



# Security Council

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## African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution [2429 \(2018\)](#), by which the Council extended the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) until 30 June 2019 and requested me to report every 90 days on its implementation. The report provides an update on the conflict, the political situation, the operational environment in Darfur and the main challenges encountered in the implementation of the mandate of UNAMID during the period from 4 January to 3 April 2019. It also outlines the activities undertaken by UNAMID to support progress towards the benchmarks and indicators of achievement for its exit and, further, provides an update on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic review of UNAMID ([S/2018/530](#)).

#### II. Conflict analysis

2. The overall security situation in Darfur remained relatively stable, with the exception of Jebel Marra, where intermittent clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid (SLA-AW) faction, as well as infighting within the rebel group, continued. While there was an increase in the number of incidents of fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and SLA-AW elements (from 9 episodes noted in my last progress report to 18 during the present period), they were on a smaller scale and involved mostly hit-and-run operations. The trend is consistent with the encirclement of SLA-AW by the Sudanese Armed Forces in the Jebel Marra area and the increased pressure that it has applied on the insurgency, while an uptick in low-level attacks by SLA-AW may be an attempt to capitalize on the political and economic uncertainty since the start of the nationwide protest movement in December 2018. Despite a slight increase since the last reporting period, incidents of intercommunal clashes also remained low, while there was continued violence between herders and farmers, involving cattle rustling and farm destruction, mainly in North and West Darfur.

3. The anti-Government protests that began across the Sudan on 19 December 2018, initially as demonstrations against the rising cost of living, have had a limited impact in Darfur thus far. It should be noted, however, that while protests took place



during the reporting period only in Nyala, South Darfur on 13 January, and El Geneina, West Darfur, and Ed Daein, East Darfur, on 17 January, they nevertheless disrupted the Darfur peace process, as the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi (SLA-MM) and the Gibril Ibrahim faction of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM/Gibril) reversed their December 2018 agreement to resume talks with the Government in January 2019. On 28 January, the President of the Sudan, Omer Hassan al-Bachir, announced an open-ended cessation of hostilities in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile, and the Sudanese Revolutionary Front, composed of SLA-MM, JEM/Gibril, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Transitional Council and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army-North, led by Malik Agar, reciprocated by extending their unilateral cessation of hostilities for an additional three months, beginning on 8 February 2019.

#### **Fighting between the Government of the Sudan and armed groups**

4. During the reporting period, the frequency of clashes between the Government and SLA-AW increased in Jebel Marra, while the footprint of the Sudanese Armed Forces was refocused on the urban areas of the Sudan in order to contain the protests.

5. In Central Darfur, on 17 and 29 January, SLA-AW attacked a Sudanese Armed Forces outpost in Manabu and reportedly killed four soldiers, and further clashes on 29 January and 9 and 11 February reportedly resulted in the death of three SLA-AW members and one member of Sudanese Armed Forces personnel. The exchange of fire continued in the same area on 7 and 19 February and 3 and 5 March, killing a total of 6 SLA-AW members. In retaliation, on 5 and 24 March, SLA-AW attacked and reportedly killed three Sudanese Armed Forces soldiers, in addition to abducting two others from a Sudanese Armed Forces checkpoint on 25 March. Further reports of casualties included the death of a SLA-AW member in Daya village on 30 January and of a Sudanese Armed Forces soldier in Jadid village on 13 February. In Dorsa, fighting between the two sides led to the death of three members of the Sudanese Armed Forces on 26 February and 13 March and of two SLA-AW members on 14 March.

6. In North Darfur, on 4 January, SLA-AW attacked the Sudanese Armed Forces in Boulay, south of Sortony, which caused an unknown number of casualties on both sides. In South Darfur, SLA-AW alleged that Sudanese Armed Forces artillery fire burned the village of Sabun el-Fagur, in the Torong Tonga – Gur Lambung area on 24 January. UNAMID was unable to verify the incident, owing to the denial of access by the Sudanese Armed Forces.

7. Meanwhile, infighting between factions of SLA-AW continued in the area of Daya village, in Central Darfur, initially triggered by one of its subgroups (led by Salih Borsa) killing a member of another subgroup (led by Mubarak Aldouk) in October 2018, owing to the intention of Aldouk to sign a peace agreement with the Government. Reports indicate that, from 17 January to 26 March, 22 elements from the Aldouk faction and 20 elements from the Borsa faction were killed in the clashes, with injuries caused to 9 elements and 15 elements, respectively. Both groups also attacked and abducted local Fur civilians suspected of collaborating with the opposing faction, and five civilians were reported killed, as well as five injured and 15 abducted.

