



Security Council

Distr.: General
31 January 2008

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 11 of Security Council resolution 1590 (2005), in which the Council requested me to keep it regularly informed of progress in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in the Sudan. The report provides an assessment of the overall situation in the country since my previous report to the Council, dated 23 October 2007 (S/2007/624), as well as an update on the activities of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS).

II. Security situation

2. The overall security situation in the UNMIS area of operations remained relatively calm throughout the reporting period. Tensions increased on the ground in October following the withdrawal of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) from the Government of National Unity, with both Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) personnel on high alert. However, there were no clashes between the parties' armed forces.

3. In several locations in Southern Sudan, disputes over migration routes and grazing rights triggered inter-ethnic clashes. In Jonglei State in October and November, violence between members of the Murle and Bor Dinka tribes resulted in 56 civilian fatalities and more than 58 wounded. Government of Southern Sudan and SPLM initiatives to pacify the area have not yet succeeded. SPLA announced plans to step up its deployment in the area and to begin disarmament of local Murle communities, including some former militia members who have not been disarmed or absorbed into Joint Integrated Units.

4. The reporting period also saw increased security problems in the Abyei area, including around Meiram and in the northern part of Southern Kordofan State, both of which border Southern Darfur. UNMIS reported, inter alia, roadblocks around the Diffra and Heglig oilfields; a dispute between local citizens and an oil company; the kidnapping of international employees of the oil company; inter-tribal incidents, the unlawful detention of travellers; and hostile activities by the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). The presence of other armed groups with allegiances to both SAF and SPLA, and the proximity to Southern Darfur, make this area unstable.



5. On 22 and 23 December, violent clashes erupted in the areas of Meiram, Al Girinti and Al Jurf, close to the border of Northern Bahr Al Ghazal and Southern Kordofan States, between members of the Misseriya tribe and SPLA units. The Misseriya alleged that SPLA had obstructed their seasonal migration to the south, while SPLA claimed that Misseriya groups were illegally armed. It was reported that 29 people were killed and many wounded. Tensions were partially defused by a meeting between Misseriya leaders and the Secretary General of SPLM on 24 December. Subsequently, the President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir, directed all state governors to ensure the free movement of people and goods into the south. However, similar clashes erupted in the same area on 29 December and 4 January, resulting in 46 casualties.

III. Political developments

6. The political stand-off between SPLM and the National Congress Party (NCP) ended on 11 December with an agreement resolving a number of key outstanding issues, which facilitated the return of SPLM to the Government of National Unity. This positive development followed eight weeks of intensive consultations between the parties. In the agreement, NCP and SPLM renewed their commitment to the letter and spirit of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and pledged to set up a national conference to promote national reconciliation and democratization. The presidency reiterated its obligation to finalize the redeployment of SAF and SPLA forces; to entrust the security of the oil areas to the Joint Integrated Units; to implement the decisions of the National Petroleum Commission; and to reactivate specialized committees to enhance transparency in oil revenues.

7. During the period in which SPLM suspended its participation in the Government of National Unity, it continued to participate in all other Comprehensive Peace Agreement and constitutional bodies at both the national and state levels. At the national level, SPLM legislators returned to work when the National Assembly resumed its session in October. The Ceasefire Political Commission and the Assessment and Evaluation Commission continued to function. At the state level, NCP and SPLM members of the Government of Southern Sudan and the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) continued to work together. More significantly, both parties continued to engage in consultations to tackle their differences over implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

8. With much important legislation still pending, the National Assembly extended its current session until mid-January 2008. The police bill was put on the agenda of the National Assembly on 27 November, but was later withdrawn without explanation. The armed forces bill was passed on 4 December. Ten political parties issued a joint statement objecting to elements of the bill and opposing its adoption in its current form. In Juba, SSLA began discussions about its 2008 budget. All other draft legislation of SSLA was postponed until the next parliamentary session. At the states level, President Salva Kiir continued to reshuffle state governments.

9. In Southern Sudan, Government of Southern Sudan and state leaders from both NCP and SPLM worked together to defuse several incidents that could have resulted in bloodshed. In November, the Upper Nile State Cabinet intervened to reverse the decision of the former Governor of Upper Nile State to ban all river and road traffic into the State. That prompt action by the mixed NCP-SPLM Cabinet ended a

de facto economic blockade that had driven up market prices and caused panic among the population. In December, following the killing of an SPLA soldier by Arab nomads, the Deputy Governor of the State visited the tense area to restore calm and deter reprisals. Across the south, local leaders were proactive in peacefully tackling dry-season conflicts and disputes over local political leadership.

10. Meanwhile, NCP has been engaging in an ongoing dialogue with some northern opposition parties, including the National Umma Party and the Communist Party of the Sudan, reportedly aimed at finding common ground on democratic transformation, elections and the Darfur issue.

