



The BEACON

United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) Newsletter



UN Security Council extends UNISFA mandate

Highlights

- Authorized troop ceiling to be reduced
- Authorized police ceiling raised to 345 police personnel
- One formed police unit created
- A civilian Deputy Head of Mission for UNISFA
- UNISFA initiatives to support community dialogue and efforts by the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities applauded

The United Nations Security Council on 15 November adopted Resolution 2445 extending the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) for another six months.

The new mandate which will end on 15 May 2019 also increased the authorized police to 345 police personnel, including 185 individual police officers and one formed police unit. This increase is meant to fill the vacuum created by the absence of the Abyei Police and will be reversed as the Abyei Police Service is gradually being established. The Security Council commended the UN Police for activities to advise and mentor the local population in the absence of the Abyei Police Service and has been urging both parties to establish the Abyei Police Service, welcoming UNISFA's enhanced role in fostering inter-communal dialogue, and urging all parties to continue these dialogues.



58119 kms
were covered by **day**
patrols between
October and
November 2018



30667 kms
were covered by
night patrols
between October and
November 2018



610 community
interactive
patrols
were conducted by
UNPOL between
October and
November 2018



On the other hand, the Resolution seeks to reduce the authorized troop ceiling to 4,140 until 15 May 2019, and a further 295 following the commencement of the deployment of increased police personnel. The Security Council also decided that as of 15 April 2019, the authorized troop ceiling shall decrease by a further 557 troops, unless it decides to extend the mandate modification outlined in resolution 2024 (2011) and paragraph 1 of resolution 2075 (2012), in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 2438 (2018).

Other highlights of the new Resolution included the Security Council's proposal for a civilian Deputy Head of Mission for UNISFA to revitalize the political process particularly to implement the Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of Abyei Area and to achieve a political resolution to the status of Abyei. The Security Council applauded UNISFA's initiatives supporting community dialogues and efforts by the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities, such as peace committees, to strengthen inter-communal relationships and to facilitate stability and reconciliation in the Abyei Area. Further, the Security Council invited

UNISFA to coordinate with the Juba-appointed administration in Abyei and the Misseriya administration in Muglad using appropriate civilian expertise to maintain stability, foster inter-communal reconciliation, and facilitate the return of displaced persons to their village and the delivery of services.

Furthermore, it urged the two Governments to take steps to implement confidence-building measures among the respective communities in the Abyei Area, and to ensure women are involved at all stages, including through reconciliation processes at the grass-roots level as well as through support for the ongoing efforts of non-governmental organizations engaging in peacebuilding. The Security Council also underlined that women's participation at all levels of inter-community dialogue is critical to ensure a credible, and legitimate process and calls upon all parties to promote full and equal participation of women.

The Security Council also welcomed UNISFA's continued efforts within existing capabilities and resources, and in close coordination with the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities. It urged

UNISFA to strengthen the capacities of Community Protection Committees in order to assist with the management of law and order processes in Abyei, while ensuring the humane and dignified treatment of suspects and other detainees, and to continue engaging with both governments on this issue.



The Security Council, however, expressed disappointment that the parties have taken few steps to implement the Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of Abyei Area, and to achieve a political resolution to the status of Abyei with particular emphasis on the establishment of the Abyei Area interim institutions in accordance with the Agreement on Temporary Administrative and Security Arrangements for the Abyei Area of June 2011.

Moreover, it urged the two Governments to take all necessary steps to ensure that Abyei is effectively demilitarized, including through disarmament programs as necessary, and has reaffirmed that UNISFA may undertake weapons confiscation and destruction in the Abyei Area as authorized under resolution 1990 (2011). This is consistent with its mandate and within its existing capabilities, in coordination with the signatories of the June 2011 Agreement on the Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area, the AJOC, and the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities and consistent with the previous AJOC decision to establish the Area as a "weapons free area".

The Security Council has ordered UNISFA to continue its dialogue with the AJOC and with the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities on

effective strategies and oversight mechanisms for ensuring full compliance by all relevant parties with Abyei's status as a weapons-free area. It also called upon the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan, the AJOC, and the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities to extend full cooperation to UNISFA.

