice in 2020 in relation to Darfur. The Prosecutor noted the transfer of the first of five suspects, Ali Kushayb Abd-Al-Rahman, to the Court on 9 June 2020 following his surrender to the authorities in the Central African Republic. With respect to the four remaining suspects, she recalled that the former President of the Sudan, Omar 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. In October 2020, the Prosecutor 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. While fully respecting the principles of complementarity, she underscored to Council members the need to ensure that all

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208 Resolution 2559 (2020), eighth and ninth preambular paragraphs.
209 Ibid., paras. 1 and 2.
210 Ibid., para. 3.
211 Ibid., para. 4. See letter dated 21 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Council (S/2020/429).
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.\textsuperscript{215} Council members also heard three briefings by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution \textit{1591 (2005)} on the work of the Committee and its Panel of Experts.\textsuperscript{216} The Chair noted that the Panel submitted its interim report for 2020, which stated that the parties in the Sudan continued to transfer arms and other military material into Darfur, in violation of the arms embargo, while the implementation of the travel ban and asset freeze also remained a challenge.\textsuperscript{217} Despite the restrictions owing to the pandemic, the Panel conducted its first visit to the Sudan in October and November 2020.\textsuperscript{218} By resolution \textit{2508 (2020)} of 11 February 2020, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council unanimously renewed the mandate of the Panel of Experts for a period of 13 months until 12 March 2021.\textsuperscript{219} The Council further 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.\textsuperscript{220} 

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.\textsuperscript{221} In his briefings, the Under-Secretary-General opined 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.\textsuperscript{222} There was minimum progress on the implementation of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism benchmarks and the decisions of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism of 19 February 2020 due to the impact of the pandemic, including on the opening of the border crossing corridors,

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{215} See \textit{S/2020/1192}.
\item \textsuperscript{216} See \textit{S/2020/528}, \textit{S/2020/913} and \textit{S/2020/1235}.
\item \textsuperscript{217} See \textit{S/2020/913}.
\item \textsuperscript{218} See \textit{S/2020/1235}.
\item \textsuperscript{219} \textit{Resolution 2508 (2020)}, para. 2.
\item \textsuperscript{220} Ibid., para. 4.
\item \textsuperscript{221} See \textit{S/2020/351} and \textit{S/PV.8772}.
\item \textsuperscript{222} See \textit{S/2020/351}.
\end{itemize}
border demarcation, and the Mechanism’s operational activities. Furthermore, delays in the issuance of visas for the UNISFA police component, including the formed police units, had a very negative impact on mandate implementation.223

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa 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.224 In this regard, he highlighted the signing of the Juba Agreement and the initiation of bilateral discussions on 6 September 2020 to review the 2012 cooperation agreements, including on the Abyei Area.225 The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General 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.226 In their statements in 2020, Council members noted the improvement in relations, with several of them stating that this momentum should be used to resolve outstanding issues related to the Abyei Area and the border.227 Moreover, 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 the Mission in the deployment of additional police personnel, the appointment of a civilian deputy head of mission and with the establishment of the Abyei Police Service.228 Some Council members stressed the importance of considering the views of the parties, the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and troop-contributing countries with respect to the future mandate of the Mission.229

By resolutions 2519 (2020) of 14 May 2020 and 2550 (2020) of 12 November 2020, the Council twice unanimously extended the mandate of UNISFA to support the Border Mechanism

223 See S/PV.8772.
224 See S/2020/351.
225 See S/PV.8772.
227 See S/2020/351, Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Indonesia, Niger, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia, United States, Viet Nam; and S/PV.8772, United Kingdom, Indonesia, Germany, Estonia, France and Tunisia.
228 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.
229 See S/2020/351, China, Viet Nam; and S/PV.8772, Russian Federation.
and, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, it also extended the Mission’s mandate in connection with the Abyei Area, while maintaining its authorized troop and police levels.\footnote{Resolutions \textit{2519 (2020)}, paras. 1, 2 and 3; and \textit{2550 (2020)}, paras. 1 and 2.} By\footnote{Resolution \textit{2550 (2020)}, para. 31.} resolution \textit{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 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 the Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, 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.\footnote{See \textit{S/PV.8741}, \textit{S/2020/582}, \textit{S/2020/914} and \textit{S/2020/1237}.}