IV. Implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement

Redeployment of forces

11. The redeployment of SAF and SPLA remains incomplete. After determined efforts by both parties and UNMIS, progress was made in agreeing on terms to de-escalate tension in the sensitive border area and to get implementation of the security arrangements set out in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement back on track. However, this has yet to be fully realized on the ground.

12. On 1 November, the Ceasefire Political Commission agreed to direct SAF and SPLA to adhere to the present boundary between the north and the south, pending demarcation of the border of 1 January 1956, not to move any forces towards the border area and, in the event of a dispute, not to take any unilateral action. The parties agreed that SAF and SPLA should concurrently complete their respective redeployment north and south of the line by 9 January 2008, with Joint Integrated Units to be fully deployed by the same date. The Commission further directed SPLA to complete its redeployment of SPLA-aligned militia forces at Debab (Southern Kordofan) and Abu Matariq (Southern Darfur) by 15 December 2007 and to lift restrictions on ceasefire monitors to enable verification of that process.

13. However, the Ceasefire Joint Military Commission challenged those decisions, and continuing mistrust, as well as the political stand-off between the parties, which had not been resolved at the time, initially impeded their implementation. Following intervention by my Special Representative for the Sudan, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, on 29 November the parties committed themselves to implementing the 1 November decisions in good faith and concurrently, as a package. The Ceasefire Joint Military Commission issued operational directives regarding respect for the north-south border; the redeployment of SAF and SPLA by 9 January 2008; the deployment of Joint Integrated Units by the same date; the demilitarization of oil installations; the redeployment of Debab and Abu Matariq forces, as well as of an SAF platoon to Malual/Rumaker; and the formal release of demobilized SAF soldiers.

14. On 9 January, SAF announced that it had completed its redeployment from the south in accordance with the agreed deadline. However, not all movements could be monitored and verified. According to figures verified by UNMIS, 88 per cent of some 46,000 SAF troops had been redeployed as at 15 January. That figure includes voluntarily demobilized soldiers, who make up 16.2 per cent of the total. SPLA continues to question the extent of the voluntary demobilization of SAF troops, and the issue is under consideration by the Ceasefire Political Commission.

15. SPLA troops continued their redeployment from Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan States in January. However, SAF rejected the SPLA claim that its assembly area at White Lake/Jaw was located south of the 1 January 1956 border. As at 15 January, SPLA troop redeployment remains at 8.5 per cent of the stated strength of some 59,000. The dispute over White Lake/Jaw was referred to the Ceasefire Political Commission, and UNMIS has established a temporary base there to monitor the situation.

16. SPLA-aligned forces at Debab and Abu Matariq also began redeployment towards Southern Sudan. However, as at 15 January, they had not deployed to the agreed assembly areas but had stopped in contested areas around the disputed line of 1 January 1956. Their continued presence in these sensitive areas has become a source of tension, which UNMIS is tackling through the ceasefire structures.

Formation of Joint Integrated Units

17. In January, the strength of established Joint Integrated Units reached 82.2 per cent of the authorized 39,000 personnel. In a positive development, the Ceasefire Political Commission welcomed Security Council resolution 1784 (2007) and the pledge to support the funding and training of the Units. The Commission also expressed its appreciation for the creation by UNMIS of a Joint Integrated Unit support cell and urged the presidency to streamline funding and logistics for the Units.

Abyei and border demarcation

18. The resolution of the Abyei question remained elusive. As part of the agreement of 11 December 2007, the presidency agreed to create a mechanism for implementation of the Abyei Protocol. On 31 December, First Vice-President Salva Kiir, in his capacity as Chairman of SPLM, appointed Edward Lino as chairman of SPLM in Abyei, with responsibility for overall administration of the area, pending the establishment of a civil administration. Although greeted with some concern among the Misseriya, the appointment appeared to offer a temporary solution to the lack of administration in Abyei. NCP stated that the appointment did not constitute a breach of the Abyei Protocol.

19. In the 11 December agreement, the presidency also pledged to allocate funds for border demarcation and preparations for the census and elections. On 17 December, it announced that the Technical Ad Hoc Border Committee had finalized the process of classifying maps and documents and would soon begin delineating the border on maps. The Committee is expected to present its report to the presidency — which would need to approve the recommendations before actual demarcation can begin — in the first quarter of 2008. The United Nations is providing material and technical support for the process.

National census and elections

20. No significant progress was made in the preparations for the elections during the period under review. The NCP-SPLM stand-off further delayed the finalization of the draft electoral law by the National Constitutional Review Commission. The draft law should have reached the National Assembly during its October session. This delay in turn precluded the establishment of the National Electoral Commission.

21. Progress in planning for the national census was hampered by a number of factors. By the end of December, field mapping was 94 per cent complete in the north, roughly 87 per cent complete in the south, 60 per cent complete in Southern Darfur and 80 per cent complete in Northern and Western Darfur. Progress was made in the printing of maps and manuals, but the printing of the census questionnaire itself was delayed until January owing to disputes between the two CPA parties regarding questions about origin and religion. Lack of capacity in the Southern Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics and Evaluation continued to be a problem. A new deadline for the completion of the process of mapping counties in Southern Sudan was set for the end of January 2008.

