

United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei  
**Special Edition: Celebrating United Nations' 75th year**

24 OCTOBER 2020

**UNISFA**



**UN**

**75**

**2020 AND BEYOND**



**SHAPING  
OUR  
FUTURE  
TOGETHER**

**“** It is now time to mobilize your resources, strengthen your efforts and show unprecedented political will and leadership, to ensure the future we want, and the United Nations we need.

António Guterres, UN Secretary General







**The future we want:  
the UN we need:**

**Reaffirming our  
Collective  
Commitment to  
Multilateralism.**



## Editorial

Daniel Adekera, Chief Public Information Office

### UN@75: The Future We Want: The UN We Need

This year marks 75 years of the establishment of the United Nations, the global body responsible for global security management and development. The anniversary is being observed under the theme The future we want, the UN we need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism. This observance provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the ideals for which the UN was established and to assess how far “we the people” have fared especially in the field of peace and security and the emerging global challenges.

While it is obvious that the world envisaged by the UN’s founders 75 years ago has not yet been realized, there is no doubt that the global body has midwived many initiatives that have made the world better than it was 75 years ago. Whether by giant strides or modest gains, the UN has played a key role in collective security. Though many communities across the world still live with conflicts and austere humanitarian situations despite continuous UN interventions, one can only imagine how chaotic the world could have been without the UN.

The presence of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) in Abyei is an excellent evidence of the role of the United Nations in bettering the lives of many people and communities. Since its deployment in Abyei, UNISFA has been working to promote and facilitate peace and prevent intercommunal conflicts that have led to loss of lives and property. Through its quick impact projects (QIP) which are small-scale, low cost projects to respond to immediate needs of local communities, the mission has intervened and delivered needed services in very many critical areas which have cushioned the effect of the conflicts on the people of the Ngok Dinka and the Misseriya communities.

Mine action remains a key priority of peace operations. UNISFA-UNMAS surveys and clears roads to enable peacekeepers to carry out patrols, help humanitarian agencies deliver assistance and enable ordinary citizens of Abyei to go about their lives safely. Mine awareness education has been given to many in these societies who are at risk to damages or harm by unexploded ordinances. Women have been empowered through workshops and advocacy campaigns, while protection of civilians and law and order vacuum have been addressed.

As UNISFA joins the international community in observing this historic Day, the mission remains undaunted and ever committed to delivering on its mandated tasks of providing security for the people of Abyei despite being confronted by another global threat to peace and security — the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### UNISFA

United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei  
Sepecial Edition  
24 October 2020

With special thanks to: Office of the Political Affairs, Force Chief of Staff, Gender Team, UNPOL PIO, UNISFA Staff Counselor and Field Technology Services for the design and development.

#### Contents

- p1** Message from the Force Commander and Acting Head of Mission
- p2** UNISFA UNPOL: Progress and Challenges
- p3** 1325@20 - Implementation of UNISFA Mandate 2020
- p4** Remembering our fallen heroes
- p5** The work burnout with-in mission nature
- p6** Bridging the gap through community liaison
- p9** Security dynamics in Abyei since the establishment of UNISFA
- p11** Message of The UN Secretary General





## MESSAGE FROM FORCE COMMANDER / ACTING HEAD OF MISSION

Dear Colleagues,

The year 1945 marked the end of the Second World War, the deadliest war in history, and the signing of the United Nations Charter. In that year, in San Francisco, the initial 51 founding States reiterated their commitment to avoid the repetition of the atrocities of the past and to join efforts to maintain international peace and security.

As the United Nations celebrates its 75th anniversary, the three pillars identified by the founders – peace and security, development, and human rights – remain as relevant as ever.

The 75th anniversary of our Organisation should not be perceived as just another recurrence of international celebration. I see this anniversary as an occasion to further listen to the people we are serving and as an opportunity to determine the priorities and proposals for “the future we want, the UN we need”, as suggested by the global consultation launched by the Secretary-General. The spread of COVID-19 has shown to the international community that issues affecting us globally need to be addressed through multilateral institutions. Even under the increased operational challenges imposed by the pandemic, the UN family continues to serve the most vulnerable people, worldwide, and to promote greater international solidarity, enhanced access to basic services, respect for human rights, conflict prevention and stabilization and tackling poverty.

