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Implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) during the period from 19 February to 20 June 2022

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) since the previous report, dated 11 March 2022 (S/2022/214), including on the provisions of resolution 2591 (2021). Outstanding obligations remain for both parties under resolution 1701 (2006). There was no progress towards a permanent ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel.

II. Implementation of resolution 1701 (2006)

A. Situation in the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

2. Heightened tensions persisted in the UNIFIL area of operations. On 25 April, UNIFIL radar detected one rocket launched from an area northeast of Qulaylah (Sector West), which landed south-east of the Israeli village of Shlomi. The Israel Defense Forces responded by firing approximately 50 155-mm artillery shells, which landed in Wadi Hamul and areas north of Alma al-Sha'b (Sector West). UNIFIL was in continuous contact with the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Israel Defense Forces throughout, to clarify the situation, facilitate a coordinated operational response and prevent further escalation. UNIFIL visited the site of the rocket launch later that morning with the Lebanese Armed Forces. UNIFIL observed three improvised rocket-launching ramps, two with rockets still in place. No group claimed responsibility for firing the rocket. UNIFIL has yet to gain access to the areas of impact and has launched an investigation into the incident.

3. In identical letters addressed to the President of the Security Council and to me dated 3 May (S/2022/373), the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations expressed “great concern” at the rocket fire, stating that “this attack compounds the already-tense situation on the ground and carries with it the potential for dangerous escalation, threatening the entire region”.

4. Separately, UNIFIL observed illumination rounds fired by the Israel Defense Forces, in response to what the latter asserted were suspicious activities. On four



occasions over the reporting period, illumination rounds landed north of the Blue Line, close to Shab‘a, Ghajar, Hula, and Abasiva (all Sector East).

5. Instances of weapon pointing across the Blue Line also continued, requiring UNIFIL to interpose between the parties near Hula on 10 May and twice in Mays al-Jabal (Sector East) on 4 June. UNIFIL observed Israel Defense Forces firing into the air on seven occasions, near Hula, Mays al-Jabal and Majidiyah, after individuals in civilian clothes had approached the Blue Line. UNIFIL also observed several incidents of stone-throwing at the Israeli technical fence, in particular near Hula.

6. The occupation of northern Ghajar and the adjacent area by the Israel Defense Forces is a continuing violation of resolution 1701 (2006). While the Government of Lebanon has welcomed the UNIFIL proposal of 2011 for the facilitation of the withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces from the occupied area, the Government of Israel has yet to respond. In identical letters addressed to the President of the Security Council and to me dated 20 April (A/76/817-S/2022/348), 12 May (A/76/831-S/2022/395) and 23 May (A/76/843-S/2022/420), the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations referred to several instances of construction works by Israel in or near Ghajar as “acts of provocation” and “violations of the sovereignty of Lebanon and of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006)”. Despite UNIFIL calling on the Israel Defense Forces to stop, the works continued.

7. On 22 April, the Israel Defense Forces informed UNIFIL of their intention to resume T-wall construction, initiated in 2018 (see S/2019/574, para. 5), from Shlomi to Hanita and from Zarit to Biranit, south of the Blue Line. Work started south-west of Alma al-Sha‘b on 26 April, with 776 metres of T-wall installed to date. Following interventions by United Nations headquarters and UNIFIL, the Israel Defense Forces committed to not undertake construction in the Lebanese “reservation areas” north of Shlomi and east of Alma al-Sha‘b and Hanita.

8. The Israel Defense Forces continued to enter Lebanese airspace in violation of resolution 1701 (2006) and of Lebanese sovereignty. Between 19 February and 20 June, UNIFIL recorded 281 airspace violations, totalling 390 hours and 16 minutes in overflight time. Unmanned aerial vehicles accounted for 91.4 per cent of the violations. The remaining airspace violations involved fighter aircraft or unidentified aircraft. In identical letters addressed to the President of the Security Council and to me dated 15 March (S/2022/229), the Permanent Representative of Israel stated that “drones were recently launched from within the UNIFIL area of operations in southern Lebanon, infiltrating Israeli airspace” and that Israel “holds the Government of Lebanon accountable for these actions”. On 17 May, the Israel Defense Forces announced the following: “A Hezbollah drone crossed from Lebanon into Israeli airspace overnight. Our soldiers downed the drone after monitoring it throughout its flight.” UNIFIL is following up with the Israel Defense Forces for more information. Following reports that an Israel Defence Forces drone crashed in Lebanon, UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces found remnants of a drone in Rumaysh (Sector West) on 26 May. UNIFIL has launched an investigation.

9. From 19 February to 20 June, UNIFIL observed 403 ground violations by Lebanese civilians crossing south of the Blue Line. These included 297 violations by shepherds and farmers, mainly in the Shab‘a Farms area, five violations by individuals accessing Shu‘ayb well near Blida and 103 violations by others. On 30 March, UNIFIL observed two Lebanese Armed Forces soldiers crossing south of the Blue Line in the vicinity of Mays al-Jabal while taking photographs. On 7 April, an Israel Defense Forces contractor vehicle crossed the Blue Line in connection with maintenance works near Kafr Kila (Sector East). On 28 April and 2 June, the Israel Defense Forces apprehended Lebanese shepherds who had crossed the Blue Line near Shab‘a. On both occasions, the shepherds were returned to Lebanon the following day.

10. To help keep the area between the Blue Line and the Litani River free of unauthorized armed personnel, assets and weapons, UNIFIL, in close coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces, maintained 16 permanent checkpoints and a monthly average of 119 temporary checkpoints and 283 counter-rocket-launching operations. In May, UNIFIL increased its counter-rocket-launching operations in areas in Sector East and Sector West. On 2 March, a UNIFIL helicopter patrol observed a firing range near Zibqin (Sector West), with individuals in combat attire carrying assault weapons. UNIFIL subsequently identified three similar firing ranges from the air in remote locations near Qantarrah, Dayr Amis and Frun (all Sector West). UNIFIL helicopters observed small arms shooting exercises at the firing range in Zibqin on 12 May and at Zibqin and Dayr Amis on 2 June. On 6 June, UNIFIL observed 25 individuals in combat attire and carrying assault weapons participating in an exercise in Qantarrah. In mid-March, the Lebanese Armed Forces agreed to the request of UNIFIL to facilitate joint visits to the locations; the dates for these visits are still to be confirmed.

11. In addition to the above, UNIFIL observed unauthorized weapons in the area of operations on 85 occasions. All but the five incidents described below involved hunting weapons. On 11 April, an Observer Group Lebanon patrol saw an individual in civilian clothes with an automatic rifle in Taybah (Sector East). On 22 April, UNIFIL observed an individual in civilian clothes carrying a pistol in Sultaniyah (Sector West). On 25 April, UNIFIL observed two individuals in Bazuriyah (Sector West) with two pistols and a rifle. On 31 May, UNIFIL observed an individual in civilian clothes in Shama (Sector West) carrying an assault weapon. On 16 June, UNIFIL observed five individuals with two rifles in the vicinity of Ghajar. UNIFIL reported each incident to the Lebanese Armed Forces.

12. Pursuant to resolution [2591 \(2021\)](#), UNIFIL maintained its high operational tempo and visible presence. There were 13,991 monthly operational activities on average, including 6,135 vehicular, air or foot patrols. Air reconnaissance patrols continued over areas where ground patrols have limited access, including private property, land contaminated by explosive remnants of war or anti-personnel mines, and wadis. UNIFIL continued to increase its community engagement walks, following their resumption in December 2021 (see [S/2022/214](#), para. 11).

13. Despite repeated requests to the Lebanese authorities, UNIFIL has yet to gain full access to several locations of interest, including several Green without Borders sites and the aforementioned firing ranges. Since 30 April, UNIFIL has observed the installation of containers and prefabricated infrastructure at 11 locations north of the Blue Line with a vantage point of the Blue Line, in the vicinity of Yarun, Hula, Aytal-Sha'b, Blida and Rumaysh. At one location, a chain across the road leading to one of the containers impaired the access of UNIFIL to the Blue Line. In several cases, UNIFIL peacekeepers were warned against entering the areas. Local authorities have confirmed that some of the containers are on private land and that some belong to Green without Borders. Raising concern about this trend, UNIFIL has requested the Lebanese Armed Forces to facilitate unimpeded access to the Blue Line. The Lebanese Armed Forces have confirmed that they have raised this matter with the municipalities and given assurance that access to the Blue Line will be facilitated.