22. Owing to those delays, the census was postponed for the second time, from 2 February to the second half of April 2008. Funding delays by the Government of National Unity and inadequate external support have also contributed to lack of progress in the preparations. It is unclear whether the census Commission will be able to conduct a full census or only a partial one. The implications of the situation for the future electoral process and, in particular, its impact on the determination of constituencies, is becoming a matter of increasing concern.

Wealth-sharing

23. Figures released by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy show that total oil revenue for October 2007 amounted to more than \$530 million, comprising close to \$420 million from exported oil and more than \$116 million from domestic sales. This was the highest figure since the beginning of petroleum production in the country. According to the same source, the share of the Government of Southern Sudan amounted to more than \$208 million, of which \$172.4 million came from exports and \$39.9 million came from local sales. The share of oil-producing states amounted to over \$9.5 million.

Assessment and Evaluation Commission

24. The Assessment and Evaluation Commission was established to monitor the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and to conduct a midterm evaluation of the unity arrangements provided for under the Agreement. On 1 December 2007, the Chairman of the Commission, Ambassador Tom Vraalsen, resigned, and it is understood that the members are currently consulting on the appointment of a new chairman. It will be important for the presidency to re-establish the chairmanship of the Commission as a matter of priority.

V. Implementation of other peace processes in the Sudan

25. In December, the Chairman of the Eastern Front and assistant to the President, Musa Mohamed Ahmed, issued a press statement on progress in implementation of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement, stating that implementation mechanisms had been established and that the Eastern Sudan Rehabilitation Fund would begin implementing development projects in 2008. The President of Eritrea, Isaias Afwerki, met with Mr. Ahmed in January to review implementation of the Agreement, which was brokered by Eritrea. According to official Eritrean sources, the meeting underscored the fact that, despite goodwill from both parties, the full realization of the Agreement would require further work. President Afwerki pledged

to continue to hold talks with the Government of the Sudan in this regard, and also emphasized the responsibility of the Eastern Front to be unified and act as a partner in the Government of National Unity.

26. As far as the Darfur political process is concerned, since the peace talks in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in October 2007, my Special Envoy, Jan Eliasson, and his African Union counterpart, Salim Ahmed Salim, have intensified consultations with the Government of the Sudan and the non-signatory movements present in Darfur and Juba with a view to preparing the parties further for the beginning of substantive talks. During November and December there was some progress in terms of the unification efforts of the movements which have now coalesced around five major groupings: Sudan Liberation Army (SLA)-Unity, SLA-Abdul Wahid, SLA-Abdul Shafi, JEM-Khalil Ibrahim and the United Resistance Front. However, the situation remains fluid and those coalitions fragile. Moreover, before substantive talks between the parties can begin, the movements will still have to agree on common positions and a delegation for the negotiations. The deterioration in the security situation on the ground, in particular in Western Darfur, as well as renewed tensions in the relationship between the Sudan and Chad, are complicating the search for a political settlement. All parties must cease hostilities and prepare seriously for the talks.

27. UNMIS also continued to provide financial and logistical support to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the Joint Mediation Support Team (JMST) for Darfur. While cooperation between UNMIS and UNAMID has been generally satisfactory, systematic coordination between the two missions and JMST should be further enhanced to ensure effectiveness in terms of both substantive issues and logistical and administrative support. To that end, the leadership of UNMIS, UNAMID and JMST established a joint task force in December 2007 to recommend policies and mechanisms required for effective coordination in areas of common concern. Relevant policies and mechanisms are being drawn up.

28. Talks between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Government of Uganda have been in recess since the signing of the principles of accountability and reconciliation on 29 June 2007. The LRA delegation visited Kampala on 1 November 2007, its first official trip since the start of its two-decade-long insurgency. The delegation remained in Uganda until mid-December, undertaking a sensitization campaign and engaging in consultations, and it renewed its cessation of hostilities agreement with the Government until 31 January 2008. LRA intends to hold consultations in Ri-Kwangba, Sudan, on implementation mechanisms for the principles of accountability and reconciliation and to articulate a strategy for the resumption of talks with the Government of Uganda under the mediation of the Government of Southern Sudan. Those steps are fundamental for the advancement of the peace talks. My Special Envoy for the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas, Joaquim Chissano, will continue to facilitate dialogue with the parties with a view to helping them conclude expeditiously the agenda on accountability and reconciliation. UNMIS continues to provide logistical support to the process.

VI. Implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan

Good offices and reconciliation

29. The provision of good offices remained an important part of the Mission's activities during the period under review. UNMIS held regular meetings with civilian and military authorities at the national, state and local levels to help defuse tension and encourage NCP and SPLM to resolve their differences through dialogue. My Special Representative has met with members of the presidency and other key officials in Khartoum and Juba several times, emphasizing the need for both parties to show flexibility and underscoring the critical importance of successful implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for sustainable peace, stability and development throughout the Sudan. In December, he represented the United Nations at a meeting in Addis Ababa of regional partners on the implementation of the Agreement chaired by the Secretary of State of the United States of America.