Almost ten years after its establishment, I am proud of the efforts that UNISFA continues to make to contribute to the vision and mission of the United Nations. UNISFA has been of critical importance for safeguarding the safety and security of civilians in the Abyei Area. Looking ahead, I am confident that the increased collaboration between Sudan and South Sudan will translate into resumption of the political process towards a sustainable solution for the status of Abyei and the demarcation of the border.

While supporting such political efforts, UNISFA should continue to focus on the implementation of its key mandate on the protection of civilians (PoC). Our PoC Strategy is multi-pillar and integrated. It makes clear that all components and sections play a fundamental role to prevent and address threats against the civilian population.

Under Tier I of our PoC Strategy, the Mission shall give priority to the organization of a series of local peace dialogues focused on the preparation of the transhumance migration and on advancing social cohesion. As the rainy season ends, I see opportunities for engaging further with local communities and local leaders. Under Tier II of the PoC strategy, the Mission will continue to be very vigilant to promote law and order and to ensure security for the population. It is extremely unfortunate that, despite the UN Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire in 2020, the year was marked by a series of grave incidents in our Area of Operation, including against our Troops and Contractors. In all our efforts, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women should remain a key objective.

In conclusion, I encourage all of you to proceed with the close and effective coordination among the military, police and civilian components, as well as with humanitarian and development colleagues, that has marked UNISFA in the past, with a view to pursue our common goals at the service of “We, the people”. I wish you a pleasant reading and look forward to a continued good collaboration.



General Kefyalew Amde Tessema  
Force Commander and Ag. Head of Mission



## UNPOL ACTIVITIES



Pursuant to the fulfilment of its mandate, as enshrined in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2205 (2015) and the current SCR 2519 (2020), on 14 July 2020, the UNISFA HOPC - **Deputy Police Commissioner, Mary Gahonzire** handed over operational equipment which included gumboots, raincoats, pens and a substantial amount of hand sanitizer to Community Protection Committees [CPC] and the Joint Protection Committee [JPC] on behalf of the mission. The equipment is meant to enhance the operational effectiveness and efficiency of the CPCs/JPC, the volunteering community members maintaining law and order in the absence of envisioned Abyei Police Service.

Furthermore, as means of standardizing the operations of CPC/JPC members to acceptable international standards of policing, UNPOL embarked on training programs for CPC/JPC on management of detention centers, mediation and dispute resolution and SGBV crime detection, prevention and investigation. UNPOL also assessed the detention facilities, provided technical advice, mentored, supported the development and implementation of training initiatives to ensure that detainees are treated in a humane manner without infringement of their internationally-accepted human rights.

In an endeavor to ensure the Protection of Civilians in Abyei, UNPOL conducts daily community confidence building and interactive patrols and co-locations with CPCs/JPC to appreciate the security, law and order concerns of the people and jointly put in place measures to address them. In a bid to raise awareness, stimulate advocacy efforts to share knowledge and innovative ideas for fighting crime including sexual and gender-based violence, UNPOL conducted several sensitization campaigns such as crime prevention and reduction, child protection/abuse, anti-stock theft, among others and gave tips on how to prevent, mitigate and respond to criminal activities.

Meanwhile, in response to an increase in criminal activities, UNPOL also introduced a Crime Consultative Committee - a platform which will share information between the committee and UNPOL to find means of crime prevention and community safety. As means of addressing Sexual and Gender-based violence cases, UNPOL fostered the establishment of an SGBV desk which is located at the Social Welfare Office in Abyei town.

