



Security Council

Distr.: General
27 September 2024

Original: English

Situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution [2705 \(2023\)](#) and to resolution [2748 \(2024\)](#), contains updates on the implementation of those resolutions, including on the mandates of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) – covering progress achieved against the benchmarks identified by the strategic review – and of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS). The report covers significant developments from 24 May to 20 September 2024.

2. In a letter dated 16 May 2024 addressed to the Permanent Representative of Somalia, the Security Council requested the United Nations to engage promptly with the Federal Government of Somalia to determine the modalities and timeline for the transition of UNSOM and to provide a written update to the Council by the end of August 2024. A Joint Technical Committee consisting of representatives of the United Nations and the Federal Government was established in early June and subsequently convened on several occasions throughout July and August to discuss the timelines and modalities for the transition process. In a letter dated 30 August addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General provided an update on the discussions and transmitted a proposal of the Federal Government concerning the transition.

3. On 1 August 2024, the African Union Peace and Security Council adopted the strategic concept of operations for the post-African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) mission in Somalia led by the African Union, to be known as the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM). Subsequently, on 15 August, the Security Council adopted resolution [2748 \(2024\)](#) by which it extended the authorization of ATMIS until 31 December 2024 and, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General, jointly with the African Union Commission Chairperson and in consultation with Somalia and international stakeholders, to report on the overall mission design for the proposed successor mission by 15 November 2024. Discussions are currently under way on the various aspects of the mission design, as requested by the Security Council.



II. Political, security and economic overview

A. Political developments

4. On 6 July, the President of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, opened the fifth session of the Federal Parliament. Addressing a joint sitting of the House of the People and the Senate, the President commended the Federal Parliament for its successful review of the first four chapters of the Provisional Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia. He outlined that the priority for the forthcoming parliamentary session would be laws related to the democratization of Somalia, namely, addressing elections, political parties, human rights and the judiciary. He reiterated the commitment of his Government to lead the country to direct, free elections.

5. On 27 July, the Council of Ministers unanimously approved the draft bill establishing the Independent National Electoral and Boundaries Commission. On 8 August, the Council of Ministers further endorsed the elections bill and the political parties and organizations bill.

6. On 27 July, the Prime Minister, Hamza Abdi Barre, appointed four new cabinet members, including Bashir Mohamed Jama “Goobe” as the Minister for Family and Human Rights Development (previously called the Minister for Women and Human Rights Development); Omar Ali Abdi as the State Minister for Defence; Said Mohamed Mohamud as the State Minister for Labour and Housing; and Mohamud Abdikadir Haji as the Deputy Minister for Youth and Sports.

7. On 15 June in Garoowe, the President of Puntland, Said Abdullahi Deni, opened the fifty-fourth session of the Puntland House of Representatives. During his opening remarks, President Deni stated that Puntland was ready to engage in a direct dialogue with the Federal Government on issues relating to the national strategic priorities of Somalia, including fiscal federalism, the national security architecture, resource- and power-sharing, and the national justice model. President Mohamud has also expressed his willingness to engage in a dialogue with Puntland.

8. On 23 July, the Puntland Electoral Commission conducted one-person-one-vote elections for the district councils in the remaining three districts in Nugal region, namely, Garoowe, Dangoroyo and Godobjiiraan. Eight political parties, including the ruling Kaah Party, competed for 81 seats, with women winning 10 seats (13 per cent).

9. On 2 July, the Jubbaland State Assembly amended the Jubbaland Provisional Constitution and removed article 70, which restricted state Presidents to two terms of four years in office, and introduced a revised article 65, amending the presidential term from four to five years and eliminating term limits for the presidency. The Jubbaland opposition criticized the changes and called for the reinstatement of previous constitutional provisions.

10. On 1 July, at the invitation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, Hakan Fidan, proximity talks were held in Ankara between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, Taye Atske Selassie, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia, Ahmed Moallim Fiqi. The two parties reiterated their commitment to a peaceful resolution of differences and expressed their appreciation to Türkiye for its facilitation. The Ministers agreed to pursue dialogue with a view to resolving their issues and ensuring regional stability. The second round of talks took place in Ankara on 12 August.

B. Security developments

11. The Somali authorities announced that operations to counter Al-Shabaab had been conducted in the Banaadir region and in Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubbaland and South-West States during the reporting period. In June and July, federal and state forces were able to retake territory and subsequently repel Al-Shabaab attacks in the villages of Harbolle and Bulo Haji, Lower Juba region.

12. During the reporting period, a total of 850 security incidents were recorded, including 126 attacks involving improvised explosive devices, resulting in at least 670 casualties. Incidents of inter-clan violence were reported in South-West, Jubbaland and Galmudug States.

