



# Security Council

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## **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**

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2521 (2020), in connection with the agenda item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan”. The resolution was adopted on 29 May 2020, in accordance with the voting procedure set out in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council (S/2020/253), a procedure agreed upon in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Pursuant to that procedure, I enclose herewith copies of the following documents:

- My letter dated 28 May 2020, addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council (see annex 1), putting to a vote the draft resolution contained in document S/2020/453 (see annex 1 and enclosure thereto);
- Letters received in reply from members of the Security Council, indicating their national position on the draft resolution (see annexes 2 to 16);
- Statements subsequently submitted by members of the Security Council, providing explanations of their votes (see annexes 17 to 23).

The present letter and its annexes will be issued as an official document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* **Sven Jürgenson**  
President of the Security Council



## Annex 1

### **Letter dated 28 May 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council**

In accordance with the procedure agreed upon by the members of the Security Council in the light of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, as set out in the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council addressed to all members of the Council (S/2020/253), I would like to draw your attention to the following issue.

The members of the Council have discussed the draft resolution submitted by the United States of America in connection with the agenda item entitled "Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan" (S/2020/453). The draft resolution has been put in blue (see enclosure).

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I hereby put the abovementioned draft resolution to a vote. The non-extendable 24-hour voting period for this draft resolution will begin at 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 28 May 2020. The non-extendable 24-hour voting period will expire at 12.30 p.m. on Friday, 29 May 2020.

Please submit your vote (in favour, against or abstention) on the draft resolution, as well as your possible explanation of vote, by sending a letter signed by the Permanent Representative or Chargé d'affaires a.i. within the non-extendable 24-hour voting period set out above to the Director of the Security Council Affairs Division in the United Nations Secretariat ([egian@un.org](mailto:egian@un.org)).

It is my intention to circulate a letter listing the outcome of the vote within three hours of the conclusion of the 24-hour voting period. I also intend to convene a video-teleconference of the Security Council to announce the outcome of the vote shortly after the conclusion of the voting period, on the afternoon of Friday, 29 May 2020.

*(Signed)* **Sven Jürgenson**  
President of the Security Council  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations

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**Enclosure**

United Nations

S/2020/453

**Security Council**Provisional  
28 May 2020

Original: English

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**United States of America: draft resolution***The Security Council,*

*Recalling* its previous resolutions, statements of its President, and press statements on the situation in South Sudan,

*Welcoming* encouraging developments in South Sudan's peace process, including the beginning of the formation of a Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGNU), *recognizing* that this represents a significant step towards sustainable peace by the parties to the Revitalized Agreement, and *further welcoming* the spirit of compromise and political will demonstrated by the parties in order to create the conditions necessary to advance the peace process,

*Expressing* appreciation for the leadership of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in advancing the peace process in South Sudan, *underlining* that the 2018 "Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan" (the Revitalised Agreement) is an important step forward in the peace process that provides a window of opportunity to achieve sustainable peace and stability in South Sudan, *commending* the ongoing mediation by the Community of Sant'Egidio to foster political dialogue between signatories and non-signatories of the Revitalised Agreement, and *calling on* South Sudanese parties to demonstrate the political will to peacefully resolve the conflict,

*Recognizing* the reduction in political violence since the signing of the Revitalised Agreement and that the permanent ceasefire was upheld in most parts of the country, and *further recognizing* the efforts of the RTGNU in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic,

*Reiterating* its concern regarding the political, security, economic, and humanitarian situation in South Sudan, and *emphasizing* that there can be no military solution to the conflict,

*Strongly condemning* past and ongoing human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, *further condemning* harassment and targeting of civil society, humanitarian personnel and journalists, *emphasizing* that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights must be held accountable, and that the RTGNU bears the primary responsibility to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity, and in this regard, *urging* the RTGNU to expeditiously sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the African Union for the creation of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan,