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 which hampered UNPOL operational activities, in order to ensure operational continuity in mandate implementation, UNPOL initiated the acquisition of mobile phones which were distributed to UNPOL Operation officers, CPC/JPC leaders and selected reliable local opinion leaders to facilitate security, law and order-based interactions. Resultantly, several scenes of serious crimes were attended in time and suspects were arrested.

UNPOL also engaged with local authorities to raise awareness of the preventive and management measures of COVID-19. They also conducted COVID-19 sensitization campaigns in public places with the aid of posters and pamphlets in English and local languages. Furthermore, UNPOL introduced hygiene-improvement programs such as facilitating repairing of three broken borehole pumps to assist locals in having access to water, market-cleaning campaigns, distribution of detergents in Detention Centers and supported the Abyei Women's Association by participating in the distribution of over 20 000 masks to vulnerable communities including the CPCs/JPC and detainees to help curb the spread of the virus.

Lastly, the major challenge that threatens to derail UNPOL operational efficacy in mandate implementation, protection of civilians and general law and order maintenance is the dwindling IPOs numerical strength caused by visa restrictions by the government of Sudan. Also, in absence of justice institutions in the area particularly the Abyei Police Service, UNPOL finds it difficult to effectively execute its mandate in the protection of civilians and the rule of law.





## IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325 IN ABYEI ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

Two decades ago, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 (SCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). The resolution was the first to link women's experiences of conflict to the international peace and security agenda, focusing attention on the disproportionate impact of conflict on women, and calling for women's engagement in conflict resolution and prevention. The Security Council recognized the under-valued and under-utilized contributions women make to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and securing peace and reaffirmed the importance of the equal participation and full involvement of women in all efforts for maintaining and promoting peace and security. The Security Council has since reinforced this decision by adopting 9 additional resolutions on women, peace and security.

However, deep-rooted prejudice still stands in the way of gender equality globally, and Abyei Area has not been spared. The traditionally patriarchal system abiding by norms that affect social frameworks such as power-sharing, gender roles and decision-making has resulted in biases against women and girls that influence their roles in the local communities. The result has been women's absence from decision-making roles at the community level as well as conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms. UNISFA has also continued to receive reports of sexual and gender-based violence.

To address these challenges, UNISFA has consistently undertaken activities toward the implementation of the WPS agenda in Abyei Administrative Area. UNISFA - including its leadership - have continued to highlight women's participation in community decision-making and protection from sexual and gender-based violence as a priority. In implementation of the WPS mandate, UNISFA stands by the Secretary General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative which views the WPS agenda as critical to enhancing peacekeeping operations' performance. UNISFA has done this through support for women's participation, strengthening the capacities of civil society and women CSOs in particular, and creating awareness of WPS as well as making the mission more gender-responsive through the appointment of a Mission Focal Point for Women and an Alternate to support the Head of Mission in implementing the UN System-wide strategy on parity.

The 20th anniversary of SCR 1325 will not mark the end to our efforts: in the implementation of its mandate, UNISFA will continue to recognize and push for the full realization of women's rights including protection from gender and sexual based violence as well as realization of the rights of women to sit at both the political table and as the protectors of peace. As highlighted by the United Nations Secretary General, empowering women to end and prevent conflicts is essential and urgent. UNISFA remains committed to this cause and will continue to ensure that it puts women's leadership and the protection of women's rights at the forefront in the implementation of its mandate.

# 1325

women | peace | security



Women's full human rights and freedoms are fundamental to peace and prosperity on a healthy planet. For everyone, everywhere.

UN Secretary-General



### CALL TO ACTION

#### WOMEN TRANSFORMING PEACE AND SECURITY

We are united this year to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325 that recognizes the importance of women as equal and active participants and leaders in international peace and security. Progress of its implementation has been slow and unsteady. I, therefore, urgently call for concrete and bold actions to ensure the full implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in peacekeeping contexts by all partners including Governments, the United Nations system, Regional and Civil Society Organizations.

