



# Security Council

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## Implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) during the period from 20 February to 18 June 2021

### 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 my previous report, dated 9 March 2021 (S/2021/240), including on the provisions of resolution 2539 (2020). 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. The situation in the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), in particular along the Blue Line, remained tense, exacerbated by developments in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory in May. During this period, rockets were fired from southern Lebanon towards Israel on three occasions, twice impacting in Israel and prompting response fire on two occasions. On 13 May, UNIFIL personnel stationed near Qulaylah and at UNIFIL headquarters in Naqurah (both Sector West) heard four loud sounds consistent with the firing of rockets and observed two flashes in the sky. Subsequently, the Israel Defense Forces confirmed to UNIFIL that several rockets fired from Lebanon had landed in Israeli waters. UNIFIL visited the suspected launch site north of the Blue Line on 19 May. The Lebanese Armed Forces showed UNIFIL the traces of four rockets fired in a south-westerly direction towards Israel and informed UNIFIL that they had found one unlaunched rocket, although it and the remnants of the used launch pads had been removed by the Lebanese Armed Forces and could not be inspected by UNIFIL.

3. On 17 May, UNIFIL detected six rockets being fired from north of the Blue Line near Kfar Shuba (Sector East), which flew over the Israeli villages of Metulla and Misgav Am and impacted near the Lebanese villages Rabb al Thalathin and Markaba, as well as near a UNIFIL position near Udaysah (all Sector East). Shortly thereafter, UNIFIL observed the Israel Defense Forces firing 12 artillery rounds, including five illumination shells, from south of the Blue Line towards the north-west of Shab'a



(Sector East). The following day, UNIFIL, with the Lebanese Armed Forces, visited the suspected launch site, where the Lebanese Armed Forces showed UNIFIL six launch pads for 122-mm rockets with timer devices and batteries, as well as one intact rocket set to launch towards Israel.

4. On 19 May, UNIFIL personnel heard four loud sounds consistent with the firing of rockets, emanating from near Siddiqin (Sector West). UNIFIL detected one rocket that impacted south of the Blue Line, about 40 kilometres from its point of origin, as later confirmed by the Israel Defense Forces. The Israel Defense Forces informed UNIFIL that another rocket had been neutralized by the Iron Dome defence system over Israeli airspace, while two other rockets had fallen into the sea. UNIFIL subsequently recorded 13 rounds of artillery being fired from south of the Blue Line, which impacted an open area between Naqurah and Bayyadah (Sector West), causing UNIFIL to order its personnel into bunkers as a protective measure. UNIFIL dispatched to the suspected launch site, where the Lebanese Armed Forces showed UNIFIL four used rocket launchers and one intact 122-mm rocket.

5. Throughout the period from 13 to 19 May, the UNIFIL Head of Mission and Force Commander was in continuous contact with the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Israel Defense Forces to clarify the situation, facilitate a coordinated operational response and prevent escalation. The parties reiterated their continued commitment to the cessation of hostilities and worked closely with UNIFIL to contain the situation. UNIFIL has launched investigations into the three incidents.

6. From 14 to 25 May, UNIFIL observed large gatherings along the Blue Line, including near Marun al-Ra's, Marwahin, Udaysah and Sarda (all Sector East), with the Lebanese Armed Forces present at all locations. On 14 May, demonstrators in vehicle convoys displayed Palestinian, Lebanese and Hizbullah flags at several locations along the Blue Line, including near Markaba, Udaysah, Kafr Kila and Arab al-Wazzani (Sector East). Near Arab al-Wazzani, approximately 100 protesters disembarked from some 30 vehicles and 20 motorcycles and moved towards the Blue Line, with at least 10 protesters crossing the Blue Line across from the Israeli village of Metulla. Seven of the individuals cut through the Israeli technical fence and crossed into the Metulla area, where they planted Palestinian and Hizbullah flags, threw stones and lit a brushfire. UNIFIL then observed Israel Defense Forces soldiers firing 10 single shots from assault rifles followed by rounds of automatic fire, prompting the demonstrators to return north of the Blue Line. UNIFIL also heard four detonations and saw dark smoke. At the urging of UNIFIL, the Israel Defense Forces ceased fire to allow the Lebanese Armed Forces, in cooperation with UNIFIL, to evacuate civilians from the area. In identical letters dated 17 May addressed to the President of the Security Council and to me, (A/75/890-S/2021/482), the Permanent Representative of Lebanon stated that "on 14 May 2021, during a rally of civilians in solidarity with the Palestinian people near the technical fence in the Ibil al-Qamh area in the town of Sarda, Israeli enemy soldiers opened fire in their direction into Lebanese territory. That led to injuries to Husayn Sulub ... and Muhammad Tahhan ... Mr. Tahhan died from his injuries shortly thereafter". UNIFIL has launched an investigation into the incident. Preliminary findings indicate that the demonstrators, in breaching the Blue Line and the technical fence and throwing stones and incendiary items that ignited a fire on the Israeli side, violated resolution 1701 (2006). In addition, the firing of live ammunition across the Blue Line by the Israel Defense Forces against the demonstrators constituted a violation of resolution 1701 (2006) and was not commensurate with the threat posed to Israeli soldiers.