14. While UNIFIL freedom of movement was respected in most cases, the mission continued to encounter restrictions (see annex I). With reference to the identical letters addressed to the President of the Security Council and to me dated 15 March ([S/2022/229](#)), the Permanent Representative of Israel stated in identical letters addressed to the President of the Council and to me dated 4 April 2022 ([S/2022/285](#)) that “restraints on the ability of UNIFIL to access its entire area of operations ... combined with repeated physical attacks on UNIFIL troops, prevents UNIFIL from discharging its mandate [and] allows Iran, by means of its proxy, Hezbollah, to continue its military build-up unhindered in southern Lebanon”. In identical letters

addressed to the President of the Security Council and to me dated 31 May 2022 (S/2022/445), the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations “categorically reject[ed] ... the unsubstantiated accusations ... in documents S/2022/285 and S/2022/373“.

15. The UNIFIL Maritime Task Force continued to support maritime interdiction operations, hailing 2,372 vessels. The Lebanese Armed Forces inspected and cleared 368 of the 372 vessels that UNIFIL referred for inspection.

16. The Task Force temporarily operated with four vessels from March, following a delay in replacing one vessel, which created challenges in maintaining a consistent presence of three vessels at sea and covering all three maritime corridors. The replacement of the fifth vessel was scheduled for 28 June, returning the Task Force to five vessels.

17. On 6 June, the Israeli Navy warned a Task Force vessel patrolling the UNIFIL maritime area of operation in the vicinity of the Karish offshore natural gas field against approaching the area. Six Israeli fighter aircraft manoeuvred near the UNIFIL vessel, triggering supersonic booms and launching several flares. On 7 June, six Israeli fighter aircraft flew over the same vessel. The UNIFIL vessel also detected the electronic signature of a fire control radar in lock-on mode heading towards it. UNIFIL protested the incidents to the Israel Defense Forces.

18. UNIFIL and the Lebanese Navy continued preparatory steps for a partial transfer of Task Force responsibilities, including by conducting 285 training sessions and exercises covering common operational standards for commanding, monitoring and hailing activities.

19. The Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL continued their engagement within the framework of the strategic dialogue process. The model regiment headquarters in Sribbin (Sector West) was inaugurated on 13 June. An initial deployment of a company to the model regiment is to be drawn from existing troops outside the UNIFIL area of operations and would undertake joint training and coordinated operations with UNIFIL.

20. Pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 2591 (2021), UNIFIL provided the Lebanese Armed Forces with temporary, non-lethal material and logistical support in the framework of Lebanese Armed Forces-UNIFIL joint activities. In accordance with the memorandum of understanding between UNIFIL and Lebanese authorities (see S/2022/214, para. 17), UNIFIL provided 210,000 litres of diesel fuel, food items for 162,000 meals, medicines and medical equipment by the end of February 2022. Provisions were largely drawn from existing UNIFIL supplies and contracts.

21. With the bulk of support provided in February, the full impact of UNIFIL assistance was evident from March 2022 onwards. Joint vehicle patrols rose from 210 in January to 263 in March, 282 in April and 277 in May. In April, operations conducted in close coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces rose to 18.3 per cent, compared with an average of 15.3 per cent during the previous reporting period. Further details are provided in annex II.

22. In identical letters addressed to the President of the Security Council and to me, dated 15 March (S/2022/235), the Permanent Representative of Lebanon conveyed a request from the Government of Lebanon for the continuation of material assistance for the Lebanese Armed Forces in the UNIFIL area of operations for an additional year. The letters underscored the importance of such operational support in strengthening the capacity of the Lebanese Armed Forces in the framework of joint activities with UNIFIL.

B. Security and liaison arrangements

23. UNIFIL convened a tripartite meeting on 19 May during which both parties reiterated their commitment to stability along the Blue Line. Issues discussed included incidents along the Blue Line, airspace violations and serious breaches of the cessation of hostilities.

24. UNIFIL continued its daily liaison and coordination activities along the Blue Line. On 13 March, consistent with previous arrangements, UNIFIL facilitated access north of the Blue Line close to Ghajar for Israeli civilian workers to maintain water pumps. In May, UNIFIL facilitated the cleaning of the Wazzani River by Lebanese resort owners.

25. Despite the agreement of Israel to the proposal made in 2008 for a UNIFIL liaison office in Tel Aviv, the establishment of the office remains pending.

26. UNIFIL, through quick-impact projects, donations and outreach initiatives, continued to assist local authorities, including through capacity-building sessions for the Internal Security Forces and the upgrading of a Civil Defence Centre ambulance in Shab'a. Through 26 quick-impact projects, UNIFIL supported the delivery of basic services, including water and sanitation, power and health care, and supported food production by local farmers. Over 19 per cent of the UNIFIL budget for quick-impact projects was dedicated to projects directly benefiting women and girls. Through civil-military cooperation initiatives, the mission supported alternative energy production in municipalities and donated computers, medical equipment and supplies to local clinics, schools and women's associations.

27. UNIFIL continued to support the implementation of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security, including through the training on gender mainstreaming of 6,810 UNIFIL military and civilian personnel. A third network of women mediators was established in the UNIFIL area of operations in March.

C. Disarming armed groups

28. No progress was achieved with respect to the disarmament of armed groups. Hizbullah continued to acknowledge publicly that it maintained military capabilities. The maintenance of arms outside the control of the State by Hizbullah and other groups in violation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) continued to restrict the State's ability to exercise full sovereignty and authority over its territory.

29. On 29 April, the Secretary-General of Hizbullah, Hassan Nasrallah stated: "Our resistance formations were carrying out silent manoeuvres around all scenarios and possibilities and with all arms available to us."

30. On 9 May, Mr. Nasrallah said that "we are ready to discuss a national defence strategy", in reference to the statement of the President of Lebanon, Michel Aoun, of 27 December 2021 (see [S/2021/214](#), para. 24). On 20 May, the leader of the Lebanese Forces, Samir Geagea, stated that "security and military matters should be handled exclusively by the Lebanese army" and that "no one [...] should be able to transport missiles from one place to another without the permission and knowledge of the military". On 25 May, Mr. Nasrallah stated: "Let there first be a solution to the issue of the Lebanese pound and the United States dollar, the salaries [...] let the army remain and the State remain, after which we can discuss whether we hand over our weapons to the State or to the army."

31. The Lebanese Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces made three terrorism-related arrests, including of suspected affiliates of Da'esh and Jabhat Fath al-Sham. On 23 February, the Internal Security Forces announced that they had

thwarted a plan by Da'esh targeting Shiite religious sites in Beirut. On 6 April, in Sidon, South Lebanon, the Lebanese Armed Forces arrested a Palestinian national for smuggling weapons and ammunition to a suspected terrorist organization in Ein El Hilweh Palestine refugee camp. On 27 April, in Wadi Khalid, Akkar, North Lebanon, a suspected terrorist was killed by the Lebanese Armed Forces.

32. In eastern and northern Lebanon, multiple personal disputes escalated into shootings, resulting in 45 fatalities (including 1 child and 6 women) and 152 injuries.

33. On 3 April, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization's National Security Force in Ein El Hilweh Palestine refugee camp, near Sidon in South Lebanon, was killed following a personal dispute. Several suspects were handed over to the Lebanese authorities. On 20 April, Fatah and Hamas announced a reconciliation, following the incidents in the Burj Shemali camp for Palestine refugees in December 2021 (see [S/2022/214](#), para. 28). No progress was reported in the investigation into these incidents.

34. There was no progress in dismantling the military bases maintained by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and Fatah al-Intifada.