I urge all peacekeeping partners to embrace and build on feminist approaches to international peace and security. In particular, I call on everyone to enhance women's leadership and full participation to transform peace and security, through the following actions:

**António Guterres**  
United Nations  
Secretary-General





## REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN HEROES

United Nations peacekeeping remains one of the most effective tools to respond to today's challenges to global peace and security. However, one cannot talk about UN peacekeeping without acknowledging the great sacrifices made by peacekeepers. Modern day peacekeeping is no doubt very demanding and challenging. No longer are peacekeepers just called upon to observe ceasefire agreements and monitor buffer zones; rather, they have to do all manner of difficult and often dangerous tasks which put them at great risks to their lives. In Abyei, there is a law and order vacuum as there is no agreed governance structure. Consequently, informal community protection committees have been formed, supported, trained, and monitored by UNISFA police. These Committees, explains Deputy Police Commissioner Mary Gohanzire, play a crucial role in sustaining peace and security particularly by addressing sexual and gender-based violence.

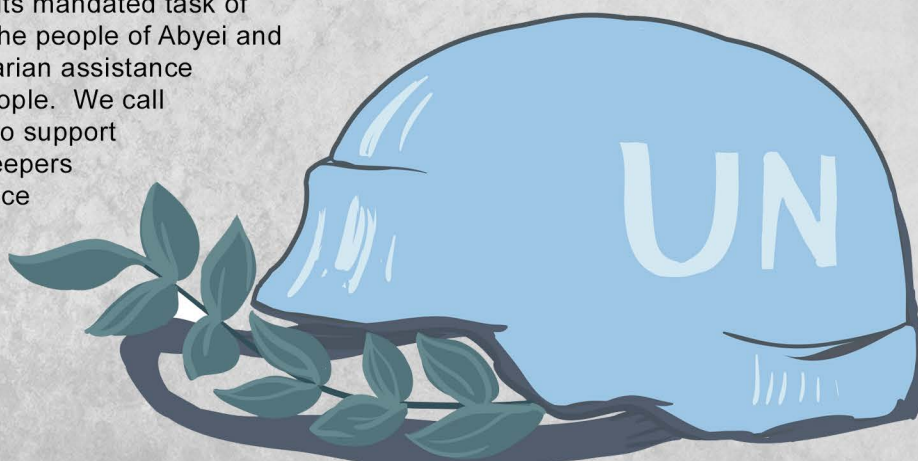


Peacekeepers elsewhere have been victims of targeted attacks while trying to save lives and deliver humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people. At a recent briefing by senior UN Police Commissioners, and UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix the Security Council was told that organized crime, breakdowns in law and order, and attacks by extremists, are examples of the challenges faced by UN peacekeepers. Many have lost their lives under these circumstances. These are people's fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, and siblings.



In UNISFA, we have, on several occasions, had the burden of bidding farewell to uniformed colleagues who lost their lives in the line of duty. Others have been victims of the harsh environment under which they have had to operate. We can pay them no better tribute than to remain committed to the cause for which they have laid down their lives. At this point, we pay tribute to two of our distinguished colleagues, Ms. Christina Banluta-Suba, Public Information Officer and Mr. Sibangilizwe Ndlovu, Legal Officer who succumbed to health challenges in the last twelve months while at their homes. These colleagues distinguished themselves in their assignments and left a vacuum very difficult to fill. What an appropriate time to remember them and acknowledge their contributions to UNISFA.

The United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei remains committed to its mandated task of providing security for the people of Abyei and ensuring that humanitarian assistance reaches vulnerable people. We call upon all communities to support our dedicated peacekeepers in this task so that peace and stability prevail in Abyei.







## THE WORK BURNOUT WITH IN MISSION NATURE

The UNISFA staff all over the mission area are proud to serve under the UN umbrella and help those in need. The medical unit is there to serve staff 24/7, both in terms of physical and mental health, regardless the challenges.

The key challenges faced by the medical team are as follows:

- UN staff personal physical and mental adaptation and preparation for the tough environment and mission challenges.
- Remoteness of the mission area with poor accessibility.
- The nature of the mission political setup which impacts the Medevac and clearances.
- Lack of medical facilities for referral and backup.
- COVID 19 pandemic difficulties.
- Mission uniqueness which reflected on the quality of the extended medical services.
- Stress and work burnout.

