



## SECURITY COUNCIL INFORMAL EXPERTS GROUP ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

### SOUTH SUDAN

February 28<sup>th</sup> 2019

#### *Security Council Resolution 2242 (2015):*

*OP 5. Recognizes the ongoing need for greater integration of resolution 1325 (2000) in its own work in alignment with resolution 2122 (2013), including the need to address challenges linked to the provision of specific information and recommendations on the gender dimensions of situations on the Council's agenda, to inform and help strengthen the Council's decisions, and therefore in addition to elements set out in resolution 2122 (2013), and in accordance with established practice and procedure: (a) Expresses its intention to **convene meetings of relevant Security Council experts as part of an Informal Experts Group on Women, Peace and Security to facilitate a more systematic approach to Women, Peace and Security within its own work and enable greater oversight and coordination of implementation efforts.***

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Considerations for a new resolution on South Sudan

The Security Council should **retain all the existing language on women, peace and security in resolution 2406**, as they all continue to be relevant in the current context. It is imperative to maintain the request that UNMISS take fully into account **gender considerations as a crosscutting issue throughout its mandate**, reaffirm the importance of **appropriate expertise on women, peace and security**, including gender and women protection advisors, and emphasize the full and effective representation of women in all conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts including **women's involvement and subsequent engagement in implementation of the revitalized peace agreement**; and that it reports on these matters periodically to the Council.

In addition, the Security Council should consider new language to prioritize the implementation of women, peace and security in the UNMISS mandate, including through the use of good offices, with particular emphasis on women's leadership and participation in peacebuilding and peacemaking, including local-level women-led mediation and reconciliation efforts, as central to achieving lasting peace in South Sudan. For example:

- *Urge* the parties to the R-ARCSS to comply with the requirements for women's representation in the committees and mechanisms of the revitalized peace agreement and all executive and transitional institutions and *calls* on South Sudan's international partners to demand meaningful participation of women in these bodies, including in senior leadership positions.
- *Request* UNMISS to support government, non-government institutions and women's organizations in ensuring the full and effective participation, involvement and representation of women in all phases and at all levels in peace processes, national dialogues, and public decision-making.
- *Request* that reconstituted ceasefire monitoring arrangements include female monitors, gender expertise, and adequate training on how to monitor and report on sexual and gender-based violence

- *Commend* the role of women's civil society organizations in South Sudan and *urges* the government and the United Nations to ensure that they are regularly consulted on all matters related to peace and security and that mechanisms and protocols for their protection are in place.
- *Stress* the critical importance of investing in local level women-led peacebuilding and mediation efforts towards consolidation of peace and security, including through inter-communal dialogue, community violence reduction, social norms change, livelihood support, and funding for NGO-run services for women and girls, many of which require urgent resources to not close down and more flexible, multi-year funding channeled directly to local and grassroots organizations to build peace at the community level.
- *Urge* the Government of South Sudan and parties to the conflict to rigorously and expeditiously investigate all incidents of sexual violence and hold perpetrators accountable regardless of rank or seniority in accordance with the Joint Communiqué of 2014.
- *Urge* the Government of South Sudan to establish the hybrid court without delay, provide comprehensive services to survivors, especially medical and psychosocial care, grant unhindered access to humanitarian organizations assisting victims and displaced civilians, and ensure conflict-related sexual violence is addressed as a central aspect of the Revitalized Peace Agreement of 2108, including ensuring that crimes of sexual violence are not amnestied, and that victims receive reparations and livelihood support.

#### **Other recommendations for the IEG and the Security Council**

Whether through the Informal Experts Group or in meetings of the full Council, Council members could ask:

- What have been the specific challenges in ensuring accountability to achieving of the gender responsive commitment in R-ARCSS in the pre-transitional and transitional structures?
- To what extent are the mission's plans and priorities informed by gender-responsive conflict and political analysis?
- What mechanisms are in place to ensure a coordinated approach to ensure a protective environment for women?
- Does the mission work close coordination with women's civil society organizations to enhance their participation in all political processes and enable a protective environment, for example through identifying high-risk priority areas for the mission beyond the PoC sites?
- How does the mission support national justice-sector institutions to promote accountability for sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, and assist survivors?
- What has the mission done to integrate gender considerations into detention and corrections strategies and prevent prolonged and arbitrary detention, including of women?
- What is currently being done or can be done to improve gender parity across the entire humanitarian and peacekeeping operation, from senior leadership positions to translators and community engagement officers?
- Do we have sufficient information and gender analysis on the special needs of women and girls in humanitarian emergency initiatives, the capacity of the aid sector to respond adequately to these demands, and the levels of women's leadership or representation in decision-making about aid delivery?
- What is the status of implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and how can it be strengthened as an accountability tool to monitor implementation of WPS commitments in the new context?
- How will the government and the UN address the concerns raised by women's organizations and leaders regarding the cantonment of troops and mitigate the adverse impact that this can have in communities?

- How can the international community support and amplify examples of women's leadership at the payam, state, and national level? What would be context-specific and concrete pathways that link women at the local level, including those in PoC sites, with the national dialogue and implementation of the peace process?
- How can the international community support and develop women's leadership and gender-responsiveness in state security forces?
- Does the UN pay sufficient attention to addressing the gender norms that reinforce the conflict and fuel violence against women and girls related to cattle-raiding and the dowry system, or other forms of gender-based violence, such as child marriage?
- What can the UN and the Security Council do to ensure that women and human rights defenders, journalists, community activists, and civil society in general are protected, and that restrictions to freedom of expression or attacks against their safety are reported in real time?
- What can the UN and Security Council concretely do during this pre-transitional and transitional period to support the women of South Sudan to play a more substantial role in crucial aspects of peacebuilding and decision-making on social and economic development, governance and institutional reforms, and transitional security arrangements to be agreed to by the parties?

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Introduction

The signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) in 2018 should lead to the formation of a reconstituted transitional government of national unity at the commencement of the Transitional Period and the end of the pre-transitional period in May 2019, followed by elections three years later. The Agreement establishes the requirement of a minimum of 35 percent representation of women in all transitional mechanisms, and that one of the four vice presidents to be appointed for the transitional period shall be a woman, among other important provisions. At the same time, while the clashes between the parties to the conflict have decreased since the signing of the peace agreement, the UN has documented a significant increase of sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence. Against this background, the mandate of UNMISS is due for renewal on 15 March 2019.

### Recent developments in the Security Council

In **March 2018**, the Security Council adopted **resolution 2406**. The resolution includes multiple condemnations of the systematic and widespread use of sexual violence by parties to the conflict, and called for a dedicated commitment to women's empowerment and the full and effective participation and involvement of women in all levels of the political and peace processes. It also requested UNMISS to take fully into account gender considerations as a crosscutting issue throughout its mandate, reaffirming the importance of appropriate gender expertise and training and placing special emphasis on sexual and gender-based violence throughout the main tasks of its mandate to protect civilians and monitor human rights violations. Moreover, it explicitly requested that the reports to the Security Council include the consideration of gender as cross cutting throughout the UNMISS mandate, noting the importance of women's effective participation in the peace process and calling for all parties to ensure full and effective representation and leadership in all conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. The full list of gender-related provisions is included in the enclosed Annex.

When resolution 2206 established the **South Sudan sanctions regime** in 2015, it included **rape and sexual violence** in the list of prohibited acts of violence. In **May and July 2018**, the Security Council

renewed the **sanctions regime**, extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts, imposed an arms embargo, and added individuals to its sanctions list. This included two commanders of the SSPDF (former SPLA) (Paul Malong Awan and Malek Ruben Riak) for “planning, directing, or committing acts involving sexual and gender-based violence in South Sudan.” Out of the six individuals listed in previous years, five of these listings referred to “widespread rape” among the reasons for the designation. The reports of the Panel of Experts have provided more names and evidence for further listings based on reports of sexual violence, and the **SRSB on Sexual Violence in Conflict briefed the sanctions committee in October**, submitting further names of alleged perpetrators to the committee’s chair in a joint confidential letter with the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

SRSB Patten also briefed the Security Council after her visit to South Sudan in July 2018, as part of a delegation led by the Deputy Secretary-General, and in December 2018, following reports of mass rape in Bentiu. The Executive Director of UN Women, Mlambo-Ngcuka, USG LaCroix and AU Commissioner Chergui also briefed the Council after their visit to South Sudan in October 2018, and emphasized women’s participation and protection as key to achieving a lasting political solution. Finally, **the Council has also been briefed by women representing civil society in South Sudan every year since 2016**, most recently by Grace John Kyeri in September 2018, speaking on behalf of the South Sudan Civil Society Forum, a coalition of over 200 groups. Excerpts of her statement are included in the annex.