The Security Council appealed to all Member States, in particular Sudan and South Sudan, to ensure the free, unhindered and expeditious movement, to and from Abyei and throughout the (Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ), of all personnel, as well as equipment, provisions, supplies and other goods, including vehicles, aircraft, and spare parts, which are for the exclusive and official use of UNISFA.

The Governments of Sudan and South Sudan have been called upon by the Security Council to provide full support to the United Nations, including the prompt issuance of visas to military, police and civilian United Nations personnel, including humanitarian personnel, without prejudice to their nationality, for entry into Sudan and South Sudan, facilitating basing arrangements, infrastructure construction, including the Athony airport, as well as flight



clearances and providing logistical support. The Security Council has also requested the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to facilitate travel from within Sudan and South Sudan to and from Abyei, and to fully adhere to their obligations under the Status of Forces Agreements.

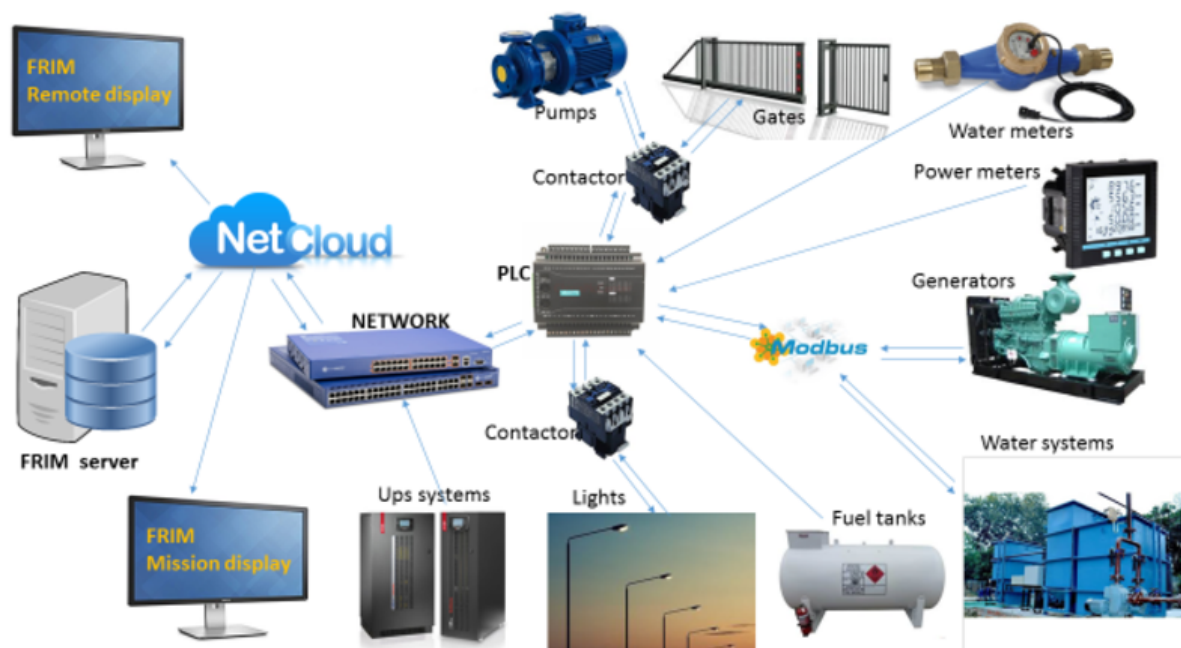
UNISFA pilots innovation in infrastructure management



The United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) initiates the implementation of the Field Remote Infrastructure Management (FRIM). An innovative operational planning and oversight platform, FRIM allows users to measure, collect, monitor, and report data from a wide range of diverse devices. It is a centralized solution that leverages the data infrastructure across the

organization for Intelligent Infrastructure Management.