30. Restrictions on the movement of military and civilian personnel in the Abyei area severely limited the work of the Mission in October and November, although UNMIS civilians were granted some flexibility to travel for specific projects. Following the meeting of the Ceasefire Joint Military Commission on 1 December, restrictions were lifted by both parties, although only temporarily and with some conditions attached. It is nevertheless a welcome development, allowing UNMIS to renew communications and coordination with stakeholders north and south of Abyei.

31. Much effort was focused on the tense area around Abyei and the disputed north-south boundary. Working closely with other United Nations agencies, UNMIS helped facilitate contacts between the Dinka and the Misseriya to plan for the peaceful conduct of nomadic migrations across the River Kiir/Bahr el Arab, establishing local committees to tackle tribal disputes between nomadic and farming communities.

32. Following the lifting of restrictions on movement, UNMIS acted quickly to access neglected areas and address the concerns of the Misseriya population that they were being overlooked in the peace process. On 4 and 5 December, UNMIS and the United Nations country team met with Misseriya leaders in Muglad and Debab to finalize the United Nations strategic plan for recovery and development in the Abyei area. That plan will soon be presented to donors for funding. UNMIS also launched several quick-impact projects, which had been delayed by the earlier restrictions on movement.

Military deployment and activities

33. As at 14 January 2008, 95 per cent of the authorized force strength (9,267 of a total of 9,716) was deployed in the UNMIS area of operations, including 544 military observers, 191 staff officers and 8,532 troops.

34. The ceasefire monitoring structures chaired by UNMIS continued to function effectively, despite the stand-off in the Government of National Unity. The Ceasefire Joint Military Commission, area joint military committees and joint monitoring teams closely monitored a number of hotspots in the 1 January 1956

border area and peacefully defused situations involving troop concentration and armed confrontation in Rumaker/Warteing in Bahr Al Ghazal State, Muglad and Debab in Abyei, Bentiu in Unity State and in Upper Nile State. The Commission held a number of regular and emergency meetings dealing with troop redeployment and Joint Integrated Unit verification. UNMIS adjusted the deployment of its military observers to ensure quick and effective monitoring of troop movements.

35. Pursuant to resolution 1784 (2007), in which the Council recalled the UNMIS mandate to liaise with bilateral donors on support for the Joint Integrated Units, the Mission held consultations with representatives of potential donor countries on 16 November and 1 December. At those meetings it was determined that logistical requirements for the Units are to be met by the Government of National Unity, with donor assistance. UNMIS has established a Unit support cell, which will develop a road map for international assistance and coordinate support for the deployment and long-term capacity-building of the Joint Integrated Units. The Mission has already provided logistical support to facilitate the transportation of uniforms and tentage to key areas.

36. In the area of Abyei, UNMIS carried out intensive monitoring of other armed groups and development of the local Joint Integrated Unit. As at 3 December, 1,500 former armed groups had been verified and incorporated into SPLA-aligned forces. UNMIS also provided engineering support for the execution of quick-impact projects for the local community, including the construction of police stations, roads and drainage systems in Abyei.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

37. In its resolution 1784 (2007), the Council requested a detailed review of progress in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, together with recommendations in this regard. Work on that review is under way, and I intend to present relevant recommendations in my April report in the context of the renewal of the mandate of UNMIS.

38. Little progress has been made on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the Sudan since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, largely owing to the prevailing political situation, which has provided the parties with few incentives to downsize their armed forces. Lack of capacity in national bodies responsible for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration also impeded progress. Political and fiscal pressure to demobilize is mounting, however, and the engagement of the parties has improved in recent months.

39. The reporting period saw a significant step forward with the signing by the presidency of the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Strategic Plan, which provides for the phased implementation of the multi-year disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. The first phase, which will begin during the course of 2008, will cover 45,000 ex-combatants each from SAF and SPLA. Planning figures for subsequent phases have yet to be defined, as has the approach to be taken in the transitional areas. Disarmament will be conducted through the beneficiaries' armed forces, which will retain control over the returned weapons. Any structured weapons reduction and destruction processes would be the result of future security sector reform measures, not of the programme itself. The Northern and Southern Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration

Commissions have each pre-registered about 50,000 potential beneficiaries, and now need to develop operational plans, budgets and information campaigns.

40. UNMIS has stepped up its engagement with the Northern and Southern Commissions and is working closely with them to prepare a framework for United Nations support for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. Given the significant logistical challenges, there is an urgent need for the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan to articulate their requirements for national capacity-building. A high-level coordination forum is also required so that both Governments can discuss their approach with the United Nations and donors. There is concern that the reintegration planning of the Government is behind schedule, which could have an impact on demobilization timelines.