### **Women’s participation and representation in decision-making**

The **R-ARCSS signed on 12 September 2018** emphasizes the importance of gender equality in the preamble, contains various **references to the role of women in each chapter**, and includes a **quota of 35 percent representation of women in the executive and transitional institutions**. The chapter on transitional justice, accountability, and reconciliation, for example, has provisions for women’s participation in the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing and a requirement that civil society, including women’s groups, have a role in the Compensation and Reparation Authority. **One of the four vice presidents must be a woman**. The Women’s Coalition is listed as stakeholder with a formal role in the agreement’s monitoring and implementation.

However, during the weeks following the signing of the Revitalized Agreement, **the parties nominated their representatives to the various pre-transitional institutions and mechanisms and women’s representation was low**. President Kiir appointed the 10-member National Pre-Transitional Committee (NPTC), with only one woman representative. So far, the 35 percent minimum has only been reached by the Ceasefire Transitional Security Arrangement Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM), where 43 percent of members are women. Several committees have no women among their membership.

The UN is advocating for women’s inclusion in these committees, as well as for the longer-term objective of advancing women’s participation in the political space, including during the lead-up to the elections. This February, in preparation for the launch of the National Women Peace Campaign, a group of women leaders from the government, opposition groups, other political parties and civil society had their first meeting with President Kiir. They used this opportunity to call on the government and all parties to commit to the implementation of the gender provisions in the R-ARCSS, and to ensure that women’s concerns, experiences and priorities are taken into consideration in all reforms stipulated in the Agreement, particularly security sector and economic reforms.

**There is need to strengthen high-level advocacy for inclusiveness and women’s participation. A similar dynamic played out during the previous peace agreement.** Both the interim constitution and the peace agreement called for a minimum of 25 percent of women’s representation, but no institution met this requirement. In 2017, that meant 18 percent at ministerial level in the government, only 1 percent of deputy ministers, 13 percent of presidential advisors, 23 percent in the Transitional Legislative

National Assembly, zero percent of the governors appointed in 32 states, 16 percent of chairs of 18 government commissions, and no representation at the community level (as commissioners, chiefs, and local administrators). The Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanisms - which had no female monitors and only male soldiers- was supposed to report on gender-based violence but did not do so. Instead, the **Women's Bloc of South Sudan**, which was a signatory to the agreement and an official observer and a member of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, published a monthly report on the implementation of the gender provisions of the peace agreement, in collaboration with other networks, such as the South Sudan Women Peace Network. Due to the influence of women leaders, the 2017 ceasefire agreement expressly prohibited sexual violence, but the levels of sexual violence have not abated.

In the 2015 peace process, only 15 percent of negotiators were women. While women were absent from the government's delegation, three women served as part of the opposition's ten-person delegation. Last year, however, **women made up 25 percent of official delegates** and one woman acted as mediator. After significant efforts and mobilization, the percentage of women in last year's **national dialogue** reached one third in the end, after registering much lower numbers initially. Throughout the conflict, women have been reported to de-escalate tensions between Dinka and Nuer communities, including in displacement sites, stage peaceful protests and marches, and share the contents of successive peace agreements in local languages, including among refugee and displaced populations. Women have been particularly active in mediating **local disputes and intercommunal violence** and should be supported by the recently established **Trust Fund for Reconciliation, Stabilization, and Resilience**, funded by Germany thus far.

Twenty-seven percent of representatives in the national legislative assembly are women. Apart from the 25 percent quota in the interim constitution, the government has adopted a **National Action Plan on 1325** that is valid until 2020 and **ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 2015**. The 2017 independent strategic review of UNMISS highlighted the importance of women's roles in peacebuilding and political decision-making and recommended that the UN leadership in the country dial up their advocacy on women, peace and security issues.