*Expressing* deep concern at reports of misappropriation of funds that undermine the stability and security of South Sudan, and that these activities can have a devastating impact on society and individuals, weaken democratic institutions, undermine the rule of law, perpetuate violent conflicts, facilitate illegal activities, divert humanitarian assistance or complicate its delivery, and undermine economic markets,

*Taking* note of the Final 2020 report (S/2020/342) of the United Nations Panel of Experts,

*Determining* that the situation in South Sudan continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

*Acting* under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Expresses* deep concern at continued fighting in South Sudan and *condemns* violations of the Revitalised Agreement and the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access (ACOH);

2. *Urges* South Sudan's leaders to finalize establishment of the RTGNU and fully implement all provisions of the Revitalised Agreement and allow, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and in line with United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian assistance, including humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence, full, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to help ensure timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to all those in need;

#### **Arms Embargo and Inspections**

3. *Decides* to renew until 31 May 2021 the measures on arms imposed by paragraph 4 of resolution 2428 (2018), and reaffirms the provisions of paragraph 5 of resolution 2428 (2018);

4. *Decides* to review the measures renewed in paragraph 3 in light of progress achieved implementing all provisions of the Revitalized Agreement, and adherence to the ACOH and ceasefire provisions of the Revitalized Agreement, *further decides* to carry out a midterm review of the measures renewed in paragraph 3 no later than 15 December 2020, and *expresses* its readiness to consider adjusting measures renewed in paragraph 3, including through modifying, suspending, lifting or strengthening measures to respond to the situation;

5. *Requests* in this regard the Secretariat to provide to the Security Council, by 31 October 2020, a report assessing the role of the arms embargo in facilitating implementation of the Revitalised Agreement and articulating options for the elaboration of benchmarks, in coordination with the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM), R JMEC, and in consultation with the RTGNU, to assess the arms embargo measures according to progress on implementation of the Revitalized Agreement, including adherence to the ACOH and ceasefire provisions of the Revitalized Agreement, and *expresses* its intention to review the options provided to the Council by 15 December 2020;

6. *Stresses* the importance that notifications or requests for exemptions pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 2428 (2018) should contain all relevant information, including the purpose of the use, the end user, the technical specifications and quantity of the equipment to be shipped and, when applicable, the supplier, the proposed date of delivery, mode of transportation and itinerary of shipments;

7. *Underscores* that arms shipments in violation of this resolution risk fueling conflict and contributing to further instability, and *strongly urges* all Member States to take urgent action to identify and prevent such shipments within their territory;

8. *Calls upon* all Member States, in particular States neighbouring South Sudan, to inspect, in accordance with their national authorities and legislation and consistent with international law, in particular the law of the sea and relevant international civil aviation agreements, all cargo to South Sudan, in their territory, including seaports and airports, if the State concerned has information that provides reasonable grounds to believe the cargo contains items the supply, sale, or transfer of which is prohibited by paragraph 4 of resolution 2428 (2018) for the purpose of ensuring strict implementation of these provisions;

9. *Decides* to authorize all Member States to, and that all Member States shall, upon discovery of items the supply, sale, or transfer of which is prohibited by paragraph 4 of resolution 2428 (2018), seize and dispose (such as through destruction, rendering inoperable, storage or transferring to a State other than the originating or destination States for disposal) of such items, and *decides* further that all Member States shall cooperate in such efforts;

10. *Requires* any Member State when it undertakes an inspection pursuant to paragraph 8 of this resolution, to submit promptly an initial written report to the Committee containing, in particular, explanation of the grounds for the inspections, the results of such inspections, and whether or not cooperation was provided, and, if prohibited items for supply, sale, or transfer are found, further *requires* such Member States to submit to the Committee within 30 days a subsequent written report containing relevant details on the inspection, seizure, and disposal, and relevant details of the transfer, including a description of the items, their origin and intended destination, if this information is not in the initial report;