Sometimes the unit would overcome these challenges and sometimes not, but the clearest rule is “work will continue no matter what your situation is”.

These working challenges faced not only the medical unit but also all other sections and units. The pressure of work on various UNISFA sections might bring about a phenomenon which is common now in a work context and considered to be an important emerging psychosocial risk – the phenomenon of work burnout. European Union sources conclude that approximately 30% of European workers may present high burnout and stress levels in their jobs, indicating a strong growth in this type of occupational risk (Milczarek et al., 2009).

The close links between stress and burnout, and their high economic cost for healthcare systems are well documented. In fact, both are now considered epidemics with serious implications for people’s health and their ability to work, and also with a negative impact on the quality of services. This is due to interpersonal problems, a higher number of errors, absenteeism and delays in decision-making processes, among others (Schaufeli et al., 2009).

These challenges, combined with camp life, add more pressures on staff members in many aspects, including health, basic needs, environmental, emotional and social aspects.

Burnout is a state of fatigue or frustration brought about by a devotion to a cause, a way of life, or a relationship that failed to produce the expected reward.

Burnout has three dimensions: exhaustion, depersonalization, and reduced sense of personal accomplishment. Job Performance Burnout has been associated with various forms of job withdrawal—absenteeism, intention to leave the job, and actual turnover. For people who stay on the job, burnout leads to lower productivity and effectiveness. Consequently, it is associated with decreased job satisfaction and a reduced commitment to the job or the organization. People who are experiencing burnout can have a negative impact on their colleagues, both by causing greater personal conflict and by disrupting job tasks. Thus, burnout can be “contagious” and

*continued on page 8*







## BRIDGING THE GAP THROUGH COMMUNITY LIAISON

In a society rocked by conflict, the Community Liaison Office (CLO) occupies a vital position in bringing the parties at local and grassroots level together.

The Abyei conflict has led to the loss of lives, property, and the displacement of people from both sides. The lingering conflict necessitated the deployment, with the agreement of both sides, of a peacekeeping force, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) to the region by the UN Security Council on 27 June 2011.



Community Outreach

A very important part of UNISFA's mandate is bringing the two sides together at various levels, with the help of UN Agencies Funds and Programmes (AFPs) as well as other stakeholders, to bridge the gap between the two communities, maintain the peace dialogue and share ideas on the way forward. CLO, a part of the Office of the Chief of Staff (Principal Officer), plays an important role in facilitating this dialogue.

Since its inception, the activities of the CLO crisscross the entire Abyei region ranging from liaison with different groups and leadership in the two communities, to organising programmes and executing Quick Impact Projects.

On a regular basis, CLO officers, both male and female, pay visits to the communities like Abyei town, Agok, Dungop, Noong, Alal, Amiet, Todach, Goli, Diffra, Um Khariet, Tajalei, Farouk, Debab Dumboloya, Leu, Athony, Koladig, Danga and other places to hold meetings with the traditional authorities, women and youth groups; promote peaceful coexistence and carry out sensitization programmes while bringing the communities' concerns to the attention of the Mission for possible intervention.

A vital aspect of CLO activities is the constant engagement and provision of support to members of the Joint Communal Peace Committee (JCPC).

The JCPC is a 28-member body, composed of an equal number of representatives of the Misseriya and the Ngok Dinka communities. At the instance of the CLO, they meet on a regular basis at the UNISFA military base, Todach and also on ad hoc basis to deliberate on issues of common interest.

During a recent interaction with UNISFA, the leader of the JCPC, Chief Nyol Pagout who is also the traditional head of Bongo, an Ngok Dinka tribe said that the JCPC "has come a long way." He said, "we have been able to resolve many conflicts that would have worsened the relationship between the Ngok Dinka and the Misseriya." His Misseriya



Joint Community Peace Committee

*continued next page*





*continued from previous page*

counterparts agreed that the positive steps made so far are the result of the efforts of the JCPC, with the support of UNISFA. “But we still have a long way to go and we need the backing of UNISFA,” he said.