7. On 15 May (Palestinian Nakbah day), demonstrators in Udaysah threw stones and Molotov cocktails at the Israeli T-wall and removed the old technical fence at Panorama Point, south of the Blue Line. Despite efforts by the Lebanese Armed Forces to prevent the protesters from crossing the Blue Line, several protesters

climbed the Israeli T-wall and vandalized the cameras attached to the wall. UNIFIL heard small arms fire on two occasions. On 17 May, also at Udaysah, UNIFIL observed five illumination flares that were fired from south to north of the Blue Line. On 18 May, UNIFIL observed the Israel Defense Forces firing approximately 15 smoke grenades, which impacted north of the Blue Line in Udaysah after protesters had thrown stones and Molotov cocktails at the Israeli T-wall. In Sarda, on 18 May, demonstrators threw two flares southwards; the Israel Defense Forces threw two flares northwards in response. All four flares landed north of the Blue Line. On 23 May, protesters in Shab'a broke through a Lebanese Armed Forces cordon, advanced past UNIFIL peacekeepers and crossed south of the Blue Line to the Israeli security fence, where they placed Palestinian and Hizbullah flags. After the Lebanese Armed Forces tried to apprehend them, the protesters threw stones at the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL, injuring one Lebanese Armed Forces soldier and damaging one UNIFIL vehicle.

8. Throughout the demonstrations, UNIFIL coordinated with the parties to implement measures to prevent escalation. The Lebanese Armed Forces established mobile checkpoints along roads leading to the Blue Line to restrict assemblies in the area and took crowd control measures during protests close to the Blue Line. UNIFIL deployed at key locations along the Blue Line, maintained aerial surveillance and increased its patrols and counter-rocket-launching operations in coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces, while remaining in close contact with both parties. UNIFIL urged the Lebanese Armed Forces to prevent spillover of demonstrations across the Blue Line and urged the Israel Defense Forces to exercise restraint. Underscoring the seriousness of these incidents, UNIFIL has asked the Lebanese Armed Forces to investigate and share its findings with UNIFIL.

9. During the reporting period, UNIFIL continued to observe illumination rounds that were fired by the Israel Defense Forces in response to what the latter asserted were suspicious activities. On 1 March, UNIFIL observed 11 illumination rounds being fired from south of the Blue Line in the vicinity of Arab al-Wazzani, 7 of which landed north of the Blue Line. On 21 March, UNIFIL heard approximately 108 rounds of fire and five explosions and observed nine illumination rounds being fired from south of the Blue Line in the vicinity of Hula (Sector East). Subsequently, the Lebanese Armed Forces informed UNIFIL that they had apprehended three individuals in the area. The following day, UNIFIL found remnants of illumination rounds north of the Blue Line, as well as a hole in the Israeli technical fence. UNIFIL observed the Israel Defense Forces firing four illumination rounds on 3 April and one round on 16 April from Ghajar, all of which landed north of the Blue Line. One such round landed on the roof of a UNIFIL position, without causing damage. On 17 April, UNIFIL observed 12 illumination rounds being fired from south of the Blue Line in the vicinity of Hula, all of which landed south of the Blue Line. On 14 May, UNIFIL detected five illumination shells that were launched from south of the Blue Line towards Sarda. Two days later, the Lebanese Armed Forces informed UNIFIL of an unexploded 155-mm illumination round found in the area. On 16 May, UNIFIL detected 11 illumination rounds that were launched from south of the Blue Line, also in the vicinity of Sarda, all of which impacted north of the Blue Line. On 6 June, UNIFIL observed six illumination flares being fired from south of the Blue Line and falling near a UNIFIL position near Alma al-Sha'b (Sector West).

10. While the Lebanese Armed Forces initiated works to redirect the trajectory of the dirt road that crossed the Blue Line close to Udaysah (see [S/2021/240](#), para. 5), tensions remained heightened, with incidents of weapons being pointed by both parties across the Blue Line, requiring UNIFIL to interpose between the parties on five occasions. During each incident, UNIFIL observed groups of individuals in civilian clothes next to the Lebanese Armed Forces north of the Blue Line. On

17 March, individuals in civilian clothes snatched a camera from UNIFIL personnel and removed the memory card before returning the camera. UNIFIL also observed five incidents of weapons being pointed across the Blue Line in Mays al-Jabal, Aytarun, Alma al-Sha'b and Hula. In identical letters dated 17 May addressed to the President of the Security Council and to me (A/75/888-S/2021/477), the Permanent Representative of Lebanon stated, with respect to the incident at Aytarun, that Israel Defense Forces soldiers "pointed their weapons at the Lebanese Army soldiers several times" and condemned "these flagrant Israeli violations of its sovereignty in the strongest possible terms".

11. Pursuant to the recommendations made in the assessment of the continued relevance of UNIFIL resources (S/2020/473) of June 2020, welcomed by the Security Council in its resolution 2539 (2020), UNIFIL initiated preparatory engineering works to install cameras inside several UNIFIL positions along the Blue Line. Local media issued a series of articles misrepresenting the project and questioning its purpose. On four occasions, between 1 and 9 April, individuals in civilian clothes protested against the preparatory works at UNIFIL positions in Kafr Kila, Mays al-Jabal and Markaba (all Sector East) and threatened to use force to prevent the installation of cameras. On 20 May, individuals in civilian clothes cut the concertina wire at a UNIFIL position in Hula, climbed on top of the perimeter barrier and took photographs of the preparatory works for the installation of a new signal tower. Seven individuals then forcefully entered the position before being escorted out. UNIFIL has launched an investigation and remains engaged with the Lebanese Armed Forces, which have requested time to address local concerns before the camera installation proceeds.