### **Targeted Sanctions**

11. *Decides* to renew until 31 May 2021 the travel and financial measures imposed by paragraphs 9 and 12 of resolution 2206 (2015), and *reaffirms* the provisions of paragraphs 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15 of resolution 2206 (2015), and paragraphs 13, 14, 15 and 16 of resolution 2428 (2018);

12. *Decides* to review the measures renewed in paragraph 11 above in light of progress achieved implementing all provisions of the R-ARCSS and developments related to human rights violations and abuses, *decides* to carry out a midterm review of the measures renewed in paragraph 11 no later than 15 December 2020, and *expresses* its readiness to consider adjusting measures in paragraph 11, including through modifying, suspending, lifting or strengthening measures to respond to the situation;

13. *Underscores* its willingness to impose targeted sanctions in order to support the search for an inclusive and sustainable peace in South Sudan;

14. *Reaffirms* that the provisions of paragraph 9 of resolution 2206 (2015) apply to individuals, and that the provisions of paragraph 12 of resolution 2206 (2015) apply to individuals and entities, as designated for such measures by the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 16 of resolution 2206 (2015) (“the Committee”), as responsible for or complicit in, or having engaged in, directly or indirectly, actions or policies that threaten the peace, security or stability of South Sudan, and *further reaffirms* that the provisions of paragraphs 9 and 12 of resolution 2206 (2015) apply to individuals, as designated for such measures by the Committee, who are leaders or members of any entity, including any South Sudanese government, opposition,

militia, or other group, that has, or whose members have, engaged in any of the activities described in this paragraph and paragraph 15;

15. *Underscores* that such actions or policies as described in paragraph 14 above may include, but are not limited to:

(a) Actions or policies that have the purpose or effect of expanding or extending the conflict in South Sudan or obstructing reconciliation or peace talks or processes, including breaches of the Revitalized Agreement or ACOH;

(b) Actions or policies that threaten transitional agreements or undermine the political process in South Sudan, including Chapter 4 of the Revitalised Agreement;

(c) Planning, directing, or committing acts that violate applicable international human rights law or international humanitarian law, or acts that constitute human rights abuses, in South Sudan;

(d) The targeting of civilians, including women and children, through the planning, directing, or commission of acts of violence (including killing, maiming, torture, or rape), abduction, enforced disappearance, forced displacement, or attacks on schools, hospitals, religious sites, or locations where civilians are seeking refuge, or through other conduct that would constitute a serious abuse of human rights, a violation of international human rights law or a violation of international humanitarian law;

(e) Planning, directing, or committing acts involving sexual and gender-based violence in South Sudan;

(f) The use or recruitment of children by armed groups or armed forces in the context of the armed conflict in South Sudan;

(g) The obstruction of the activities of international peacekeeping, diplomatic, or humanitarian missions in South Sudan, including the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism or of the delivery or distribution of, or access to, humanitarian assistance;

(h) Attacks against United Nations missions, international security presences, or other peacekeeping operations, or humanitarian personnel;

(i) Acting for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, an individual or entity designated by the Committee; or

(j) Engagement by armed groups or criminal networks in activities that destabilize South Sudan through the illicit exploitation or trade of natural resources;

16. *Expresses* concerns at reports of misappropriation and diversion of public resources which pose a risk to the peace, security, and stability of South Sudan, *expresses* serious concern at reports of financial impropriety, lack of transparency, oversight and financial governance, which pose a risk to the peace, stability, and security of South Sudan, and are out of compliance with Chapter IV of the Revitalised Agreement, and in this context, *underscores* that individuals engaged in actions or policies that have the purpose or effect of expanding or extending the conflict in South Sudan may be listed for travel and financial measures;

#### **Sanctions Committee/Panel of Experts**

17. *Emphasizes* the importance of holding regular consultations with concerned Member States, international and regional and subregional organizations, as well as the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), as may be necessary, in particular neighbouring and regional States, in order to ensure the full implementation of the measures in this resolution, and in that regard encourages the

Committee to consider, where and when appropriate, visits to selected countries by the Chair and/or Committee members;