41. Pursuant to subparagraph 16 (a) of resolution 1784 (2007), my Special Representative has invited the Government of the Sudan to take part in a consultative process on the further development of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration strategy and the role of UNMIS in this regard. During a meeting with my Special Representative and the Resident Coordinator on 7 January, the Chairman of the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Coordination Council of the Sudan expressed his support for a high-level mechanism to facilitate coordination with donors. That is a welcome development, and I encourage the Government of National Unity to maintain such interaction with the United Nations to guide policy development of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the Sudan.

Police

42. As at 14 January, the total strength of UNMIS police advisers stood at 645, originating from 44 contributing countries (including 40 females from 14 countries). The police personnel are presently deployed at 21 sites in the Mission area.

43. The United Nations police developed a benchmarking system, the democratic policing index, to evaluate the administrative and professional capabilities of the Southern Sudan Police Service on core democratic policing parameters. The index places the Service at 14.5 on a scale of 1 to 100 in terms of its professional capabilities. Challenges identified during the evaluation of the Service included absenteeism, lack of discipline and misuse of firearms. The evaluation also noted the involvement of the security forces, including the Southern Sudan Police Service and the Joint Integrated Units, in criminal activities in the South.

44. UNMIS has completed a training needs assessment for Government of the Sudan police in Blue Nile and White Nile States. Training has commenced in Sennar State, where 278 personnel have been trained in basic computer skills, gender sensitivity, human rights, community policing, crime-scene management, investigations and traffic management.

Human rights

45. The establishment of the National Human Rights Commission has encountered delays. In December 2006, the National Constitutional Review Commission submitted the final draft of the human rights commission bill to the Council of Ministers for its approval. However, differences persist between the Comprehensive

Peace Agreement partners on the criteria of membership and the investigation powers of the Commission.

46. During the period under review, UNMIS continued to provide technical support to the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan to enhance their human rights capacity. The Mission also continued to monitor the human rights situation in the Sudan. Cases of arbitrary detention and ill-treatment of detainees were documented throughout the country. Cases of prolonged detention in which the detainees were neither informed of the reasons for their arrest nor brought promptly before a judicial authority were also documented.

47. UNMIS continued to monitor and follow up on reports of threats to civilian security. In Southern Sudan, there were continued abuses by SPLA and Joint Integrated Unit troops in Western Equatoria State, including harassment and intimidation. Attacks by alleged Murle tribesmen continued in Jonglei State. In the period from July to November 2007, there were 25 reported raids, resulting in 139 civilian deaths. Raids are creating insecurity and temporary displacement and prompting civilians to re-arm, thus increasing tensions among the Dinka, Nuer and Murle communities.

48. Demolitions and forced relocations persist in Khartoum State. Efforts to improve conditions, particularly in camps, have been hindered by repeated police raids. In Darfur, increased focus by the Government on returns is of concern. Of note is the recent forced relocation from Otash camp of some 10,000 persons who had fled violence and insecurity in Kalma camp (Southern Darfur).

Electoral assistance

49. The establishment of electoral capacity for UNMIS both at Headquarters and in Southern Sudan is progressing. Key staff have taken up their assignments, and an office has been established in Juba. UNMIS continued to track preparations for the census and continues to meet regularly with international partners on planning for electoral assistance. However, operational planning continued to be hampered by the absence of progress in enacting of the electoral law. It is hoped that a special parliamentary session will be convened to deal with the electoral law prior to the next regular session in April 2008.

Rule of law

50. UNMIS continued to monitor developments regarding the rule of law. In Southern Sudan, the transition of the SPLA from a rebel army to a regular armed force continues to be a challenge and is threatening to undermine law and order, the administration of justice and the upholding of human rights. In the reporting period, the Chief Justice of Southern Sudan identified key states for the establishment of special courts to address the problem of the large number of persons in pretrial detention. Similarly, special courts will be established for conflicts that cross state borders.

51. UNMIS completed the deployment of prison officers to major prisons in Southern Sudan. Twenty-five seconded prison officers have been co-located to provide training, mentoring and advisory support to Southern Sudan prison staff. On 20 November, almost 900 ex-SPLA soldiers recently absorbed into the Southern Sudan prisons service completed a 10-month training course designed and

conducted by UNMIS and the relevant authorities. The prisons development committee in Khartoum continued to monitor corrections reform activities. Meanwhile, a joint project for the rehabilitation of the Omdurman women's prison was signed between UNMIS and the Embassy of Denmark.

Public information

52. In Southern Sudan, UNMIS organized 12 day-long town hall meetings in towns and villages to raise awareness of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the role of citizens and institutions in a democratic society. Participants included state officials, members of parliament, village chiefs and elders, schoolteachers and religious leaders, who were trained as educators for their communities. Additional town hall meetings are planned for the coming months.

53. UNMIS radio (Miraya FM) further expanded its network in Southern Sudan. A repeater station in Bor began functioning at the end of November, bringing the number of FM relay stations in Southern Sudan to eight. On 25 October, Miraya launched a daily three-hour short-wave broadcast, which will deliver a series of specially produced programmes on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the census, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund. Miraya continued to support the African Union Mission in the Sudan with weekly programmes and radio messages broadcast on Darfur state radio stations in Al Fasher, Nyala and Geneina.

