



To: Mr. Nambiar,

! URGENT

Please find attached for your approval, the draft **SG's Report on the Situation in Abyei**, pursuant to SC resolution 2032 (2011).

The report presents the Mission's assessment on the security and humanitarian situation and other outstanding developments which can affect the Mission's work.

The report expresses serious concern about the continued presence of the Government of Sudan's armed forces and police and the South Sudanese Police Service within the Abyei area, which remains a major obstacle to the safe return of displaced persons and the migration of nomads.

The Political Unit recommends that this report be approved as drafted. The report was received yesterday and is due for publication tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Haysom', followed by a horizontal line.

Nicholas Haysom
26 January 2012

Cc: KWS

DRAFT - as at 25 January 2012



Security Council

Distr. GENERAL

Approved on behalf of the Secretary-General,

S/...

Vijay Nambiar
Vijay Nambiar

[] January

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Abyei

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 2032 (2011), in which the Council requested me to continue to inform it of progress in implementing UNISFA's mandate in sixty days intervals, and continue to bring to its attention any serious violations of the Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan's People's Liberation Movement on Temporary Arrangements for the

Administration and Security of the Abyei Area (S/2011/384, annex), signed on 20 June 2011 in Addis Ababa. The report also refers to paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 2024 (2011), in which the Council requested me to keep it informed of progress in implementing the additional tasks listed in paragraph 1 of the resolution. The report provides an update on the situation in Abyei and on the deployment and operations of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) since my previous report of 27 November 2011.

II. Security situation

2. During the reporting period, the security situation in the Abyei Area remained tense and volatile owing to the continued presence of security forces, the large scale migration of Misseriya nomads, and the beginning of the return of displaced Ngok Dinka, with 3,000 individuals having returned to the Abyei Area over the last two months. As of 23 January 2012, the Government of Sudan armed forces and police remained present in the area north of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River, especially Abyei town, Goli, Baloom and the Diffra area. The Government of Sudan continued to link the redeployment of its forces to the establishment of Abyei Area Administration.

3. The South Sudanese Police Service (SSPS) maintained their presence in the entire area south of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River, concentrating mainly in the Agok, Majbon, Awang and Mabok area. The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) continued to maintain its brigade headquarters in Mijan Kol, approximately 3 km south of Agok and the Abyei Area boundary, as established on 9 November 2011. Whilst urging both parties to adhere to the 20

June Agreement and withdraw from the Abyei Area, the Head of Mission, Lieutenant-General Tadesse Werede Tesfay, continued to engage the high command of SAF and SPLA to secure their commitment to refrain from any hostile or provocative posture likely to disrupt the return of displaced Ngok Dinka and migration of Misseriya nomads.

4. During the reporting period, no inter-communal conflict was reported. UNISFA continued to conduct proactive day-and-night patrols throughout the area of operations to deter any potential security threats and establish confidence by the Head of Mission between the two communities. These patrols focused in particular on sensitive areas which are receiving both returnees and nomads, such as Noong, Todach, Tajalei, Marial Achak and Leu in Sector South, and on Alal, Goli, Mekines, Diffra and Um Khariet and Thurpader in Sector North. In order to take full control of security and to better protect the return of the displaced and the migration, UNISFA requested the SAF local command to confine all SAF forces to their camps, and to restrict their movements, using exclusively the main road and at day time only. In Abyei town, UNISFA continued to man checkpoints to control all movements.

5. The annual Misseriya migration southwards through the Abyei Area continued during the reporting period, with further movement to Dokura, Dumbolya, Tajalei, Alal, Todach, Noong, Thurpader, north of Tajalei and Khachkhach. While initially only men were observed with the cattle, UNISFA has reported an increasing number of entire families moving with the herds. The Mission estimates that, as of 19 January, about 75,000 nomads are currently in the Abyei Area, with more than 960,000 cattle. The largest concentration of nomad movements was reported in the

western corridor through Alal and Raigork and the eastern corridor through Um-Khariet and Thurpader.