18. *Decides* to extend until 1 July 2021 the mandate of the Panel of Experts as set out in paragraph 19 of resolution 2428 (2018), and *decides* that the Panel of Experts should provide to the Council, after discussion with the Committee, an interim report by 1 December 2020, a final report by 1 May 2021, and except in months when these reports are due, updates each month;

19. *Requests* the Panel of experts to include the necessary gender expertise, 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;

20. *Calls upon* all parties and all Member States, especially those neighboring South Sudan, as well as international, regional and subregional organizations to ensure cooperation with the Panel of Experts, including by providing any information on illicit transfers of wealth from South Sudan into financial, property and business networks and *further urges* all Member States involved to ensure the safety of the members of the Panel of Experts and unhindered access, in particular to persons, documents and sites in order for the Panel of Experts to execute its mandate;

21. *Requests* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative for 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;

22. *Recalls* the mandate of UNMISS as outlined in resolution 2514 (2020), in particular paragraph 8 (d) regarding monitoring, investigating, verifying and reporting on abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law;

23. *Encourages* timely information exchange between UNMISS and the Panel of Experts, and *requests* UNMISS to assist the Committee and the Panel of Experts, within its mandate and capabilities;

24. *Invites* the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) to share relevant information with the Council, as appropriate, on its assessment of the parties' implementation of the Revitalised Agreement, adherence to the ACOH, and the facilitation of unhindered and secure humanitarian access, also *expresses* its intent to continue to impose any sanctions that may be appropriate to respond to the situation;

25. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

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## Annex 2

### **Letter dated 28 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to the President of the Security Council's letter of 28 May relating to the draft resolution on South Sudan sanctions (S/2020/453).

In accordance with the procedure set forth for the adoption of resolutions under the current extraordinary circumstance caused by the coronavirus disease pandemic, I am pleased to indicate that Belgium votes in favour of the draft resolution. At this stage, my delegation does not intend to deliver an explanation of vote.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this letter and communicate Belgium's vote to the President of the Security Council at the expiry of the 24-hour voting period.

*(Signed)* Marc **Pecsteen de Buytswerve**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

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**Annex 3****Letter dated 29 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I would like to thank you and your team for the strong support in facilitating the voting procedure.

Please be kindly informed that China abstains in the voting on the draft resolution submitted by the United States regarding sanctions against South Sudan (S/2020/453). Attached herewith is our explanation of vote.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*(Signed)* **Zhang Jun**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China  
to the United Nations

**Annex 4**

**Letter dated 28 May 2020 from the Special Envoy for Security Council Affairs of the Dominican Republic addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to your letter dated 28 May 2020 regarding Security Council draft resolution S/2020/453 in connection with the agenda item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan”.

Upon instructions from my Government, the delegation of the Dominican Republic votes in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

*(Signed)* José **Singer Weisinger**  
Ambassador

Special Envoy for Security Council Affairs of the Dominican Republic

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**Annex 5****Letter dated 28 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to inform you, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter, that my delegation votes in favour of the Security Council draft resolution on the agenda item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan” (S/2020/453).

*(Signed)* **Sven Jürgenson**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Estonia

**Annex 6**

**Letter dated 28 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

[Original: French]

In reference to the letter dated 28 May from the President of the Security Council, requesting Council members to vote on the draft resolution to renew the sanctions against South Sudan, as submitted by the United States of America and put in blue in document S/2020/453, France votes in favour.

*(Signed)* Nicolas **de Rivière**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

**Annex 7****Letter dated 28 May 2020 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

It is my honour to write to you in response to the letter dated 28 May 2020 from the President of the Security Council, initiating a written voting procedure in line with the agreement reached between members of the Security Council.

The vote of the Federal Republic of Germany on the draft resolution submitted by the United States of America in connection with the agenda item entitled “Reports of the Secretary General on the Sudan and South Sudan”, as contained in document S/2020/453, is as follows.

The Federal Republic of Germany votes in favour of the above-mentioned resolution.