13. Al-Shabaab carried out four indirect gunfire attacks in Baidoa and one attack in Mogadishu during the period. On 13 June, six 82-mm rounds were fired toward the Baidoa airport, several of which landed within the United Nations compound. On 1 July, four 82-mm rounds landed around the Baidoa regional hospital. On 20 August, Al-Shabaab launched at least four 107-mm rockets at the United Nations compound, landing in the vicinity of the runway. On 1 September, six 107-mm rockets were launched at the ATMIS protected area. One rocket struck the United Nations compound. None of the attacks resulted in casualties. On 5 September, five 107-mm rockets were fired towards the Aden Adde International Airport in Mogadishu.

14. On 8 June, Al-Shabaab attacked three Somali National Army forward operating bases close to Ceel Dheere, Galmudug, using two vehicle-borne and one person-borne improvised explosive devices. On 30 June, an Al-Shabaab suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device was detonated at a Somali National Army checkpoint in Beledweyne, Hirshabelle, killing four people and injuring eight. In Mogadishu, Al-Shabaab detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device at a coffee shop broadcasting a football match on 14 July, killing 9 and injuring 22. On 21 August, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device targeted a checkpoint at the entrance gate of the National Intelligence and Security Agency in Garasbaley district, killing two soldiers and three civilians.

15. On 15 July, the Federal Government announced that it had seized two truckloads of weapons and ammunition that had been smuggled into the country. The same day, in Abudwak district, Galmudug, near the border with Ethiopia, clan militia attacked the Government-escorted convoy and looted the consignment. The attack resulted in several casualties from both sides. On 18 July, the National Security Council imposed a ban on the trade of or any other business related to weapons and ammunition within Somalia by non-State actors, in accordance with existing legal frameworks. The Council of Ministers of the Federal Government unanimously endorsed these measures. An investigation into the attack is ongoing.

16. On 2 August, the popular Lido Beach area in Mogadishu suffered a complex attack by Al-Shabaab, which targeted civilians. The attackers detonated a person-borne improvised explosive device while others fired indiscriminately into crowds. The group also attempted to detonate a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in a hotel car park, but this was intercepted by security. At least 37 people were killed and almost 250 injured in the complex attack, including two United Nations national staff. On 14 September, 6 civilians were killed and at least 14 injured when two improvised explosive devices exploded in Kahda district, on the outskirts of Mogadishu.

C. Economic developments

17. On 29 May, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund completed the first review of the Extended Credit Facility arrangement for Somalia, resulting in the disbursement of approximately \$10 million in budget support. This brought the total disbursement for Somalia under the Extended Credit Facility to about \$50 million.

18. In June, the World Bank projected that the gross domestic product (GDP) of Somalia would grow by 3.7 per cent in 2024, accelerating from 3.1 per cent in 2023, in part due to improved agricultural production following the prolonged drought in the period 2022–2023 and increased private consumption and investment. Inflation decreased from 6.1 per cent in 2023 to 4.8 per cent in 2024, with minimal food price inflation.

19. On 11 July, the Council of Ministers approved the draft income tax bill, which aims to diversify revenue streams. Projections for 2024 foresee a slight increase in domestic revenues to \$346.2 million, which represents 2.8 per cent of GDP. Expenditure in the first quarter exceeded revenue by approximately \$8 million, affirming the projected overall fiscal deficit of 0.5 per cent of the country's GDP for 2024.

20. On 15 July, the Ministry of Finance released the financial governance report, which includes 10 years of significant achievements, including in domestic revenue mobilization, public financial management and good governance. On the same day, the Financial Governance Committee convened, with its members noting the importance of the current constitutional review process in consolidating ongoing fiscal reforms and ensuring an equitable approach to natural resource-sharing.

III. Update on the activities of the Mission and the United Nations country team

A. Support for political processes

21. During the reporting period, the United Nations continued to provide technical, financial and logistical support on reconciliation efforts. On 6 July, the United Nations supported the governments of Puntland and Galmudug to hold a reconciliation meeting to resolve intra-clan conflicts. The United Nations supported the efforts of the Galmudug State Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation to strengthen the ceasefire between the Sacad and Leelkase clans by encouraging inter-clan dialogue. Key activities included convening a committee of key stakeholders to facilitate dialogue and achieve consensus on disputed lands through collaborative agreements with Galmudug State. The United Nations also supported the response to the escalating inter-clan conflict and other related communal tensions in Luuq Gedo region. With the support of UNSOM and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Jubbaland authorities dispatched a high-level government delegation to Luuq district to facilitate reconciliation processes and restore peace and stability in the region.

22. UNSOM provided technical support to the federal Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation in drafting the electoral legal framework, including the bills to establish the Elections Law, the Political Parties and Associations Law and the Independent National Electoral and Boundaries Commission Law. The three bills were adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers on 16 July and 8 August and are in the process of being shared with the Federal Parliament for debate during the current session.

UNSOM further organized workshops on electoral systems and temporary special measures, including consolidation of the minimum 30 per cent quota for women, for representatives from civil society organizations. UNSOM also organized meetings with representatives of the Somali Bantu community to address possible measures to enhance the participation of underrepresented groups in the electoral process.