6. Efforts by UNISFA to enhance security in the Abyei Area further improved by the deployment of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to the Mission, with the arrival of a team of 30 road verification and clearance personnel, enabling UNISFA to give priority to expanding the Mission's military access. In this connection, using Mine Protected Vehicles, the team cleared the routes Abyei-Leu-Marial Achak, Abyei-Wanchuk-Tajalei-Kuthakou-Um Khariet-Dumolaya, Um Khariet-Thupader, Abyei-Noong-Alal-Soheib-Dahlop-Shegai and Dahlop-Amam-El Shamam-Goli. As of 23 January, a 212 km tactical survey for military operations were completed. UNMAS is preparing to deploy additional road proving teams in support of the border management mechanism, as mandated by the United Nations Security Council in resolution 2024 (2011).

7. In addition, six dangerous areas contaminated with unexploded ordnance in Noong and Alal were tasked to the Ethiopian de-mining platoon for action. An unexploded 60 milimeter mortar shell unearthed during construction work in the UNISFA headquarters camp was safely destroyed. Work started on the Banton-Rumamier-Marial Achak-Leu-Wanchuk-Dokura road to enlarge it to an eight-meter-wide corridor for humanitarian actors to access a high priority area for returns. Two additional multi-tasking teams (MTT) were deployed in that area and began survey and clearance operations.

III. Political developments

During the period under review, the effective implementation of the 20 June Agreement on the Abyei Area continued to be severely hampered by serious differences between the parties on the practical and technical modalities for the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration. The Government of South Sudan maintained its position that the formation of the Legislative Council was contingent upon the nomination of a Ngok Dinka for the Speaker position by the Government of Sudan, but the Government of Sudan continued to claim it was not bound by any such agreement.

8. However, encouraging prospects for breaking the political impasse emerged with the holding of the second meeting of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee (AJOC) in Abyei on 12-13 December 2011. Although the meeting did not result in concrete measures on the main issues (the composition of the Administration and the withdrawal of troops), it allowed for a useful opportunity for the parties to engage in direct dialogue in Abyei itself for the very first time since the May 2011 conflict. Recognizing the urgency of facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all affected communities in the Abyei Area, the two parties agreed to determine, in close coordination with UNISFA and relevant UN humanitarian agencies, practical modalities for free and unhindered access by humanitarian agencies to all affected communities in the Abyei Area. UNISFA has since worked with the authorities to enable this access, also by increased de-mining efforts and direct engagement with the communities.

9. The AJOC convened its third meeting in Abyei on 18-19 January 2012. The two-day discussions resulted in the adoption of a "Joint Appeal for Sustainable Return and Restoration of

Livelihoods" and a series of decisions meant to facilitate the effective implementation of the 20 June Agreement. Significant in this regard were the decisions on humanitarian assistance, the return of displaced and nomads without weapons, the establishment and operationalisation of the AJOC Secretariat in Abyei, the setting up of a follow-up mechanism for the implementation of AJOC decisions, the composition of the Joint Military Observers Committee (JMOC) and of the Joint Military Observers Teams (JMOT). Of equal importance were the decisions on the initial steps required for the formation of the Abyei Police Service (APS) and the convening of "co-existence conferences" between the communities. The other agreed points were designed to facilitate the work of UNISFA, namely the acknowledgement of the Sudanese Government's instructions for the signing of the SOFA, the AJOC's support for UNISFA's continued engagement with the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities and the arrangement for allocating land to UNISFA.

10. During the first Joint Political and Security Mechanism (JPSM) meeting on 17 September 2011, the parties agreed to establish border crossings and re-committed to implementing the security agreements, pending the creation of a reference map of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ). Despite efforts during the last round of negotiations (21-30 November 2011), the parties have yet to agree to the map, as proposed by the AUHIP, and this has precluded the holding of another JPSM meeting. The fundamental issues between the parties remained the proposal for a timeline for demarcation and arbitration as a dispute resolution mechanism for contested areas. In addition, no clear agreement was reached regarding demarcation of the undisputed part of the border (80 per cent) or the delineation and demarcation of the disputed part of the border (20 per cent).

11. In the meantime, UNISFA is making all necessary arrangements to prepare for its additional mandated tasks as stipulated in Security Council resolution 2024 (2011), while awaiting further clarity on the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM), including its formal establishment, a timeframe for its implementation and the locations of the Joint Border Verification Monitoring Sectors and Joint Border Monitoring Teams. A meeting of the JPSM was scheduled to be held on 21 January in Addis Ababa to address the outstanding issues of the JBVMM was postponed to 26 January due to the inadequate level of representation of the delegations.