*(Signed)* Juergen **Schulz**

Ambassador

Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the United Nations

## Annex 8

### **Letter dated 28 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I am writing in reference to the letter dated 28 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Estonia to the United Nations, in his capacity as the President of the Security Council, regarding the draft resolution for the renewal of the South Sudan sanctions (S/2020/453).

I hereby indicate that Indonesia votes in favour of the draft resolution.

*(Signed)* Dian Triansyah **Djani**  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations

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**Annex 9****Note verbale dated 28 May 2020 from the Permanent Mission of the Niger to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

The Permanent Mission of the Niger refers to the letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council for the month of March (China), outlining the agreed provisional procedure for the adoption of draft resolutions during the coronavirus disease pandemic.

On the draft resolution submitted by the United States of America for the renewal of the sanctions regime against South Sudan, as contained in document S/2020/453, the Republic of the Niger votes in favour.

## Annex 10

### **Letter dated 29 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 28 May 2020 on the beginning of the voting procedure in respect of the draft resolution relating to the agenda item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan” (S/2020/453).

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of Security Council resolutions in place during the duration of the restrictions on movement in New York due to the coronavirus disease pandemic, outlined in a letter dated 27 March 2020 from the President of the Security Council (S/2020/253), I have the honour to inform you that the Russian Federation abstains in the voting on the draft resolution. Please find attached an explanation of vote in that regard.

*(Signed)* Vassily Nebenzia  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

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**Annex 11****Letter dated 29 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to the draft resolution submitted by the United States of America in connection with the agenda item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan” (S/2020/453).

In that respect, I wish to inform you that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines votes in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution.

*(Signed)* Inga Rhonda **King**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
to the United Nations

## Annex 12

### **Letter dated 29 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to your letter dated 28 May 2020 regarding the draft resolution submitted by the United States of America in connection with the agenda item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan”, as contained in document S/2020/453.

The delegation of the Republic of South Africa abstains in the voting on the above-mentioned draft resolution.

*(Signed)* Jerry Matthews **Matjila**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa

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**Annex 13****Letter dated 29 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

With reference to the letter dated 28 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia, in his capacity as President of the Security Council, regarding the draft resolution submitted by the United States of America on the renewal of the sanctions regime against South Sudan, as contained in document S/2020/453, I would like to inform you that Tunisia votes in favour of the draft resolution.

*(Signed)* Kais **Kabtani**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations

**Annex 14**

**Letter dated 29 May 2020 from the Chargé d'affaires of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

With reference to the letter from the President of the Security Council of 28 May 2020, the United Kingdom votes in favour of the draft resolution relating to the agenda item entitled "Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan" (S/2020/453).

*(Signed)* Jonathan **Allen**

Ambassador

Chargé d'affaires of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern  
Ireland to the United Nations

**Annex 15****Letter dated 28 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

On the draft resolution submitted by the United States of America in connection with the agenda item entitled “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan” (S/2020/453), the United States of America votes in favour.

*(Signed)* **Kelly Craft**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the United States of America  
to the United Nations

## Annex 16

### **Letter dated 29 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

In reference to the letter of the President of the Security Council dated 28 May 2020 relating to the draft resolution in connection with the agenda item “Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan”, submitted by the United States of America, as contained in document S/2020/453,

In accordance with the understanding and procedure for the consideration of draft resolutions, agreed upon by the members of the Security Council, during the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as reflected in the letter from the President of the Security Council dated 7 May 2020 on the working methods of the Security Council for the month of May 2020 (S/2020/372),

I would like to hereby inform you, Sir, that Viet Nam has decided to vote in favour of the above-mentioned draft resolution and does not intend to make a statement at this stage.

(Signed) **Dang Dinh Quy**  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations

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**Annex 17****Statement by the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, Zhang Jun**

[Original: Chinese]

With the support of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, countries of the region and the international community, the political process towards peace in South Sudan has made significant progress recently, and the security situation in the country has also greatly improved. As the primary body for maintaining international peace and security, the Security Council should send positive messages, set a clear timetable for lifting the sanction measures against South Sudan and encourage all parties in South Sudan to pursue their active engagement in the political process in order to maintain the current positive momentum.