D. Arms embargo and border control

35. Allegations of arms transfers to non-State armed actors continued and remained of serious concern. If confirmed, such transfers would constitute a violation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) (see annex III). While taking allegations of arms transfers seriously, the United Nations is not in a position to substantiate them independently.

36. Reports of the military engagement of Hizbullah in the Syrian Arab Republic continued.

37. The Lebanese Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces arrested 57 individuals in 30 operations to counter the smuggling of drugs, fuel, weapons and other goods. In the Biqā', the Lebanese Armed Forces confiscated 200,000 "Captagon" pills, drug manufacturing equipment and ammunition. In operations on 3 and 5 June in the Biqā', one Lebanese Armed Forces member was killed and seven injured, a drug manufacturing facility was dismantled and several Syrian and Lebanese nationals were arrested. On 6 April, the Internal Security Forces intercepted 975 kg of drugs at the port of Beirut. On 31 March, in Talia, Biqā', one civilian died, and three civilians and one soldier were injured, following an exchange of fire between the Lebanese Armed Forces and wanted persons. Three individuals were arrested. On 27 April, the Internal Security Forces arrested two individuals on smuggling and drug charges, one of whom succumbed to injuries sustained during the operation.

38. The Lebanese Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces arrested at least 153 individuals of unspecified nationality in 12 operations to counter people smuggling, mostly in the Akkar Governorate, northern Lebanon. On 23 April, a boat reportedly carrying 84 people (predominantly Lebanese citizens, as well as Syrian and Palestine refugees) capsized off the coast of Tripoli, northern Lebanon, following a collision with a Lebanese Armed Forces vessel. At least 47 people reportedly died or remain missing, while 37 people were rescued. Violent protests subsequently occurred across the country, with several injuries reported in Tripoli. The UNIFIL Maritime Task Force joined the search and rescue operation, while the International Organization for Migration and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) assisted survivors and families of the victims, including with mental health and psychosocial support. The Lebanese Armed Forces have opened an investigation; one Lebanese national has been arrested in connection with the incident. The Lebanese Armed Forces prevented three other attempted irregular

movements, involving 168 individuals, on 16 April in Aridah, North Lebanon, and on 28 April and 7 June in Tripoli. As at 8 June, UNHCR had recorded 10 attempts at irregular migration by sea from Lebanon, involving 724 individuals, in 2022.

E. Landmines and cluster bombs

39. UNIFIL cleared 7,130 m² of land in its area of operations, finding and disposing of 1,618 anti-personnel mines. The mission conducted 97 demining quality assurance and quality control monitoring visits, four accreditation events for a demining contingent and 10 risk awareness briefings for 161 UNIFIL military and civilian personnel, including 19 women. UNIFIL also supported the Lebanon Mine Action Centre by conducting an explosive ordnance risk education activity in Kfar Shuba (Sector East) that benefited 70 Lebanese students.

F. Delineation of borders

40. No progress was made towards the delineation or demarcation of the border between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. There was also no progress in relation to the issue of the Shab'a Farms area. The Syrian Arab Republic and Israel have yet to respond to the provisional definition of the Shab'a Farms area proposed in the report of 30 October 2007 on the implementation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) (see [S/2007/641](#), annex).

41. Following the arrival on 5 June of a floating production, storage and offloading vessel at the Karish gas field to produce gas for Israel, President Aoun stated: "Negotiations to demarcate the maritime borders are still ongoing, and therefore any action or activity in the disputed area constitutes a provocation and a hostile act." In a joint statement on 8 June, the Israeli Ministers of Defence, Energy and Foreign affairs stated: "The rig is located in Israeli territory, several kilometres south of the area over which negotiations are being conducted between the State of Israel and Lebanon ... The rig will not pump gas from the disputed territory ... The State of Israel prioritizes the protection of its strategic assets, and is prepared to defend them." On 9 June, the Secretary-General of Hizbullah, Hassan Nasrallah, stated: "Israel will start extracting from this joint field ... while Lebanon is even prevented from drilling and extracting from non-disputed blocks. So the Israeli work should be stopped." Meanwhile, the Senior Advisor for Energy Security of the United States, Amos Hochstein, has continued shuttle diplomacy between the parties.

G. Political and institutional stability

42. On 15 May, Lebanon held parliamentary elections, in which 718 candidates on 103 lists competed in 26 districts for 128 parliamentary seats. Of the 718 candidates, 118 (16.4 per cent) were women, up from 86 (13.4 per cent) in the 2018 elections. On 6 and 8 May, in 58 countries, 142,041 expatriates cast their ballot. The overall voter turnout, including out-of-country voters, was 49.2 per cent, compared with 49.7 per cent in 2018.

43. The official results allocated the 128 Parliament seats as follows: Lebanese Forces, 19; Free Patriotic Movement, 18; Amal, 15; Hizbullah, 13; Progressive Socialist Party, 8; former Future Movement, 7; Kata'ib, 4; Tashnaq, 3; Ahabash, 2; Marada, 1; independents, 15; and emerging groups, 13. Eight women were elected, up from six in 2018. Four women represent emerging groups; the others represent the Lebanese Forces (2), the Free Patriotic Movement (1) and Amal (1). Saad Hariri's Future Movement did not participate in the elections. Fifteen challenges were filed

with the Constitutional Council, the formal electoral dispute resolution mechanism, to contest results in 10 districts.

44. In the lead-up to the elections, there were increased tensions and a rise in inflammatory discourse between rival political camps, as well as against refugees. A United Nations perception survey conducted in April found that intra-Lebanese relations had significantly deteriorated, with 42 per cent of respondents citing negative relations, compared with 3 per cent in 2017. In April and May, at least 40 electoral-related incidents were recorded, including intimidation, aggravated assault, shooting, the tossing of hand grenades, vandalism and the physical prevention of campaigning in certain areas, with one fatality and several injuries.

45. On election day, several altercations between supporters of rival parties were reported, as were threats, harassment and intimidation of or physical attacks against voters, party delegates and domestic observers. The Lebanese Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces managed to contain the incidents. Celebratory gunfire occurred in various locations.

46. On 16 May, a domestic monitoring group, the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections, found that the elections had been marred by “flagrant violations, intimidation and pressure exercised by several political parties”. On 17 May, the European Union Election Observation Mission stated that “vote-buying practices affected the voter’s free choice and resulted in a lack of level-playing field” and found shortcomings in the legal framework, including related to campaign finance, gender equality, equal suffrage and the powers of the Supervisory Commission for Elections. The mission noted that accessibility and voter education could be strengthened to facilitate the voting process for persons with disabilities.

47. The Special Coordinator for Lebanon and the United Nations country team worked closely with Lebanese electoral stakeholders to support the elections process, including through technical assistance. The Special Coordinator also engaged with national and international stakeholders to advocate for the prompt designation of a new Prime Minister and the swift formation of a Government, as well as timely organization of the presidential elections, due in October. In a statement on 20 May, the International Support Group for Lebanon welcomed “the timely conduct of the parliamentary elections”, urged the new parliament “to pass the legislation needed to stabilize the economy, improve governance and enact the reforms Lebanon and its people so urgently need” and called for “the swift formation of a Government that can ... continue to work with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) ... in order to lay a solid basis for socioeconomic relief and a sustainable recovery of Lebanon”.

48. On 31 May, the new Parliament re-elected Nabih Berri as Speaker, with Elias Bou Saab elected as Deputy Speaker. Speaker Berri called on parliamentarians to unite “against deepening divisions” and “against compromising Lebanon’s sovereign rights in its water and oil wealth”. On 7 and 10 June, Parliament elected heads and members of its 16 specialized committees. On 15 June, President Aoun called for binding parliamentary consultations to be held on 23 June to nominate a Prime Minister to be tasked with forming a new Government.

49. On 19 March, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Sabah, expressed to the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Najib Mikati, his satisfaction with the initiatives of the Government of Lebanon to restore ties with the Gulf region. On 8 April, the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait returned to Beirut.