23. UNSOM and UNDP supported national consultations at the federal, state and district levels for the review process of chapters 5 to 9 of the Provisional Constitution. Consultations were held in July, August and September. During July and August, 14 consultations with representatives of institutions of different levels of the government, civil society, women, young people and communities in Jubbaland, South-West, Hirshabelle Galmudug States and Banaadir region were organized.

24. From 7 to 14 July, in Baidoa, South-West State, UNSOM and UNDP supported a workshop for experts to develop the operational manual of the conflict navigator platform, a tool to map, plan and track conflicts and interventions related to conflict prevention. Workshop participants included national and international stakeholders involved in reconciliation, peacebuilding, social cohesion and related areas, who jointly reviewed and finalized the platform's operational framework.

25. From 23 to 26 July, UNSOM and UNDP provided support for a strategic planning workshop, bringing together stakeholders from the Federal Government, federal member states and international partners to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the implementation of the National Reconciliation Framework. The five-year strategic plan will provide a road map for the Federal Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, relevant federal ministries and federal member states' line entities to prioritize and implement key activities over the next five years, from 2024 to 2029.

B. Support for the security sector, rule of law and stabilization

1. Security sector development

26. UNSOM continued to support the Federal Government in the implementation of the Somali Security Development Plan and the building of local rule-of-law capacity. In June and July, through a project on building accountable and sustainable security in Somalia, in collaboration with the Federal Government Office of National Security, UNSOM and UNDP conducted workshops in Kismaayo, Baidoa, Dhuusamarreeb and Jawhar to provide training on developing community threat assessments to state ministries of internal security and other line ministries and security offices.

27. UNSOM continued to examine the affordability of the provision of security in a federated political model. In May, the United Nations provided technical support for the analysis undertaken by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces on the estimated cost to implement the security sector development plan. The report will inform efforts to implement the updated national security architecture adopted by the National Consultative Council in March 2023.

28. The capability and operational steering group, convened by the Somali National Army and co-chaired by UNSOM and the European Union Training Mission, continued to meet on a monthly basis to enhance training coordination and support the implementation of the security sector development plan. A presidential decree establishing four new specialized Somali National Army commands was issued in July, marking a significant step towards institutional reform and improved capacity within the Somali National Army.

2. Rule of law

29. UNSOM supported the ongoing justice sector dialogue in preparation for the parliamentary review of the judicial authority chapter of the Provisional Constitution. Between 13 and 16 July, UNSOM and UNDP facilitated a leadership workshop with the federal Minister for Justice and all federal member state Ministers for Justice, Attorneys General and Chief Justices (with the exception of Puntland) in Kismaayo to address critical challenges within the justice system and focus on strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation, decision-making and effective communication. The workshop prepared participants for the finalization of the justice and corrections model to ensure its alignment with the proposed federated judicial architecture, including the demilitarization of the Custodial Corps. In addition, UNSOM and UNDP supported consultations with 450 participants in Banaadir, Kismaayo, Dhuusamarreeb, Beledweyne and Baidoa to develop the country's first justice sector strategic plan, for the period 2025–2030.

30. During the reporting period, discussions on a demilitarized corrections model continued at the technical level. At the request of the Parliamentary Committee for Prisons, UNSOM provided input to the Committee's report on prison security and conditions. UNSOM also supported four training sessions with 96 justice and corrections staff (26 women and 70 men) and shared a series of assessments of Jubbaland, Banaadir and national prisons with counterparts. Through the Joint Justice and Corrections Programme, UNSOM and UNDP supported 12 training sessions with 600 participants from community and justice institutions in Baidoa, Hudur, Kismaayo, Beledweyne, Dhuusamarreeb and newly recovered areas. The programme provided capacity support for alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and community justice centres, which provided justice services in 200 cases.

31. In order to enhance policing capabilities and implement the new policing model, UNSOM drafted a standard operating procedure for responding to and investigating gender-based violence cases for the Jubbaland state police and conducted workshops in Baidoa, Kismaayo, Garowe, Mogadishu and Jowhar.

3. Stabilization

32. The national stabilization forum, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and organized by the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, was held on 28 July. The event was attended by federal line ministries and institutions, state ministries of interior, as well as donors and stabilization partners. In presentations, the Government reviewed the progress achieved one year after the launch of the stabilization plan and drew upon lessons learned to set out the stabilization priorities of the Government. In advance, the Ministry hosted the early recovery working group on 6 June and the stabilization communication task force on 27 June, and co-hosted a stabilization learning event with the Galmudug Ministry of Interior between 2 and 5 July. Collectively, those events shared best practices to advance district-level priorities and communication efforts to counter Al-Shabaab narratives.

4. Preventing and countering violent extremism

33. UNSOM continued to provide support towards a comprehensive approach to dealing with armed groups in Somalia. Together with the Tubsan National Centre for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, UNSOM continued to support disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts. In June and July, joint sensitization workshops – attended by 70 representatives from state authorities, security providers, civil society organizations, and women and youth associations – were conducted in Baidoa and Kismaayo to strengthen the coexistence between defectors and communities during the rehabilitation and reintegration process of

former Al-Shabaab associates, to address conditions conducive to extremism and to promote peace, stability and social cohesion.