#### **Intercommunal conflicts**

8. Four intercommunal clashes have been recorded, with 14 fatalities, mainly in the West, Central and North Darfur States, an increase from the two incidents and three fatalities reported during the previous period. In West Darfur, in the vicinity of Hijleahjah village, east of El Geneina, the killing of a member of Awlad Zaid by a

member of Misseriya Jabel triggered clashes between the two groups between 15 and 17 January, reportedly causing fatalities and displacement to nearby villages and to Chad. Sudanese Armed Forces personnel were deployed to the area to calm the situation. In Arafah village, north of El Geneina, clashes broke out between the Awlad Eid and Masalit internally displaced persons on 13 March over a livestock dispute, and three Masalit internally displaced persons and two members of Awlad Eid were killed. The West Darfur State authorities increased the security presence to prevent further escalation and protect the Adramata camp for internally displaced persons.

9. With the onset of the winter farming season, incidents of farm destruction were reported, mainly in North and Central Darfur. In North Darfur, on 3 February, nomads killed three farmers in Rekhwaa village in retaliation for injuries caused to camels. Native administration leaders, with the support of the Sudanese police, arrested one nomad. On the same day, in Tamel Daheash area, a group of nomads reportedly killed three farmers when the victims tried to prevent livestock from grazing on their farmlands. In Central Darfur, an altercation between Beni Halba and Beni Hussein youth on 28 January, resulted in violence in the Korari area, leaving several people injured. The disagreement was resolved peacefully, with Beni Hussein families offering to pay for the transportation and treatment of the injured Beni Halba.

#### **Violence against civilians, and human rights violations**

10. The number of crime-related incidents against internally displaced persons and other vulnerable civilians increased during the reporting period, with 58 incidents resulting in five fatalities, compared with 48 incidents and three fatalities in the previous period. Other civilians were affected by 126 crime-related incidents leading to 24 fatalities, compared with 111 incidents and 14 fatalities in the previous period. The most affected areas were the Golo-Rockero and Nertiti-Thur areas in Central Darfur and the areas south-east of Kass and East Jebel Marra localities in South Darfur, all in the greater Jebel Marra area and reflecting ongoing instability there. In camps for internally displaced persons in the Nertiti and Golo areas, Central Darfur, random night shooting and harassment of displaced persons was reported.

11. In Kalma, South Darfur, tensions have increased among groups allegedly affiliated with SLA-AW and others willing to engage with the Government, resulting in the suspension of some humanitarian activities in the camp for internally displaced persons since January 2019. UNAMID continues to engage with both groups and the authorities to reduce tensions and prevent violence. In West Darfur, on 17 January, UNAMID documented attacks against returnee villages by armed men, resulting in the displacement of at least 258 families. Six civilians were injured and others remain missing. UNAMID raised the issue with Government authorities, and the State General Prosecutor opened an investigation.

12. During the reporting period, UNAMID documented 59 new incidents of human rights violations and abuses, involving 129 victims. UNAMID verified the occurrence of 30 incidents, involving 62 victims, all of whom were female. The other 29 incidents, involving 61 victims, have yet to be verified owing to challenges regarding access to victims and the sites of incidents. A total of 23 suspects, in 9 of the reported incidents, were apprehended. Violations of the right to life accounted for 10 incidents, involving 16 victims; violations of the right to physical integrity (assault) accounted for 20 incidents, involving 43 victims; arbitrary arrests and illegal detention accounted for 11 incidents, involving 30 victims; and abductions accounted for 3 incidents, involving 8 victims. Sexual violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, accounted for 15 incidents and 26 victims, including seven minors, a decrease from the 31 incidents reported in the previous period. Of the 59 documented cases, 26 incidents, involving 50 victims, were allegedly perpetrated by Government

security forces. Three members of SLA-AW were the alleged perpetrators in two incidents.

13. Human rights concerns during the reporting period also involved arrests and detentions associated with the aforementioned nationwide protests. Four lawyers were arrested on 9 and 10 January in Nyala, South Darfur, for attempting to present a written petition to the Governor, but were released on 11 January without charge. In Ed Daein, East Darfur, seven young people were arrested on 17 January and subsequently sentenced to a three-month imprisonment for having organized a peaceful march to protest against fuel shortages. That march, in which approximately 200 young people participated, was dispersed by security forces using tear gas. In El Geneina, West Darfur, four civilians reportedly accused of using social media to mobilize protests were arrested between 18 and 23 January. In Zalingei, Central Darfur, a male civilian was arrested on 24 January in connection with the protests, but was released the following day.

### **III. Political situation**

14. In response to anti-Government protests, which had started in response to the rising cost of fuel and other commodities but had since expanded to include demands for sweeping political reforms, the President announced a year-long state of emergency on 22 February, dismissing both the federal and state governments. At the same time, the President called for an inclusive dialogue, as well as the postponement of a parliamentary debate on proposed constitutional amendments that would extend his candidacy to another term in the 2020 presidential elections. As part of the measures, the incumbent Minister of Defence, Lieutenant General Awad Mohamed Ahmed bin Auf, was appointed First Vice-President and Mohamed Tahir Aila, the former Wali (Governor) of East Gazira State, was appointed Prime Minister. All the Walis of the 18 States were also replaced by senior security personnel, mainly from the Sudanese Armed Forces. On 13 March, the new Prime Minister announced a reduced caretaker cabinet of 22 federal ministers and 18 state ministers.

15. On 25 February, President Bashir issued further decrees banning unauthorized public gatherings, regulating the movement of hard currency and the trading of fuel and other commodities and giving the security forces emergency powers to search buildings, restrain the movement of people, arrest individuals and seize assets in connection with crimes relating to the state of emergency. On 26 February, the Chief Justice and the Attorney General established emergency courts and prosecutors to enforce the state of emergency throughout the country. On 28 February, the President relinquished his position as head of the ruling National Congress Party and designated the former Governor of North Kordofan, Ahmed Haroun, as its acting chief, with responsibility for administering the Party. At a special session, held on 11 March, the National Assembly and the Council of States (the national legislature) approved the state of emergency, although reducing its duration to six months.

16. Protests have continued in Khartoum and its surrounding areas, as the Sudanese Professionals Association, which has claimed the lead in organizing the protests, and traditional opposition parties have rejected the President's call for dialogue. On 1 January, the opposition Sudan Call alliance, the National Consensus Forces and the Unionist Association signed the Declaration of Freedom and Change, demanding, inter alia, that the President step down and be replaced by a four-year national transitional Government. The leader of the National Umma Party, Sadiq al-Mahdi, also criticized the perceived militarization of the administration and on 2 March called upon the President to step down. On 20 March, the Sudan Call alliance announced its withdrawal from the Roadmap Agreement for Ending the Conflicts in

Sudan, facilitated by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel and signed with the Government of the Sudan in 2016, saying that it would only engage with the Government if the President were to step down.

17. On 29 January, the Government released 186 people that it had detained over the course of the protests. On 1 March, however, following the imposition of the state of emergency, the special courts in Khartoum sentenced 8 protesters to prison terms of six months to five years for defying the ban on protests. On 10 March, during protests organized by the Sudanese Professionals Association in Omdurman, dozens of protesters, including the Deputy Chairperson of the National Umma Party and several opposition party leaders, were arrested, brought before the emergency courts and sentenced to imprisonment and fines. Notwithstanding a Presidential order, on 6 February, to stop targeting journalists and release those who had been detained, restrictive measures continue to be imposed on the media.

#### **IV. Humanitarian situation**

18. The humanitarian situation in Central Darfur continues to be affected by ongoing sporadic fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and SLA-AW, as well as infighting within SLA-AW, in particular in Kwila in western Jebel Marra and the Daya area in the northern Jebel Marra area. Clashes between factions of SLA-AW in Daya village interrupted humanitarian activities, and access to Jokosti area was also denied owing to insecurity. In West Darfur, an inter-agency assessment mission conducted between 12 and 14 February to the sites of the aforementioned clashes between members of Awlad Zaid and Misseriya Jabel in January found the need for emergency shelter and non-food items assistance, mainly for older persons, children and pregnant women. According to the International Organization for Migration and the Humanitarian Aid Commission, in South Darfur, approximately 550 people arrived at the Otash camp for internally displaced persons from Feina, Gulbo and Sabun el-Fagur villages on 5 February, owing to reported fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and SLA-AW around Deribat. Initial assistance, including food and primary health-care kits, was provided. UNAMID and humanitarian partners conducted an integrated humanitarian assessment of Belle el-Sereif, Laiba and Turbah from 6 to 8 January, and an additional mission to Belle el-Sereif from 17 to 19 March. Access to the rebel-held areas of Feina, Golol and Kutrum in South and Central Darfur, however, continues to be restricted by Sudanese military authorities on security grounds.

19. Humanitarian partners continued to provide assistance in Darfur, with a focus on the provision of life-saving supplies to vulnerable groups, in particular newly displaced internally displaced persons and those affected by conflict, through the delivery of basic social services. In Golo and Nertiti in Central Darfur, food vouchers were distributed to 2,500 internally displaced persons and some 2,500 vulnerable residents. The training of community volunteers in the promotion of sanitation and hygiene, the provision and testing of water and the rehabilitation of existing water facilities were conducted. Nevertheless, there are still gaps, in particular in relation to gender-based violence case management, including the need for psychosocial support and community awareness-raising. In South Darfur, partners completed the distribution of non-food items to 1,220 persons (288 households) in Otash internally displaced persons settlement. Some 113 children under 5 years of age were also screened for malnutrition, with 39 admitted for treatment, and 127 mothers received counselling on caring for infants and young children.

20. UNAMID uniformed personnel provided 120 escorts for humanitarian partners in support of the delivery and monitoring of humanitarian assistance, as well as

inter-agency verification assessment and operational activities. The provision of daily escorts to partners for water-trucking from Kube to the Sortony internally displaced persons gathering site, as well as regular armed escorts for humanitarian supplies between Sortony and Kabkabiyah in North Darfur, continued. UNAMID also provided security for the warehouses and assets of humanitarian agencies. The World Food Programme, under UNAMID escort, distributed 25 tons of food to people in need, including internally displaced persons, across Darfur.

## V. Operating environment

### **Restrictions to access**

21. UNAMID has continued to experience access denials and restrictions of movement. During the reporting period, a total of six denials and one restriction of movement were recorded, as compared with seven in the previous reporting period. The denials prevented UNAMID from verifying reported fighting on 28 February in Sabun el-Fagur, South Darfur, and on 2 February in the Manabu farming area, Central Darfur. On 13 February, a UNAMID patrol to Hashaba village, North Darfur, was denied access by a Sudanese Armed Forces commander, who claimed that the area is a Sudanese Armed Forces operation zone. On 16 February, UNAMID was also denied access to proceed to Koron, near Golo in Central Darfur. Another verification patrol was planned and was eventually conducted to Koron on 20 February. On 18 February, a UNAMID security assessment and confidence-building mission to Savanga, north of Golo, was stopped at a Sudanese Armed Forces checkpoint and allowed to proceed only after negotiations. A team from the United Nations Department of Safety and Security on a road mission from Zalingei to El Geneina was denied access by the Sudanese Armed Forces on 21 February. The Sudanese Armed Forces also refused security clearance for a UNAMID patrol on 12 March to Manabu.

### **Attacks and threats of attacks targeting the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and United Nations and humanitarian personnel**

22. There were 17 incidents targeting United Nations and humanitarian personnel in Darfur during the reporting period, a decrease from the 28 incidents reported during the previous period. Of these, 16 targeted United Nations personnel and 1 targeted humanitarian personnel. The incidents included intrusion into UNAMID premises and cases of break-in, robbery, theft and attempted theft of UNAMID property. On 19 January, unidentified armed men stopped a privately contracted truck hired by an international non-governmental organization in Umharz village, 35 km north-east of Nertiti, in Central Darfur, and robbed the organization's national staff of its personal belongings.

### **Visas and customs clearance issues**

23. The Government granted 211 visas, including 15 for military personnel, 77 for police personnel, 60 for official visitors, 52 for contractors and 3 for civilian staff. A total of 166 visa requests were still being processed, while 220 visa requests have been pending beyond the normal approval period of 15 days, some since November 2018. While there has been progress towards cooperation with the Government on the issuance of visas, 17 visas are pending for international civilian staff members, including in the Human Rights Section. The Government has continued to release food ration containers from Port Sudan within the applicable processing time. Progress has also been recorded in the clearing of all shipments, with minimal delay.

## **VI. Progress towards the achievement of African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur strategic priorities and exit benchmarks and indicators**

### **Support for the Darfur peace process and the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur**

24. There has been no significant progress made in the Darfur peace process since the signing of the pre-negotiation agreement in Berlin on 6 December 2018. JEM/Gibril and SLA-MM withdrew from the planned talks with the Government in January 2019, in solidarity with anti-Government protests. Nonetheless, the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative for Darfur has continued to engage with the parties and other stakeholders, including Qatar, in order to unblock the impasse. UNAMID has also engaged with civil society groups and the native administration on issues to be addressed through the talks, once resumed, together with the recommendations from the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation process.

25. The implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur continued at a slow pace, owing mainly to a lack of funding and operational constraints. On 11 and 12 January, the Darfur Land Commission, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, organized a workshop in Khartoum on the governance of agricultural land in the context of food security in Darfur. The Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission submitted a funding request to the Federal Ministry of Finance for three projects on peaceful coexistence and peace conferences. Nevertheless, the five key commissions of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur that are responsible for voluntary returns and resettlement, land, security arrangements, justice, truth and reconciliation and nomadic development, as well as the Darfur Reconstruction and Development Fund, have yet to be fully established and effectively functioning in Darfur.

### **Protection of civilians**

26. The integrated field protection teams of UNAMID conducted 160 visits throughout North, South and Central Darfur. In North and South Darfur, the main protection issues continued to involve the presence of armed nomads, the fear of possible crop destruction by livestock and the resulting tensions between herders and nomads.

27. In Central Darfur, protection issues included killings, abductions, sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, robbery, assaults and harassment, in particular in the areas of Golo, Nertiti and Zalingei. A total of 16 incidents involving some 100 civilians were recorded. They included the rape of six women in the Fura area, near the Thur settlement for internally displaced persons, on 5 January; the killing of an internally displaced man by two suspected Sudanese Armed Forces soldiers in the North camp, Nertiti, on 22 January; the alleged abduction of four people from the Martajalo Wadi areas by armed nomads, on 17 and 25 January; the kidnapping of five civilians from Daya village, reportedly by SLA-AW elements, on 12 January; an attack on some villagers in the Jartanga area, near Guldo, by suspected Rapid Support Forces elements, on 14 January, resulting in serious injuries to five people; the shooting and injury of a woman by a suspected SLA-AW element around Guldo, on 6 January; the assault and robbery of a group of internally displaced women, reportedly by armed nomads in Nertiti, on 6 January; a physical assault on internally displaced persons perpetrated by some nomads in the Gurney, Taringa, Osajai and Dingaguray areas, western and central Jebel Marra and

Zalingei, on 19 and 23 January; and an assault on a group of women allegedly by armed nomads who prevented them from farming in the Kolo Fugo area, on 25 January, and in the Tango area, on 26 January. The Sudanese police has been notified of the case of the two Sudanese Armed Forces soldiers in Nertiti, while the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudanese police have engaged with community leaders to seek accountability in the Jartanga attack. Local authorities in Guldo held a meeting with community leaders and resolved the conflict in the Kolo Fugo and Tango areas.

28. In South Darfur, UNAMID conducted a mission to Deribat in the East Jebel Marra locality, from 4 to 8 February, to monitor the protection situation and the impact of clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces and SLA-AW on the civilian population and observed an increase in the number of returnees to the area. The returnees and community leaders appealed for support through the provision of basic services and infrastructure, in particular in the areas of health and education.

29. The military component of UNAMID conducted a total of 6,721 patrols, 2,250 of which were for the protection of civilians. Patrols for the protection of UNAMID personnel and equipment totalled 4,275, made up of 3,918 routine patrols and 357 logistics and administrative escorts. A total of 1,387 visits to villages and 670 visits to camps for internally displaced persons were conducted during the reporting period. In providing support for the physical protection of civilians, UNAMID police conducted 3,333 patrols, including 1,300 confidence-building patrols, to camps for internally displaced persons, and 263 patrols to protect civilians gathering firewood or grass, 149 market patrols, 929 village patrols, 555 town patrols, 77 area of return patrols and 60 migration route patrols in order to respond to the security needs of internally displaced persons, in particular women and children engaged in livelihood activities outside camps for internally displaced persons. Formed police units provided 63 humanitarian escorts to personnel from the World Food Programme, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Children's Fund and UNAMID.

30. During the reporting period, UNAMID held a total of 42 security coordination meetings with the Sudanese police, non-governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, representatives of internally displaced persons and community leaders. Meetings were focused on community policing initiatives and enabling the Sudanese police to provide security in camps for internally displaced persons and surrounding communities. On 13 January, UNAMID handed over the newly constructed Um Kalool police station in West Darfur, and the construction of other similar projects is ongoing in North, Central and South Darfur. In addition, the mission held a workshop on the recycling of waste for purposes of generating income for 25 female internally displaced women in Kutum, on 6 January, and offered four workshops to 120 female Sudanese police officers in Zalingei, on 10 January, on the issue of respecting human rights during arrest and detention. The meetings have encouraged the community to support the implementation of community policing initiatives and enhanced safety and security in camps for internally displaced persons and the surrounding communities.

31. UNAMID continued to support the re-establishment of the criminal justice chain in areas of return, with the rehabilitation of a rural court in Tawilla and the construction of a district court, three rural courts, a land registry and prison dormitories for male and female prisoners in Kabkabiyah, both in North Darfur. UNAMID also completed infrastructure work to improve security at the prisons in Kutum, North Darfur, and Ed Daein, East Darfur. Training was also conducted for more than 500 law enforcement officials and social workers in the various states of the Sudan on the issues of child rights, justice for children and child-friendly interviewing practices.

32. During the reporting period, UNAMID collaborated with the Sudanese judiciary to organize mediation training for 25 rural court judges in East Darfur on the peaceful resolution of local disputes, including intercommunal conflict. Further capacity-building support was provided in collaboration with the General Directorate of Prisons and Reform, through training on human rights and prison duties for 59 newly recruited prison staff, including 9 women, in North Darfur. In order to promote better police-prosecutor cooperation in the greater Jebel Marra area, with a view to tackling crime, including violence against women, UNAMID supported a consultation with the judiciary, the Sudanese police and the Prosecution Office in Zalingei to develop training for police investigators and prosecutors, including prosecutors in the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Darfur Crimes. In addition, UNAMID completed and handed over an office building to the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Darfur Crimes in El Geneina, in West Darfur. The mission also organized a trial-monitoring workshop for 25 participants, including women drawn from civil society groups in Zalingei, aimed at strengthening their capacity to monitor criminal trials following the departure of UNAMID. Such support will enhance their capacity for the peaceful resolution of local disputes, including intercommunal conflicts.

33. During the reporting period, five accidents involving unexploded ordnance, resulting in the death of 2 children and severe injury to 10 others, were recorded in Mellit and Umm Barru, in North Darfur, Bindisi and Zalingei, in Central Darfur and Kass, in South Darfur. In a total of 57 villages across Darfur, UNAMID mine action teams cleared 22 hazardous areas, located and safely destroyed 2,610 items of unexploded ordnance (including shelf-life expired ordnance) and disposed of 63,216 pieces of small arms ammunition. In addition, UNAMID provided risk awareness information on the explosive remnants of war to 31,516 individuals, including 4,050 women, 3,322 men, 10,893 girls and 13,251 boys.

34. UNAMID continued to provide support to strengthen the capacities of local authorities to institutionalize and promote the national ownership of child protection within the security forces. Accordingly, in North Darfur, 59 prison police officers, including 9 women, were trained on child protection and child rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child during the reporting period. UNAMID also continued to monitor and report on incidents of grave violations against children under the monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict pursuant to Security Council resolution [1612 \(2005\)](#).

35. Sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, remains a serious concern for women in the greater Jebel Marra area. UNAMID has documented incidents of the rape of four displaced minors, including those of a 15-year-old girl from the Kasab internally displaced persons camp by two Sudanese police personnel; of two girls (16 and 17 years of age), residents of the Zamzam internally displaced persons camp, and of a girl (13 years of age), from the Hamadiya internally displaced persons camp, who was raped by two armed men, all in North Darfur. It was also reported that, on 1 February, a 13-year-old girl from the Rongatas internally displaced persons camp, in Zalingei, was gang-raped by four armed nomads at a farm. The freedom of movement for women and girls in areas of return and around camps for internally displaced persons continued to be restricted, including access to farms and forest resources. In the Hamadiya internally displaced persons camp, in Central Darfur, local sources informed UNAMID of six women from the camp who had reportedly been “arrested” on 4 February by four armed nomads in the Uyor area, near Zalingei. UNAMID increased targeted patrols as a preventive measure, focusing on farming areas as well as firewood and water collection points, in order to protect women carrying out livelihood activities.