At the JCPC meetings, most of which are facilitated by the CLO, information is shared on cases of killings and attacks on the villages, cases of rape, abduction - especially of women and children; participants discuss sharing of resources along the three migration corridors during the southward movement of pastoralists in the dry season and the post migration period. Other matters tackled through the JCPC include the management of Amiet Market, which has grown to become the hub of economic activities in Abyei; payment of reparation (diya), otherwise known as blood money for killings perpetrated, recovery of stolen cattle and goods, curtailment of criminal activities.

The migration season is always fraught with conflicts as the pastoralists move southward with their livestock along the East, West and Central migration corridors.



Fair Trial Workshop, Diffra

To stem this tide, CLO, in collaboration with the AFPs, has been organizing Pre-Migration Conferences at the onset of the dry season, where participants including cattle herders along the three migration corridors, leaders of host communities, JCPC representatives and other stakeholders come together to deliberate on the conduct of the migration and agree on the modalities, after which a communique is signed.

A Post-Migration Conference is held at the end of the dry season to assess how the migration exercise has fared while reparations are made, including the

payment of blood money to relatives of those killed during the migration process. Through this, the bond between the Misseriya and the Ngok Dinka has been strengthened while conflict is mitigated.

In response to the Security Council Resolution 2445 which invites UNISFA to coordinate with the Juba-appointed administration in Abyei and the Misseriya administration in Muglad, CLO has been engaging the local administrative authorities on matters of concern.

The traditional chiefs from both sides are also involved in the peace process. For instance, on the 9th of April 2020, the two paramount chiefs and the clan chiefs from both sides met in Diffra to discuss the way forward, especially how to stem the revenge killings after the Kolom and Nai Nai attack on 22 January 2020. Both sides restated their commitment to the peace process.

In the absence of rule of law institutions in Abyei box, CLO has also been involved in the development, training and orientation to strengthen the traditional justice system. Apart from organizing training programmes and workshops for traditional judges, CLO Traditional Justice focal points have been visiting the courts and detention centres manned by Community Protection Committee (CPC) to support the judges and the CPC volunteers.

*continued next page*





*continued from previous page*

With the outbreak of COVID-19, UNISFA officials championed the course of decongesting the detention centres.

The CLO also held several meetings with stakeholders including the local administrations, carried out sensitization campaigns and distributed pamphlets, posters and PPEs in Abyei communities to limit exposure to the Corona virus.

Numerous Quick Impact Projects, such as community halls, water yards, water bore holes, classrooms, grinding mills, public toilets, women and youth centres are dotting the Abyei landscape to build the confidence of the people and the trust in UNISFA's presence.



Pre-migration Conference

CLO has also been involving women and youths in the Abyei peace process through several training, sensitization and empowerment programmes. As a result, women and youths are making positive impacts on society and are contributing to the economic development of the Area.

Despite challenges that include the lack of tangible progress in the political dialogue between the Sudan and South Sudan on Abyei, proliferation of arms, low literacy levels, poor facilities and infrastructure (especially roads), and high rate of poverty, UNISFA is forging ahead and overcoming obstacles to restore peace in Abyei. "No one can deny the fact that UNISFA has achieved a lot to help our people, but we still have a long way to go," says Kon Manyiet, the Deputy Administrator of the Juba-appointed local administration.

*continued from page 5 - The work burnout with in mission nature*

perpetuate itself through informal interactions on the job. There some evidence that burnout has a negative "spill-over" effect on people's home life (Burke & Greenglass 2001).

In order to manage the burnout level, all of us should:

1. Keep seeking input from within the organization. People must work together to figure out what's creating a less-than-ideal working environment
2. Establish new relationships.
3. Find meaning in our work.
4. Make a conscious effort to take breaks.
5. Change organizations or career paths.