12. There are currently no discussions taking place on the final status of Abyei. Both Presidents had asked the AUHIP to propose a final status arrangement, as the parties were unable to find an acceptable compromise. The AUHIP's efforts have for now focused on the full implementation of the 20 June Agreement, before tabling any further proposal.

IV. Humanitarian situation

13. Humanitarian organizations continued to provide relief assistance to the displaced in the Agok area, Warrap State and other areas in South Sudan. Food and non food assistance continued to be provided and services to the displaced population were improved including in health, education and water, sanitation and hygiene.

14. However, the continuous delay of the movement of the food supplies intended for South Sudan and blocked in Sudan put significant strains on the capacity to deliver the full food ration to the displaced people. Humanitarian organizations from

South Sudan started assisting the small groups of returnees north of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River in areas southeast of Abyei town, with food distribution and supplementary nutritional blanket distribution, measles vaccination, Vitamin A and soap distribution for children from 6-59 months in areas.

15. During the reporting period, there was an increase in the number of returnees to areas north of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River with a total of 3,000 returnees reported by UNISFA in Rumamier, Marial Achak, Leu and Mading Achueng. However, due to the security situation, the humanitarian community has been unable to track possible returnees north of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River. In addition, people have been crossing daily the Banton Bridge to clean the areas of their former houses has increased. Currently, approximately 61,500 displaced remain south of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River and around Agok and in Warrap State, an estimated 7,300 are in Western Bahr el Ghazal, 26,000 in Warrap State, and 5,000 in Northern Western Bahr el Ghazal.

16. Most UN agencies, funds and programs as well as NGOs were unable to access these areas of return because they are yet to be cleared by UNMAS for humanitarian access. It is expected that most of the areas of return will be cleared of mines by the end of January 2012, enabling humanitarian access to the affected population. Meanwhile, some humanitarian partners are providing essential health and nutrition support to returnees, in Rumamier and Majak, particularly through its mobile clinics.

17. An inter-agency mission with participation from Humanitarian Country Team (UNICEF, WHO, FAO, IOM, OCHA, UNDP, UNHCR and WFP) from Khartoum and Juba, visited Abyei on 15-16 December 2011, and discussed the need to increase humanitarian

assistance to displaced persons and returnees including full return of all UN agencies, funds and programmes to the Abyei Area.

18. As of 20 January, seven agencies, funds and programmes have re-established a presence in Abyei town. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is in the process of completing the UN common premises which will accommodate up to 10 staff members from UN agencies that are supporting displaced persons and returnees. Nine INGOs have continued their activities in the Abyei Area, with a focus on activities south of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River. The humanitarian community also continued livelihood activities for the people of Abyei, in South Sudan, in and around Agok, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene, child protection, education, health and nutrition activities in Agok.

19. As the migration continued southward, Misseriya nomads remained north of Abyei town and north of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and partners started assessing health/nutrition and animal vaccination needs of the Misseriya community.

V. Protection of civilians

20. The reporting period did not witness any significant threats to the civilian population in the Abyei Area. Pending the establishment and effective functioning of the Abyei Area Administration, UNISFA put in place a multi-faceted protection response mechanism that includes monitoring and early-warning assessments, air patrols and long-range patrols, promotion of dialogue with the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka communities, and

regular interaction with the relevant government officials on both sides on issues of common interest and concern.

21. To prevent any conflict between the two communities in light of the migration and the return of the displaced, the Head of Mission repeatedly engaged with the Ngok Dinka traditional chiefs and the Misseriya community leaders to secure their commitment and collaboration in implementing UNISFA's mandate, especially with regard to providing security, protecting civilians, and ensuring peaceful and orderly return of the displaced and the migration of nomads. UNISFA developed a conflict mitigation strategy to minimize the risk of confrontation between the two communities during the migration season.

22. A series of consultations was held with both communities to seek their views on the strategy, refine the concept operationally and agree on a way forward. Both communities appreciated the proactive efforts of the Mission and fine-tuned the proposal with UNISFA's Head of Mission in several meetings over the last few weeks. A Memorandum of Understanding containing those commitments is being negotiated with the leaders of the two communities, in which both communities accept that they would fully disarm and only rely on UNISFA for protection.

