



Briefing on UNMISS (South Sudan), 6 March 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt

Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

President

I begin by congratulating Mozambique on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council.

I thank UNMISS Special Representative Haysom and OCHA Acting Director Talahma for their briefings and welcome the Permanent Representative of South Sudan.

The implementation process of the Revitalised Agreement and the peace process remain central to South Sudan's trajectory. Malta is strongly committed to the roadmap towards the conclusion of the transitional period without any additional delays. We welcome the progress made on the Constitution Making Process Bill and preparations towards national elections in 2024, as well as the recent graduation of the Unified Forces for which we encourage further harmonisation of ranks.

To ensure a most effective and sustained lasting peace, we need to consolidate political will and commitment. This should be swiftly manifested in having all parties of the peace agreement, collectively with South Sudan's leadership, come together to address any deficiencies that might jeopardise implementation. We call for its acceleration to meet its intended deadline.



President

Over the last two years, the Council has been briefed by women from civil society in South Sudan six times. We share their frustration with the pace of reforms, the unmet quotas for women's political participation, and the high levels of conflict related sexual and gender-based violence. We urge South Sudan to ensure that civil society organisations, including women and youth organisations, are safe and respected, and that their freedom goes unhindered. In this context, we welcome the holding of the International Conference on Women's Transformational Leadership, held last month in Juba.

President

Malta is deeply alarmed by the security situation, as civilians continue to bear the brunt of the violence. Three humanitarian workers were also killed on duty this year already. We underline the fact that humanitarian aid workers provide essential assistance to those who need it most, and their safety and security must be ensured at all times.

We strongly condemn all killings, destruction of livelihoods, abduction of women and children, and sexual and gender-based violence, and call for justice and accountability. We welcome the creation of the country's first Gender-Based Violence and Juvenile Court in 2020 in an effort to end



impunity for such crimes. We also call for the immediate implementation of the Joint Action Plan for the Armed Forces and Police on addressing conflict-related sexual violence.

We are deeply concerned that many acts of violence are committed by youth. We welcome ongoing efforts, supported by UNMISS, towards fostering a transformative social cohesive approach towards the youth of South Sudan, and fostering dialogue with them.

We remain deeply concerned that up to 77 verified grave violations have been committed against children. We commend UNMISS for raising awareness on child protection and the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict Virginia Gamba for her invaluable work in this field.

President

The exacerbated impacts of climate change in South Sudan are clear. An unprecedented four-year flooding has submerged large swathes of the country, destroying crops, displacing hundreds of thousands of people, and affecting millions, especially women and girls. We are concerned that climate-induced loss and forced migration of livestock has become a major driver of inter-communal conflict and we support UNMISS' call for facilitation of dialogue and peaceful co-existence between farmers and pastoralists.



With 90% of the population being subject to climate-sensitive livelihoods, and a staggering 8 out of 10 States suffering from the ongoing flooding, the South Sudanese people are acutely vulnerable to climate and conflict-induced food and water insecurity.

We remain supportive, through key EU-funded humanitarian projects, to respond to this situation.

President

To conclude, Malta reiterates its continued support to South Sudan and its people, and we look forward to the renewal of UNMISS later this month. A peaceful and prosperous future requires a committed present at all levels. Without this, transition will falter. By building trust and solidify on progresses made, the people of South Sudan will be one step closer to their aspirations.

I thank you.