“Given the nature of the mission location—where resources are scarce and there are limited means of delivering essential services, such as power, water and communication—teams from UNISFA Field Technology Section (FTS) and Engineering



The concept of FRIM is to join different interfaces from resources such as Generators, UPS, Water Main, and Waste Water Treatments to provide information to the main server. It, in turn, collects, analyzes and displays gathered information via a web interface. The interface connects from the FRIM server via Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC) that terminate to households, enabling these units to be "smart accommodations" where peak usage, possible outages and utilization are monitored and controlled remotely.

needed a way to effectively manage mission resources and utilities,” said Salim Chehab, Chief FTS of UNISFA. “FRIM is a solution that enables us to do just that. With it, we can proactively monitor usage and measure utilization and the potential risks of outage, and we can reduce power and water consumption”.

Implementing FRIM can result in optimized consumption of fuel, energy and water; improved wastewater treatment; enhanced data management and visualization; shorter reaction time to problems; and predictive maintenance.

Implementing FRIM in Abyei



WAN Technician configures and sets up PLC for FRIM



FRIM PLC is examined by FTS Infrastructure and Network Team



Engineering Team installs PLC with Power and Water Meters

UNISFA, through the strong engagement of the Chief of Mission Support, is piloting the project with phase one managing power and water consumption to accommodations and offices.

FRIM will integrate smart water and power meters for 217 civilian staff accommodations (Smart Accommodation), as well as infrastructure equipment (13 Power Generators, Main Water Supply, 10 Wastewater Treatment Plants, 9 Uninterruptible Power Supplies). The objective is to

- provide metrics that will help the mission reduce water and power consumption,
- proactively predict the use of fuel,
- minimize downtime as much as possible.

In addition, a mobile app will help individual consumers change behaviors related to their levels of consumption of power and water.

“The implementation of FRIM was collaboratively tested and implemented by UNISFA with the guidance of UNGSC. This included installing interfaces between existing infrastructure services such as Generators, UPS, Main Water Sources, Water Treatment Facilities and Smart Power/Water Meters to Personnel Accommodations,” said Salim.

“The joint project triumphed over the different challenges presented, including interoperability between different technologies, the logistics of delivering the equipment to remote Abyei and between sites, and a limited manpower resource to implement the project. Consistent with the FTS objective, the operational requirement for Engineering has been enhanced with technology and innovation”, he added.

FRIM can be defined as a convergence of sensing devices of IT technology to monitor and analyze all infrastructure processes within an organization and deliver a holistic view in real time,” said Gonzalo de Murga, Chief Infrastructure Technology of UNGSC.

Proof of concept

To start, the UNGSC and UNISFA teams had to assess the sizable task at hand. The project was split into phases: the first looked at ways to connect the generators and main water source to interfaces able to transmit data to be fed, analyzed and ultimately displayed in FRIM.

It took a couple of weeks to identify the meters and interfaces to provide data to the platform hosted in Valencia. The first phase of the pilot project was to be completed by also pulling data from end-users.



Water facility distributing potable water to the whole



UNISFA in Abyei main water point

FRIM - Field Remote Infrastructure Management
UNISFA

MSA5			
Cluster37			
ATTRIBUTE	WATER (L)	POWER	
C37A	524	43	
C37B	597	1	
C37C	494	53	
C37D	137	45	
C37E	76	17	
C37F	1662	62	
C37G	254	29	

Sample web interface of households connected with power and water meter. A single PLC can monitor a single household and be expanded via modules and can monitor bulk users such as a

Generators monitored via FRIM enable resource managers to monitor peak usage at any time, forecast fuel consumption, and proactively see trends and possible outages due to metrics provided by the

UNISFA

GEN 1	
ATTRIBUTE	VALUE
Alarm message	No data
Number of starts	1697
Working hours	13615 h
Fuel alarm threshold	20 %
Battery voltage	27 V

As the generators and water mains were equipped with sensors, in the accommodations housing, the staff in Abyei started the installation of the smart water and power meters. Plumbing between these houses had to be redone since it had not been designed for the use of individual smart meters.