23. On 11 January, contrary to the preliminary arrangements made by UNISFA to establish safe passageways for Misseriya migrants' access to water and grazing land, a group of nomads carrying guns arrived in Leu (predominantly inhabited by Ngok Dinka returnees), with about 6,000 cattle. This unexpected development generated fear and panic within the local community, and even led to some newly-arrived returnees to go back to

neighbouring villages. With some reinforcement from the Force headquarters, the UNISFA company deployed at Leu managed to control the situation and convince the Misseriya migrants, after several hours of discussions, to vacate the village. The nomads left on 12 January to Dokra and Tharpader. Subsequently, a 20-member Ngok Dinka delegation travelled with the Head of Mission to Leu to reassure the community about UNISFA's determination and readiness to secure both the return of the displaced and the Misseriya nomads. Following this incident, the Head of Mission met with Misseriya traditional leaders and secured their commitment to working closely with UNISFA with regard to their access to water and grazing land. The Misseriya leadership also agreed to UNISFA's proposal to establish a three-member Joint Security Committee (JSC) comprising two UNISFA officers (one UNMO and the Company Commander) and the community leader. It was further agreed that UNISFA would make all necessary arrangements for disarming all nomads and displaced carrying weapons, and would take full responsibility for security. Similar JSCs are to be established for all areas of migration and return

24. On 16 January, UNISFA reached an agreement with the Ngok Dinka traditional leaders on a two-phased return of the displaced. The agreement outlined the security (all displaced to be unarmed), logistical and humanitarian arrangements required to facilitate the return and settlement of the displaced. The first phase of the organised return will commence in Tajalei, Dungop and with additional returnees in Leu. Upon successful conclusion of this phase, the second part of the operation will follow in Todach, Alal and surrounding villages.

25. Further to my last report, in which I elaborated on my efforts to operationalise the human rights monitoring provided

for in paragraph 10 of resolution 1990 (2011), the High Commissioner for Human Rights has written to the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan, seeking their support for the establishment of a human rights presence in Abyei. No response has been received from either government yet.

VI. Deployment of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

26. As of 23 January, UNISFA' military component comprised 3,798 out of the 4,200 troops authorized. Existing forces were deployed to different operating bases to respond to any potential threat or destabilizing situation. In Sector North, the second battalion deployed in company strength to operating bases in Todach, Wut Gok, Diffra, Um Khariet, Thurpadier and with one platoon in Dungop (see annex, UNISFA deployment map). In Sector Centre, the first battalion deployed in company strength to operating bases in Abyei town, Tajalei and Leu, and at platoon level in Noong and Alal. In Sector South, the third battalion has deployed in company strength to operating bases in Agok, Banton, Marial Achak, Athony and one platoon level at Majak and Agany Achung. Sectors North and Centre were each reinforced with one tank company and one field artillery battery respectively. All three battalions are fully operational with the arrival of its contingent-owned equipment (COE) in the Mission area on 4 January 2012.

27. UNISFA now covers most of the Abyei Area and conducted extensive day and night patrols, using tanks and armoured personnel carriers (APCs) to deter any security threats, to show more visibility and to facilitate the safe and smooth return of

the displaced and the migration of Misseriya nomads. During the reporting period, no restriction on freedom of movement have been reported and both parties, SAF/SPS and SSPS, have shown friendly attitudes towards UNISFA.

28. To improve its visibility, credibility and deterrence impact, UNISFA aims to have two tactical helicopters deployed from Ethiopia as soon as possible. Negotiations are on-going with the Government of Ethiopia about the deployment of this aviation unit.

29. The long-delayed issuance of visas by the Government of Sudan continues to hamper the deployment of international staff officers. UNISFA is currently supported by two officers from the OMA staff support team, while awaiting the visas for a further 40 staff officers and 65 military observers of whom 29 and 20 respectively are ready for deployment to Abyei.

30. The deployment of the 50 international police officers authorised under resolution 1990 (2011) to support the Abyei Police Service has not progressed due to the delays in the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration. However, two police advisers from Standing Police Capacity have been deployed to UNISFA to support the Head of Mission in planning, interacting with the communities and community safety initiatives in the Abyei Area.

VII. Mission Support

31. The dry season provided better conditions for the implementation of important mission support activities, especially with regard to the third wave of deployment in

December, of Ethiopian troops and Contingent Owned Equipment (COE), which was conducted by road using UN contracted civilian buses. This deployment comprised the third infantry battalion and the replacement of injured and deceased Ethiopian soldiers.