In May last year, China abstained in the voting on resolution 2471 (2019) as we did not support the arms embargo against South Sudan (see S/PV.8536). This position has not changed. China calls for respect for South Sudan's national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. The adjustments of sanction measures should fully take into account the positive progress in South Sudan. Therefore, China has abstained in the voting on resolution 2521 (2020).

China hopes that the Security Council will make timely and effective adjustments to relevant measures against South Sudan in the light of changes on the ground in the country, help all parties in South Sudan to advance the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan and promote governance and security capacity-building in South Sudan.

## **Annex 18**

### **Statement by the Permanent Mission of the Niger to the United Nations**

I would like to thank all delegations for their constructive engagement during the negotiation process on resolution S/2020/453, extending the sanctions regime for South Sudan.

The Niger voted in favour of the resolution, while being mindful of the principled position of the African Union on its rejection of the imposition of sanctions on any African country.

Our vote was also guided, on the one hand, by the flexibility shown by members in accommodating the majority of our requirements in the resolution, and, on the other hand, by the provisions of paragraph 4 for the possibility of reviews in a bid to lifting the sanction measures early, which is the ultimate goal of the Council.

We commend the authorities in South Sudan for their willingness and efforts, so far, in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement, as is proven by the formation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity. We encourage the parties to work in confirming this positive trend we all salute.

Once again, my delegation reiterates its full support to the peace process in South Sudan, and hopes to see the peace gains further consolidated for an early lifting of the sanctions in their entirety.

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**Annex 19****Statement by the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations**

The Russian delegation was not in a position to support resolution 2521 (2020), on the extension of the sanctions measures imposed on South Sudan.

The proposed text does not reflect the reality on the ground. Speaking about the current situation in South Sudan, it has a sustainable trend towards stabilization. The country has recently entered the transitional period. The Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity was formed.

The parties to the conflict reiterated their adherence to the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians, and Humanitarian Access.

We commend the fact that since the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan was signed, there has been a considerable drop in violence. More refugees and internally displaced persons are returning to places of their permanent residence. Confidence-building measures continue to be implemented.

Unfortunately, the resolution does not reflect all these developments. We do not share the opinion that the mentioned progress was reached through the increased sanctions pressure. The regional mediators, not sanctions, played the key role here. At some point the arms embargo did not let the countries of the region support the peace process with their own security initiatives.

It is very disappointing that amid calls from Juba and Addis for lifting, or at least easing, the arms embargo, the penholders were able just to offer to review it by the end of the year. We would like to emphasize that a review of Security Council sanctions is not a concession, but an integral part of the restrictions imposed by the Council. Relevant provisions are included in resolutions on most of the current Security Council sanctions regimes. The fact that they were not incorporated earlier into resolutions on South Sudan is an abnormal situation, and that was due to the reluctance of the penholders to include them in the text.

It is also not appropriate to condition the review on the dynamics of the human rights situation in the country.

Equally worrisome are the attempts to portray the issues of the economic management in the country as a risk to the peace, stability and security of South Sudan and as a basis for the listing. We cannot support such passages in the text.

We hope that, during the upcoming review of the sanctions regime imposed on South Sudan, the penholders will listen more carefully to the legitimate appeals of all Council members and the South Sudanese themselves.

**Annex 20****Statement by the Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations, Inga Rhonda King**

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thanks the United States of America for its efforts in preparing resolution 2521 (2020). Saint Vincent and the Grenadines voted in favour of the resolution.

My delegation welcomes the decision by the South Sudanese leaders to form the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity. The spirit of compromise exhibited by the South Sudanese leaders is commendable. Undoubtedly, a difficult road lies ahead, with impediments that may appear insurmountable. Nevertheless, we remain optimistic that South Sudan is on the path to peace and prosperity.