### **Protection issues and humanitarian concerns affecting women and girls on sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence**

On 30 November 2018, MSF reported that its staff in the town of **Bentiu** had treated 157 women and girls who were raped, beaten and robbed over the previous ten days in government-controlled areas. UNMISS and OHCHR conducted an investigation and released a report on February 15<sup>th</sup> documenting 134 cases of women and girls being subjected to rape and gang rape from September to December 2018 while travelling on the road for firewood, food and other essential items. Fifty of the victims were children. However, the actual number of SGBV cases is believed to be much higher because most victims are in remote areas that could not be accessed by monitors and investigators. According to the UN, most of the attacks were conducted by youth militias and elements of forces believed to be aligned with President Kiir, as well as elements of the SPLA-IO (pro Taban Deng), while a smaller number of attacks were linked to the SPLA-IO (pro Riek Machar). They appear to be organized and premeditated, and most victims were raped by more than one attacker and often for hours. While the clashes between the parties to the conflict have decreased since the signing of the peace agreement, the presence of large numbers of fighters in certain areas, waiting to be reintegrated into the national army and being mobilized to acquire land and cattle, is one of the reasons behind this sharp increase in cases of sexual violence. The President has launched an investigation comprised of five men from various security agencies, but their report has not been submitted yet.

**The number of victims recorded by the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence had already reached 1291 in 2018, the highest recorded in the past three years and six times higher than the number documented by UNMISS in 2017.** In July, UNMISS and OHCHR had found that at least 120 women and girls, including pregnant and lactating mothers, and girls as young as four years old, had been raped, and 132 women and girls had been abducted as part of indiscriminate attacks against civilians in Southern Unity State. In October, in Western Equatoria, 43 cases of rape and the abduction of more than 500 women and 60 girls was also documented. Women's groups and human rights organizations have expressed their **concerns about the cantonment of soldiers** and how this will be implemented and monitored.

The number of cases of all forms of sexual and gender-based violence that are reported to service providers is much higher. For example, the GBV Information Management System reported 5,140 cases of gender-based violence (98 percent of them against women and girls) in 2018. These increases may be due to improved reporting and referral mechanisms.

Despite multiple investigations, fact-finding missions, and commissions of inquiry led by the UN and the AU over the last years, the **extensive documentation of widespread and systematic sexual violence**, and the constant demand by survivors for justice, **impunity is still rampant**. Some of the commanders implicated in these and previous incidents have been promoted instead of being prosecuted. A military court last year sentenced 10 soldiers to prison terms for their part in the rape of five foreign aid workers during an assault on a hotel in the capital in 2016, but these were low ranking soldiers and no individuals with command responsibility were prosecuted. The ruling awarded four times more compensation to the owner of the hotel than to the victims. The trial for a mass rape by government forces in the village of Kubi in February 2017 has yet to conclude, and **mobile courts** have been established to address a fraction of the many reported incidents. In some of these, very high numbers of victims have attended or participated and witnessed perpetrators being convicted to three to ten years of prison. The national director of public prosecutions accepted 16 cases of alleged sexual violence committed at the Juba, Malakal and Bentiu PoC sites for adjudication in the criminal justice system.

The **AU Hybrid Court**, the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**, and the **Compensation and Reparations Authority** have not been established yet, despite being a requirement of the previous peace agreement and years of sustained advocacy. The laws of South Sudan provide for the protection of women and girls against discrimination, rape, forced marriage, and gender-based violence, but these legal provisions are often misinterpreted and ignored, due to customary norms and the weak state of rule of law institutions. **Traditional courts and informal justice mechanisms**, such as the Informal and Dispute Resolution Mechanism often lead to very unfavorable outcomes for women and girls, especially in cases of sexual and gender-based violence. The government signed a **Joint Communiqué** with the SRSG on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict in 2014, and that same year, SPLA-IO (RM) issued a unilateral commitment to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence, with a focus on accountability. SSPDF developed and endorsed its own action plan, to be launched on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2019, and the national police is developing its own plan.

