

Update on women, peace and security in South Sudan February 20th 2023

The Informal Expert Group (IEG) of the Security Council on Women and Peace and Security discussed the situation in South Sudan in February 2019 ([S/2019/232](#)), October 2019, and February 2021 ([S/2021/166](#)). This update summarizes relevant developments since that last meeting.

Developments in the Security Council and sanctions committee

Security Council resolution 2625 extended the **mandate** of the UN mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) for one year, strengthening the already extensive provisions on women, peace and security adopted the year before, in resolution 2567 (2021). All the **relevant excerpts in resolution 2625 are included in an annex** at the end of the note. The Security Council also called for the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in a presidential statement in October 2021 about the UN's assistance to the planned elections.

In addition, in May 2022 the Security Council extended the **sanctions** and arms embargo for a year. Resolution 2633 called on the parties to ensure the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and requested the Secretariat to include the necessary gender expertise on the Panel of Experts, “in line with paragraph 6 of resolution 2242 (2015) and encourages the Panel to integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue across its investigations and reporting.” This language was a reiteration from the previous year, in resolution 2577, which also included “the implementation of the Joint Action Plan for the Armed Forces on addressing conflict-related sexual violence, with an emphasis on training, sensitization, accountability, and oversight of the defense and security forces” among the benchmarks for consideration to lift the embargo. Resolution 2577 requested the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict and Sexual Violence in Conflict to “share relevant information with the Committee in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 1960 (2010) and paragraph 9 of resolution 1998 (2011), and invites the High Commissioner for Human Rights to share relevant information with the Committee, as appropriate.”

The sanctions committee already includes sexual violence as a stand-alone listing criterion, and seven of the eight individuals listed (all before 2018) are cited for planning, directing, or committing acts of sexual violence. In recent months, several Council Members have expressed support for the sanctions committee discussing this issue in depth and inviting the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict to brief.¹ Members of the Sanctions Committee traveled to South Sudan in November 2021, met with women's groups, and advocated for implementation of the 35 percent quota for women in the political transition. Over the last two years, the reports of the Panel of Experts (made up of three men and two women), have included information on sexual violence (e.g. in late 2020 by forces under the command and control of Major General Lokujo in Central Equatoria; in a wave of organized political violence in Tambura County in Western Equatoria in June 2021; during military operations in Tonj North in Warrap State in 2022), as well as reports that the conditions in the cantonment sites are particularly dire

¹ In December 2022, the United Kingdom imposed sanctions on two South Sudanese County Commissioners for their alleged involvement in commanding government-aligned militias to carry out attacks in southern Unity State between February and May of that year, including rape and sexual violence. Both County Commissioners, mentioned in this [report](#) by the UN as alleged perpetrators, have denied the accusations.

for women and the lack of substantial training of the soldiers undergoing the process of unification of forces, including on gender-based violence.

Over the last two years, the Security Council has been briefed by **women from civil society in South Sudan** on six different occasions. They all expressed their frustration with the pace of the reforms and the implementation of the peace agreement, and great alarm at the direction of the country.² Like many Council Members whenever the situation in South Sudan is discussed, they pointed to unmet quotas for women and high levels of sexual violence. Calling for more pressure on the parties to meet the gender-related provisions of the peace agreement, [Jackline Nasiwa](#) told the Security Council: “In a patriarchal society with a long history of inequality and marginalization of women’s rights and leadership, the fight for equality cannot be the burden of South Sudanese women alone.”

Women’s participation in the peace process, politics, and the public sector

The political situation remains challenging due to lack of progress in the peace process and implementation of the 2018 Revitalized Peace Agreement (R-ARCSS). In August 2022, all signatories of the 2018 agreement agreed to a roadmap extending the transitional period by 24 months, previously meant to end in February 2023, to enable the implementation of key outstanding tasks like the unification and redeployment of forces, the preparations for the elections, the drafting of a new constitution, and the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms. Women’s groups issued statements expressing their concern about this extension and regretting their lack of involvement or consultation. Only two of the fourteen key individuals that took part in the design of the roadmap were women.

In 2018, women represented 25 percent of participants in the peace process, and managed to include a **35 percent quota for women** in executive positions, including in the institutions set up to implement the peace agreement. Since then, **this quota has not been met**, in spite of advocacy efforts in South Sudan and in the Security Council. The Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO) in cooperation with UN Women publishes quarterly updates on the representation of women in transitional structures, and the UN has recently adopted local action plans to promote implementation of this quota, working with county commissioners and peace committee members. In February 2023, 57 commissioners are due to be appointed to the National Constitution Review Commission, and civil society will be monitoring that 35 percent of these appointments are women.