### **Mediation of intercommunal conflict**

36. The active engagement of State and local authorities and the native administration has contributed to a significant decline in intercommunal conflict in Darfur since mid-2015. UNAMID supported community stabilization projects that were focused on improving access to basic services, preventing the recruitment of at-risk young people and promoting local capacity-building, including 24 community projects in the Jebel Marra area with on-the-job training aimed at 1,580 beneficiaries.

37. UNAMID also continued to support mediation efforts through facilitation and capacity-building for local authorities and communities. In support of efforts to improve relations among internally displaced persons, host communities and the local authorities, UNAMID conducted 28 meetings with leaders of internally displaced persons from North and Central Darfur from 14 to 30 January and from 3 to 11 February. Meetings were also held with locality commissioners and local security committees to discuss the security-related concerns of internally displaced persons, in particular women and girls. Women leaders of internally displaced persons requested more income-generating initiatives and trainings on alternative sources of income for women in camps for internally displaced persons. Youth representatives called for access to vocational training to prevent the recruitment of young people into criminality as a result of high unemployment and economic hardship.

## **VII. Implementation of the reconfiguration of the mission**

### **Uniformed personnel drawdown**

38. In accordance with the timetable to reduce the military component from 5,470 to 4,050 personnel by 30 June 2019, the repatriation of 350 Nepalese troops was completed in January. The size of the UNAMID police force also decreased from 2,500 to 2,283 personnel, with the force retaining 754 individual police officers and 1,529 members of formed police units. The relocation of the Indonesian formed police unit to the temporary operating base in Golo, previously suspended owing to construction in Golo, commenced on 27 February. UNAMID police advisers have been deployed to State liaison functions established in North Darfur, South Darfur, East Darfur, West Darfur and Khartoum and are also co-located with the Sudanese police.

### **Implementation of the transition concept**

39. As UNAMID continues preparations for its withdrawal in 2020 in accordance with Security Council resolution [2429 \(2018\)](#), the mission and the United Nations country team continue to implement the mission's transition strategy. In this regard, \$15 million was allocated to State liaison functions, in the 2018/19 UNAMID budget, for the joint implementation of programmatic activities with 10 individual United Nations country team entities, mainly in the areas of the rule of law, human rights and resilience and durable solutions for internally displaced persons and host communities. All 10 memorandums of understanding between the mission and the individual country team entities have been signed to implement the transition plan and allow UNAMID staff to be co-located in their offices in four Darfur State capitals. Thus far, 40 staff members, 20 international and 20 national, have been accommodated within the State liaison functions in El Fasher, Nyala, Ed Daein and El Geneina, out of a total of 61 staff members, 39 international and 22 national, to be deployed, which would include 49 substantive posts, 4 Government-provided personnel and 8 individual police officers. State liaison function-related activities in human rights and the rule of law have begun, including infrastructure upgrades, the operationalization of the mobile human rights monitoring team and the conduct of

training programmes on fair trial standards and the administration of justice, for justice, prison, police and civil society actors to serve communities in return areas. UNAMID staff integrated into the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have expanded protection monitoring to areas of return and areas from which UNAMID has withdrawn. The United Nations Development Programme and UNAMID have adjusted conflict prevention projects in order to improve the targeting and sustainability thereof after the mission's eventual exit. UNAMID staff members are also supporting the United Nations Population Fund by strengthening the prevention of, and the response to, gender-based violence, including through community-based mechanisms.

40. Through the State liaison functions, the United Nations country team and UNAMID have started to monitor the impact of the withdrawal of UNAMID from 10 team sites in 2018, pursuant to the mission's drawdown plan. Monitoring will continue, but early indications from those areas suggest a need to strengthen the rule of law, human rights and protective mechanisms and to assess the impact of the economic crisis on the most vulnerable segments of the population, in particular internally displaced persons and returnees.