Humanitarian assistance

54. Southern Sudan and the transitional areas continued to progress towards recovery, although many humanitarian challenges remain. The majority of the programmes planned for 2008 can be broadly classified as relating to early recovery, with ongoing efforts being made to establish a suitable flexible funding mechanism.

55. The development of basic infrastructure, especially the repair of roads and bridges, has significantly improved trade links with Kenya and Uganda and facilitated the expansion of the private sector in rapidly growing towns such as Juba. Projects under the multi-donor trust funds, such as the health umbrella programme, will improve the quality of basic service delivery. With the arrival of the dry season, the United Nations and partners scaled up efforts to provide seeds and tools in order to alleviate the consequences of flooding in numerous parts of the country in 2007, during which many crops were destroyed.

56. The United Nations, partners and the Ministry of Health made extensive preparations to tackle the problem of cholera, including developing long-term approaches based on the importance of urban sanitation. There were no reports of meningitis. Reports of acute watery diarrhoea are increasing, however, and are currently being verified by epidemiologists from the World Health Organization in Yei, Tambura and Wau.

57. In 2007, an estimated 320,000 internally displaced persons and refugees arrived home, bringing the cumulative total to 1.8 million. As at 31 December, some 45,000 internally displaced persons had been assisted in returning home under the joint plan of the Government of National Unity, Government of Southern Sudan, and the United Nations for organized returns agreed in October 2006. The cumulative total of refugees repatriated reached roughly 77,000. More than 40 per

cent of a total of 418,000 refugees in neighbouring countries have already returned home voluntarily.

58. Return convoys resumed operations early in December in order to meet the remaining targets for 2007. Ministerial endorsement of the 2008 joint returns plan is still pending. The United Nations continued to monitor the situation of returnees in areas with high returns and a low capacity to absorb. Reintegration assistance was provided to returnees and receiving communities, but specific challenges remain, including in Abyei. A national framework reintegration strategy was formulated placing a new emphasis on early reintegration activities, particularly in the sectors of health, education, water and livelihoods. Enhanced returnee monitoring will inform a broader reintegration and development strategy for the United Nations country team and better inform internally displaced persons of the conditions of return.

Economic recovery and reconstruction

59. After a slow start, the multi-donor trust fund is now supporting reconstruction and development efforts in the Sudan. By 30 November 2007, donors had contributed \$492.3 million (\$179 million for the fund for the north and \$313.3 million for the fund for the south). Total multi-donor trust fund disbursement for projects amounts to \$163.8 million, of which \$59.8 million is for the north and \$104 million for the south).

60. The United Nations and partners work plan for the Sudan for 2008 was launched in Geneva on 11 December, marking a significant shift towards early recovery. The total amount requested is \$2.29 billion, of which \$1.8 billion is for humanitarian assistance, \$686 million for early recovery and \$425 million for recovery and development. The ratio is thus 50 per cent humanitarian, 30 per cent early recovery and development and 20 per cent development activities. This is a significant change compared with 2007. Secured funds are at \$450 million, so the net request is for \$1.8 billion.

61. The Common Humanitarian Fund and the Central Emergency Response Fund continued to support emergency humanitarian needs throughout the Sudan, in particular in Southern Sudan and Darfur. The United Nations is in the process of finalizing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which outlines a longer-term plan for recovery and development throughout the Sudan and is in line with the five-year strategic plan of the Government of the Sudan.

Mine action

62. UNMIS mine action teams continued their efforts to open priority primary and secondary routes in the Nuba mountains, Ed Damazin, Juba, Rumbek, Wau, Yei and Malakal. To date, over 21,000 kilometres of roads have been opened; 15.5 million square metres of suspected dangerous areas have been cleared; and some 5,300 anti-personnel mines, 2,400 anti-tank mines, 637,000 pieces of unexploded ordnance and 360,000 small arms ammunitions have been destroyed. The number of people receiving mine risk education has risen significantly over the past three years, UNMIS and the United Nations Children's Fund have provided such education to more than 1.8 million people in affected areas, as well as internally displaced persons in camps and way stations. UNMIS also provided briefings on

landmine safety to some 12,000 UNMIS, United Nations agency and other humanitarian staff.

63. In December, 120 local deminers — 60 from the south and 60 from the north — from the joint integrated demining units completed a two-month training course in Nairobi. The training was funded by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and facilitated by the United Nations Mine Action Office.

Conduct and discipline

64. UNMIS continued to deliver training and workshops designed to prevent misconduct by Mission personnel. During the reporting period, more than 1,500 personnel received general induction training or refresher training on the United Nations code of conduct and sexual exploitation and abuse. In Southern Sudan, additional training was provided to security guards following a significant number of reports of misconduct by that category of staff. In Juba, UNMIS delivered a pilot workshop on United Nations rules, regulations and policies regarding transactional sex (the exchange of money, goods or services for sex), which was attended by UNMIS, representatives of the Government of Southern Sudan and local and international non-governmental organizations. In all, 26 cases of misconduct were reported, including 3 cases of category 1 and 23 cases of category 2 misconduct. The increase in the caseload is attributable to a new reporting mechanism which encourages more effective reporting and management of misconduct.