32 percent of members of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (178 out of 550), including the Speaker, 32 percent of members of the Council of States (27 out of 84) and 30 percent of cabinet members are women. Three of the 14 political parties are led by women, and they have all established affirmative action measures such as quotas for women ranging from 25 percent to 35 percent, but none of the parties have met these commitments so far. At the state level, there is only one woman out of ten governors, and three women out of ten deputy governors. 31 percent of newly appointed state-level ministers are women, though they tend to occupy less influential ministerial portfolios. At county level, not even 1 percent of county commissioners or local chiefs are women.

Women’s civil society organizations in South Sudan report curtailed freedom of speech, fear of prosecution and retaliation, and several of those who engage with the UN have already been intimidated or detained

² These were Caroline Atim, a deaf woman who briefed with the help of her interpreter during the annual debate on conflict-related sexual violence in 2021 and who founded the South Sudan Women with Disabilities Network, Lilian Riziq (president of the South Sudan Women’s Empowerment Network), Riya William Yuyada from Crown the Woman, a local feminist organization, Jackline Nasiwa (Centre for Inclusive Governance, Peace, and Justice) and Lorna Merekaje (South Sudan Democratic Engagement, Monitoring and Observation Programme) on two different occasions.

because of their work. Several of the known cases of reprisals against women from civil society that have briefed the Security Council have been from South Sudan.

The UN is working on promoting women's participation in the constitution drafting process, the preparations for the elections, the transitional justice process, the judicial reforms, and security sector reform. For example, with support from the Peacebuilding Fund, UN Women and UNDP have been implementing a three-year project to mainstream gender in the security sector, which has facilitated the establishment of women's networks in the police, prison services, defence forces, and wildlife, civil defense, and national security services. UNDP, UNHCR and UNMISS are developing plans to support the consultation of refugees and displaced persons, including women, in constitutional drafting. The UN is also supporting the development of the second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2013-2017), as the first one (2015-2020) had lapsed. In February 2023, the UN helped organize a high-level conference on women's leadership in South Sudan.

Conflict-related sexual violence

Localized violence by community-based militias has been increasing recently and sexual violence continues to be used widely in the conflict, as reported by the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, the joint reports by UNMISS and OHCHR, the panel of experts of the sanctions committee, the quarterly reports of the R-JMEC and the ceasefire monitoring mechanism. In March 2022, the UN Commission on Human Rights published a [dedicated thematic report](#) on conflict-related sexual violence, which analyzes five years of documentation gathered by the Commission, and provides new evidence in relation to specific mass atrocities, such as the mass rapes in Bentiu in 2018. In September 2022, UNMISS and OHCHR published a [report](#) documenting 131 cases of rape and gang-rape (113 women and 18 girls) in southern Unity State between February and May, including girls as young as 8 years old and a 9-year-old girl who was gang-raped to death. Another [report](#), also by UNMISS and OHCHR, details attacks on civilians, including mass rapes, abductions, and killing of women and girls, in Tambura County between June and September of 2021. Since August 2021, in the conflict in Upper Nile State between the South Sudan People's Defense Forces (SSPDF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army – In Opposition (SPLM/A-IO) and their affiliated militias, the UN has documented 150 cases of abduction, including 100 women, and 72 cases of women and girls subjected to sexual violence during the fighting between these parties. Many of the abducted women and girls may have been subjected to sexual violence as well.

The UN reported 194 victims of conflict-related sexual violence in 2021, 8 percent less than in 2020 (211 victims), but these figures increased in 2022, with 299 victims, nearly a quarter of them being children (225 women, 73 girls, and 1 boy). According to the monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave violations against children in conflict situations, the number of UN-verified cases of sexual violence increased nine-fold from 2021 to 2022. Due to the lack of support services, limited judicial structures, the stigma, the fear of reprisals, and the high number of abductions, these figures are believed to be a significant under-count. Perpetrators include organized armed groups, civil defense groups, and government security forces.

The UN has continued to support the deployment of mobile courts and the government has taken some steps to fight against impunity, such as the establishment of a special court and the holding of military trials. However, a longer-term approach for justice and accountability is needed, including capacity building for all actors in law enforcement and the justice chain, the revision and enactment of the gender-based violence and witness protection bills, and the launch of the transitional justice institutions called for in the peace agreement, such as the Hybrid Court and the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing. In June 2022, the UN supported the induction of six judge advocates (three men and three women) into a specialized CRSV team responsible for investigating allegations across South Sudan and conducting targeted training for personnel of the SSPDF.

In June 2021, to consolidate the respective action plans of the SSPDF and the SPLA-IO to address CRSV, the government launched a three-year joint action plan for the armed forces, which encompasses the establishment of a joint implementation committee (JIC) made up of members from the parties to the R-ARCSS: the SSPDF, the SPLA/IO, and South Sudan Opposition Alliance (SSOA). The JIC is working on various pillars of the action plan, but they lack resources and funding and civil society report very limited involvement or even information sharing about the implementation of this plan. On the other hand, alleged perpetrators of sexual violence are still in positions of power. For example, the governor of Western Equatoria State had been profiled by the UN in 2018 for his alleged involvement in widespread CRSV in his former capacity as a commander of the SPLA-IO/RM.

Other human rights and humanitarian issues affecting women and girls

The persistence of intercommunal and sub-national violence, coupled with climate-related shocks that range from four consecutive years of unprecedented flooding to severe droughts, have only worsened the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan. These are some of the numbers:

- 9.4 million people in South Sudan (out of 10.75 million people in total) are expected to require some form of humanitarian assistance in 2023. This is an increase from 8.9 percent in 2022.
- Two-thirds of the population are likely to face acute food insecurity during the lean season from April to July 2023. Female-headed households are slightly more food insecure, and it is estimated that almost 80 percent of internally-displaced households are headed by women.
- Nearly 740,000 pregnant and lactating women will have acute malnutrition in 2023, compared to 675,000 in 2022 and half a million in 2021.
- In March 2021, for example, the panel of experts of the sanctions committee reported that as most people in the Great Pibor area started consuming only one meal per day, women caregivers were eating one meal every two or three days.
- 2.8 million people will be at risk of gender-based violence in 2023, a 9 percent increase compared to last year.
- Some surveys indicate that up to 70 percent of women in South Sudan have experienced some form of gender-based violence, and 83 percent were unable to access any response services. In Pibor, almost 57 percent of households said that sexual violence was the main security reason for movement restriction, and this percentage was slightly higher in Unity State (59 percent). 43.3 percent of IDPs in Eastern Equatoria reported that women and girls avoid firewood collection sites, water points, and latrines because of fear of gender-based violence.
- Children and adolescents, including those with disabilities, continue to be exposed to a wide range of protection risks, such as family separation, recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups, psychosocial distress, sexual and gender-based violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation. An estimated 3.1 million children and adolescents, a 3.5 per cent increase from 2022, will need immediate life-saving child protection services in 2023.
- Over 80 percent of schools reported a rise in child protection cases during the COVID-19 school closures. For example, the number of pregnant students nearly doubled between 2020 and 2021 in some schools. More than a third of schools lack the mechanisms to refer cases of pregnancy or gender-based violence.

The impact of the conflict is compounded by disease outbreaks, climate change, unstable macroeconomic conditions, food insecurity, and gender discrimination and inequality. Due to women and girls' role in agriculture, forestry, and collecting firewood and water, they are more dependent on natural resources and more vulnerable to **climate-related shocks**. For example, following the massive flooding in Bentiu, women and girls were forced to make longer and riskier journeys in search of food, water, and fuel.

Half of all South Sudanese are married off before they reach 18 and the country has one of the highest **maternal mortality** rates in the world (780 per 100,000 live births). Only 39 percent of households report that women in their households used antenatal care during their pregnancy, and only 14.7 percent had skilled birth attendance. Contraceptive prevalence rate for all methods is at 6 percent. According to CARE, women were less likely to be vaccinated for COVID-19 than men due to persistent misconceptions that the vaccine causes infertility and because they have less access to health-related information.

Only 16 percent of women and girls over 15 years old are literate. Only 13 percent of all teachers at the primary level are women, and only 9 percent at the secondary level, which has a negative effect on **girls' enrolment and retention rates in schools**. According to Oxfam, South Sudan spends six times more on the military and debt servicing than in public services, and has three times as many generals as doctors.