Despite your best efforts, sometimes you can't possibly overcome burnout where you work. In that case, beating burnout may require you to consider a new job or an entirely new field.





## SECURITY DYNAMICS IN ABYEI SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNISFA



The outbreak of intense fighting in the Abyei territory during the early part of 2011 was described as the worst violence since the second Sudan civil war. The conflict was a result of the failure of both parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005 to agree on the modalities for the referendum for Abyei. Low-level hostilities led to the deterioration of the security situation with series of attacks by militias culminating in a full-scale invasion of the territory by Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) in May 2011. It is estimated that dozens of people were killed, tens of thousands of Abyei residents displaced and several villages destroyed, including Abyei town. The AU intervened and facilitated the signing of the agreement on 20 June 2011 in Addis Ababa between the Government of Sudan and the SPLM on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area. Consequent on the agreement in Addis Ababa, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) deeply concerned by the escalating tensions in Abyei, violence and population displacement, authorized the establishment of United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) through United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1990 of 27 June 2011.

As both parties to the conflict showed commitment to avoid combat, UNISFA Troops comprising of only Ethiopian contingents gradually deployed in the Abyei territory. The mandate of the deployed force included to monitor the redeployment of belligerent forces from Abyei, provide security and protect civilians under imminent threat of violence. The UNSC in response to request to assist with border security and the Joint Political and Security Mechanism (JPSM) as agreed by both parties authorized UNISFA to provide administrative and logistics support to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM). Whilst the Area of Responsibility (AOR) for UNISFA is within the confines of the Abyei box, JBVMM AOR is limited to the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ). The mandate of JBVMM is to monitor and verify the SDBZ, report on violations and withdrawal of forces as agreed by both parties and to assist in border demarcation including opening of crossing points along the border of both countries. UNISFA Authorized Troops level have changed from an initial strength of 4200 in 2011 increasing to its peak of 5326 in May 2016 and decreasing to its current strength of 3550 in 2020 as specified in related UNSCRs.

UNISFA initial success in Abyei was monitoring the gradual redeployment of the belligerent forces out of the Abyei box.

*continued next page*





*continued from previous page*

However, Sudan still maintains more than 100 Sudan Oil Police in Diffra in violation to 20 June 2011 agreement. The issue was discussed during the February 2020 Joint Political and Security Mechanism (JPSM) meeting held in Juba. The matter was referred to the Presidencies of both countries, with two recommended options for a decision. Despite redeployment of regular forces of both sides out of the Abyei Area, there are still roving militias and proxy elements from both sides, rebel groups, criminal gangs and armed civilians operating within the Area. This, in addition to the proliferation of arms within the Abyei Area, has contributed to sporadic intercommunal violence and revenge attacks between the major ethnic groups, as well as criminal activities such as cattle rustling, armed robbery, murder and arson. The most notable violent incidents since the establishment of UNISFA have been the killing of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief in 2013, the Kolom Massacre and the attack on Mabok village (both in 2020) which left more than 30 people dead and more than 50 houses burnt down.

Notwithstanding the sporadic violence in Abyei, UNISFA plays a stabilizing role in the Area and along the border through a multifaceted conflict prevention and mitigation strategy. This consists of monitoring and early warning assessments, sectorized deployment of the force (including potential flashpoint areas), robust and deterrent day and night patrols, establishment of checkpoints and aerial monitoring. Additionally, the force readjusts its deployment posture due to mobility challenges during the rainy season, conducts search and seizure operations for unauthorized arms and ammunition, and provides force protection to UN personnel, agencies and humanitarian organizations. Furthermore, UNISFA continues to support intercommunal dialogue to address escalating tension between the two major ethnic groups in Abyei and engage with authorities of both Sudan and South Sudan, including the Abyei communities. This has contributed to a relative stability in Abyei since June 2011. However, the security situation is still fragile because the fundamental issues to the conflict are yet to be addressed.