32. The third battalion were deployed from the Abyei Area into company operating bases and temporary operating bases and are accommodated in tents and logistically supported by their organic administrative elements and Mission Support Division assets. Most of UNISFA force elements will remain in tents (except in Abyei, Diffra and Agok) until selected UN Engineer specialists are granted visas by the Government of Sudan to be able to carry out the needed construction works. Meanwhile, a contractor was hired to construct the camps using some of the hard walled accommodation received during the liquidation process of UNMIS.

33. Spot repairs commenced on priority roads in the area of operations linking villages and humanitarian lines of communications. In addition, minor repair work was carried out to maintain existing camp infrastructure and facilities in Abyei, Diffra, Agok and Kadugli camp. Basic work such as land clearing and levelling will be conducted at each of the new deployment sites intended for use as company operating bases pending formal land use agreements.

34. In November 2011, UNISFA received the Kadugli logistic base, its infrastructure and equipment from the former United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS). Following negotiations with the local authorities, the return of the surplus area of the Kadugli base remains to be completed.

35. The UNISFA Entebbe Regional Service Centre location increased in staffing and should reach full strength by the end of this financial year. Dedicated services were provided to the mission while close liaison and coordination were undertaken by the Entebbe Regional Service Centre management.

36. As of 23 January, only 23 visas were granted by the Government of Sudan for Mission support civilian staff and contractors, which represents only fifteen per cent of the authorized mission support division civilian personnel. A total of 33 visas requests for civilian staff (mission support, security and substantive) and 71 for contractors presented to the Government of Sudan by 23 January remain outstanding. This situation made it very difficult to provide adequate support and substantive advice to UNISFA's force which reached ninety one per cent of its authorized troop strength on 19 December. To ensure continued support to the troops, some UNISFA staff were deployed to Wau, South Sudan, pending receipt of their visas.

37. To enhance cooperation with Sudanese Government officials and to facilitate the handling of all administrative, logistical and legal requirements directly linked to UNISFA's deployment and operations, the Mission established a liaison office in Khartoum headed by a Senior Military Officer. UNISFA finalised a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UNAMID to leverage local support services for the effective functioning of the liaison office. Arrangements were underway for the establishment of two addition liaison offices in Juba and Muglad.

VIII. Financial aspects

38. The General Assembly, by its resolution 66/241 of 24 December 2011, appropriated the amount of \$175,500,000 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNISFA beyond 27 May 2012, the cost of maintaining the Mission until 30 June 2012 would be limited to the amounts approved by the General Assembly.

39. Reimbursement to the contributing government for troop costs has been made for the period up to 31 August 2011, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

IX. Observations

40. The near completion of the deployment of UNISFA troops is a welcome development as it will enhance the mission's operational capabilities to implement its mandate effectively. I therefore wish to express my deep appreciation to the Government of Ethiopia for its prompt action in facilitating the arrival of the third battalion, thus allowing the Mission to reconfigure the coverage of its expanded operational area.

41. The recent decision by the Security Council in its resolution 2024 (2011) to assign to UNISFA additional tasks to support the border monitoring mechanism, within authorized capabilities but an expanded operational area, poses new challenges for the Mission. In this regard, I commend the Head of Mission for the preliminary steps he has taken, in close coordination with the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan, regarding the organizational structure and staffing for the border monitoring mechanism. For the successful implementation of its revised mandate, it is essential that the two parties

extend their fullest cooperation to UNISFA, especially by reaching early agreement on the maps and geographical references for the safe demilitarized border zone, as well as on a suitable location to host the joint border verification and monitoring mechanism. Similarly, the Government of Sudan ~~should~~ expedite the issuance of visas for UN personnel assigned to UNISFA to perform tasks that are critical for the smooth and effective functioning of the Mission in support of the implementation of the 20 June, 29 June and 30 July agreements.

42. The holding on 18-19 January 2012 of the third meeting of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee (AJOC) in Abyei is also an encouraging development as it provided a useful opportunity to develop a better understanding of the main concerns on both sides. The series of decisions taken by the last AJOC meeting represents an encouraging step towards the implementation of the 20 June Agreement. The acknowledgement and reaffirmation by the AJOC of the urgency of facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all affected communities in the Abyei Area was reflected in the adoption of a joint appeal for humanitarian assistance in the establishment of a forum for constant interaction between the AJOC and the UN Country Teams for Sudan and South Sudan, as well as an inter-governmental task force on humanitarian assistance.

