



Briefing on UNMISS (South Sudan), 20 June 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Darren Camilleri

Political Coordinator of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President, and I also thank SRSG Haysom, Major General Tai Gituai, and Professor Impagliazzo for their briefings.

Malta fully supports efforts towards a peaceful and stable transitional process in South Sudan, with the Revitalized Agreement and its accompanying roadmap at the centre. We reiterate our call for the timely implementation of all pending tasks, and for the transitional period to be completed without any further delay.

We welcome the recent graduation of troops for the Necessary Unified Forces. At the same time, we also underline the need that they are sufficiently trained and deployed to regions in the country that face increasing outbreaks of violence.

We are concerned about the implications from the ongoing political impasse, and we encourage parties to continue honouring their commitments as envisaged in the Revitalized Agreement. While we support the Agreement's verification bodies, including the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC), we reiterate our call for constructive engagement.



It is only through an inclusive civic space that the electoral and constitutional processes can be achieved by the end of 2024. We highlight the importance of a National Elections Act to be passed, followed by the reconstitution of the Political Parties Council and the National Elections Commission, all necessary conditions for the conduct of free, fair, and credible elections.

Furthermore, Malta supports calls for the reinforcement of the 35% quota for women as prescribed by the peace agreement, and urges their full, equal and meaningful participation in all processes, including the constitution's drafting.

Today, we were pleased to hear voices from civil society and other associations, such as the Community of Sant'Egidio, which can spearhead a sustained lasting peace.

We welcome the efforts being made by the authorities of South Sudan in hosting over 100,000 people that seek refuge from the conflict in Sudan. We also commend the role that President Salva Kiir has displayed within the IGAD Mission towards mediating a ceasefire in Sudan.



Malta is deeply concerned with the recruitment and radicalisation of youth. With children often being the first victims of conflict, and grave violations are still being registered, we support child-protection measures and welcome, in this context, child protection training conducted by UNMISS. We also underline the role that youth have to play in shaping a lasting peace.

As vulnerability to violence is present in Upper Nile and Jonglei states, we deplore the violent scenes at the Malakal POC site in the Upper Nile state on 28 May. We call for calm and underline the role of local leaders in encouraging their communities to refrain from violence.

Malta condemns all acts of sexual and gender-based violence. We support the deployment of UN police officers in high-risk areas, and the work of UNMISS by conducting capacity-building activities, underlining the need for accountability and the protection and rehabilitation of survivors.

With 76% of South Sudan's population in need of humanitarian assistance, climate shocks and floodings continue to precipitate instability. We are supportive of lifesaving and needs-based humanitarian assistance, including through key EU-funded projects amounting to 81 million euro this year alone.



Malta strongly condemns all attacks against humanitarian personnel and convoys, and reiterates that perpetrators must be held accountable. We commend the use of patrols by UNMISS to ensure the protection and safety of humanitarian workers.

President

To conclude, Malta reiterates its support to SRSG Haysom and UNMISS, with a reinforced mandate since last March's renewal, but with the same determination that has driven its work. As UNMISS continues to assist the Government's primary responsibility to protect civilians, we urge for all parties to cease all violence and to solidify a transition that places the destinies of the people of South Sudan at the front and centre.

I thank you.