12. The Israel Defense Forces continued to enter Lebanese airspace in violation of resolution 1701 (2006) and of Lebanese sovereignty. From 20 February to 18 June, UNIFIL recorded 260 airspace violations, totalling 412 hours and 43 minutes in overflight time. Drones accounted for approximately 80 per cent of the violations. The remaining airspace violations involved fighter aircraft or unidentified aircraft.

13. On 29 March, Lebanese media reported that a shepherd had found an Israeli drone north of the Blue Line near Kfar Shuba and handed it to the Lebanese Armed Forces. The Israel Defense Forces informed UNIFIL that they had lost a drone due to a malfunction. On 27 April, the Israel Defense Forces tweeted that it had "downed a Hezbollah drone that crossed from Lebanon into Israel". The Israel Defense Forces informed UNIFIL that they had located another "Hezbollah drone" that they had brought down a few weeks earlier. UNIFIL did not observe the reported incidents.

14. Amid reports of alleged Israeli airstrikes into the Syrian Arab Republic on 8 April, UNIFIL is investigating the possible impact of a projectile near Hula in southern Lebanon.

15. From 20 February to 18 June, in addition to ground violations committed during the aforementioned demonstrations, UNIFIL recorded 431 ground violations by Lebanese civilians crossing south of the Blue Line, including 289 violations by shepherds and farmers, mainly in the Shab'a Farms area, as well as 97 violations by civilians on their way to the Shu'ayb well near Blida (Sector East). On 6 April, UNIFIL observed Lebanese Armed Forces personnel crossing south of the Blue Line in the vicinity of Mays al-Jabal while monitoring an Israel Defense Forces training activity. On 8 May, UNIFIL observed Israel Defense Forces personnel chasing goats from north to south of the Blue Line, near Kfar Shuba. On 2 March, the International Committee of the Red Cross, in coordination with UNIFIL, facilitated the return of a Lebanese citizen who was apprehended on 28 February by the Israel Defense Forces after he had crossed south of the Blue Line. The UNIFIL investigation into the incident continues.

16. The occupation of northern Ghajar and an adjacent area north of the Blue Line by the Israel Defense Forces continued. 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.

17. As part of efforts to keep the area between the Blue Line and the Litani River free of unauthorized armed personnel, assets and weapons, UNIFIL, in coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces, maintained 16 permanent and an average of 122 temporary checkpoints and conducted 335 counter-rocket-launching operations on average each month. In addition to the aforementioned rocket-firing incidents, UNIFIL observed unauthorized weapons in the area of operations on 271 occasions. Of those, all but the following three incidents involved hunting weapons. On 13 May, a UNIFIL patrol following up on the reported rocket-launching in Qulaylah on 13 May (see para. 2) was stopped by six individuals in civilian clothes carrying automatic rifles. On 14 May, UNIFIL observed two individuals in civilian clothes near Dayr Qanun (Sector West) carrying two automatic rifles. On 19 May, UNIFIL observed two individuals in civilian clothes, one of whom was carrying an assault rifle, near Shama' (Sector West). UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces of these incidents.

18. Pursuant to resolution [2539 \(2020\)](#), UNIFIL maintained its high operational tempo and visible presence throughout the area of operations, conducting on average 14,022 monthly military operational activities, including 6,555 patrols. Some 5 per cent of the mission's military operational activities included at least one woman peacekeeper. UNIFIL vehicular, foot and air patrols maintained an operational footprint in municipalities and villages in the area of operations. Air reconnaissance patrols continued over areas to which ground patrols have limited access, including private property, land contaminated by explosive remnants of war or anti-personnel mines, and wadis. The proportion of UNIFIL operations conducted in close coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces remained at 16 per cent. UNIFIL conducted 233 training sessions for the Lebanese Armed Forces, including a large firing exercise from 7 to 11 June.

19. Despite repeated requests, UNIFIL has yet to gain full access to several locations of interest, including some Green without Borders sites. While the freedom of movement of UNIFIL was generally respected, the mission did encounter some restrictions to its movements (see annex I).

20. The UNIFIL Maritime Task Force continued maritime interdiction operations throughout the maritime area of operations, hailing 2,319 vessels. Of these, the Lebanese Armed Forces inspected and cleared all 403 vessels referred to them by UNIFIL.

21. UNIFIL continued to support the capacity-building of the Lebanese Navy, conducting 320 training sessions and exercises and jointly practising common operational standards for commanding, monitoring and hailing activities. This included nine advanced maritime interdiction operation integration training sessions, which gradually increased in duration from 24 to 72 hours. The UNIFIL Maritime Task Force and the Lebanese Navy also conducted 10 search and rescue exercises and two helicopter deck landing exercises. Since 6 April, training sessions requiring in-person attendance have gradually resumed, while respecting coronavirus disease (COVID-19) precautionary measures.

22. The Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL continued their engagement within the framework of the strategic dialogue process. In a virtual meeting co-chaired with UNIFIL on 13 April, the Lebanese Armed Forces informed international community representatives that construction works for the model regiment headquarters at Sribbin (Sector West) commenced on 10 March. The Lebanese Armed Forces also

noted that the reconstruction of the Beirut Naval Base, the extension of the Jounieh Naval School and the building of a joint rescue and coordination centre continued.