The establishment of UNISFA restored relative peace and calm to the disputed Abyei territory which should be exploited by both parties to the conflict to reach a negotiated settlement through political dialogue. The current major security issues in Abyei are mostly related to crime and law and order issues which UNISFA currently lacks the capacity to deal with due to the absence of a joint Administration and other institutions including UN Formed Police Units. In spite of the numerous challenges faced, UNISFA has recorded some key successes which include prevention of a full-scale war between Sudan and South Sudan, relative peace and stability that has attracted trade and the return of internally displaced persons. In addition, it has assisted JBVMM to create the conducive environment within the SDBZ, facilitated the withdrawal of more than 90% of belligerent forces including militias and rebel groups from both sides and the opening of two crossing corridors between the two neighboring countries.







## THE SECRETARY GENERAL

### MESSAGE ON UN DAY 24 October 2020

Dear friends,

The 75th anniversary of the United Nations falls in the middle of a global pandemic. Our founding mission is more critical than ever.

To promote human dignity.

Protect human rights.

Respect international law.

And save humanity from war.

When the pandemic hit, I called for a global ceasefire.

In our world today, we have one common enemy: COVID-19.

Now is the time for a stepped-up push for peace to achieve a global ceasefire. The clock is ticking.

We must also make peace with our planet.

The climate emergency threatens life itself.

We must mobilize the whole world to reach carbon neutrality -- net zero emissions of greenhouse gasses by 2050.

A growing number of countries and companies have already pledged to meet this goal.

Around the world, we must do more to end human suffering from poverty, inequality, hunger and hatred -- and fight discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender or any other distinction. The months of pandemic have seen a horrific rise in violence against women and girls.

We must build on progress. A remarkable global collaboration is under way for a safe, affordable and accessible COVID-19 vaccine for all.

The Sustainable Development Goals give us an inspiring blueprint for recovering better.

We face colossal challenges. With global solidarity and cooperation, we can overcome them.

That's what the United Nations is all about.

On this anniversary, I ask people everywhere to join together.

The United Nations not only stands with you...

The United Nations belongs to you and is you: "we the peoples".

Together, let us uphold the enduring values of the United Nations Charter.

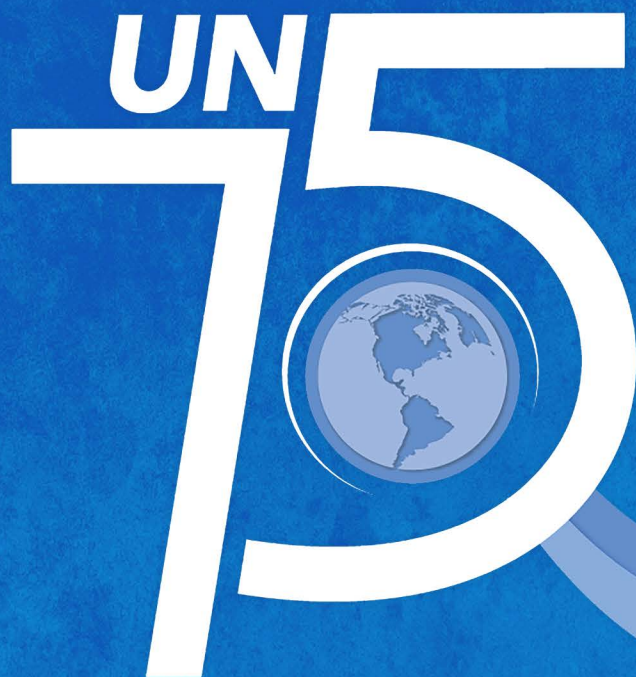
Let us build on our advances across the decades.

Let us realize our shared vision of a better world for all.



António Guterres, UN Secretary General





PAST ➤ PRESENT ➤  
**PROGRESS ➤**

**"WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER –  
AND WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS,  
TOGETHER."**

— António Guterres  
Secretary-General of the United Nations



**UN 75**  
2020 AND BEYOND



**UNISFA**

United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei