



## Briefing on UNMISS (South Sudan), 15 September 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Darren Camilleri

Political Coordinator of Malta to the United Nations, New York

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Thank you, President, and I also thank SRSO Haysom, OCHA Director Wosornu, and Ms Juan for their briefings. We also welcome the Permanent Representative of South Sudan to this meeting.

South Sudan has reached a decisive point. The tasks set forth by the Revitalized Agreement should remain at the core. These include constitution-making and preparations for elections in December 2024. We are concerned that the National Elections Act Bill has not fully passed.

Free, fair, and credible elections require an inclusive civic space. We urge women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in constitution-making and election processes. We commend efforts by the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare towards the implementation of the Maputo Protocol.

Malta welcomes the establishment of the Government-Trilateral joint task force. This is a solid platform that aims to scale-up implementation of these tasks. It also addresses issues such as voter registration, and the inclusion of the displaced population in the country.

We also underline the timely deployment of the recently graduated Necessary Unified Forces.



Malta remains deeply concerned with the continued outbreaks of inter-communal violence in South Sudan, particularly in the Upper Nile and Greater Equatoria regions. We commend UNMISS for stepping up security at the Malakal Protection of Civilians site.

Violations of international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights must be condemned. These include extrajudicial executions, and sexual and gender-based violence. We support the deployment of mobile courts, facilitated by UNMISS, as part of a broader strategy in ensuring a survivor-centred and gender-responsive transitional justice process.

The extensive recruitment of children by armed groups and forces remains of utmost concern. All parties must immediately end and prevent all violations against children, and the comprehensive action plan must be fully implemented. We support the engagement of UNMISS on this front, including the conduct of child protection training.

An alarming 76% of the population in South Sudan need humanitarian assistance. This marks a sharp increase of another half a million people when compared to last year. The conflict in Sudan is also exacerbating South Sudan's humanitarian needs. We remain committed towards diversified funding that reaches those most in need. To this end, the European Union has launched a series of projects this year, amounting to 82 million euro. These are in addition to 108 million euro secured last month through the EU's Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for South Sudan.



Despite increasing humanitarian needs, the situation in the country remains one of the most dangerous for humanitarian aid workers. Malta strongly condemns all attacks against humanitarian personnel. We also thank UNMISS for providing force protection and logistic support to ensure conducive conditions for the rapid, safe and unimpeded delivery of assistance.

The link between climate, peace and security in South Sudan is also strong. Climate-induced disasters, irregular rainfall, and flooding impact already-scarce natural resources and exacerbate food and water insecurity. These conditions fuel further displacement and farmer-herder tensions. Malta continues to support the analysis of risks associated with climate change in the implementation of the mandate of UNMISS. We also emphasise the need for comprehensive risk assessments and risk management strategies, including through engagement with local communities.

To conclude, President, Malta once again expresses its support to SRSG Haysom and UNMISS. We also reiterate our call on South Sudan to reinvigorate its political will and commitment towards a peaceful, secure and prosperous future.

I thank you.