50. On 7 April, IMF announced a staff-level agreement with the Government of Lebanon “on comprehensive economic policies that could be supported by a 46-month extended fund arrangement with requested access of [...] the equivalent of \$3 billion”. The agreement is contingent on the “timely implementation of all prior actions and

confirmation of international partners' financial support". The "prior actions" include the approval of bank, fiscal and debt restructuring strategies, approval by the Parliament of the 2022 State budget, banking resolution legislation, a reformed bank secrecy law, a Central Bank of Lebanon foreign assets audit and unification of the exchange rate. Also envisaged are the strengthening of the Central Bank's mandate and governance structure and operationalization of the National Anti-Corruption Institution. IMF stressed the need for the authorities to "explain their reform plans to the public".

51. Prior to entering caretaker mode on 22 May, the Cabinet submitted to Parliament the 2022 State budget, a draft capital controls law and an amendment to bring banking secrecy into line with international standards. The Cabinet also, inter alia, approved economic recovery and electricity sector reform plans and postponed the municipal elections to May 2023.

52. Before its dissolution on 21 May, Parliament extended the lifting of bank secrecy to enable the forensic audit of the Central Bank and adopted a new competition law. On 29 March, Parliament approved the law to cover the expenses of the parliamentary elections, and a provisional spending rule to finance the Government while committee review of the 2022 State budget continued.

53. With the remaining foreign reserves estimated at \$11 billion, the unofficial exchange rate depreciated to a record 37,800 Lebanese pounds to the dollar on 27 May.

54. Demonstrations and roadblocks continued throughout the country in protest of the deteriorating socioeconomic conditions. On 28 February, in Tyre, South Lebanon, a retired serviceman attempted to set himself on fire; on 6 May, in Zahle, Biqa', an individual set himself on fire. From January to May 2022, thefts and robberies increased nationwide by 11.5 per cent compared with the same period in 2021.

55. The World Food Programme (WFP) found that the cost of the minimum food basket reached 792,000 Lebanese pounds in March, 15 times what it had been in October 2019. This poses particular risks for women and marginalized groups. On 14 March, the Government of Lebanon started payment of cash transfers to 147,000 extremely poor Lebanese households under the World Bank-financed Emergency Social Safety Net Project. In April, WFP increased the transfer of monthly cash assistance to Lebanese citizens and refugees enrolled in the National Poverty Targeting Programme.

56. Lebanon's socioeconomic crisis was amplified by the destruction of the national grain silo in the 4 August 2020 Beirut port explosion and, more recently, by its high dependence on wheat imports from Ukraine and the Russian Federation. On 9 May, the Minister of Economy and Trade of Lebanon announced that the World Bank had approved a \$150 million loan, pending Cabinet and Parliament approval, to finance alternative wheat imports.

57. In his report of 11 April on his visit to Lebanon ([A/HRC/50/38/Add.1](#)), the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Olivier de Schutter, described the country's "man-made" economic crisis as rooted in a "political system plagued with conflicts of interest" with a banking sector and a Central Bank that were "largely unaccountable".

58. The National Commission for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared in Lebanon and the National Human Rights Commission, including the Committee for the Prevention of Torture, remain inoperative absent budget allocations. On 29 March, Parliament authorized the Government to proceed with the process for ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. On 12 May, following a visit to Lebanon, the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment expressed "serious concern about the persistent problems in the administration of justice, prolonged pretrial detention, overcrowding and deplorable living conditions in many places of deprivation of liberty".

59. Regarding the investigation into the Beirut port explosion, on 21 March, the High Judicial Council appointed members to the vacant seats of the General Assembly of the Court of Cassation, subject to the issuance of a decree signed by the President, the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Justice and Finance. The alleged owner of the ammonium nitrate cargo that arrived in the Beirut port in 2013, a Portuguese national, was arrested by Spanish authorities on 21 April and conditionally released pending extradition to Lebanon.

60. On 22 March, the Military Prosecutor pressed charges against Samir Geagea for murder, instigation of murder and incitement to murder with respect to the deadly clashes in Tayyounah, Beirut, on 14 October 2021 (see [S/2021/953](#), para. 57). The Lebanese Forces described the charges as “politically driven” and filed a new request to dismiss the Prosecutor. The prosecution of 68 other individuals charged in the case continues.

61. One journalist was summoned on charges related to criticism of public officials and institutions; one was briefly detained at the Beirut airport and another was detained while interviewing residents regarding the parliamentary elections. One journalist filed legal charges against a parliamentary electoral candidate for threatening his life after publication of a critical article. On 26 May, two journalists were allegedly assaulted by Lebanese Armed Forces personnel while covering a protest in Beirut. There has been no progress in the investigation into the 4 February 2021 killing of Lokman Slim.

62. The United Nations continued to convene dialogues with women from traditional political parties and emerging groups and supported 450 potential women candidates with capacity development and technical assistance. Eight mediation networks created between February and March helped resolve local disputes related to access to fuel, waste management, school violence and community violence. As part of broader peacebuilding efforts, women from Tripoli and northern Bīqā‘ led a community-based dialogue on the country’s civil war and reconciliation.

63. As at 30 April, 852,703 refugees and asylum seekers were registered with UNHCR in Lebanon, including 839,086 Syrian refugees and 13,617 refugees and asylum seekers of other nationalities. New registrations of Syrian refugees by UNHCR have been suspended by the Government since 2015. The Government of Lebanon estimates that there are 1.5 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon. As at 31 March, UNHCR verified the return of 1,658 Syrian refugees in 2022, just under half of the total verified returns for 2021 (3,609). Deportations by Lebanese authorities of Syrians who had entered or re-entered Lebanon irregularly after 24 April 2019 continued, often without the application of legal procedural safeguards.

64. On 29 April, following a meeting of the interministerial committee on the displaced, the Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs stated that Lebanon was no longer able to host refugees. UNHCR released a statement stressing the need to continue upholding the principles of refugee protection in Lebanon, including the principle of non-refoulement and the right to voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity, and called on the international community to continue to stand by Lebanon and support persons in need. On 10 May, at the sixth annual Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lebanon, Abdallah Bouhabib, said that Lebanon could not wait for a political solution in the Syrian Arab Republic and no longer had the resources to prevent boats from departing its shores. Reiterating the commitment of Lebanon to safe and dignified returns, Mr. Bouhabib advocated for the provision of assistance in the Syrian Arab Republic instead of in Lebanon.

65. Numerous protests took place in Palestine refugee camps in response to developments in Jerusalem and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. With 86 per cent of Palestine refugees in Lebanon living below the poverty line, up from 73 per cent

in July 2021, there were also protests by Palestine refugees demanding increased assistance from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

66. As at 19 June, Lebanon had recorded 1,103,711 cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and 10,453 associated deaths. On 4 April, the Minister of Public Health announced the loosening of preventative measures in public spaces, while continuing to encourage COVID-19 vaccination. As at 17 June, 2,695,953 individuals, including Syrian and Palestine refugees and migrant workers, had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

67. On 28 April, the Government and the United Nations signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the period 2023–2025. The new framework prioritizes emergency development through support to vulnerable populations, while simultaneously laying the basis for longer-term, sustainable development. On 20 June, a partnership compact between Parliament and the United Nations was signed.

68. As at 30 April, under the 12-month emergency response plan launched on 4 August 2021, United Nations agencies and partners had provided life-saving humanitarian support to over 600,000 of the most vulnerable Lebanese citizens, Palestine refugees and migrants of the 1.1 million targeted (54 per cent). By 17 June, the plan was 51.6 per cent funded with \$197 million out of the \$383 million requested. On 16 June, the plan was extended to December 2022, with calls for \$546 million to meet increasing humanitarian needs. The United Nations estimates that approximately 2.5 million people in Lebanon have humanitarian needs, including 2.2 million Lebanese citizens, 208,000 Palestine refugees and 86,000 migrants.

69. During the first quarter of 2022, reported funding under the Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework stood at \$33.5 million, including \$25.8 million in received funding and \$7.7 million carried over from 2021. The Framework pooled fund, the Lebanon Financing Facility, managed by the World Bank reported \$73.9 million in commitments and pledges by donors, with \$54.1 million paid in as at 31 March.