The leaders of South Sudan are demonstrating a level of seriousness and political will to advance the peace process, which was not exhibited during previous peace initiatives. This heightened commitment towards peace is reflected in South Sudan's admirable and resolute approach of hosting peace talks in Juba between the Sudan leaders.

At this critical juncture in South Sudan's history, the renewal of sanctions, without any cogent effort towards eventually lifting them, could have grave ramifications for the delicate peace process. Not only do we recognize this, but regional and subregional organizations, such as the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, which are duty-bound to ensure that peace reigns throughout Africa, are echoing the same sentiments. My delegation believes it is appropriate that the Council consider the calls from the regional organizations that are closest to the problem and have taken up the challenge of silencing the guns in Africa.

My delegation remains steadfast in its principled position that sanctions regimes should be continually reviewed and amended; and, once the purposes for which they were created are fulfilled, they should be effectively terminated. In this respect, we stress that the current sanctions regime on South Sudan does not align with the existing political and security situation in the country.

We acknowledge, however, that the resolution at hand endeavours to initiate the process of evaluating the sanctions imposed on South Sudan, while acknowledging the ongoing positive developments in the country. My delegation therefore looks forward to the sanctions review process later this year, with the hope that these measures will be relaxed.

In view of the foregoing, we voted in favour of resolution 2521 (2020), as it sets in motion the sanctions review process, while sending a positive message to the South Sudanese leaders that the international community continues to support the country in its nation-building efforts. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains in solidarity with the people of South Sudan and is reminded that peace never comes with ease. It comes through hard labour and toil. As the youngest nation among us, we must continue to accompany South Sudan as they usher in this new dawn.

**Annex 21****Statement by the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations**

South Africa is encouraged by the positive developments that have taken place in the South Sudan's peace process, including the formation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity. We further welcome the spirit of compromise and political will demonstrated by the South Sudanese leaders to create the conditions necessary to advance the peace process. This is demonstrated by the decrease in conflict-related violence, and the return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their territories. We hope that the establishment of the mechanisms and committees provided for in the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan to complement the prevailing positive development will be completed soon.

The Security Council has recognized these important developments in the peace process and the Council has urged the international community to continue to assist South Sudan in its endeavour to achieve sustainable and long-lasting peace.

It is only through the patience and support of the international community that we are witnessing a change in South Sudan. Let us continue supporting the aspirations of the world's youngest State by, among other things, availing resources and relevant expertise in support of the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement, especially security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, as well as in establishing the rule of law institutions.

South Africa acknowledges the role that Charter-mandated measures such as sanctions can play, both in working towards the reduction of armed conflict between parties and, secondly, in supporting the conditions for a peace process. We have consistently maintained that sanctions should always serve as a means and not an end and be based on the context and situation as it unfolds on the ground.

South Sudanese leaders have demonstrated the political will, determination and maturity to place the interests of the people of South Sudan first by agreeing to peace. They have made a commitment to building their State and requested the Security Council to remove any punitive measures that may be a hindrance towards their goal.

Consistent with our position expressed in the Council in 2019 on the same issue (see S/PV.8536), we abstained today on the renewal of sanctions on South Sudan, as we remain convinced that the situation in South Sudan does not necessitate the application of sanctions.

This is in line with the assessment by the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the subregional body. The African Union Peace and Security Council, in its 917th meeting, on 9 April,

“urge[d] the concerned members of the international community, who imposed sanctions and other forms of punitive measures on South Sudan to immediately and unconditionally lift them, in order to facilitate the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and create conducive conditions for socio-economic recovery and development in the country”.

Moreover, in light of these recent developments, South Sudan continues to require our partnership and support in its nation-building, institution-building and peacebuilding efforts. In this context, the Council's consideration of reviewing the imposition of sanctions, with a view to eventually lifting them as the situation improves, is a welcome development.

To conclude, we reiterate our commitment and support to the peace process in South Sudan and want to urge all of us to accompany the people of South Sudan on their journey to national unity, sustainable peace, security and development in their State.