UNISFA Technicians monitor the UPS output from FRIM interface. Information such as phase variance, output and other information regarding the UPS is closely monitored via FRIM.

Way forward

Despite the challenging setting, the UNISFA FRIM implementation project is moving forward, helping the mission to

- increase efficiency
- achieve operational savings
- embrace environment-friendly behaviours while aligning to the DFS Environment Strategy

Implementing FRIM also falls within the requirements of the recent [Secretary-General's Strategy on New Technologies](#), which calls "for the strengthening of our capacity for data literacy, technology, collection, and analysis"

The visualization of the data collected by FRIM will be expanded to include a mobile app, enabling resource managers to change behavior by monitoring and acting on-the-go. The UNISFA senior management is planning to expand FRIM to all eleven team sites and two sectors of the mission.

For additional information on the technical details, communication strategy, as well as risks and challenges of the project, contact UNISFA FTS at email chehabs@un.org, aciertow@un.org.

"The FRIM platform, as a highly resilient and centrally hosted system, provides a standard and federated approach to the monitoring and managing of field infrastructure systems", said Michel Bergeron, UNGSC's Chief SGITT.

"FRIM has been developed and implemented in partnership with the DFS environmental and engineering experts in order to maintain a high degree of strategic alignment and to deliver on the system management requirements of the missions. It is expected that better infrastructure monitoring and measurements will result in more effective and efficient management".

UNISFA holds gender parity workshop



A workshop on gender parity was conducted by UNISFA on 26 November 2018 to sensitize its personnel on gender mainstreaming and gender-based violence. The workshop attracted over sixty female participants drawn from the military, police and civilian including national staff components of the mission with the aim to provoke discussions amongst participants on how best to promote gender equality, integrate the gender perspective in all mission's operations and reduce the current disparity. The workshop also aimed to work towards making UNISFA a pathfinder on achieving the gender parity objective of the UN.

According to Major General Gebre Adhana Woldehzu, UNISFA's Acting Head of Mission and Force Commander, the workshop on gender parity could not have come at a better time, noting that the changing nature of modern conflicts calls for innovative ways of handling their resolutions that will ensure lasting peace and security, stressing that one of the ways of doing so is by involving women in all efforts at

resolving existing conflicts and preventing new ones.

General Woldehzu noted that in Abyei, like in any other conflict area, the conflicts have impacted women in several ways. Some have lost their husbands and children in conflicts and have to take up more challenges and responsibilities while many others have been victims of gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse which have become a weapon of war. He noted that their many needs must be addressed, but most importantly they must be given a voice to contribute in finding a lasting solution to these conflicts, adding that any efforts at conflict resolution that leaves women out are bound to fail. He charged the workshop participants to come up with ways of engaging women and making them partners in the search for sustainable peace not only in Abyei but the entire region.

The Force Commander explained that UNISFA, as a mission has taken up the challenge to



mainstream gender in all aspects of its operations and management in line with the spirit of UNSCR 1326 which urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts, and the UN Secretary-General's vision to prioritize gender issues. He said the workshop serves as a vehicle to, not only advance the Secretary-General's vision, and the provisions of UNSCR 1325 but also to strategize on ways to achieve this objective.

General Woldezgu announced that UNISFA has so far achieved 8% in gender parity, with 5% actively deployed in the field while the remaining 3% constitute the other components of the

mission. He challenged the workshop to find innovative ways of improving the percentage, suggesting that one of the ways to do so is by encouraging women participation in all mission's programs and activities.

He said UNISFA leadership's commitment to ensure that gender perspective is integrated in all mission's programs and activities, emphasizing that the inclusion of women participation at all levels of the mission's programs is critical to the mission's mandate implementation.

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UN celebrates anniversary with Abyei and Diffra communities



The United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and UN agencies working across the Abyei area gathered together with local leaders and communities on 24 October 2018 to celebrate UN Day and the work the organization is doing to protect civilians, maintain peace, and create stability and development in the area.

The UNISFA Acting Head of Mission and Force Commander Major General Gebre Adhana Woldezgu delivered the message of the Secretary-General of the UN António Guterres at the UN Day event in Abyei on 24 October 2018. “United Nations Day marks the birthday of our founding Charter – the landmark document that embodies the hopes, dreams, and aspirations of ‘we the peoples.’ Every day, the women and men of the United Nations work to give practical meaning to that Charter. Despite the odds and the obstacles, we never give up.”

“Extreme poverty is being reduced, but we see inequality growing. Yet we don’t give up because we know by reducing inequality we increase hope and opportunity and peace around the world.

Abyei and Diffra community leaders, as well as members of the community, joined in the 73rd anniversary in two separate events under the theme: “Working together for peace and security

in Abyei.” UN day allowed the organization to actively promote the ideals of the United Nations.

Sporting events were conducted in both communities. With the theme ‘UN in my community,’ a drawing contest among school children was also held. Five best drawings for each of the two categories – primary and secondary – were recognized with trophies and medals.

During the observance of the UN Day, UNISFA acting HoM/FC reaffirmed the UN’s commitment to repair the broken trust, to heal the planet, to leave no one behind, and to uphold dignity for one and all, as united nations.

The United Nations was established in 1945 with just 51 Member States. Today there are 193 members. While the organization has changed, the UN’s founding principles of promoting peace and security, human rights and development remain the same and are at the core of the UN’s work in Abyei.

UN DAY 2018

in photos

Every day, the women and men of the United Nations work to give practical meaning to that Charter. Despite the odds and the obstacles, we never give up. - UNSG Antonio Guterres



UNISFA senior leadership joined the UN Day celebration on 24 October in Abyei



UNISFA Acting HoM and FC delivering the UNSG message on UN Day



Ethiopian Commandos presentation (left); Abyei school children with UN day banner (right)



Community presentations during the UN Day celebration in Diffra held on 24 October



UN in my community

Photos show Abyei children sketching their thoughts on what the United Nations is doing in their community. A drawing contest was held during the observance of the UN Day in Abyei area.



NEWS BITS



The UK Ambassador to Sudan, the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator along with their staff, as well as diplomatic staff from the Embassy of Canada visited Abyei and Diffra from 20 to 22 November 2018.

The purpose of the visit was to continue the regular and productive engagement between the two Embassies and UNISFA. The group received updates and discussed UNISFA's current operations and progress, tribal dynamics in the area, the military and political challenges, as well as JBVMM's progress.

Between 8 and 11 November 2018, a three-member delegation comprising of diplomats from the Embassy of Netherlands in Khartoum and Juba visited UNISFA to hold a series of meetings with senior representatives from UNISFA, Humanitarian Agencies and traditional leaders from both Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities.

The delegation also visited Diffra, Ameit common market as well as Abyei town to interact with the local communities to assess the ground situation and gain firsthand information of the prevailing security situation in the Abyei area.



On 16 Nov 2018, UNISFA conducted a Crisis Management Exercise to rehearse its contingency plans. The exercise simulated a helicopter crash and practiced mission personnel on the following: mass casualty evacuation drills, crowd control, isolation of incident scene, radio communication and crisis management team's meeting.

Crisis Management Exercise photos (continued)



Staff Welfare NEWS

Seventeen UNISFA staff joined the first Staff Welfare and Recreation Committee's (SWRC) welfare trip to Murchison Falls National Park in Uganda on 27 until 30 September 2018. The three nights/four days trip to Uganda was one of the activities offered by SWRC to staff to boost morale, relieve stress, as well as expose to new cultures.



UNISFA staff through the SWRC supported United Nations Golf Team "Blue Hats" in raising funds for the heart surgery of five children. The handing-over of UNISFA SWRC donation of US\$ 1500 took place during the golf tournament awarding ceremony at the Entebbe Golf Course in Entebbe, Uganda on 1 December 2018. MovCon Chief Robert Stephenson handed-over the donation on behalf of UNISFA SWRC.

For any inquiries, contact: Communication and Public Information Section



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