70. As at 31 March, overall international assistance to Lebanon reported by donors stood at \$775 million, including \$390.8 million disbursed in 2022 and \$384.5 million carried over from 2021. Donors reported \$318.2 million in outstanding commitments for 2022 and \$246.2 million in commitments for 2023 and beyond. The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan for 2022 is funded at \$666.3 million of \$3.2 billion requested, with United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations reporting \$352.7 million in funds received in 2022 and \$313.6 million carried over from 2021. On 20 June, an appeal was launched for \$3.2 billion to cover the Plan through 2023.

71. On 10 March, the Appeals Chamber of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon reversed the acquittals of Hassan Habib Merhi and Hussein Hassan Oneissi, finding them guilty in connection with the 14 February 2005 attack in Beirut that killed former Prime Minister Rafic Hariri and 21 others, and injured 226 people. On 16 June, the Appeals Chamber sentenced them to life imprisonment. Merhi, Oneissi and the previously convicted Salim Jamil Ayyash remain at large.

III. Security and safety of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

72. In line with the COVID-19 countrywide business continuity plan for Lebanon and World Health Organization guidelines, UNIFIL eased COVID-19 restrictions on 15 April.

73. In accordance with the Action for Peacekeeping commitment to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers, UNIFIL continuously reviewed its security plans and risk prevention and mitigation measures in close coordination with the Lebanese authorities. Strict security measures remained in place in the Arqub area (Sector East), including the use of armed escorts for official movements by all United Nations personnel. UNIFIL facilitated 108 missions to the Arqub area by members of the United Nations country team. During the rocket fire and shelling detailed in paragraph 2 above, UNIFIL staff close to the Blue Line sheltered in bunkers.

74. UNIFIL continued to monitor proceedings in Lebanese military courts against individuals suspected of planning or perpetrating serious attacks against peacekeepers. On 21 April, appeals were heard in the Military Cassation Court against the 24 March 2021 verdicts by the Permanent Military Court with respect to two serious attacks that left UNIFIL peacekeepers injured on 26 July and 9 December 2011. The next hearings are scheduled for 19 January 2023. Regarding an attempted attack against UNIFIL peacekeepers in 2008, a hearing was held on 9 June. The next hearing is scheduled for 7 March 2023.

75. There has been no progress in criminal proceedings related to the incident of 4 August 2018 in the village of Majdal Zun (Sector West) (see [S/2018/1029](#)) or the acts of aggression against UNIFIL peacekeepers in Shaqra on 22 December 2021, Bint Jubayl on 4 January 2022 and Ramiyah on 25 January (see [S/2022/214](#), para. 70).

IV. Deployment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

76. As at 20 June, UNIFIL comprised 9,995 military personnel, including 701 women (7.0 per cent), from 47 troop-contributing countries; 242 international civilian staff, including 95 women (39.3 per cent); and 553 national civilian staff, including 153 women (27.7 per cent). The UNIFIL Maritime Task Force comprised five (temporarily four) vessels, one helicopter and 574 of the Force's military personnel, including 25 women (4.3 per cent). In addition, 50 military observers, including 11 women (22 per cent), from the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization served with Observer Group Lebanon, under the operational control of UNIFIL. The most senior military women served at the rank of colonel. The most senior civilian woman served at the D-2 level.

77. As part of Action for Peacekeeping efforts to support effective performance and accountability, UNIFIL implemented the quarterly Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System evaluation, confirming the effectiveness of mission operations.

78. In accordance with the implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping commitments and resolution [2436 \(2018\)](#), UNIFIL finalized the assessment of 14 subordinate units, including three ships, for logistics, training and operational preparedness on 31 March. Minor shortfalls were identified within three units and addressed. In April, UNIFIL initiated the assessment of 19 additional units, including two ships.

79. As detailed in paragraph 74 of [S/2022/2014](#), UNIFIL continued its consultations with the parties on aspects of the implementation of the assessment of the continued relevance of UNIFIL resources (see [S/2020/473](#)), pursuant to resolution [2539 \(2020\)](#). To strengthen the technical investigation cell, UNIFIL conducted a two-day technical investigation capacity-building course in April and continues to assess modalities to increase the number of qualified staff to be deployed to the cell.

V. Conduct and discipline

80. UNIFIL recorded one allegation of sexual exploitation and abuse and four cases of unsatisfactory conduct. Both UNIFIL and the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon remain committed to strict adherence to the United Nations policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse. All newly deployed personnel were trained, and all military commanders briefed, on their accountability regarding conduct and discipline matters. Both missions continued to implement activities related to prevention, enforcement and remedial actions regarding misconduct, as well as increased efforts targeted at sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment and fraud or presumptive fraud. Considering the potential for the increased risk of commission of sexual harassment and domestic violence stemming from the implementation of COVID-19-related measures in the area of operations, both entities continued ongoing efforts to raise awareness among mission personnel.

VI. Observations

81. The timely conduct of the parliamentary elections was an important demonstration of commitment to the democratic traditions of Lebanon. It is now important that the country's political leaders take the next step and swiftly form an inclusive Government and accelerate the implementation of reforms to respond to the aspirations and needs of the Lebanese people. Lebanon cannot afford continued inaction in the face of its ever-worsening socioeconomic crisis. I also urge the new Parliament to reinvigorate the public debate, initiate people-centred law-making, strengthen parliamentary oversight and coalesce around critical reform legislation. Noting the postponement of the municipal elections until May 2023, I encourage the authorities to begin preparations to ensure that they take place within the adjusted time frame.

82. I deplore the violence, hate speech, intimidation, harassment and vote-buying reported during the parliamentary elections. Noting positive steps towards the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and recognizing efforts by the authorities to increase accessibility during the elections, I encourage sustained and tangible measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can fully exercise their rights. While the increase in women's political representation is welcome, I repeat my call for temporary special measures, including the introduction of a quota for women, along with enforcement measures, and urge equal representation of women and men among members of Cabinet in the next Government.

83. Welcoming the staff-level agreement with IMF, a crucial first step towards an IMF programme, I count on the Parliament and government authorities to quickly follow up on the required prior actions, including fiscal, monetary, financial and governance reforms. I encourage Member States to consider additional financing support to ensure that an IMF programme can succeed and help put the country on a path to sustainable recovery. The continued generosity of donors is necessary to support the people of Lebanon and help meet increasing humanitarian needs.

84. I condemn the rocket fire from Lebanon towards Israel and the firing from Israel in response on 25 April. The parties should avoid any action that has the potential for casualties and rapid escalation and poses significant risks to the cessation of hostilities. This breach in the cessation of hostilities underscored again the urgent need to address the outstanding provisions of resolution 1701 (2006) and has the potential to lead to escalation with serious consequences. I reiterate my appeal to all parties to honour their commitments to fully implement resolution 1701 (2006), to cease these violations and to respect the cessation of hostilities.

85. The number of incidents affecting UNIFIL freedom of movement is unacceptable. The mission's access throughout its entire area of operations, including

along the full length of the Blue Line, is critical to the implementation of its mandate. Installation of infrastructure – including, most recently, containers with a vantage point of the Blue Line – that restricts access to, or the visibility of, the Blue Line is of concern. The mission's ability to conduct patrols and activities independently must be maintained. There is an increasing lack of access to areas that are qualified as private property, which affects the mission's ability in this regard. It remains important for the Lebanese authorities to raise awareness among local communities of the mission's mandate, including its freedom of movement, both with the Lebanese Armed Forces and independently. I reiterate the obligation of the Lebanese Armed Forces to facilitate access, and the need for the Government of Lebanon to investigate any restrictions of the movement of UNIFIL. This includes ensuring the safety of UNIFIL personnel and holding accountable those who attack peacekeepers.