Women are **four times less likely to hold waged employment and have 30 percent less access to financing**. Some interventions to promote women's economic empowerment have yielded positive results. For example, a UN Women project funded by Japan to set up 25 Village Savings and Loans Associations in an IDP camp saw 90 percent of the women participants earn an income, eat three meals a day, send their kids to school, and buy medicine, which was not the case before. In a promising development, **the World Bank approved a grant of 70 million dollars to boost women's social and economic empowerment**, with a special focus on survivors of gender-based violence. This programme, which will be launched this year and will be implemented by the Ministry of Gender and UN Women, aims to construct five women's empowerment centers and identify 43 satellite facilities that will provide safe spaces for 30,000 women and adolescent girls to receive socioeconomic services and psychosocial support, as well as a safe house in Juba for integrated services for survivors of gender-based violence, as **there are only two shelters for survivors in the whole country**.

Relevant information about the United Nations in South Sudan

The new sustainable development cooperation framework signed by the UN and the government (2023-2025) prioritizes the empowerment of women, which is one of the four stand-alone goals of the plan. Since 2018, a Women, Peace and Security Group brings together ten donors (Norway, Sweden, Canada, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the EU delegation), UN entities (UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, and UNMISS), regional organizations (AUMISS, IGAD, RJMEC) and civil society (CARE International and TITI Foundation). The group is currently co-chaired by Norway and Canada, with UN Women as the secretariat. In addition, SRSG Haysom meets monthly with civil society from all ten states, including women's organizations.

UNMISS has a **gender affairs advisory unit** with 18 budgeted posts, reporting to the DSRSG/RC/HC and nine people (including administrative support and team assistant) working on conflict-related sexual violence as **women protection advisors** in the Human Rights Division, reporting to the DSRSG-Political, but the needs still exceed capacity and the teams need both more staff and programmatic funds. UN Women's country office has approximately 35 personnel in South Sudan, half of them national. In UNMISS, as of late 2022, women are 29.2 percent of international staff, 16 percent of national staff, 43.7 percent of UNVs, 39 percent of individual police officers, 25.1 percent of personnel in formed police units, 51.6 percent of corrections officers, 29.4 percent of military liaison officers, 20.3 percent of military staff officers, and 5.8 percent of military contingent personnel. One of the mission's performance indicators is the **percentage of patrols that include women**. While approximately half of the patrols conducted by the police component include women officers, only 8 percent of the military patrols do, though this has increased from less than 1 percent only two years ago. The Secretary-General's quarterly reports to the Security Council typically contain sex-disaggregated data on participation in most UN activities, and women often account for one-fourth to one-third of participants.

Recommendations:³

In the upcoming negotiations on the mandate renewal for UNMISS, the Security Council should retain the references to women, peace and security in resolution 2625 (2022), and consider the following additions:

- The language on OP 14 of 2625 could be updated to regret the low participation of women in the transition roadmap and demand women's meaningful participation in the implementation of the roadmap, the drafting of the constitution, the unification of the armed forces, the establishment and operationalization of transitional justice mechanisms, and the preparations for the elections, with due consideration for displaced and refugee women.
- In that same paragraph in 2625 (2022), the Security Council called on parties to "recognize the need to protect women-led organizations and women peacebuilders from threats and reprisals and provide a safe environment to enable them to carry out their work safely and freely." This could be expanded to request the mission to enhance its reporting to the Security Council on these issues.
- In paragraphs on humanitarian aid and security conditions conducive to its delivery, there could be a reference to the need for adequate consultation and involvement of women in humanitarian delivery and planning and due consideration to their leadership in camp management.
- Given the alarming surge in conflict-related sexual violence in 2022, the Security Council should call on the government to prioritize and focus on the full and expedited implementation of the Action Plan for the Armed Forces and the police and the 2014 Joint Communiqué, and urge the government to update the country's legal framework, including by formulating, adopting, and implementing a standalone law on victim and witness protection, adopting legislation on conflict-related sexual violence as international crimes in line with international standards, and fast-track adoption of a law against gender-based violence.
- The Security Council could review current mentions to sexual violence in conflict or sexual and gender-based violence, and replace with conflict-related sexual violence where relevant.
- The language on OP 16 could be strengthened to call on the government to implement the comprehensive action plan to end and prevent all grave violations against children, including rape and other forms of sexual violence, signed in 2020 with the United Nations, and to strengthen the overall legal framework to safeguard children's rights in South Sudan.
- The Security Council could request enhanced gender analysis in the reports from the Secretary-General, with special attention to the reasons behind the persistent under-representation of women in decision-making and the continued high levels of sexual violence, and encourage the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission to publish the percentage of women's representation in each of the transitional institutions of the R-ARCSS in its quarterly reports.
- The Security Council could commend the World Bank's investment on women's economic empowerment and encourage other international partners to scale up their support to survivors of gender-based violence.
- The Security Council could commend efforts to adopt a second national action on women, peace and security and encourage the allocation of resources for its adequate implementation.