## **B. Security and liaison arrangements**

23. UNIFIL convened tripartite meetings on 7 April and 3 June, in a curtailed format, owing to COVID-19 restrictions. UNIFIL was in regular contact with both parties during moments of high tension, as noted above, urging maximum restraint on both sides and calling for the parties' full cooperation with UNIFIL to prevent escalation.

24. Following the resumption of the Blue Line marking process, with the verification by the Lebanese Armed Forces of their 21 pending Blue Line markers on 21 December (see [S/2021/240](#), para. 20), the Israel Defense Forces completed the verification of their 8 pending markers on 1 June. UNIFIL completed refurbishment of 204 existing Blue Line markers on 30 April.

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

26. In accordance with the commitments on protection of civilians of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and its implementation strategy Action for Peacekeeping Plus, UNIFIL, through quick-impact projects and civil-military cooperation initiatives funded by troop-contributing countries, continued to provide capacity-building support to national authorities, such as the Internal Security Forces, and implemented some 460 civil-military cooperation initiatives, including donations of medical equipment and training of medical personnel, to support local efforts to prevent COVID-19 transmission.

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 4,737 UNIFIL military and civilian personnel, including 247 women. UNIFIL launched quick-impact projects to enhance sustainable livelihood opportunities for women and provided computers to support online schooling for economically disadvantaged girls.

## **C. Disarming armed groups**

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

29. In identical letters dated 17 March addressed to the President of the Security Council and to me ([S/2021/272](#)), the Permanent Representative of Israel stated that Hizbullah "continued its military entrenchment and presence in Lebanon ... This dangerous situation poses a threat not only to Israel and its citizens, but also to the people of Lebanon, which Hezbollah uses as human shields to protect its arsenal of over 130,000 rockets and military infrastructure".

30. The Lebanese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces made three terrorism-related arrests from 20 February to 18 June, including of suspected affiliates of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

31. In eastern and northern Lebanon, multiple personal disputes escalated into shootings, resulting in 20 fatalities and 112 injuries. At least nine personal disputes in Baalbek-Hirmil, eastern Lebanon, involved the use of rocket-propelled grenades.

32. The security situation in the Palestine refugee camps across Lebanon remained largely stable, despite demonstrations within the camps, as well as along the Blue Line as mentioned above, in protest at developments between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory from 10 to 25 May. Separately, two people died following armed clashes arising from a personal dispute in Rashidieh camp on 6 June.

33. 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**

34. 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 II). While taking allegations of arms transfers seriously, the United Nations is not in a position to substantiate them independently.

35. In identical letters dated 29 March addressed to the President of the Security Council and to me (A/75/835-S/2021/313), the Permanent Representative of Lebanon stated that “on 22 March 2021, four Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace ... This violation occurred just as air strikes were being carried out against military positions in the city of Hama, in Syrian territory”. In identical letters dated 1 June addressed to the President of the Security Council and to me (A/75/913-S/2021/537), the Permanent Representative of Lebanon stated that “on the night of 7–8 April 2021, Israeli army warplanes violated Lebanese airspace and fired several missile salvos at the area surrounding the Syrian capital, Damascus”.

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

37. Despite the continued closure, with limited exceptions, of the land border between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the smuggling of fuel and goods through unofficial crossings continued to be reported. Lebanese authorities arrested 72 Lebanese and 33 Syrian nationals in 45 counter-smuggling operations.

38. On 23 April, Saudi customs officials intercepted around 5.3 million Captagon pills hidden in a pomegranate shipment from Lebanon. Saudi Arabia subsequently imposed an import ban on fruits and vegetables from Lebanon from 25 April. On 26 April, the President of Lebanon, Michel Aoun, requested the country’s security and customs agencies “to take strict measures to prevent smuggling ... in order to preserve the relations, safety and stability of all States, particularly Arab states”. Lebanese authorities have arrested two individuals in connection with the incident.

#### **E. Landmines and cluster bombs**

39. UNIFIL cleared 6,718 m<sup>2</sup> of land in its area of operations, disposing of 948 anti-personnel mines. The Mine Action Service conducted 46 quality assurance and quality control monitoring visits, four accreditation events and six risk awareness briefings to 66 UNIFIL military personnel, including seven women. Three mine-related incidents occurred within the UNIFIL area of operations, injuring two shepherds and a deminer.

#### **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 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 my report of 30 October 2007 on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) (see S/2007/641, annex).

41. On 4 May, representatives of the Governments of Israel and Lebanon held a fifth round of talks to discuss their maritime boundary. The United States of America mediated the discussions, hosted by the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon at UNIFIL premises in Naqurah, South Lebanon.

## **G. Political and institutional stability**

42. Ten months have passed since the resignation of the Diab government in the wake of the Beirut port explosion. Eight months have passed since Saad Hariri was designated to form a new government. However, during the reporting period, despite the country’s dire economic and financial situation, the political leadership has still not agreed on the formation of a new government. The reporting period was instead marked by increasingly heated rhetoric between the political actors in Lebanon.