Recently, SPLA-IO (RM) has re-engaged with UNMISS on developing its action plan and provide unfettered access to its bases for UNMISS to interview women and girls held there, who may have been subject to sexual violence in captivity as detailed in the October report by UNMISS and OHCHR on violations and abuses against civilians in Western Equatoria. Through the engagement of the Senior Women Protection Advisor, Riek Machar issued a new command order on February 3<sup>rd</sup> prohibiting acts of CRSV by all members of the SPLA-IO. A committee was then formed a few days later to develop an action plan with concrete measures to prevent and respond to CRSV. The SPLA-IO (RM) is listed in the Secretary-General's reports on conflict-related sexual violence and children and armed conflict alongside

the government's armed forces. The forces loyal to Taban Deng have also been held responsible in two investigations in Southern and Northern Unity states in 2018.

Apart from sexual violence, the protection issues most commonly reported by South Sudanese women are **extremely high levels of intimate partner violence**, including in the PoC sites, the prevalence of **child marriage**, reportedly correlated with the armed conflict, survival sex, the use of girls as blood compensation and **bride abduction** related to cattle-raiding, and **forced evictions** of economically vulnerable returnee women. In general, South Sudan is an extremely militarized and masculinised society where the prevalent gender norms that exacerbate the protection risks for women and girls. Girls are routinely abducted for marriage because armed actors can easily frame it as raiding from "enemy" communities as a way of bypassing the dowry requirements. This leads to **denial of education, unwanted pregnancies, maternal mortality and inter-communal conflicts** with women and girls at the center. With responsibilities to feed their families, women and girls continue to shoulder multiple layers of burden, coping with drought and famine-like conditions, **traveling even longer distances for energy needs**. Women's organizations and human rights organizations have expressed their **concerns about the cantonment of soldiers** and how this will be implemented and monitored.

UNMISS has a mission-wide SGBV Prevention Strategy aimed at improving protection in and outside the PoC sites, which includes facilitating the supply of food and fuel, patrolling high-risk areas, establishing weapons-free zones around camps, clearing roadsides to prevent attackers from hiding from potential victims, and negotiating the replacement of soldiers at checkpoints with police officers, which has contributed to a reduction in the frequency of sexual assaults. The UN has made efforts to ensure the availability of rape kits and that medical personnel are trained on the clinical management of rape. It has also engaged with the parties to reinforce individual and command responsibility, and worked with police, prosecutors, and judges to improve women's access to justice. UNMISS has assisted women and girls to seek justice for SGBV and CRSV crimes perpetrated in PoCs by developing a mechanism with the Ministry of Justice to transfer serious crimes, including SGBV, committed inside PoC sites to national authorities for investigation and prosecution and providing logistical and coordination assistance to convene mobile courts so that justice sector personnel can investigate, prosecute, adjudicate, and defend these cases. UNDP is currently refurbishing a dedicated SGBV court in Juba. In partnership with UNDP, the mission will provide technical support to operationalise the court in the short term and then gradually mobilise it to reach more remote regions where access to justice remains limited. The UN is also supporting a one-stop centre in Juba for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, which was accessed by 366 women, girls and boys in the first 8 months of operation, assisting the National Prison Service of South Sudan by providing a dedicated area for juvenile female prisoners in the new Juvenile Reformatory Centre in Juba and helping prioritize the adjudication of cases involving women who are on remand for adultery or incarcerated during pregnancy or with children. Finally, the UN and the mission also collaborate in the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse through the establishment of referral systems and community-based complaints mechanisms, as well as taking swift action to remove perpetrators and following up with troop and police contributing countries.

Approximately 85 per cent of the 2 million **internally-displaced persons** (IDPs) in South Sudan are women and children, and around 55 percent are women and girls. In some of the regions most affected by the conflict, **two thirds of pregnant and lactating women are acutely malnourished**. There is a lack of information and analysis on the special needs of women and girls, the capacity of aid organizations to respond to them, and the level of women's participation in decision-making and aid-delivery. **Only 16 percent of women over 15 years are literate**, compared to 40 percent of men. Girls in rural areas show lower educational attainment than boys and most have never set foot in school, in a country where half of the population is between three and 17 years old. Decades of multiple displacements now have resulted in competing claims to land, notably in urban areas, and **displaced women are discriminated against in**

**traditional land and property distribution practices**, in spite of the UN's efforts to protect women's rights to access, own and inherit land in South Sudan.