³ These recommendations are prepared by UN Women as the secretariat of the Informal Expert Group, in consultation with other UN entities.

ANNEX

Relevant language in resolution 2625 (2022) extending the mandate of UNMISS

Expressing grave concern at ongoing reports of sexual and gender-based violence, including the findings of the report of the Secretary-General on Conflict Related Sexual Violence to the Security Council (S/2021/312) of the use of sexual violence as a tactic by parties to the conflict against the civilian population in South Sudan, including use of rape and sexual slavery for the purpose of intimidation and punishment, based on perceived political affiliation, and employed as part of a strategy targeting members of ethnic groups, and where conflict-related sexual violence and other forms of violence against women and girls has persisted after the signing of the Revitalised Agreement, as documented in the February 2021 report published by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on “Access to Health for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in South Sudan”, noting that some progress was observed by South Sudanese parties through implementation of action plans to address sexual violence in conflict, and underlining the urgency and importance of timely investigations to support accountability and the provision of assistance and protection to survivors and victims of sexual and gender-based violence,

Strongly condemning all human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law by all parties (...) and expressing concern that despite the signing of the Revitalised Agreement, violations and abuses including rape and sexual violence continue to occur which may amount to international crimes, including war crimes and crimes against humanity,

Reiterating the urgent need to end impunity in South Sudan (...) and in this regard, recognizing the operationalization of a Gender-Based Violence and Juvenile Court by the Judiciary of South Sudan (...) and further recognizing the GoSS commenced consultations on the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing, encouraging it to hold meaningful consultations with all stakeholders, including full, equal, and meaningful participation of women (...),

Emphasizing that persistent barriers to full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and subsequent resolutions addressing women, peace, and security, including resolution 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 full, equal, and meaningful participation in all levels of decision-making and leadership,

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, while expressing continued concern over allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse reportedly committed by peacekeepers in South Sudan,

3. Decides that UNMISS shall have the following mandate, and authorizes UNMISS to use all necessary means to implement its mandate:

-To protect civilians under threat of physical violence (...) with specific protection for women and children, including through the continued and consistent use and deployment of UNMISS’s Child Protection Advisers, Women Protection Advisers, and uniformed and civilian Gender Advisers, the positions for which should be filled expeditiously,

-To deter, prevent, and respond to sexual and gender-based violence within its capacity and areas of deployment, including by facilitating access to organizations that provide services and support to survivors, including medical, sexual and reproductive health, psychosocial, mental health, legal, and socioeconomic services;

-To exercise good offices, confidence-building, and facilitation in support of UNMISS’s protection strategy, especially in regard to women and children, including to facilitate, the prevention, mitigation, and resolution of intercommunal violence through, inter alia, support to community-led peace dialogue processes, in line with

evidence-based best practice, and informed by gender-sensitive conflict and political economy analysis and conflict-sensitive analysis (...);

-To provide support for the relevant national and state level authorities and civil society organizations in developing and implementing gender-responsive community violence reduction (CVR) programs (...), with a particular focus on members of armed groups ineligible or unwilling to be integrated into the Necessary Unified Forces, women and youth;

-Using technical assistance and capacity building to support the GoSS to expand and reform the rule of law and justice sector (...) and promote accountability, including investigation and prosecution of gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence (...);

-To foster a secure environment for the safe, informed, voluntary, and dignified return, relocation, resettlement or integration into host communities for IDPs and refugees(...), including through (...) investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence (...).

-To contribute, in close coordination with humanitarian actors, to the creation of security conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance (...) including by providing gender-sensitive risk assessments on the adverse effects of climate change;

-Assisting all parties to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, and inclusion of youth, faith groups, and civil society in the peace process, transitional government bodies and institutions, and all conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts, transitional justice, and the constitution-making process;

-Providing technical assistance, to include capacity-building, and logistical support for the electoral process, (...) provide for the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women candidates and voters at all levels and in all phases of the electoral process (...),

-To monitor, investigate, verify and report specifically and publicly on violations and abuses committed against women and children, including those involving all forms of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict, and accelerate implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence, including by ensuring these arrangements promote timely action to deter, prevent and respond to sexual violence, and by strengthening the monitoring and reporting mechanism for violations and abuses against children;