34. On 30 June, the International Organization for Migration successfully handed over the technical and financial oversight of five transitional rehabilitation centres in Mogadishu, Kismaayo and Baidoa to the Tubsan National Centre for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism. At the time of handover, 450 low-risk individuals formerly associated with Al-Shabaab, including 166 females and 284 males, were registered and supported at the five centres.

C. Humanitarian assistance

35. The humanitarian crisis in Somalia remains dire due to recurrent and intensifying climate shocks, conflicts, disease outbreaks and widespread poverty. The conditions have led to water scarcity, diminished crop yields, displacement and the proliferation of diseases. The 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan indicates that the number of people in need decreased by 17 per cent, from 8.3 million in 2023 to 6.9 million in 2024, which is above the five-year average of 6.8 million.

36. Acute food insecurity persisted but showed some improvements in comparison to 2023. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification analysis projects that, in 2024, 4 million people face crisis or emergency food insecurity and an estimated 1.7 million children aged 6 to 59 months face acute malnutrition. The findings show an improvement in food security compared with the same period in 2023, when approximately 5 million people were classified under Classification Phase 3 or worse, owing to protracted drought.

37. The April to June *gu* rainy season ended early, in mid-May. This year, it affected 268,000 people, displacing about 81,000, killing 9 and inundating property and agricultural land. Most of those displaced have returned to their homes. Humanitarians reached at least 201,000 affected people in 36 districts. The rains regenerated pasture, refilled water points and enhanced farming activities, but following a dry spell from mid-May, widespread dryness continued in early June, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network. Anticipatory action programmes piloted by the World Food Programme (WFP) reached 80,000 people with cash-based assistance, totalling \$1 million by the end of the rainy season, to prepare and prevent the loss of livelihoods.

38. Poor sanitation and low access to safe drinking water, especially at sites for displaced people, triggered a spike in acute watery diarrhoea/cholera cases. During the reporting period, 6,462 cholera cases were reported, including 21 deaths, with a case-fatality rate of 0.3, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), including in the Banaadir region, where Somalia has experienced uninterrupted cholera transmission since 2017. The spread of the disease is fuelled by seasonal rains and floods.

39. More than 3.8 million people are internally displaced in Somalia, with 202,000 displaced during the reporting period. Displacement due to clan violence remains widespread, notably in Galgaduud, Mudug and Gedo regions. Women and children, who face risks of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and evictions, constitute more than 80 per cent of the displaced people in Somalia. Forced eviction of displaced people continues; at least 30,000 people were forcefully evicted from May to September, 64 per cent of whom in Banaadir region.

40. Humanitarian partners provided services for the prevention of gender-based violence, as well as risk mitigation and response in emergencies. Interventions targeted 1,610 people with treatment for intimate partner violence and clinical

management of survivors of rape, and 1,636 beneficiaries received conditional cash transfers. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supported 12 midwifery-led care facilities, three mobile maternity clinics and 11 emergency obstetric and newborn care facilities, reaching over 27,755 women of reproductive age in internally displaced and host communities.

41. Access to people in need of humanitarian assistance is a major challenge due to insecurity, bureaucratic hurdles and conflict. From 24 May to 17 September, 75 access incidents were documented and 36 out of 74 districts were either hard or extremely hard to reach. In addition, humanitarian staff are regularly exposed to violence directly or indirectly, with 23 incidents of violence against aid workers recorded. Ahead of the drawdown of ATMIS and the anticipated transition to an African Union successor mission, the humanitarian community has initiated dedicated scenario planning to ensure its ability to stay and deliver within the potential of a changed security context.

42. Humanitarian partners continued to provide life-saving assistance despite low funding. As at 23 September, the 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, which requires \$1.6 billion to respond to the needs of the 5.2 million most vulnerable people in Somalia, was 37.1 per cent funded, and humanitarian partners had been able to reach 1.63 million with assistance. The Somalia Humanitarian Fund managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs allocated \$25 million to priority districts whose intersectoral severity of needs had deteriorated from “severe” to “extreme”. In addition, \$2 million was allocated by the Central Emergency Response Fund for cholera response in hotspot locations in Somalia.

43. The humanitarian country team, together with the federal and state governments, strengthened measures to deter interferences in the delivery of aid and diversion. The team worked closely with the authorities, donors and communities to ensure that all aid reaches its intended recipients through improved targeting, beneficiary identification and registration and data-sharing among humanitarian partners. Sustained investments in anti-fraud and anti-corruption measures are needed to strengthen national and subnational capabilities to prevent and respond to fraud incidents.