86. I remain concerned about the presence of unauthorized weapons in the area between the Litani River and the Blue Line, including the rockets launched on 25 April and weapons observed at firing ranges in the UNIFIL area of operations. All constitute violations of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). I call on the Lebanese Armed Forces to facilitate access by UNIFIL to locations requested as part of its investigations and day-to-day implementation of its mandate. The continued lack of access to the firing ranges is unacceptable.

87. The continued self-acknowledged maintenance of unauthorized weapons outside of State control by Hizbullah and other non-State armed groups represents a persistent, grave violation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). I call upon the Government of Lebanon to take all actions necessary to ensure that there will be no weapons or authority in Lebanon other than those of the Lebanese State, including through the full implementation of the relevant provisions of the Taif Accords and of resolutions [1559 \(2004\)](#) and [1680 \(2006\)](#), which require the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon. It is important that outstanding elements of the resolution and the issue of the national defence strategy be addressed through a national dialogue. It is also important that earlier decisions of the Lebanese National Dialogue pertaining to the disarmament of non-Lebanese groups and the dismantling of the bases of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and Fatah al-Intifada be implemented.

88. The increase in violations of Lebanese airspace by Israel is of deep concern. The overflights constitute violations of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and of Lebanese sovereignty, cause distress to the Lebanese population and undermine the credibility of UNIFIL. I reiterate my condemnation of all violations of Lebanese sovereignty and call again for the Government of Israel to cease all overflights of Lebanese territory.

89. The actions of the Israel Defense Forces with respect to a UNIFIL Maritime Task Force vessel on 6 and 7 June violate resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). All parties must abide by their obligation to respect the safety of UNIFIL and other United Nations personnel.

90. The continued occupation by the Israel Defense Forces of northern Ghajar and an adjacent area north of the Blue Line represents a continuing violation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and must cease. The ongoing reinforcement of security infrastructure in the occupied area of Ghajar runs contrary to the necessary withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces from the area. I again urge the Israeli authorities to fulfil their legal obligation to withdraw from both Ghajar and the adjacent area.

91. I encourage Lebanon and Israel to resume talks regarding their maritime and land boundaries. The United Nations, through its representatives, remains ready to support that process as requested by the parties and within its capacity and mandate.

92. In addition, I strongly encourage the parties to agree on the way forward in resolving existing points of contention along the Blue Line. Any unilateral actions in contested areas risk escalating tensions. Welcoming the commitment by both parties

to coordination and liaison, and to avoiding potential flashpoints, as Israeli construction of the T-walls resumes, I urge the parties to support the resumption of marking the Blue Line where already agreed. I further welcome signals that both parties may be willing to restart talks on the Blue Line, building on previous work, in seeking practical arrangements and pragmatic solutions to areas under dispute.

93. The increase in the number of UNIFIL activities conducted in close coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces following the provision of temporary non-lethal, material support by UNIFIL is encouraging. The support provided appears to have had a positive impact on the capacity and reach of the Lebanese Armed Forces. Accordingly, I call for support of the request of the Government of Lebanon for an extension of the UNIFIL temporary and special measures in support of the Lebanese Armed Forces. Furthermore, acknowledging the professionalism of the State security institutions during the election period, and given the continued negative impact of the country's economic crisis on its State security institutions and the risk that non-State actors could exploit any security vacuum, I urge increased bilateral assistance to the Lebanese Armed Forces, as the only legitimate armed forces of Lebanon, and all State security institutions, so that they can effectively address any emerging security challenges.

94. Welcoming the inauguration of the model regiment headquarters, I call upon the Lebanese Armed Forces to work towards a gradual full deployment of model regiment troops, including with the meaningful participation of women military personnel. I also encourage partners to help advance the strategic dialogue between UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces and to support the capability development and partial transfer plan of the Lebanese Navy, including through the provision of vessels.

95. I call upon the Government of Lebanon to abide by its policy of disassociation, consistent with the Baabda Declaration of 2012, and for all Lebanese parties and nationals to cease their involvement in the Syrian conflict and other conflicts in the region. I condemn any movement of fighters and war materiel across the border of Lebanon with the Syrian Arab Republic in violation of resolution 1701 (2006).

96. I reiterate my call for an impartial, thorough and transparent investigation into the Beirut port explosion of 4 August 2020. The still unresolved murder case of Lokman Slim is also of concern. I urge the new Parliament to adopt the legislation necessary, in line with international standards, to strengthen the independence of the judiciary.

97. The continued hospitality of Lebanon towards refugees is to be commended, as are donor contributions to ensure protection needs. I send my sincere condolences to the victims of the tragic boat incident near Tripoli and to their families. While the United Nations and partners continue to work to create the conditions for safe, dignified and voluntary returns, respect for due process of law and guaranteeing the dignity of refugees remains indispensable.

98. Protests by Palestine refugees in Lebanon highlight the urgency of adequate and predictable funding for UNRWA. Welcoming the meeting of the Advisory Commission of UNRWA from 13 to 16 June in Beirut, I once again appeal to the international community to increase its support so that the Agency can deliver essential services and emergency assistance and ensure the protection of the Palestine refugee community.

99. I reiterate my gratitude to all countries contributing military personnel and equipment to UNIFIL and Observer Group Lebanon. I repeat my call for them to increase the number of women among military personnel in UNIFIL. I extend my appreciation to the Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Joanna Wronecka, and the staff of her office; the UNIFIL Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major General Aroldo Lázaro Sáenz, and the civilian and military personnel in UNIFIL under his leadership; and members of the United Nations country team.

Annex I***Restriction of the freedom of access and movement of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon from 19 February to 20 June 2022**

1. In its resolution [2591 \(2021\)](#), the Security Council urged the parties to ensure the freedom of movement of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in all its operations including access to all parts of the Blue Line are fully respected and unimpeded. It called on the Government of Lebanon to facilitate prompt and full UNIFIL access to sites requested by the Mission for the purpose of swift investigations, in line with resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), while respecting Lebanese sovereignty.
2. During the reporting period, UNIFIL conducted an average of 6,135 monthly patrols during the day and night, of which 2,346 (38.2 per cent) were foot patrols. The Mission conducted an average of 2,270 patrols each month along the Blue Line, both by vehicle and on foot (47.9 and 52.1 per cent, respectively). In addition, the Mission conducted an average of 83 helicopter patrols, 895 inspection activities, including the conduct of temporary and permanent checkpoints, and counter rocket launching operations each month. While the freedom of movement of UNIFIL was respected in most cases, the Mission continued to experience some restrictions as detailed below. This includes, on several occasions, lack of access to areas that were qualified as private property, which is placing undue restrictions on the Mission's ability to conduct patrols and activities independently.
3. The Lebanese Armed Forces continued to object to some patrol routes proposed by UNIFIL to expand its presence outside main routes and municipal centres on the grounds that they were either private roads or areas of strategic importance to the Lebanese Armed Forces. UNIFIL has consistently followed up on reported incidents with the appropriate authorities. It continuously engages with the Lebanese Armed Forces to secure freedom of movement and unrestricted access to all areas within its area of operations.

Access to all locations of interest

4. UNIFIL is yet to gain full access to several sites of interest. This includes the firing ranges observed by the Mission's air reconnaissance patrols as well as a number of Green without Borders sites close to the Blue Line. Repeated formal requests have been put to the Lebanese Armed Forces. Access to those locations is required both in connection with investigations and as part of the Mission's daily monitoring of the Blue Line, as mandated under resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and recalled in resolution [2591 \(2021\)](#). UNIFIL observed the installation of several containers near the Blue Line in April and May, reportedly associated with Green without Borders. The placement of these containers has resulted in new restrictions of UNIFIL's access to the Blue Line. A barrier was placed (in the form of a chain) blocking the road to one container and, in several instances, peacekeepers were verbally threatened against entering the area. The Lebanese Armed Forces has committed to facilitating UNIFIL's unimpeded access to the Blue Line at these locations.