#### **Gender Parity within the mission**

Resolution 2406 explicitly mandated UNMISS to report on its mainstreaming of gender as a cross-cutting consideration across all its work and specifically on women's involvement in the peace process and called for greater gender balance and the deployment of more women to its police and military components. Women's representation has increased in the police component and military liaison and staff officers.

Percentage of women in UNMISS as of December 2018	
International civilian staff	27 percent
National civilian staff	14 percent
UN volunteers	32 percent
Individual police officers	27 percent
Formed police units	20 percent
Correction officers	27 percent
Military liaison officers	13 percent
Military staff officers	14 percent
Military contingent personnel	3 percent



## **ANNEX: Relevant excerpts on gender equality in Resolution 2406 (2018) extending UNMISS's mandate for a year**

*Expressing* grave concern at the findings of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict of the systematic and widespread use of sexual violence as a tactic by parties to the conflict against the civilian population, particularly against women and girls in South Sudan,

*Recognizing* that unarmed civilian protection can often complement efforts to build a protective environment, particularly in the deterrence of sexual and gender-based violence against civilians,

*Emphasizing* that persistent barriers to full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and subsequent resolutions on women, peace, and security including 2242 (2015), will only be dismantled through dedicated commitment to women's empowerment, participation, and human rights, concerted leadership, consistent information and action, and support, to build women's engagement in all levels of decision-making, and through ensuring that the full and effective participation and involvement of women in all spheres and levels of the political and peace process,

*Recalling* its strong condemnation of all instances of attacks against civilians, including violence against women,

*Strongly* condemning all human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including (...) rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence (...),

*Welcoming* the commitment of the Secretary-General to enforce strictly his zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, noting the various measures taken by UNMISS and Troop- and Police-contributing countries to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, but still expressing grave concern over recent allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse reportedly committed by peacekeepers in South Sudan, stressing the urgent need for Troop- and Police-contributing countries and, as appropriate, UNMISS, to promptly investigate those allegations in a credible and transparent manner and for those responsible for such criminal offences or misconduct to be held to account, and further stressing the need to prevent such exploitation and abuse and to improve how these allegations are addressed in line with resolution 2272 (2016),

4. *Commends* the 18 October 2017 report by JMEC (...) on the Status of Implementation of the Agreement for the period November 2015 to September 2017 (...), notes the importance of the full and effective participation of (...) women, and calls upon all parties to ensure women's full and effective representation and leadership in all conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts;

7. *Decides* that the mandate of UNMISS shall be as follows, and authorizes UNMISS to use all necessary means to perform the following tasks:

(a) Protection of civilians:

(i) To protect civilians under threat of physical violence, irrespective of the source of such violence, within its capacity and areas of deployment, with specific protection for women and children, including through the continued use of the Mission's Child Protection and Women Protection Advisers;

(v) To deter and prevent sexual and gender-based violence within its capacity and areas of deployment (...),

(vi) To exercise good offices, confidence-building, and facilitation in support of the mission's protection strategy, especially in regard to women and children (...)

(vii) To foster a secure environment for the eventual safe, voluntary, and dignified, return of IDPs and refugees including through monitoring of, ensuring respect for human rights by, and where compatible and in strict compliance with the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP), coordination with police services, security and government institutions, and civil society actors in relevant and protection-focused activities, such as sensitization to issues of sexual and gender-based violence and children and armed conflict as well as technical assistance or advice, within existing resources, on international humanitarian law, investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence and

conflict-related sexual violence, as well as other serious human rights violations, in order to strengthen protection of civilians;

(c) Monitoring, and investigating human rights:

(ii) To monitor, investigate, verify and report specifically and publicly on violations and abuses committed against children and women, including those involving all forms of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict by accelerating the implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence and by strengthening the monitoring and reporting mechanism for violations and abuses against children;