6. Expresses its deep concern about the delays in implementing the Revitalised Agreement, calls on the parties to implement fully the Revitalised Agreement (...) and ensure full, equal, and meaningful participation of women (...),

7. Stresses that conducting free and fair elections, reflecting the will of all South Sudanese and with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women (...),

8. Calls upon the GoSS as well as all relevant parties to ensure an environment conducive to a free, fair, inclusive, transparent, peaceful and timely electoral process (...) as well as for presence of domestic and international election observers and witnesses, journalists, human rights activists and actors from civil society including women;

11. Demands that all parties immediately cease all forms of violence, human rights violations and abuses, and violations of international humanitarian law, including rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence (...),

14. Calls on parties to ensure full, effective, and meaningful participation and involvement of women in all spheres and levels of political leadership, the peace process, the transitional government, and ongoing reform processes under the peace agreement, and further calls on parties to recognize the need to protect women-led organizations and women peacebuilders from threats and reprisals and provide a safe environment to enable them to carry out their work safely and freely, and fulfill the commitments set out on inclusivity, including in respect of national diversity, gender, youth and regional representation in the Revitalised Agreement, including the 35 percent minimum for women's representation at all levels, which has not yet been achieved;

15. Condemns continued acts of sexual violence and demands all parties to the conflict and other armed actors prevent further commission of sexual violence, and to implement the actions called for in resolution 2467 (2019) to adopt a survivor-centered approach to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict related situations and to hold those responsible accountable including through the prompt investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators, as well as reparations for victims as appropriate, and strongly urges the SSPDF, the SPLA-IO, and the National Salvation Front (NAS) to fully implement the joint and unilateral commitments and action plans they have made on preventing conflict-related sexual violence;

17. Calls upon the GoSS (...) 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 human rights of women and girls in these processes, through the provision of legal aid and medical support and psychosocial counselling (...),

20. Requests the Secretary-General fully implement the following activities and existing obligations in the planning and conduct of UNMISS's operations within the limits of the mandate and area of operations and in line with existing United Nations guidelines and regulations:

-Strengthening the implementation of a mission-wide early warning and response strategy (...) and ensure gender-sensitive conflict analysis is mainstreamed across all early warning and conflict prevention efforts;

-Strengthening its sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response activities in line with resolution 2467 (2019), including by assisting the parties with activities consistent with resolution 2467 (2019), and by ensuring that risks of sexual and gender-based violence are included in the Mission's data collection and threat analysis and early warning systems through engaging in an ethical manner with survivors and victims of gender-based violence, and women's organizations;

-Implementing women, peace and security priorities under resolution 1325 (2000) and all resolutions addressing women, peace, and security, including by seeking to increase the number of women in UNMISS in line with resolution 2538 (2020), as well as to ensure the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of operations, including by ensuring safe, enabling and gender-sensitive working environments for women in peacekeeping operations, taking fully into account gender considerations as a crosscutting issue throughout its mandate, and reaffirming the importance of uniformed and civilian gender advisors, gender focal points in all mission components, gender expertise and capacity strengthening in executing the mission mandate in a gender-responsive manner;

-Implementing the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on serious misconduct, sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment, and all actions under resolution 2272 (2016), and to report to the Security Council if such cases of misconduct occur;

24. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to make available technical assistance to the Commission of the African Union and to the GoSS in setting up the Hybrid Court for South Sudan and for the implementation of other aspects of Chapter V of the Revitalised Agreement, including with regard to the establishment of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing and the Compensation and Reparation Authority, emphasizing measures should be gender-responsive, inclusive, accessible, fully resourced and designed and implemented with women's full and meaningful participation and leadership (...),

25. Commends the commitment of the troop- and police-contributing countries in implementing the Mission's mandate in a challenging environment (...), requests troop- and police-contributing countries to implement relevant provisions of resolution 2538 (2020) and all other relevant resolutions on reducing barriers to and increasing women's participation at all levels and in all positions in peacekeeping, including by ensuring safe, enabling and gender-sensitive working environments for women in peacekeeping operations (...),

26. Urges troop- and police-contributing countries to continue taking appropriate action to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, including vetting, pre deployment and in-mission awareness training for all personnel, to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel, including through timely survivor-centered investigations of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, to repatriate units when there is credible

evidence of widespread or systemic sexual exploitation and abuse by those units, to take appropriate disciplinary measures, and to report to the United Nations fully and promptly on actions undertaken;