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\footnote{See \textit{S/PV.8741}, \textit{S/2020/582} and \textit{S/2020/914}.} and twice by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.\footnote{See \textit{S/PV.8741}, \textit{S/2020/582} and \textit{S/2020/914}.} Council members also heard three briefings from representatives of civil society organizations.\footnote{See \textit{S/PV.8741}, \textit{S/2020/582} and \textit{S/2020/914}.} In his briefing on 4 March 2020, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General reported notable progress in the implementation of the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan. On 15 February 2020, President Salva Kiir Mayardit 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, accepted the challenge to join the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity as First Vice-President.\footnote{See \textit{S/PV.8741}.} With the formation of the Transitional Government, nine out of ten governor positions were filled, the Council of Ministers commenced its meetings, and most national institutions were functioning, at least at a basic level.\footnote{See \textit{S/2020/1237}.}
However, the implementation of other aspects of the Revitalized Agreement, according to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, 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 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 lost their lives in local-level conflict, which was being weaponized by external actors acting in their own economic or political interests.\textsuperscript{237}

With respect to the mandate of UNMISS, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General 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 led to the establishment of the protection of civilians sites 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.\textsuperscript{238} In his briefing on 15 December 2020, he noted that the Bor, Wau and Juba sites were successfully transitioned to conventional displacement camps and that planning for the same process was underway at Bentiu. Noting the outcome of the independent strategic review of UNMISS, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General observed that the Mission’s mandate had to change as circumstances did.\textsuperscript{239} In this context, he underscored the importance for UNMISS to continue supporting the political process as its central task, undertake enhanced mobility and increased outreach to protect civilians, and support police capacity-building, preparation for elections, security sector reform, and, ultimately, disarmament and reintegration.\textsuperscript{240}

In his statement to the Council on 16 September 2020, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator reported that, despite some encouraging developments since the signing of the Revitalized Agreement and the formation of

\begin{footnotes}
\item[237] Ibid.
\item[238] See S/2020/914.
\item[239] See letter dated 15 December 2020 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Council transmitting the report of the independent strategic review of UNMISS (S/2020/1224).
\item[240] See S/2020/1231.
\end{footnotes}
the Transitional Government, humanitarian needs were again rising due to 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 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 in internal displacement 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, magnified humanitarian access challenges, while humanitarian workers 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 protected, and to provide additional resources for the South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan. In his remarks at the open videoconference held on 15 December 2020, the Under-Secretary-General reported that, according to the global “Integrated Food Security Phase Classification”, five counties in Jonglei, Warrap, and Norther Bahr el Ghazal 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-third funded, while the needs were expected to be even higher in 2021.

In her statement to the Council at the meeting held on 4 March 2020, the Coordinator of the Women’s Monthly Forum on Peace and Political Processes in South Sudan, a national civil society organization, expressed hope that, with the breakthrough in the peace process, the Transitional Government would tackle issues such as the education of girls, child marriage, youth job creation, and 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 the Transitional Government, humanitarian needs were again rising due to 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 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 in internal displacement 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, magnified humanitarian access challenges, while humanitarian workers 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 protected, and to provide additional resources for the South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan. In his remarks at the open videoconference held on 15 December 2020, the Under-Secretary-General reported that, according to the global “Integrated Food Security Phase Classification”, five counties in Jonglei, Warrap, and Norther Bahr el Ghazal 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-third funded, while the needs were expected to be even higher in 2021.

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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 fulfillment 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.243

Briefing Council members on 23 June 2020, 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 the protection for individuals and communities.244 On 16 September 2020, the Gender and Social Justice Manager of the Assistance Mission for Africa, a non-governmental organization, briefed Council members on ways of addressing the ongoing intercommunal conflicts in South Sudan and how to 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 the communities in the protection of civilian’s sites to ensure that return, relocation and integration efforts were safe, dignified and voluntary.245

In their discussions on South Sudan, Council members welcomed the establishment of the Transitional Government and commended the mediation efforts of the IGAD, the African

243 See S/PV.8741.
244 See S/2020/582.
245 See S/2020/914.
Union and other partners. Going forward, they called for full respect for 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 and for the prevention of and accountability for sexual and gender-based violence and violations against children.

Concerning the decisions on UNMISS, by resolution 2514 (2020) of 12 March 2020, 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. 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.