D. Support for coordination of development assistance

44. On 2 July, the federal Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development and the United Nations held the second meeting of the Joint Steering Committee of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, in Mogadishu. Participants highlighted the importance of the efficient and transparent use of resources and encouraged the use of government-produced and verified data from the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics.

45. On 21 and 22 July, the National Economic Council held an inception workshop for phase III of the development of the Centennial Vision 2060, which was attended by 100 participants from the Federal Government; federal member states; development partners, including the United Nations and the World Bank; civil society organizations; the private sector; the media; academia; and research institutions. The workshop offered an in-depth assessment of various areas, including governance, human capital development, the productive sector, infrastructure, trade, regional integration and private sector-led growth. It reaffirmed the importance of working collaboratively to finalize Vision 2060.

46. Following the visit of representatives from the Green Climate Fund to Somalia in March and their pledge of \$100 million, a series of local-level stakeholder consultation workshops (with 460 participants) were held to support the preparation

of local climate adaptation plans covering all federal member states in Somalia. Furthermore, WFP is actively engaging in climate-smart interventions, supporting livestock, farming systems, environmental education and income generation that have shown positive results in Galmudug and Puntland.

47. On 4 September, the Federal Government launched a national solutions pathways action plan to find durable solutions for 1 million internally displaced people in alignment with the National Durable Solutions Strategy, the national development plan, the national transformation plan and the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement.

E. Women and peace and security

48. On 3 June, UNSOM met with women leaders of civil society organizations to discuss the inclusion and participation of women on issues relating to women, climate, and peace and security. Women leaders expressed their frustration at being often excluded on matters that have a significant impact on them. The participants agreed to continue advocacy efforts with the Somali authorities for women's inclusion and the adoption of gender-sensitive preventive measures to combat the worsening impact of climate change and the reduction of livelihood options.

49. From 10 June to 8 July, female members of the Federal Parliament, supported by the Women, Peace and Protection Joint Programme, including UNDP, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and UNSOM, visited Dhuusamarreeb, Kismaayo and Baidoa, as well as Sool, Sanaag and Cayn regions, to lobby women civil society organization leaders, traditional elders and government officials to advocate for a minimum 30 per cent quota for women in elected positions and appointed bodies in state institutions.

50. On 17 July, the civil society reference group, supported by the United Nations, convened a forum in which more than 100 women participated. The forum aimed to evaluate peacebuilding efforts and women's empowerment activities led by women's networks in the Banaadir region. Participants raised concerns about the limited number of women currently in the Federal Parliament. They warned that the number could decrease after the next elections if a minimum 30 per cent quota for women was not enacted in legislation with a clear electoral process to ensure actual implementation. The forum resolved to continue to advocate for the establishment of a mechanism to achieve a minimum of 30 per cent quota for women when the new elections-related legislation is enacted.

F. Youth and peace and security

51. In partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Women and UNSOM participated in a workshop by the Federal Government to develop a comprehensive national action plan on youth and peace and security on 24 June.

52. On 30 June, UNFPA supported the Mogadishu technology summit to showcase the innovation and entrepreneurial spirit of young Somali people. The summit provided a platform for young innovators to present technological solutions to the country's challenges. The event underscored the crucial role of technology and innovation in peacebuilding and development, emphasizing the importance of supporting youth-led ventures to foster economic growth and stability.

53. On 13 August, the Office of Counter-Terrorism conducted a national policy dialogue with Somali youth as part of the youth engagement and empowerment

programme, which aims at increasing the resilience of young people against violent extremism by raising awareness and empowering them to contribute to a peaceful and stable society.

G. Human rights and protection

1. Human rights

54. UNSOM recorded 514 civilian casualties (149 killed and 365 injured) during the reporting period, a 69 per cent increase compared with the 304 civilian casualties recorded during the previous period. Al-Shabaab remained the main perpetrator, responsible for 378 civilian casualties (74 per cent of all recorded casualties), followed by 66 attributed to unidentified elements, 44 to clan militia and 26 to the Somali security forces. Al-Shabaab stepped up its attacks in June, July and August, resulting in an increase in civilian casualties attributed to the group by 367 per cent, compared with the 182 recorded during the previous period (25 January–23 May).

55. Authorities arrested and detained six individuals exercising their right of freedom of expression, including five journalists (all male) for their reports and comments on issues of public interest. Two incidents occurred in “Somaliland” and one each in Jubbaland, Puntland, Galmudug and Mogadishu. Four of the five journalists were released without charges. The fifth was brought before a court in Mogadishu and later released on bail while the investigation is still ongoing. In “Somaliland”, on 20 June, the Police Force arrested and detained a member of the opposition political party, Waddani, for allegedly circulating false information against “Somaliland” on social media and later released him on bail on medical grounds on 1 July.

56. On 31 July, the House of the People of the Federal Parliament passed the national disability protection bill into law, prohibiting the discrimination against persons with disabilities in all areas of public and private life and eliminating barriers towards the full enjoyment of their rights and inclusion in society.