14. *Requests* UNMISS to take fully into account gender considerations as a crosscutting issue throughout its mandate, reaffirms the importance of appropriate gender expertise and training in all missions mandated by the Security Council, and further encourages Troop- and Police-contributing Countries to take measures to increase the deployment of women in the military, police, and civilian components of the Mission;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to ensure full compliance of UNMISS with the United Nations zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure that all personnel of the mission are vetted for history of sexual misconduct in the service with the United Nations and to keep it informed through his reports about UNMISS's progress in this regard, and urges troop- and police-contributing countries to take appropriate preventative action including pre-deployment awareness training, and to promote full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

24. *Further demands* that all parties immediately cease all forms of violence, human rights violations and abuses, violations of international humanitarian law, including rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, and hold perpetrators accountable, in order to break the prevailing cycle of impunity;

26. *Strongly urges* the SPLA, SPLA-IO, and other armed groups to prevent further commission of sexual violence, urges the TGNU and the SPLA/IO to implement the joint and unilateral commitments and action plans they have made on preventing conflict-related sexual violence with focus on prevention, accountability, and enhancing assistance to victims, and strongly urges SPLA leadership to issue specific command orders regarding prevention of conflict-related sexual violence, and demands the TGNU show concrete steps to hold perpetrators within their ranks accountable for crimes of sexual violence;

31. *Further calls* upon the Government of South Sudan (...) to hold to account all those responsible for violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, and to ensure that all victims of sexual violence have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice, and to safeguard equal respect for the rights of women and girls in these processes, and notes that implementing holistic transitional justice measures, including accountability, truth-seeking and reparations, are key to healing and reconciliation;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on implementation of the UNMISS mandate and the obstructions UNMISS encounters in doing so in a same comprehensive written report to be submitted within 90 days of the date of adoption of this resolution, every 90 days thereafter, and underscores that such reporting should include:

- the consideration of gender as cross cutting throughout the mandate,
- the participation of women in peace processes

**ANNEX: Excerpts of Grace John Kyeri's briefing to the Council in September 2018, representing civil society in South Sudan**

*We know that whatever peace this agreement brings is so fragile (...). Our peace is fragile because some opposition groups declined to sign the peace agreement, and others were not party to the negotiations. The Security Council should call for IGAD to support continued outreach to and engagement with these groups, so that they also join hands to support this peace agreement.*

*This peace is fragile because there is complete impunity within my country (...). We believe that there must be some effective and reliable deterrent to prevent rampant rape, extrajudicial killings, and obstruction of humanitarian access that have become too normal in South Sudan. We urge the Security Council to insist on the immediate establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan and to support efforts to strengthen the national criminal justice system.*

*In South Sudan, competition over natural resources and cattle raiding regularly trigger local violence. The divisions between ethnic communities have grown so deep that it is sometimes difficult for us to coexist with each other. My organization is supporting communities to engage in dialogue and to solve differences without violence. We urge the Security Council to call for increased support to local peacebuilding initiatives, and for the timely establishment of the Commission on Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing that is provided for in the peace agreement.*

*Madame President, you must urge South Sudan's neighbours to respect the Security Council arms embargo and insist that any forces entering under the pretext of the peace agreement come only as part of the Security Council mandated peacekeeping mission.*

*The peace agreement provides specific roles for civil society, women and youth representatives in many of the bodies it forms. They will join bodies tasked with planning security sector reforms, monitoring the ceasefire, ensuring reconstruction in conflict-affected states, and providing reparations to those most affected by violence. But in a context where critical voices are silent, where peace, human rights and political activists such as Dong Samuel, Aggrey Idri, Peter Biar, Bashir Ahmed and so many others are disappeared or arbitrarily detained, no one will be free to contribute effectively to these bodies or to speak up when the agreement is not being implemented. Please continue your calls for respect for freedom of expression and for the release of those who are arbitrarily detained.*

*South Sudanese women participated in the negotiation of this agreement, and one of their major achievements is the increase of required women's participation in government from 25 to 35 percent. This is something to celebrate, but it is also a call to action: to ensure that it is effectively implemented, and that women are able to participate equally in decision making. The Security Council should call for all parties to uphold their commitment to women's full and meaningful participation in the implementation of the Agreement as well as in the government overall. The implementation and monitoring of South Sudan's National Action Plan on 1325 can also contribute towards achieving this goal.*