43. The overall security situation remained relatively calm, notwithstanding a spike in protests and roadblocks in March following a steep devaluation of the Lebanese pound, which has traded for over 15,000 pounds to the United States dollar on the black market. On 8 March, the President declared that “financial, judicial and security measures must be taken to address the situation because what is happening is dangerous in terms of repercussions on social and national security” and tasked “the military and security agencies to prevent roadblocks while taking into consideration the safety of protesters, citizens and public and private property”. On 10 March, the Lebanese Armed Forces reopened roads following dialogue with demonstrators.

44. On 8 March, the Lebanese Armed Forces Commander, General Joseph Aoun, shared publicly his internal address to army unit commanders in which he described the situation in the country as “very dangerous”, while recalling that “we as an army are part of this people” and that soldiers were suffering alongside their fellow Lebanese citizens. To mobilize resources for the Lebanese Armed Forces, the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon co-chaired with the Lebanese Armed Forces a meeting of core donors, the United Nations Development Programme and UNIFIL, on 17 March. Following an official visit by General Aoun to France on 25 May, France hosted a virtual ministerial conference, co-chaired with Italy and supported by the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, on 17 June, to mobilize emergency support for the security forces of Lebanon. The meeting was attended by 18 countries, the European Union and UNIFIL.

45. On 19 May, the International Support Group for Lebanon issued a statement in Beirut, in which it urged the “formation of a fully empowered government” to carry out indispensable reforms, noting that “responsibility for averting a deeper crisis rests with the Lebanese leadership” and calling for “elections to take place on time in order to preserve Lebanon’s democracy”. Also on 19 May, the caretaker Minister for Foreign Affairs, Charbel Wehbe, resigned. Zeina Akar was subsequently appointed to assume the functions of the caretaker Minister for Foreign Affairs, in addition to her roles as caretaker Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence.

46. In its report *Lebanon Economic Monitor: Lebanon Sinking (to the Top 3)*, published on 1 June, the World Bank indicated that the economy of Lebanon had shrunk by 20.3 per cent in 2020 and was projected “to contract by a further 9.5 per cent in 2021”, adding that the “social impact of the crisis, which is already dire, could rapidly become catastrophic; more than half the population is likely below the national poverty line”. On 12 March, Parliament had approved a \$246 million World Bank loan for a three-year Emergency Social Safety Net Project. As at 18 June,

however, the Government had not yet met the World Bank's effectiveness and disbursement conditions, notably the verification of recipients.

47. With the country's foreign reserves dwindling, and at the prompting of the Central Bank, the caretaker Government commenced the development of a rationalization plan to reduce subsidies, except on wheat and some medicines, accompanied by a proposed dollar denominated cash card for approximately 750,000 vulnerable households, to offset the anticipated rise in the price of basic commodities. Meanwhile, Parliament approved a \$200 million emergency loan to the State-owned electricity company, Electricity of Lebanon, on 29 March. In its aforementioned report, the World Bank underscored that "urgent action ... is needed to avoid the [electricity] sector's complete collapse in the immediate future".

48. On 7 April, the President condemned the lack of progress on the forensic audit of the Central Bank, despite the suspension of the banking secrecy law (see [S/2021/240](#), para. 44). On 30 April, following reports of a Swiss investigation into transactions allegedly involving the Governor of the Central Bank, Riad Salameh, and his brother, the Lebanese public prosecutor was also reported to have launched an investigation. It was reported that French prosecutors opened a preliminary investigation into money laundering allegations concerning Mr. Salameh on 6 June. Mr. Salameh has denied all allegations.

49. On 15 April, Parliament enacted the Law on the Recovery of Assets Derived from Corruption Crimes. Separately, the Government requested technical assistance on asset recovery from the joint United Nations and World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative. The National Anti-Corruption Institution is still not operational as it is pending the appointment of its commissioners. The National Commission for Missing and Forcibly Disappeared Persons in Lebanon, whose two remaining commissioners were appointed on 13 April, and the National Human Rights Commission, including the Committee for the Prevention of Torture, remain inoperative absent budget allocations.

50. The investigation into the Beirut port explosion continues under Judge Tareq Bitar. On 15 April, Judge Bitar approved the release of 6 of the 25 detainees held since August 2020. On 5 May, a German company removed 59 containers of hazardous material from the port.

51. On 22 March, three United Nations independent human rights experts called upon the Government to ensure a credible and effective investigation into the killing of Lokman Slim, noting that the lack of meaningful results thus far raised "concerns as to the effectiveness of the current investigation". During the reporting period, there was still no progress to report.

52. On 22 February, the military prosecutor of Lebanon charged 35 people, including two minors, with terrorism, forming criminal associations and stealing public property during the protests over socioeconomic hardship in Tripoli in January 2021. On 29 March, the Lebanese public prosecutor referred to the military court an investigation into allegations of cases of torture and other ill-treatment of Syrian refugees in detention contained in a report by Amnesty International dated 23 March.

53. The Lebanese Presidency tweeted on 17 May that "the democratic practice in Lebanon is safeguarded and will be translated into the upcoming parliamentary and municipal elections that will take place on time in 2022". On 3 June, the caretaker Minister of the Interior indicated that the parliamentary elections would be held on either 8 or 15 May 2022 on the basis of the current electoral law, unless a new law is passed, while the municipal elections would be deferred for up to three months. The United Nations has developed a framework to support women as candidates and voters and thus promote greater participation by women in the political process.