2. Compliance with the human rights due diligence policy

57. On 20 July in Mogadishu, ATMIS announced that it had launched an investigation into the killing of two male civilians and injury to another in Buulo Mareer village, Marka district, Lower Shabelle, on 17 July. It also stated that the outcome of the investigation would be made public. The United Nations continues to engage with ATMIS on the reported incidents in line with the established practice in the context of the human rights due diligence policy.

58. On 24 July and 6 August, the ATMIS/United Nations joint working group on the human rights due diligence policy met to discuss progress in the implementation of the ATMIS-related mitigation measures. The joint working group discussed the shared responsibilities between the United Nations and ATMIS in implementing the policy, exchanged information related to allegations of violations of international human rights law shared by the United Nations with ATMIS and agreed jointly to review the status of implementation of mitigation measures relevant to ATMIS.

59. On 26 August, the human rights due diligence policy task force in Somalia endorsed a guidance note to streamline the implementation of child protection-related mitigation measures. The note outlines the roles and responsibilities of United Nations entities providing support to non-United Nations security forces in the follow-up on the measures, including the coordination with and advocacy towards recipients of their support.

3. Children in armed conflict

60. From May to August, the country task force on monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children verified 867 grave violations affecting 756 children (521 boys, 235 girls), including 169 children (148 boys and 21 girls) affected by multiple violations. The verified violations included abduction (325), recruitment and use (263), killing and maiming (166), rape and other forms of sexual violence (100), attacks on schools and hospitals (11 incidents), and denial of humanitarian access (2 incidents). Al-Shabaab and unknown perpetrators continue to be responsible for most violations, representing 74 and 19 per cent, respectively. In total, 4 per cent of violations were attributed to the Somali security forces, 2 per cent to clan militia and 1 per cent to “community defence forces”.

61. In May, UNSOM worked with clan elders and state authorities in Galmudug to develop three different radio broadcasts using Somali poetry to raise awareness of the plight of children in armed conflict and the available response mechanisms.

62. In July, meetings of the children and armed conflict working groups, co-chaired by the respective Directors General of the State Ministries of Internal Security and Ministries of Women and Human Rights Development, were held in Jubbaland, South-West State, Hirshabelle and Galmudug. During the meetings, the state-level workplans were approved to advance the implementation of the 2019 road map to strengthen the protection of children in armed conflict.

63. In July, UNSOM supported the establishment of local child protection community networks in Hirshabelle and Galmudug States to strengthen the community response to conflict-related impacts on children.

64. On 17 August, four young adults were executed in Galkayo, Puntland, following their convictions and death sentences for crimes they had committed when they were under the age of 18 and when they were associated with Al-Shabaab. The Puntland Age Verification Committee, including representatives from the Puntland authorities, concluded that they had been minors at the time the crimes were committed and recommended not to impose the death penalty. The United Nations continues to engage with Puntland authorities, calling for due process to be ensured for all young adults arrested for their association with armed groups when they were below the age of 18 years, in line with the Puntland Juvenile Justice Act and the State’s international human rights obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

4. Prevention of sexual and gender-based violence

65. During the reporting period, UNSOM verified five incidents in which conflict-related sexual violence was committed against 20 survivors: three incidents of gang rape, the 12 survivors of which were internally displaced women; 7 girls who were going to be forcibly married to Al-Shabaab members; and one incident involving a pregnant woman who was reportedly raped by a member of the Somali National Army. The first incident of gang rape involved five survivors; the second involved four survivors; and the third involved three survivors. The women were reportedly gang-raped as they were fetching firewood. They did not report the rapes for fear of reprisals and did not receive any medical support. The fourth incident was recorded in Mogadishu and involved seven girls, aged between 14 and 17 years, who were trafficked from Bay region and intercepted in Mogadishu on 16 July as they were to be transported to Galgaduud region for forced marriages to Al-Shabaab members. On 21 August, the girls appeared before the first instance military court in Mogadishu for their alleged affiliation with Al-Shabaab, which ordered their release and transfer to a rehabilitation centre the same day. The fifth incident occurred on 4 September in Beledweyne district, Hiran region, when a member of the Somali National Army

allegedly raped a pregnant woman. The case was reported to the police, and the alleged perpetrator was arrested. The survivor received medical assistance.

66. In a positive step in the fight against impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence, on 24 June, the President of “Somaliland” issued a presidential decree formalizing the implementation of a cabinet resolution adopted on 13 June to prosecute rape cases through the formal court system rather than the traditional system. The decree directed that the formal courts would be the only authorized institutions to deal with rape cases and directed the Police Commissioner and the Attorney General to ensure that those accused of committing rape are brought before the formal courts.

67. On 25 June, UNSOM convened the second quarterly meeting of the technical working group on monitoring analysis and reporting arrangements. Participants reviewed the trends and patterns of conflict-related sexual violence for the first quarter of the year and agreed to prioritize implementation of the recommendations in the joint UNSOM/Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights public report entitled “Tackling sexual violence in Somalia: prevention and protection”,¹ published on 7 May 2024.