In addition to the regular briefings relating to South Sudan and UNMISS, on 15 December 2020, Council members heard a briefing by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015) providing a summary of the four videoconferences and one meeting the Committee held in 2020, including its discussions on the final report of the Panel of Experts of 28 April 2020. By resolution 2521 (2020) of 29 May 2020, 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, as well as the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 1 July 2021.

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246 See S/PV.8741, United States, France, United Kingdom, Dominican Republic, Estonia, South Africa, Germany and Tunisia; S/2020/582, Dominican Republic, 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.

247 See S/PV.8741, France), Dominican Republic, Estonia, South Africa; S/2020/582, Dominican Republic; S/2020/914, Dominican Republic, Estonia; and S/2020/1237, Dominican Republic, Germany) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

248 Resolution 2514 (2020), paras. 6 and 7.

249 Ibid., para. 39.

250 See S/2020/1237. See also letter dated 28 April 2020 from the Panel of Experts on South Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2020/342).

The Council decided to review the arms embargo measures in light of the progress achieved in the implementation of all provisions of the Revitalized Agreement and the adherence to the ceasefire, and to review the travel ban and asset freeze in light of the progress on the Agreement and the developments related to human rights violations and abuses. Moreover, the resolution provided that the Council would conduct a midterm review in this regard no later than 15 December 2020.

Resolution 2521 (2020) was adopted with 12 votes in favour and three abstentions of China, the Russian Federation and South Africa. In the statements submitted further to the vote, abstaining Council members 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 submitted 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 submitted that the resolution recognized the positive steps taken by South Sudan’s leaders to advance the peace process and clearly stated that the Council would review sanctions measures based on progress achieved on implementing the peace agreement and the measures renewed 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 noted their decision to vote in favour of the resolution given that the text provided for a future review of the measures.

Table 1

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252 Ibid., para. 4.
253 Ibid., para. 12.
254 Ibid., paras. 4 and 12. Further to resolution 2521 (2020), in his report dated 31 October 2020 (S/2020/1067), the Secretary-General submitted 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. 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.
255 See S/2020/469, China, Russian Federation and South Africa.
256 Ibid., Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Viet Nam.
Meetings: Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

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

a Belgium, China, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, United Kingdom, Russian Federation, South Africa (also on behalf of Niger, Tunisia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), United States and Viet Nam.
b The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations participated in the meeting via videoconference.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Videoconference date</th>
<th>Videoconference record</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 April 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/336</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 May 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/468</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Resolution 2523 (2020) 15-0-0 (Chapter VII) S/2020/461 (record of written procedure)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part I – Overview of Security Council Activities in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Videoconference date</th>
<th>Videoconference record</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 June 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/528</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 June 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/538</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 September 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/913</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 December 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/1183</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 December 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/1192</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 December 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/1235</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Due 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 – Sudan and South Sudan and Abyei

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

Table 4
Videoconferences: Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan – the Sudan and South Sudan and Abyei

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Videoconference date</th>
<th>Videoconference record</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28 April 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/351</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 May 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/408</td>
<td>Letter dated 14 May 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General and the Permanent</td>
<td>Resolution 2519 (2020) 15-0-0 (Chapter VII)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part I – Overview of Security Council Activities in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting record and date</th>
<th>Sub-item</th>
<th>Other documents</th>
<th>Rule 37 invitations</th>
<th>Rule 39 and other invitations</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
<th>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S/PV.8741 4 March 2020</td>
<td>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)</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMISS, Coordinator of the Women’s Monthly Forum on Peace and Political Processes in South Sudan</td>
<td>All Council members, all invitees*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/PV.8744 12 March 2020</td>
<td>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)</td>
<td>Draft resolution submitted by the United States (S/2020/197)</td>
<td>Two council members (Germany, United States)</td>
<td>Resolution 2514 (2020) 15-0-0 (Chapter VII)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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 via videoconference from Juba.

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

Part I – Overview of Security Council Activities in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Videoconference date</th>
<th>Videoconference record</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining) and record of written procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 June 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/582</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 September 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/914</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 December 2020</td>
<td>S/2020/1237</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ For: Belgium, Estonia, France, Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States and Viet Nam. Against: None. Abstaining: China, Russian Federation and South Africa.