Gender

65. UNMIS worked with the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan to deliver capacity-building activities on gender-based violence, women's political participation and security sector reform for government and civil society participants. Since the Government of the Sudan adopted the Declaration on Measures for the Elimination of Violence against Women, UNMIS has continued to explore means of collecting information and understanding trends relating to violence against women, particularly in Northern Darfur. In the Khartoum region, the Mission held a series of workshops on strengthening women's political participation, while in Southern Sudan, technical expertise on the development of a gender policy was provided to the Government of Southern Sudan.

HIV/AIDS

66. HIV/AIDS awareness training was delivered to 4,854 peacekeepers during the reporting period. UNMIS organized a series of events for World AIDS Day. Awareness programmes are conducted in collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, United Nations agencies and the Sudanese police, including through 11 regional committees. The focus is on creating awareness at the community level, with efforts targeted at the community police, Joint Integrated Units, camps for internally displaced persons, women's and youth groups and university students at the level of the Sectors.

VII. Financial aspects

67. The General Assembly, by its resolution 61/289, appropriated \$846.3 million, equivalent to \$70.5 million per month, for the maintenance of UNMIS for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNMIS beyond 30 April 2008, the cost of maintaining the Mission until 30 June 2008 would be limited to the amounts approved by the General Assembly.

68. As at 30 November 2007, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNMIS amounted to \$593.4 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to \$2,964.9 million. Reimbursement of troop-contributing Governments for troop- and contingent-owned equipment costs has been made for the period up to 31 October 2007 and 30 September 2007, respectively.

VIII. Observations

69. The resolution of the stand-off between the two Comprehensive Peace Agreement partners is a positive and welcome development. I commend President Al-Bashir and First Vice-President Kiir for resolving their differences through dialogue. I urge the two sides now to implement their mutually agreed decisions in the same spirit of partnership in order to keep the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on track and preserve its integrity. Although the Government of National Unity has been restored, its resilience will depend on its ability to ensure sustained implementation of the Agreement. Full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement is in the interests of both parties and is fundamental to lasting peace and stability in the Sudan and the region.

70. Major challenges remain and will need to be addressed in the weeks and months ahead. While there has been important progress in the redeployment of forces, the parties failed to complete the process by the deadlines set. In the absence of a demarcated boundary, the two sides continue to dispute each other's presence in certain areas. It is extremely important to complete the redeployment of forces. In the absence of a defined border, all redeployment should be undertaken to uncontested and mutually agreed areas.

71. Similarly, I urge the parties to make progress on the formation of the Joint Integrated Units. These Units are an important part of the security sector of the Sudan, as they are mandated to fill the security gap created by the disengagement and redeployment of SAF and SPLA and would form the nucleus for a new national army should Southern Sudan vote for unity in 2011. I call upon the international community to make available the resources required to transform the Joint Integrated Units into well-trained integrated military outfits.

72. The issue of Abyei remains one of the most crucial challenges facing the two parties. Since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the region has had no administrative governance structures and the local population is therefore deprived of basic services. I am extremely concerned about the recent clashes between SPLA and local tribes in the area. Those clashes have resulted in considerable loss of life and challenged the fragile peace on the ground. The Abyei issue should be tackled through a two-pronged approach. While there is a need to stabilize the situation on the ground and restore peaceful relations between

traditional communities, the national leadership of the two partners must resolve the issue through political dialogue.

73. Demarcation of the north-south boundary is another issue which should be resolved as a matter of priority. Continued delays in that process have implications for other important Comprehensive Peace Agreement benchmarks, including the census, elections and power- and wealth-sharing arrangements. I urge the parties to start the demarcation exercise as soon as possible. Early demarcation of uncontested areas would not only kick-start the process but also instil confidence in local communities and allay fears that the north-south boundary would act as a barrier to their traditional lifestyles and movements.

74. The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process is an essential part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Little progress has been made so far, owing to a combination of factors. I encourage the parties at the highest level to take part in the consultative process proposed by my Special Representative in order to develop a realistic budget and timelines as well as to define a role for UNMIS. I also call upon donors to be ready to provide the required resources for the reintegration programme as soon as it is developed.

75. The parties will also have to move forward with the census, without which it will be difficult to proceed with preparations for the elections, which are constitutionally mandated to take place in 2009. The Mission's core electoral team will be in place by March 2008 in order to support the holding of democratic elections, which is one of the most important milestones of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. However, the Parliament has yet to pass the electoral law to establish the election commission, the main body with which international assistance for elections could be coordinated. The Government's pledge to pass the law in a special session of the Parliament to be held before the next regular session in April is a positive development. I urge the Government of National Unity to fulfil that pledge and give priority to the establishment of the independent election commission.

76. In its resolution 1784 (2007), the Security Council requested me to provide an assessment of whether any changes to the mandate of UNMIS may be needed to enhance its ability to assist the parties in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Work is ongoing to develop recommendations in this regard, which I intend to submit to the Council in my April report. A comprehensive strategic assessment and structural review of the mandate and configuration is being undertaken by the Mission, and the process will be completed by a technical assessment mission from United Nations Headquarters, which will be carried out in February.

77. To date, the strategic assessment of UNMIS indicates the need for a review of the strength of the Mission's military component; clarification of the Mission's mandate with regard to border demarcation, census and elections, and review of resources required to meet those needs; greater integration of activities in the area of the rule of law and security institutions and the identification of reliable programme funding for these activities; and consideration of a possible new mandate in the area of security sector reform. The assessment has also determined that there is a need to review the issues of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and returns, based on realistic expectations of those processes. Finally, it has recommended a review of Mission functions related to humanitarian coordination to ensure a smooth

transition to the recovery and development phase. On the basis of the assessment carried out so far, UNMIS is already putting into effect some internal adjustments. The forthcoming technical assessment mission will generate specific recommendations in areas where mandate change may be required.

78. I have previously observed to the Council that peace in the Sudan is indivisible. We will work to forge close coordination between UNMIS, UNAMID and the work of the special envoys to ensure that the activities of the United Nations family are complementary and integrated in our efforts to support peace in the Sudan. While the fact that the two Comprehensive Peace Agreement partners have managed to resolve their differences is a positive development, it is important to keep in mind that continuous progress is required to keep the process on track. If the Comprehensive Peace Agreement fails, that will have severe repercussions for the entire country, including efforts to end the conflict in Darfur.

79. In conclusion, I wish to extend my gratitude to my Special Representative, all United Nations personnel working in the Sudan and Member States, including troop-contributing countries and donors, for their determined efforts to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Annex

Military and police component as at 24 January 2008

Country	Military component								Civilian police	
	Observers		Staff officers		Troops		Military subtotal			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Argentina									11	0
Australia	6		8	1			14	1	8	2
Bangladesh	18		26		1 513	4	1 557	4	32	0
Belgium	5						5			
Benin	7						7			
Bolivia	16						16			
Bosnia and Herzegovina									2	0
Botswana	5						5			
Brazil	8						8		3	0
Burkina Faso	5						5			
Cambodia	10		1		135		146			
Canada	19	2	6	2			25	4	3	0
China	14		9		425	10	448	10	8	0
Croatia			5				5			
Denmark	10		4				14		2	0
Ecuador	20						20			
Egypt	18		20		781	15	819	15	7	0
El Salvador									5	2
Fiji	7						7		8	0
Finland			1				1		2	0
France										
Gabon	7						7			
Gambia									18	1
Germany	36		5				41		5	0
Ghana									38	3
Greece	4		1				5			
Guatemala	8						8			
Guinea	9						9			
India	20		28		2 572	5	2 620	5	34	2
Indonesia	4						4		6	0
Italy										
Jamaica									3	3
Jordan	12		7				19		24	2

Country	Military component									
	Observers		Staff officers		Troops		Military subtotal		Civilian police	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Kenya	4	1	2		775	45	784	46		
Kyrgyzstan	6						6		1	0
Malawi	6						6			
Malaysia	5		2				7		11	0
Mali	10						10		1	0
Moldova	2						2			
Mongolia	2						2			
Mozambique	3						3			
Namibia	5	2					5	2	1	0
Nepal	7		5				12		57	1
Netherlands	12	2	3				15	2		
New Zealand	2		1				3		1	0
Niger										
Nigeria	11	1					11	1	39	3
Norway	12	3	4	2			16	5	6	0
Pakistan	20		21		1 528	7	1 568	7	40	2
Paraguay	6						6			
Peru	11						11			
Philippines									47	5
Poland										
Republic of Korea	7		1				8			
Romania	7						7			
Russian Federation	12		3		119		134		7	0
Rwanda	15		2		251	3	268	3	20	0
Samoa									13	0
Senegal										
South Africa										
Sri Lanka	3						3		24	0
Sweden	3		2				5		10	3
Thailand	12						12			
Turkey			3				3		19	0
Uganda	9	2					9	2	10	3
Ukraine	6						6		11	0
United Kingdom			2				2		1	0
United Republic of Tanzania										
United States of America									14	1

<i>Country</i>	<i>Military component</i>									
	<i>Observers</i>		<i>Staff officers</i>		<i>Troops</i>		<i>Military subtotal</i>		<i>Civilian police</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Uruguay									1	0
Yemen	15						15		3	0
Zambia	13	2	9		329	15	351	17	18	3
Zimbabwe	11	3					11	3	21	8
Total per gender	507	18	181	5	8 403	104	9 091	127	593	44
Total	525		186		8 507		9 218		637	