68. The Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development in South-West State, with the support of UNFPA, is undertaking consultations with civil society, religious leaders, clan elders and parliamentarians towards the development of a draft bill on female genital mutilation. The bill is expected to be presented for adoption by the State Cabinet in the fourth quarter of 2024 before passage into law by the State Parliament.

69. UNFPA supported the development of the Strategy on Violence Against Women under the leadership of the federal Ministry of Family and Human Rights Development. The multisectoral Strategy has now been adopted by the government and the Ministry is taking the lead in formulating a plan of action. UNFPA also supported the development and review of the Strategy for Gender-Based Violence for Puntland State, which was recently launched in July.

H. United Nations Support Office in Somalia logistical support to the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia and Somali security forces in joint and coordinated operations

1. Support for the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia

70. During the reporting period, UNSOS continued to provide logistical support to mandated ATMIS troops across the ATMIS operational area of responsibility. Pursuant to Security Council resolution [2741 \(2024\)](#), and working through the tripartite technical committee mechanism among UNSOS, ATMIS and the Federal Government, ATMIS and the Government agreed on a revised drawdown plan for 2,000 ATMIS troops and the handover of eight forward operating bases by 30 June as part of the phase 3 drawdown of ATMIS.

71. During the reporting period, UNSOS continued to support the handover of forward operating bases from ATMIS to the Somali security forces. Five of the identified eight forward operating bases, including Bariire (Banaadir region), Abdulle Birole (Jubbaland State), Orashan (Hirshabelle State), Jowhar Town and Ceel Eglow (Hirshabelle State), which were earmarked for phase 3 of the ATMIS drawdown, were handed over by the mandated deadline of 30 June, while Maxaas forward operating

¹ Available at www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/tackling-sexual-violence-somalia-prevention-and-protection.

base (Hirshabelle State) was handed over on 4 August to the Somali security forces. Through those handovers, UNSOS also facilitated the repatriation of a total of 1,600 ATMIS troops, as at 17 September.

72. Due to logistical and operational challenges, the tripartite mechanism agreed to complete the handover of the Kuday and Burgavo forward operating bases and the associated drawdown of 400 ATMIS troops by the end of September.

73. In June, UNSOS supported the rotation of 1,705 Burundi National Defence Forces troops in ATMIS. In addition, it facilitated the repatriation of personnel from the Burundi National Defence Forces, Uganda People's Defence Forces, the Kenya Defence Forces, Ethiopian National Defence Forces and the Djibouti Armed Forces as part of phase 3 of the ATMIS drawdown.

74. The Mine Action Service continued to deliver improvised explosive device threat mitigation solutions that support the mobility and safety of ATMIS troops in Somalia. These measures included delivering specialized in-country training to 1,369 ATMIS military and police personnel. The Mine Action Service provided 170 pre- and post-convoy briefings to ATMIS convoys on main supply routes. Searches related to these convoys led to the destruction of eight improvised explosive devices.

2. Support for Somali security forces and capacity-building efforts

75. As at 17 September, UNSOS provided logistics support to 18,900 Somali security forces in joint or coordinated operations with ATMIS in 27 locations and in full compliance with the human rights due diligence policy. The provision of support to an additional 2,000 Somalia security forces, authorized by the Security Council in its resolution [2741 \(2024\)](#), is currently being planned, in coordination with the Federal Government and upon the availability of funds.

76. As at 12 September, the UNSOS-administered trust fund in support of the Somali security forces had a balance of only \$3,698,957, which was enough to sustain support until November 2024. On 5 September, the Federal Government and UNSOS jointly organized an event in Mogadishu entitled "Friends of the Somali security forces trust fund" and discussed the urgent need for additional funding for the trust fund, highlighting the increasing demands on the fund, its effective application and the imperative for a predictable and sustainable funding mechanism. The event was attended by both current and potential donors.

77. During the reporting period, various capacity-building training courses were conducted for 176 Somali security forces, including air liaison officer training and aviation safety training (54 Somali National Army); information, communications and technology training (49 Somali National Army, 29 Somali Police Forces); medical training and sensitization sessions on human rights due diligence policy (23 Somali National Army, 21 Somali Police Forces). Moreover, 5 teams, comprising 38 troops, were trained and equipped in explosive ordnance disposal.

78. The Mine Action Service supported the Federal Government in delivering an ammunition handling training course to five Somali National Army personnel, in accordance with international ammunition technical guidelines and with the Somalia national weapons and ammunition management strategy and associated workplans.

79. During the reporting period, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) completed the construction of a 100-metre firing range at the Somali National Army Training Centre. UNOPS also provided non-lethal support to the Somalia National Army, including light patrol vehicles; ambulances; information technology and communications equipment; personal equipment; and life-saving equipment. Since May, UNOPS provided \$2.4 million in stipend support from bilateral donors to the Somali National Army Special Forces, sustaining an average

of 2,021 soldiers per month. UNOPS also provided monthly training to nine soldiers on the United Nations human resources management system, and facilitated stipend support to the Somali Police Force, including counter-terrorism officers, sustaining an average of 2,176 police officers per month.