Meanwhile, by-elections to fill the 10 vacant parliamentary seats have yet to be scheduled, notwithstanding that by-elections are required to be conducted within two months of respective vacancies.

54. Furthering implementation of the national action plan on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and amid an increase in requests from women for support, the National Commission for Lebanese Women and UNFPA completed a baseline study on women's access to domestic violence shelters. Separately, the United Nations is hosting a national-level dialogue process between women in political parties.

55. According to the World Food Programme, in 2021, 22 per cent of Lebanese nationals, 50 per cent of Syrian refugees and 33 per cent of refugees of other nationalities are considered food insecure. Competition over resources and access to basic services, and perceptions that refugees are better assisted than Lebanese nationals, is fuelling social tensions. Disputes over subsidized products in supermarkets, as well as over fuel, have become commonplace, with one person shot dead on 16 May at a gas station in Akkar. Separately, it has been reported that Syrians in Lebanon, including refugees, were intimidated and threatened with violence and confiscation of documentation in connection with out-of-country voting for the Syrian presidential election on 20 May. Statements from some Lebanese political actors calling for those who voted to return to the Syrian Arab Republic exacerbated tensions.

56. As at 31 May, 866,532 refugees and asylum seekers were registered with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Lebanon, including 851,717 Syrian refugees and 14,815 refugees and asylum seekers of other nationalities. The number of registered Syrian refugees continued to decrease owing to returns to the Syrian Arab Republic, resettlement to third countries, deaths and irregular onward movements. With new registrations of Syrian refugees by UNHCR suspended by the Government since 2015, the actual number of Syrians in need of international protection in Lebanon is unknown. The Government of Lebanon estimates that there are 1.5 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

57. UNHCR is aware of 12 movements (or attempted movements) by sea from Lebanon, involving 601 individuals (almost all Syrian nationals) in 2021, marking an increase over previous years. The primary country of destination was Cyprus. On at least five occasions between March and June in North Lebanon, the Lebanese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces apprehended Syrian nationals attempting to reach Cyprus by sea. On 18 May, a boat carrying 63 Syrians (24 men, 16 women and 23 children) was returned by Cypriot authorities to Lebanon. The United Nations continued to engage the Cypriot and Lebanese authorities in ensuring the protection and rescue of people in distress at sea and respect for the principle of non-refoulement. Meanwhile, deportations of Syrians who entered or re-entered Lebanon irregularly after 24 April 2019 continued, without the application of legal procedural safeguards.

58. Inside some Palestine refugee camps, protests against the socioeconomic situation led to temporary closures of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East facilities and service disruptions.

59. As at 18 June, Lebanon had recorded 543,371 cumulative cases of COVID-19 and 7,819 associated deaths. On 26 March, the Higher Defence Council extended the state of general mobilization until 30 September 2021. The intensive care unit occupancy rate dropped from 95 per cent in February to 9 per cent in June. As at 18 June, 1,160,378 individuals had been partially or fully vaccinated (16 per cent of the eligible population had received the first dose and 8.3 per cent had received both doses), while 1,714,833 people were registered and awaiting vaccination.

60. At the first meeting of the Consultative Group for the strategic framework for reform, recovery and reconstruction on 31 March, the caretaker Government committed to implementing policy actions and reforms within its legal capacity. On 29 April, the governing Partnership Council of the Lebanon Financing Facility (a multi-donor trust fund) endorsed its annual work plan and budget. As at 31 March, the recovery track of the Facility's strategic framework was 5 per cent funded, with \$20.1 million available out of the \$426.3 million required.

61. As at 31 March, overall international assistance to Lebanon reported by donors stood at \$999.8 million, including \$564.2 million disbursed in 2021 and \$435.5 million carried over from 2020. Donors reported \$106.7 million in outstanding commitments for 2021 and \$176.7 million in commitments for 2022 and beyond. The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan for 2021 is 24 per cent funded at \$645.5 million, with United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations reporting \$287.8 million in funds received in 2021 and \$357.7 million carried over from 2020.

62. On 25 February, pursuant to Security Council resolution [1757 \(2007\)](#), I extended the mandate of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon from 1 March for two years, or until the completion of the cases before the Special Tribunal or the exhaustion of available funds, if sooner. On 29 March, the Special Tribunal Appeals Chamber found the appeal in the *Ayyash et al.* case, filed by Mr. Ayyash's defence counsel on 13 January, inadmissible owing to lack of standing. A decision in the prosecution's appeal against the acquittal of Mr. Merhi and Mr. Oneissi is pending. On 3 June, the Trial Chamber II issued an order cancelling the commencement of trial and suspending all decisions on filings in the connected cases of the attacks against Mr. Hamade, Mr. Hawi and Mr. El-Murr, owing to insufficient funds. The whereabouts of the convicted, Mr. Ayyash, remain unknown.

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

63. The COVID-19 Countrywide Business Contingency Plan of Lebanon continued to inform United Nations preparedness measures, in line with World Health Organization guidelines.

64. In accordance with the Action for Peacekeeping commitments to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers and deliver accountability for 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 36 missions to the Arqub area by members of the United Nations country team. On 27 April, UNIFIL heard approximately 20 gunshots and discovered thereafter a hole in the roof and a 7.62-mm bullet inside a UNIFIL position near Burj Qallawiyah (Sector West).