43. Providing adequate and prompt humanitarian assistance is key to the return of the displaced and the migration of nomads, and the prevention of inter-community clashes. In this connection, I would like to express my appreciation to UN humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners for their relentless efforts to deliver assistance to all affected communities in a principled manner, abiding by the core

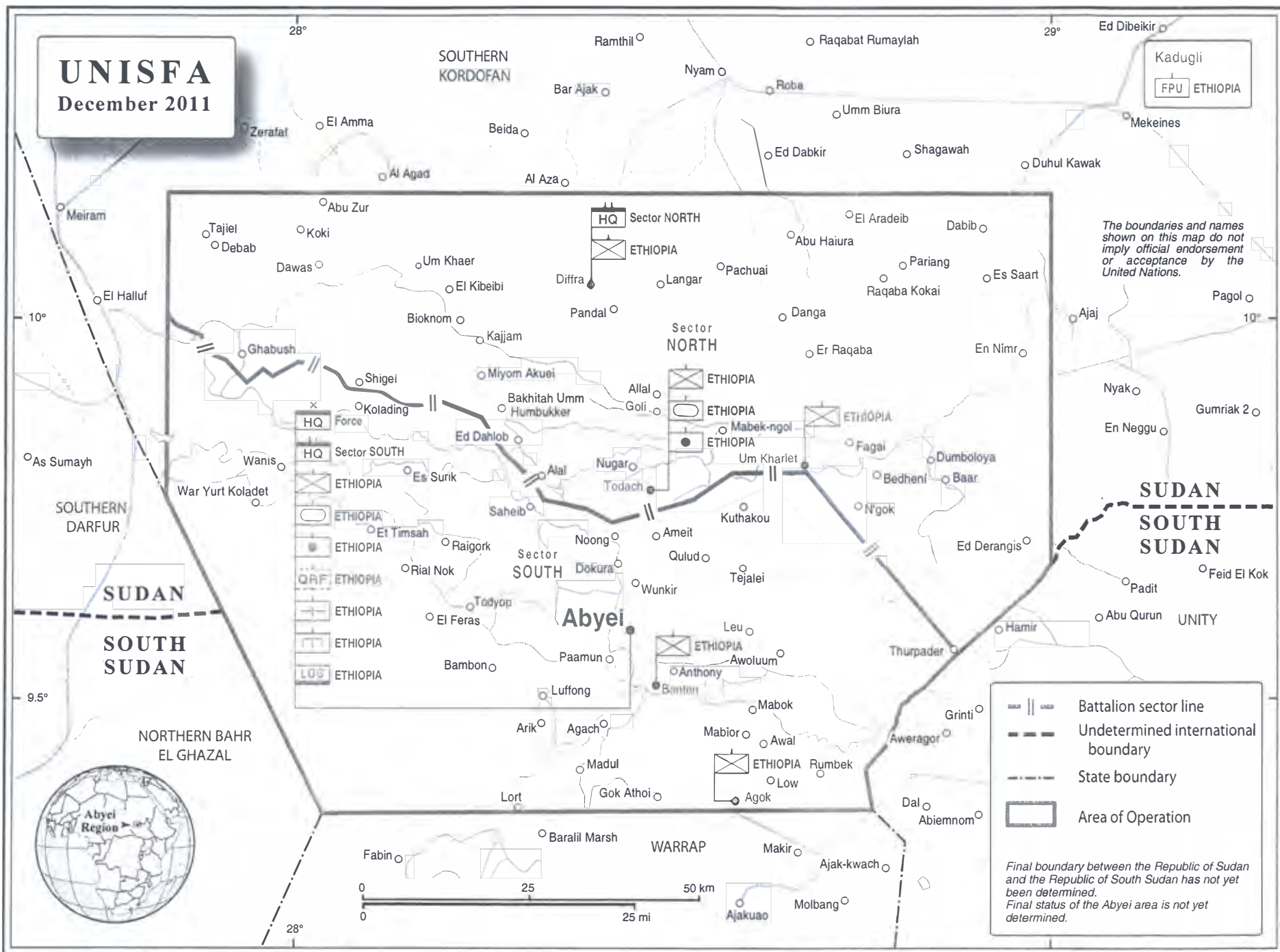
principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality. I encourage them to continue to work closely with the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan, as well as with UNISFA towards improving the provision of assistance to the affected population.