Freedom of Movement incidents

5. On 5 March, a UNIFIL logistics convoy deviated by mistake from their planned route in Brashit (Sector West). After stopping to turn around, the convoy was surrounded by a group of individuals in civilian clothes. Shortly thereafter, some of these individuals became aggressive and demanded that the UNIFIL personnel hand

* Circulated in the language of submission only and without formal editing.

over their cell phones, and for the UNIFIL vehicles to be searched. UNIFIL activated a quick reaction team and requested the assistance of the Lebanese Armed Forces. With their arrival, the crowd dispersed, and the convoy continued towards the base together with the Lebanese Armed Forces. Following the incident, the Mayor of Brashit told UNIFIL that the patrol had been stopped as it was not accompanied by the Lebanese Armed Forces in an area which UNIFIL does not usually patrol.

6. On 7 March, an Observer Group Lebanon vehicle patrol left the main road to drive towards the municipality of Kafra (Sector West). Shortly thereafter, a vehicle with two individuals in civilian clothes gestured for the patrol to stop and turn back. To avoid escalation, the patrol reversed and returned to the main road. The car followed the patrol vehicle for approximately two kilometres. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces.

7. On 8 March, a UNIFIL patrol conducted in close coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces, deviated from its planned route in the vicinity of Marwahin (Sector West) as the route it was scheduled to take was blocked with stones and dirt. As the patrol took an alternative road, an individual in a vehicle blocked access. The Lebanese Armed Forces addressed the individual, who claimed that the patrol could not use the road as it was located on private property and advised use of another road, leading to Marwahin. After the arrival of the Lebanese Armed Forces, the peacekeepers resumed their patrol together with the Lebanese Armed Forces. Following the incident, the Mayor of Marwahin stated to UNIFIL that the patrol was stopped because it was heading towards private property.

8. On 16 March, a UNIFIL liaison branch vehicle deviated from its planned route, due to a misplaced road sign in the village of Blida (Sector East). A motorbike and a vehicle blocked the road and the patrol was surrounded by approximately 15–20 individuals. Some started hitting the vehicle, demanding that the peacekeepers hand over their phones and equipment. One of the individuals then opened a vehicle's door and grabbed three cell phones, a tablet, and a camera. In resisting, one of the peacekeepers was slightly injured. UNIFIL alerted the Lebanese Armed Forces, and upon their arrival, they escorted the UNIFIL vehicle out of the area. Subsequently, the Lebanese Armed Forces retrieved the cell phones and the camera, but the tablet and the camera memory card are still missing. UNIFIL contacted the Mayor of Blida, who responded that the patrol had ignored the road sign and stopped at a narrow village road.

9. On 25 March, a UNIFIL patrol was stopped by two individuals in civilian clothes, who placed a vehicle across the road in Ash Sh'aytiyah (Sector West). The individuals asked the peacekeepers if they were carrying cameras or similar equipment. After receiving a negative response, the individuals requested the patrol to leave the area and followed them until they reached Ash Sh'aytiyah. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces about the incident.

10. On 28 March, an Observer Group Lebanon foot patrol was stopped by an individual in civilian clothes in Aytarun (Sector West), who stated that UN personnel could not conduct a foot patrol in the area without the Lebanese Armed Forces. The individual's attitude was calm. Subsequently, a municipal police officer and two additional individuals arrived at the scene. Shortly thereafter, officers from the Lebanese Armed Forces arrived but could not persuade the first individual to allow the foot patrol to continue. The Observer Group Lebanon personnel returned to the base, without further incident.

11. On 1 April, a UNIFIL vehicle patrol in Dayr Quanun (Sector West) was stopped by six individuals who placed three vehicles across the road. They demanded the peacekeepers to leave the area. The patrol then turned around and used a different route. The Lebanese Armed Forces was informed about the incident.

12. On 8 April, a UNIFIL vehicle patrol encountered three vehicles positioned across the road in Zibqin (Sector West). One individual asked the patrol to leave the area and another pointed a laser beam, while a third filmed the encounter on his cell phone. Subsequently, the civilians moved their vehicles, enabling the peacekeepers to continue the patrol, as planned.

13. On 13 April, a UNIFIL vehicle patrol, accompanied by the Lebanese Armed Forces entered a narrow street in Blida (Sector East). While trying to reverse, one of the UNIFIL armoured personnel carriers damaged a concrete slab covering a septic tank. Local residents surrounded the patrol. The crowd dispersed with the arrival of the Lebanese Armed Forces, accompanied by a representative of the village administration. The peacekeepers were then able to resume their patrol.

14. On 14 April, a UNIFIL patrol was blocked by two vehicles positioned across the road in the vicinity of Kunin (Sector West). Two of the five individuals disembarked and one took photographs of the patrol with a mobile phone. When one of the two vehicles left the location, the patrol reversed and continued its movement while the other vehicle followed it for some time. Eventually, the patrol returned to its base without any further incident.

15. On 20 April, a UNIFIL patrol on its way to meet up with the Lebanese Armed Forces encountered two vehicles and a scooter positioned across the road near Brashit (Sector West). As the patrol came to a halt, it was surrounded by 10 additional vehicles with 12 individuals. While calm and non-adversarial, some of the civilians asked to look inside the UNIFIL vehicles, which the peacekeepers did not allow. Shortly thereafter, the Lebanese Armed Forces arrived, the crowd dispersed, and the peacekeepers started the planned patrol. Following the incident, the Mayor of Kunin called on UNIFIL to coordinate with the Lebanese Armed Forces, when patrolling in residential areas.

16. On 22 April, 13 individuals in civilian clothes blocked the path of a UNIFIL patrol in the vicinity of Bint Jubayl, placing scooters and vehicles across the road. Some took pictures of the patrol and the crowd grew over the next 30 minutes. The situation became increasingly tense with some individuals throwing stones, breaking the taillights of the UNIFIL vehicle, and deflating tyres. The patrol requested the intervention of the Lebanese Armed Forces who arrived after approximately 30 minutes with most of the crowd dispersing. Three civilian vehicles were still blocking the road when a stone was flung shattering a side window of the UNIFIL vehicle, causing minor injury to a peacekeeper. The patrol was able to return to base and the injured peacekeeper was taken for medical treatment.

17. On 4 May, a UNIFIL patrol heading to meet with the Lebanese Armed Forces encountered a barrier in the vicinity of Aytarun (Sector West). Three individuals explained calmly that the road was private and belonged to Green without Borders. The peacekeepers also observed signs stating that the road was private. The patrol took another road to the meeting point, before carrying out its planned itinerary. The Lebanese Armed Forces was informed.

18. On 8 May, UNIFIL personnel stopped in the vicinity of Ghanduriyah (Sector East) awaiting the arrival of the Lebanese Armed Forces to conduct a coordinated patrol. Three individuals in civilian clothes approached the patrol and demanded that the peacekeepers leave the area. They then tried to open the door of one patrol vehicle and ripped a United Nations flag. As the patrol left to return to its position in Adshit al Qusays and meet the Lebanese Armed Forces, a vehicle followed the patrol for approximately 30 minutes. With the arrival of the Lebanese Armed Forces at Adshit al Qusays, UNIFIL and Lebanese Armed Forces personnel conducted the patrol as planned.

19. On 22 May, six vehicles were parked across the road in Bayt Yahun (Sector West) blocking a UNIFIL vehicle patrol en route to meet the Lebanese Armed Forces. The individuals did not show any other signs of unfriendly or aggressive behaviour. After UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces about the incident, Lebanese Armed Forces personnel arrived and escorted the UNIFIL patrol out of the area.

20. On 30 May, an Observer Group Lebanon patrol stopped near a Green without Borders site in Aytarun (Sector West), to monitor the Blue Line from its observation point. Two individuals in civilian clothes told the patrol in a calm manner to leave the location. The two individuals asserted that an increase in UN patrols had been observed, some taking photographs, and that UN patrols would no longer be allowed to approach the site. The peacekeepers explained the mandate but were then warned that it would be the last time this message was conveyed in a “polite manner”.