## VIII. Observations

41. While the national dynamics in the Sudan remain in a state of flux, the trajectory in Darfur remains relatively unchanged, with the Sudanese military and police personnel maintaining security in urban areas, local authorities managing intercommunal tensions and internally displaced persons gradually returning, except for several hotspots in the greater Jebel Marra area. The trend demonstrates not only the resilience of the communities in Darfur but also the stabilizing impact of UNAMID. Nevertheless, the ongoing political and economic uncertainty pose a number of challenges for a responsible exit of the peacekeeping mission and a transition to peacebuilding, including the question of interlocutors at the national and local levels of the government for joint planning and oversight, which will be critical for the national ownership and sustainability of the process. In addition, the mobilization of resources for a seamless transition, from domestic and international sources, will be complicated under current emergency measures.

42. In that same view, I regret the impact of the declaration of a state of emergency in the Sudan on peace talks between the Government and some of the non-signatory movements to the Doha Documents for Peace in Darfur, which did not resume in January in Doha, as agreed in the pre-negotiation agreement signed on 6 December in Berlin. This represents a missed opportunity to maintain the momentum generated by that agreement. Similarly, the announcement of the Sudan Call alliance to withdraw from the Roadmap Agreement for Ending the Conflicts in Sudan is also unfortunate. The problems in Darfur can only be solved through a peaceful and inclusive political process. I reiterate my call for the Government of the Sudan and the non-signatory movements to redouble their efforts and commence negotiations towards a permanent cessation of hostilities and a comprehensive peace agreement. In this regard, I welcome the Government's declaration of an open-ended cessation of hostilities in Darfur and the Two Areas, as well as the three-month extension of the cessation of hostilities by the Sudanese Revolutionary Front, but am concerned that the recent announcement of a state of emergency throughout the Sudan could have a negative impact on the peace process by restricting the rights of citizens to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.

43. Similarly, I remain concerned about the continued intermittent clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the SLA-AW faction in the Jebel Marra, and the

civilian casualties and displacement that it has caused. In this context, the moderate increase in SLA-AW attacks against the Sudanese Armed Forces and continuing reports of infighting within the armed group during the reporting period are unwelcome developments. I call upon both parties to abandon violence and enter immediately into political dialogue. I repeat the calls for Abdul Wahid al-Nur to join the peace process on the basis of the Doha Document. I also appeal to the Government of the Sudan to ensure that access is consistently granted for UNAMID and its humanitarian partners to deliver protection and aid to those affected by the conflict.

44. Many of the drivers of the conflict have yet to be addressed comprehensively. While the overall reduction in serious intercommunal conflict is evidence of the progress that has been achieved, UNAMID continues to work with national and local authorities, as well as the United Nations country team and other partners, to facilitate mediation and address the underlying issues regarding access to land and resources. It is also critical that ways be found to address the plight of the more than 1.6 million internally displaced persons still living in camps throughout Darfur, and I call upon the Government to intensify efforts to ensure the safety and security of internally displaced persons across Darfur, while seeking durable solutions to their long-standing displacement by creating the conditions for their safe, dignified and voluntary return. Ongoing human rights violations, in particular sexual and gender-based violence, including those violations reportedly perpetrated by Government security personnel, continue to be of grave concern and an obstacle to lasting peace.

45. As the African Union and the United Nations begin the transition of their presence in Darfur from peacekeeping towards peacebuilding and development, we rely on our partners to help us to ensure success. I am grateful to the Sudanese authorities for their continued collaboration during the reconfiguration of UNAMID, and it is critical that national and local ownership be central to our continuing support for Darfur. Similarly, I am thankful for the valuable support provided by Security Council members, troop- and police-contributing countries and other donors. As UNAMID prepares for its exit, and as the efforts of the African Union and the United Nations shift to address the changing needs of the Darfuri people and seek to prevent a relapse of conflict, we call upon our partners to renew their support. I urge members of the international community to step forward to ensure adequate resources are provided for this critical work both during and after the transition.

46. In conclusion, I wish to express my gratitude to the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative, Jeremiah Mamabolo, the mission leadership and all UNAMID personnel, the United Nations country team and the humanitarian partners for their dedicated work for peace and development in Darfur. I also wish to commend the former President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, the former President of Nigeria, Abdulsalami Abubakar, and the former Commissioner of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, Ramtane Lamamra, for their continued efforts towards sustainable peace in the Sudan.