44. I remain deeply concerned about the continued presence of the Government of Sudan armed forces and police and the South Sudanese Police Service within the Abyei Area, which is at variance with earlier commitments made by the two parties in the 20 June Agreement. This remains a major obstacle to the safe return of displaced persons and migration of nomads. I, therefore, reiterate my appeal to the two Governments to withdraw their forces from the Abyei Area, to work more closely with the President Mbeki of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel, my Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan Haile Menkerios and UNISFA's Head of Mission, Lieutenant-General Tadesse Werede Tesfay, to find a mutually acceptable solution to all outstanding issues that still stand in the way of the implementation of the 20 June, 29 June and 30 July agreements.

45. The effective implementation of the various agreements signed by the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan also hinges on building trust and confidence between them. This includes developing good neighbourly relations. The on-going fighting in the Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States cannot serve those purposes. Therefore, I urge both Governments to exercise maximum restraint and refrain from any provocative posture that could trigger direct confrontation.

46. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia Meles Zenawi and his continued personal engagement and the commitment of his Government to facilitating the work of UNISFA. I also commend the African

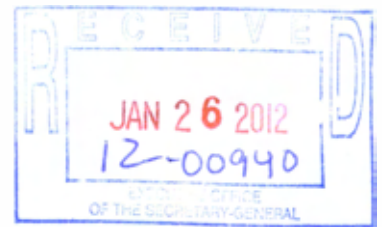
Union High-Level Implementation Panel led by Thabo Mbeki for its relentless efforts to assist the two parties in resolving their outstanding differences. Moreover, I would like to extend my gratitude to Head of Mission, Lieutenant General Tadesse Werede Tesfay, and the staff of UNISFA for their continued efforts, often under very difficult conditions, to facilitate peaceful and orderly return of displaced persons and migration of nomads and create a more secure environment for the resumption of normal civilian activities in the Abyei Area.



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Note to Mr. Nambiar



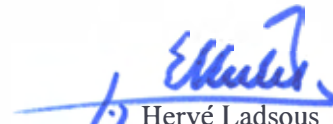
Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Abyei

1. Please find attached the draft Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Abyei, as requested by the Security Council in resolution 2032 of 22 December 2011. The report summarises the security situation in Abyei which has remained tense and volatile owing to the continued presence of security forces in the area and the large scale migration of nomads and the return of IDPs. Further, the effective implementation of the 20 June Agreement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area has continued to be severely hampered by serious differences between the parties on the modalities for the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration. However, the third meeting of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee (AJOC), held in Abyei on 18-19 January 2012, resulted in a series of decisions being adopted to facilitate the effective implementation of the Agreement, including, inter alia, on humanitarian assistance, the return of IDPs and nomads, and initial steps required for the formation of the Abyei Police Service. The report also outlines developments in relation to UNISFA's additional mandated tasks to support the border monitoring mechanism, as requested by the Security Council in its resolution 2024 (2011) and notes that UNISFA is taking all necessary preparatory steps regarding the organizational structure and staffing for the future border monitoring mechanism. However, the successful implementation of these tasks requires the two parties to find an agreement on the outstanding details, a common understanding of the border and to fully cooperate with UNISFA.

2. The report notes that no significant threat to the protection of the civilian population in the Abyei Area occurred during the reporting period and that UNISFA has established a multi-faceted protection response mechanism that includes monitoring and early-warning assessments, as well as the promotion of dialogue. With regard to human rights, also under the rubric of UNISFA's 'protection of civilians' mandate, the report notes that the High Commissioner for Human Rights has written to the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan, seeking their support for the establishment of a human rights presence in Abyei, and has yet to receive a response.

3. The deployment of the UNISFA force has now reached approximately 3,800 troops. The report notes that all three battalions are fully operational and that UNISFA now covers the entire Abyei Area. Nonetheless, long delays in the issuance of visas by the Government of Sudan continue to hamper the deployment of international staff officers and civilian staff.

4. Your assistance in obtaining the approval of this report, which is scheduled for publication on 27 January 2012, would be highly appreciated.


Hervé Ladsous
25 January 2012

cc: Ms. Malcorra
Mr. Pascoe