65. UNIFIL continued to monitor proceedings in Lebanese military courts against individuals suspected of planning or perpetrating serious attacks against peacekeepers. In the case of the attack of April 1980 during which two UNIFIL peacekeepers were shot dead and another one was injured, the Military Court of Cassation dismissed the defendant's appeal on 27 April (on 21 December 2020, the Permanent Military Court had sentenced the defendant to 15 years of imprisonment with hard labour; see [S/2021/240](#), para. 64). In the cases of serious attacks against UNIFIL on 26 July and 9 December 2011, causing injuries to UNIFIL peacekeepers, on 24 March, the Permanent Military Court convicted and sentenced the defendant to 15 years of imprisonment. On 9 April, the defendant filed an appeal with the Military

Court of Cassation. In the case of the attempted serious attack against UNIFIL in 2008, in which one of the four convicted perpetrators filed an appeal, a hearing was held on 18 May; the next hearing is scheduled for 16 December 2021. The United Nations has not been informed of any criminal proceedings to bring to justice the perpetrators of the incident of 4 August 2018 in the village of Majdal Zun (Sector West), in which armed individuals attacked a UNIFIL patrol (see [S/2018/1029](#)).

#### **IV. Deployment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon**

66. As at 18 June, UNIFIL comprised 10,401 military personnel, including 686 women (7 per cent), from 46 troop-contributing countries; 241 international civilian staff, including 92 women (38 per cent); and 562 national civilian staff, including 152 women (27 per cent). The UNIFIL Maritime Task Force comprised five vessels, one helicopter and 627 of the Force's military personnel, including 35 women (6 per cent). In addition, 52 military observers, including nine women (17 per cent), from the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization serve with Observer Group Lebanon, under the operational control of UNIFIL. The most senior military woman serves at the rank of Colonel; the most senior civilian woman serves at the D-2 level.

67. In accordance with the implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping commitments and Security Council resolution [2436 \(2018\)](#), UNIFIL finalized the assessment of 12 subordinate military units and three ships for logistics, training and operational preparedness on 31 March. Shortfalls identified within five military units, related to logistics and documentation, have been addressed. On 1 April, the mission initiated the assessment of 19 additional military units and one ship.

68. Further to my letter dated 29 October 2020 addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2020/1059](#)), UNIFIL has continued consultations on aspects of the assessment with both parties, including briefings with the Lebanese Armed Forces on 11 March and the Israel Defense Forces on 11 April. The mission has made the necessary adjustments related to the Statement of Unit Requirements and for vehicles and equipment. All recommendations of the UNIFIL civilian staffing review that was completed in 2020 have been incorporated into the mission's budget submission for 2021/22. To reinforce its liaison branch, UNIFIL has reassigned six officers. The mission closed one of its positions, south of the village of Tiri (Sector West), handing it over to the Lebanese Armed Forces on 28 May.

#### **V. Conduct and discipline**

69. Neither UNIFIL nor the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon received any new allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse during the reporting period. Both missions continued to implement activities related to prevention, enforcement and remedial actions regarding misconduct, in particular sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment and fraud. All personnel received training and military commanders continued to receive briefings on their accountability in respect of conduct and discipline matters.

70. The United Nations country team, with international and national non-governmental organizations, supported the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse network of Lebanon through the development of inter-agency standard operating procedures, an information-sharing protocol on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, awareness-raising materials and technical guidance documents to strengthen prevention and response efforts, in addition to awareness-

raising with front-line aid workers and promoting the integration of a prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse approach to the COVID-19 response.

## VI. Observations

71. After almost one year without a fully empowered government, I continue to urge the political leadership of Lebanon, in view of the gravity of the situation, to rise above parochial interests and expeditiously form a government able to implement measures that put the country on the path to recovery. The economic and financial crises are being borne disproportionately by the most vulnerable. I call upon the Government to finalize the social protection system accompanying the subsidy rationalization programme. Ultimately, while the United Nations and the international community continue to offer support, the responsibility for salvaging Lebanon lies with the country's leaders.

72. I call upon the Lebanese authorities to take all steps necessary to ensure the timely conduct of elections in 2022. Clarity on the applicable electoral framework, as well as measures to strengthen the participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities in the political process is needed.

73. I condemn the firing of rockets from southern Lebanon on 13, 17 and 19 May towards Israel and the retaliatory fire from Israel on 17 and 19 May. Such breaches of the cessation of hostilities have the potential to lead to escalation with serious consequences. The possession of unauthorized weapons on these occasions are clear violations of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#). I also denounce the violations of the Blue Line and damage to Israeli infrastructure that followed demonstrations, in particular near Arab al-Wazzani and Metulla on 14 May. Importantly, the effective liaison and coordination arrangements of UNIFIL with the parties, as well as the continued commitment to resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and active engagement with UNIFIL by the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Israel Defense Forces helped to contain these incidents and restore the cessation of hostilities. It is essential that the parties avoid provocative actions, exercise utmost restraint and refrain from hostile activity that could put at risk the cessation of hostilities. In this regard, I call upon the Lebanese Armed Forces to enforce law and order and prevent any incident on the Blue Line originating from Lebanese territory. I call upon the Israel Defense Forces to refrain from responding with live fire except where clearly required in immediate self-defence. Both parties should continue to fully utilize the agreed liaison and coordination arrangements with UNIFIL to mitigate the risk of further violence.