21. On 2 June, four individuals in civilian clothes with two vehicles blocked the road of a UNIFIL patrol on its way back to its base, in the vicinity of Ramyah (Sector West). The individuals demanded the peacekeepers get out of their vehicle and seized a GPS and a cell phone. UNIFIL deployed reinforcement to the area and informed the Lebanese Armed Forces. After negotiations by the patrol leader, the peacekeepers were able to leave. There were no injuries to peacekeepers or damage to vehicles. The GPS and cell phone remain missing.

22. On 6 June, the Israel Defense Forces Navy warned a UNIFIL Maritime Task Force vessel patrolling the UNIFIL maritime area of operation in the vicinity of Karish gas field against approaching the area. Six Israeli fighter aircraft maneuvered near the UNIFIL vessel, triggering supersonic booms and launching several flares. On 7 June, six Israeli fighter aircraft flew over the same vessel. The UNIFIL vessel also detected the electronic signature of a fire-control-radar in lock-on-mode towards it.

23. On 9 June, while conducting a planned reconnaissance activity, a UNIFIL patrol encountered a chain across the road in the vicinity of Deir Mimess (Sector East). The patrol continued its movement using an alternative road. The mayor stated that landowners barred access to their roads to prevent trespassing. UNIFIL has raised the issue with the Lebanese Armed Forces.

24. On 11 June, an individual in civilian clothes with a hand-held radio came out of a prefab container in Blida as a UNIFIL foot patrol was passing nearby. The individual urged the patrol to leave the area. The patrol made a U-turn and left the area. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces.

25. On 11 June, three individuals in civilian clothes emerging from a prefab container in Arab El Wazzani (Sector East) stopped a UNIFIL patrol and urged the patrol in an unfriendly manner to immediately leave the area. UNIFIL continued the patrol using an alternative route. Some hours later, a second UNIFIL patrol was stopped by four individuals coming out from the same container, with the individuals stating that they had previously warned UN personnel from coming to the area and that “next time” they would be “killed”. Following this, the individuals tried unsuccessfully to seize weapons from the peacekeepers. The patrol made a U-turn and left the area. As it was leaving the area, the individuals threw stones at the patrol. There were no injuries to personnel, nor damage to the vehicles. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces about the incidents.

26. On 15 June, a UNIFIL vehicle patrol in close coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces encountered three individuals in civilian clothes on a road in the vicinity of Blida (Sector East). The individuals, who stood on the road in front of the patrol, made hand gestures and shouted, “go back!” UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces personnel continued their patrol using an adjacent road. Following the

incident, UNIFIL was informed that the road was closed to traffic due to road maintenance.

27. On 17 June, three teenagers on motorbikes approached a UNIFIL patrol, which was operating in close coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces, near Kunin (Sector West). One of the teenagers hit one of the patrol vehicles with his fist, while another one hit it with a blunt object, making a hole in the rear window. The teenagers quickly left the area and the peacekeepers returned to camp escorted by the Lebanese Armed Forces. There were no injuries to UNIFIL personnel.

Annex II****UNIFIL's support to the Lebanese Armed Forces further to OP 11 of resolution 2591 (2021)**

1. Operative paragraph 11 of resolution 2591 (2021) requested UNIFIL, in line with resolution 1701 (2006), to take temporary and special measures to support and assist the Lebanese Armed Forces with the provision of relevant additional non-lethal material (fuel, food and medicine) and logistical support, for a limited period of six months, within the mission's existing resources and without implications to the increase of the budget level, in the framework of the Lebanese Armed Forces-UNIFIL joint activities and in compliance with the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP). The relatively short timeframe for the provision of material assistance meant that most of the support was delivered in February 2022, with its impact largely felt in March and April 2022. The temporary assistance provided by UNIFIL enabled the Lebanese Armed Forces to increase its operational tempo in UNIFIL's area of operations.

Support provided

2. During the preparatory phase between September and October 2021, UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces developed an assistance plan focused on food and fuel, taking into account both vehicles and personnel requirements for joint UNIFIL-Lebanese Armed Forces activities. The plan was based on the needs and absorption capacity of the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL's available resources and supply-chain lead times. On 10 December, UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) detailing provisions, oversight, and compliance with the HRDDP. The delivery plan was implemented until the end of February 2022, with the understanding that the Lebanese Armed Forces would be able to continue utilising the fuel and non-perishable rations provided.

3. Altogether, by the end of February 2022, UNIFIL provided 210,000 litres of diesel fuel, vehicle maintenance, food rations for 162,000 meals, medicines, medical equipment, and personal protective equipment. Provisions were largely drawn from UNIFIL's existing stocks or using existing contracts. The purchase of critical medicines requested by the Lebanese Armed Forces included utilisation of existing contracts where items were no longer available in Lebanon. The Mission ensured all oversight requirements, as set out by the Security Council and detailed in the MOU, were met through formal validation of delivered quantities each month. The assistance was valued at a total of US \$328,000.

Impact assessment

4. Overall, operational activities in close coordination with the LAF have risen demonstrably, although not to the peak of the levels registered prior to October 2019. Whereas in the period before December 2019, UNIFIL was conducting an average of 22.2 per cent of its operations in close coordination with the LAF, the average dropped to a low of 13.8 per cent in July 2021. By April 2022, with the bulk of assistance having been provided in February, operations conducted in close coordination with the LAF reached an average of 18.3 percent.

5. The positive impact of UNIFIL's assistance was most clear with regards to fuel support and vehicular activities, as fuel provision by UNIFIL offset some of the constraints of the Lebanese Armed Force caused by rapidly rising fuel prices. (Fuel prices have more than tripled in Lebanon between January and the end of March).

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From an average of 215 monthly joint vehicle patrols during October 2021–January 2022, joint vehicle patrols rose to 263 in March, 282 in April, and 277 in May 2022. The minor dip in May includes the electoral period (13-17 May), during which the activities of the Lebanese Armed Forces focused on securing polling sites. UNIFIL maintained a low operational profile during this period. In June, 273 joint vehicle patrols are planned. Joint foot patrols and market walks, which are vital for force acceptance, also rose significantly. From 76 foot patrols in February, there were 200 in March, 191 in April, and 195 in May, with a target of 228 for June.

6. With the provision of food and medicines, UNIFIL delivered a small yet useful set of goods to Lebanese Armed Forces troops amidst a sharp decrease in the purchasing value of their salaries. The resulting morale boost and the valuable impact of the overall assistance have been recognized by Lebanese government officials in communications with senior UN officials.

7. UNIFIL's operations in close coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces help facilitate the acceptance of UNIFIL by local communities and are essential to UNIFIL's mandate implementation. The joint operations also contribute to the objective of resolution 1701 of supporting the extension of state authority in southern Lebanon. Given the continuing devaluation of the Lebanese currency, rising fuel prices, and many competing demands, the Lebanese Armed Forces is likely to require continued international assistance in order to maintain critical operational capacity in UNIFIL's area of operations in the months ahead.

Annex III

Implementation of the arms embargo

1. In paragraph 21 of its resolution [2591 \(2021\)](#), the Security Council recalled paragraph 15 of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), according to which all States shall take the necessary measures to prevent, by their nationals or from their territories or using flag vessels or aircraft, the sale or supply of arms and related materiel to any entity or individual in Lebanon other than those authorized by the Government of Lebanon or the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The United Nations continued to engage with Member States on allegations of weapons transfers and efforts to address such violations of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#).
 2. On 1 June, I received a response from the President of the Republic of Lebanon to the letter dated 15 February 2022 from the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs addressed to the Permanent Representative of Lebanon, which reiterated my request that the Government of Lebanon share with the Secretariat any pertinent information or developments related to the arms embargo.
 3. Paragraph 15 of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) stipulates that all States shall take the necessary measures to prevent, inter alia, the sale or supply to any entity or individual in Lebanon of arms and related material of all types. During the reporting period, no other new information was shared with the Secretariat in this regard.
 4. The United Nations remains committed to supporting overall compliance by the parties with resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) in all its provisions and to advancing its implementation. This applies to the implementation of the arms embargo under paragraph 15 of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and any decision that would be adopted by the Security Council in this regard. I look forward to continued dialogue with the Council and its members on furthering our joint goal of the full implementation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#).
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