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**Annex 22****Statement by the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations**

The United States thanks members of the Security Council for their constructive engagement on resolution 2521 (2020) to renew the United Nations sanctions regime for South Sudan, to include an arms embargo and targeted measures, and the mandate of the Panel of Experts.

This resolution recognizes positive steps taken by South Sudan's leaders to advance the peace process. It states clearly that the Security Council will review sanctions measures based on progress achieved by South Sudan on implementing its peace agreement. The United States believes this resolution will encourage South Sudan's leaders to continue prioritizing peace over conflict and to make decisions in the best interest of their people, who have suffered so much from this conflict.

Challenges and risks remain on South Sudan's path to peace and the situation on the ground is volatile, with key elements of the peace agreement still awaiting implementation. Lifting sanctions measures at this sensitive turning point would have removed an important incentive for the formerly warring parties to refrain from leading the country back into widespread conflict.

The United States credits progress in South Sudan's peace process to the dedicated diplomacy of the region. The role of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and other regional players has been and will remain essential. Nevertheless, we believe the United Nations sanctions measures renewed today create 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.

We urge South Sudan's leaders to remain focused on addressing the urgent humanitarian needs of their people, respecting human rights, and ensuring accountability, including for sexual and gender-based violence. Too many people, especially women and children, have lived in fear through this conflict. This resolution works to safeguard their rights, as we retain the ability to designate individuals and entities for human rights violations and abuses, and to deter efforts of spoilers to the peace process.

The United States stands ready to work closely with South Sudan's new Transitional Government as it continues to implement its peace agreement. We reiterate that the United States is prepared to advocate for further adjustments to this sanctions regime in response to tangible progress in the peace process.

The United States remains committed to supporting peace and security in South Sudan. There is no bigger supporter of the South Sudanese people than the United States.

**Annex 23****Statement by the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations, Dang Dinh Quy**

As the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015), Viet Nam has closely cooperated with South Sudan, members of the Committee, members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Panel of Experts, with the goal of facilitating the effective implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions and contributing to peace, stability and development in South Sudan.

Viet Nam welcomes the recent positive developments in the political, security and economic situation in South Sudan, especially since the establishment of the Transitional Government in February 2020. We are encouraged to see that the ceasefire has been maintained in most parts of the country. We also commend the commitment of the South Sudanese parties to resolving the remaining issues, especially the efforts of the Government in addressing the coronavirus disease pandemic. At the same time, we are aware of the complexities of the situation, particularly the need to address intercommunal violence issues and to make more concrete progress on the security arrangements. However, we believe that the progress that the relevant parties have made is encouraging and should be acknowledged by the international community.

Viet Nam reiterates its position that sanctions should only be a tool to promote sustainable peace, security and development, and shall not affect the development of a country, the livelihood of its people or the effective functioning of its Government. Sanctions should be lifted once the situation permits.

At the same time, we acknowledge that the resolution recognizes the achievements made by the South Sudanese parties, having incorporated inputs to that effect by Viet Nam and other members. It also sets out a clear and specific roadmap for the review of the sanctions, particularly the arms embargo. These provide good ground for the future work of the Council in the right direction.

Therefore, after careful consideration, Viet Nam has decided to vote in favour of resolution 2521 (2020). We sincerely hope that the adoption of the resolution will contribute to long-term peace and stability in South Sudan. We are also pleased with the spirit of compromise during the negotiation process, which we believe will promote cooperation between the members in the implementation of the resolution.

Viet Nam will continue to work closely with relevant Member States, the United Nations, IGAD and the African Union, and calls on other Council members to do the same in advancing the implementation of the agreements among the South Sudanese parties, with the aim of facilitating the review and the subsequent lifting of the sanctions.

In conclusion, Viet Nam reiterates our consistent position in support of the unity, peace, stability and sovereignty of South Sudan and contributing to peace and stability in the region.

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