I. United Nations presence in Somalia

80. United Nations entities remained present in Baidoa, Beledweyne, Berbera, Boosaaso, Dhooble, Dhuusamarreeb, Doolow, Gaalkacyo, Garoowe, Hargeysa, Jawhar, Kismaayo and Mogadishu. As at 17 September, 713 international staff and 1,885 national staff were deployed throughout Somalia.

J. Observations

81. I would like to express my appreciation for the constructive engagement between the Federal Government and the United Nations through the Joint Technical Committee regarding the Somali request for a transition from the current special political mission to the United Nations country team. The United Nations remains strongly committed to supporting Somalia in the period ahead and to working in partnership with the Somali authorities to ensure this support aligns with Somali priorities.

82. I welcome the commitment of the Federal Government to the implementation of one-person-one-vote elections. I encourage all stakeholders to work together to resolve areas of disagreement on elections. Inclusive dialogue will be critical to building broad-based consensus for the implementation of the proposed reforms. Establishing an inclusive and implementable electoral framework is critical. Safeguarding the political rights of women, including ensuring a minimum 30 per cent representation of women in the Federal Parliament, State Assemblies and political parties, as well as in other senior government appointments, must likewise remain a priority. I further urge the inclusion and participation of young people, marginalized groups and underrepresented communities.

83. The commitment of the Federal Government to completing the revision of the Provisional Federal Constitution and to have wider consultations at the federal, state and district levels for the review of the next chapters is encouraging. In the light of the impact the proposed changes will have on federal member state laws and institutions, I call upon the Federal Government to continue consultations and engagement with all stakeholders, including federal member state governments, in preparation for consideration by the legislative bodies of Somalia.

84. I am concerned about the continued tensions between Somalia and Ethiopia. I commend the efforts by partners to facilitate dialogue. I urge both Ethiopia and Somalia to continue their engagement and resolve their differences through dialogue and within the framework of international law and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

85. I welcome the adoption of the concept of operations for the new African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), as well as the work undertaken by the African Union in consultation with the Federal Government of Somalia. I urge partners to engage in discussions to ensure predictable and sustainable financing for the new African Union mission so that it can be established and deliver fully on its mandate, avoiding the financial constraints experienced by ATMIS.

86. Noting the challenging task of fighting Al-Shabaab, I commend the efforts of the Federal Government as it takes over security responsibilities from ATMIS. I am

encouraged by the collaborative work of the African Union Commission, the Federal Government, ATMIS and UNSOS on the ATMIS transition throughout the reporting period, noting in particular the progress on the security transition of forward operating bases. I pay tribute to the members of the Somali security forces and ATMIS personnel who have lost their lives in efforts to protect the people of Somalia from Al-Shabaab.

87. I am deeply concerned about the increase in civilian casualties from attacks claimed by Al-Shabaab. I express my heartfelt condolences to the victims and their families, including those killed and wounded at Lido Beach in Mogadishu on 2 August. I remain concerned by the alarming level of grave violations against children and reiterate my call to end and prevent such violations. I also reiterate my calls for the respect of international humanitarian law to protect civilians, uphold human rights and ensure accountability for those responsible for the attacks.

88. The passing of the national disability bill by the House of the People of the Federal Parliament on 31 July is an important step to promote inclusion and the rights of persons with disabilities. I look forward to the speedy passage of the bill by the Upper House and its rapid signing into law. I note with concern the reports of incidents of arbitrary arrests and detentions of journalists by law enforcement and intelligence officials. I urge the Somali authorities to respect freedom of the press, protect civic space, ensure due process and protect the rights of journalists, including those being investigated for reportedly spreading false news. I stress the importance of amending the criminal offences provisions of the Somali Penal Code related to defamation and public order, which have led to restrictions on freedom of expression, in accordance with the human rights obligations of Somalia under article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

89. Somalia continues to face a dire humanitarian crisis. While the number of people in need of assistance has declined from its 2023 peak, recurring climate shocks, insecurity and disease outbreaks continue to exacerbate humanitarian needs. The devastating drought from 2020 to 2023 was followed by widespread flooding, and the most recent forecasts predict drier-than-normal conditions over much of Somalia in the October to December 2024 rains. The minimal recovery time between subsequent severe shocks reinforces the criticality of humanitarian resilience and development programming. However, the 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, which requires \$1.6 billion to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable people in Somalia, is only 37.1 per cent funded. I appeal to all partners to increase contributions to save lives and build resilience.

90. I wish to convey my appreciation to the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the European Union, Member States, non-governmental organizations and other partners for their sustained support and engagement in peacebuilding in Somalia. I thank my Acting Special Representative, James Swan, and all United Nations staff in Somalia for their work and dedicated efforts in support of peace and stability in the country.