74. I commend the parties for continuing to attend the tripartite meetings, despite COVID-19 restrictions. I urge the parties to engage with UNIFIL in the Blue Line subcommittee and find agreed solutions to the outstanding contentious areas. The United Nations will continue to support efforts to defuse tensions through dialogue, to pursue opportunities for confidence-building and to create an environment conducive to resolving underlying differences, including through the continued good offices of my Special Coordinator for Lebanon and the UNIFIL Head of Mission and Force Commander.

75. The continued violations of Lebanese airspace by Israeli aircraft and drones remain of deep concern. The overflights constitute violations of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and of Lebanese sovereignty and cause distress to the Lebanese population. 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. The continued occupation by the Israel Defense Forces of northern Ghajar and an adjacent area north of the Blue Line equally represents a continuing violation of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#).

76. I call upon the Lebanese authorities to grant UNIFIL full and timely access to all locations north of the Blue Line, requested in connection with the mission's investigations, including with respect to the tunnels crossing the Blue Line, confirmed by UNIFIL in December 2018 and early 2019, and to the Green without Borders site in Aytarun in connection with the incident on 1 September 2019, as mandated under resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) and recalled in resolution [2539 \(2020\)](#). The restriction of the freedom of movement of a UNIFIL patrol that was following up on the reported firing of rockets on 13 May is concerning. The Lebanese authorities have the primary responsibility for ensuring that there are no unauthorized armed personnel, assets or weapons in the area and, to that end, must facilitate the mission's access to such locations. I also urge the parties to support and facilitate the conduct by UNIFIL of independent investigations into the alleged incidents.

77. The freedom of movement of UNIFIL in its entire area of operations, including along the full length of the Blue Line, remains critical. The mission's ability to conduct patrols and activities independently must be maintained in accordance with its mandate. I call upon the Lebanese authorities to investigate any restrictions of the movement of UNIFIL. I reiterate my call to the Lebanese authorities to fulfil their obligations to ensure the safety of UNIFIL personnel and full accountability for those who attack peacekeepers, including with respect to the incidents in Bar'ashit on 10 February and Blida on 25 May 2020, as well as in Majdal Zun in 2018. I note the verdict of 24 March of the Permanent Military Court of Lebanon, sentencing the perpetrator of an attack on UNIFIL peacekeepers in July 2011. I welcome this development and urge the timely conduct and completion of judicial processes in all outstanding cases of attacks against United Nations personnel.

78. The initiation of construction works for the model regiment and the continued commitment of the Lebanese Armed Forces to make progress towards a partial transfer of UNIFIL Maritime Task Force responsibilities to the Lebanese Navy, despite budgetary challenges, are encouraging. International partners are strongly encouraged to further support these initiatives. Acknowledging the support provided to date, I reiterate my call for donors and partners to reinforce support for the Lebanese Armed Forces, as the only legitimate armed forces of Lebanon.

79. I appeal to the parties for their cooperation in the implementation by UNIFIL of all recommendations in the UNIFIL assessment report. The Secretariat and UNIFIL are committed to carrying out this process in consultation with and with support from the parties, members of the Security Council and troop-contributing countries, as appropriate.

80. The continued self-acknowledged maintenance of unauthorized weapons outside 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. Earlier decisions of the National Dialogue pertaining to the disarmament of non-Lebanese groups and the dismantling of the military bases of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and Fatah al-Intifada should be implemented.

81. I reiterate the need for an impartial, thorough and transparent investigation into the explosion at the port of Beirut. The Government must also hold perpetrators of serious violations and abuses of human rights accountable by following through on previously announced investigations.

82. Despite my urgent appeals, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon continues to face a severe financial crisis. A premature closure prior to completing the judicial work of the

Special Tribunal would represent a serious setback for international justice efforts and send a negative message to the people of Lebanon and to victims of terrorism worldwide.

83. I encourage Lebanon and Israel to continue talks regarding their maritime and land boundaries. The United Nations, through its representatives, remains committed to supporting that process as requested by the parties and within its capacity and mandate.

84. 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 \(2006\)](#).

85. Cross-border smuggling is detrimental to the international trade relations of Lebanon, with repercussions for local livelihoods and State revenues. I urge the Government to continue efforts to improve border control measures.

86. I commend Lebanon for its continued hospitality towards refugees and thank donors for their enduring support. While the United Nations and its partners continue to work towards creating the conditions for large-scale safe, dignified and voluntary returns, respect for due process of law and enabling refugees to live in dignity remain indispensable.

87. To address the rising needs of host communities, refugees and migrants, I call upon the international community to strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, including through support for the development of an inclusive social protection system. In this vein, I appeal to donors to generously fund the framework for reform, recovery and reconstruction and call upon the Government of Lebanon to implement without further delay the priority policy actions of the framework to enable the reconstruction phase of the framework to commence. I welcome the continued robust and flexible donor support for the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, as well as for the ongoing health, education and food emergency responses. Furthermore, I reiterate my calls for the international community to uphold its commitments so that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East can continue to provide relief and services to the Palestine refugee community.

88. I reiterate my gratitude to all countries contributing military personnel and equipment to UNIFIL and Observer Group Lebanon and encourage them to increase the number of women among military personnel in UNIFIL. I welcome the arrival to Lebanon of my new Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Joanna Wronecka, and thank the UNIFIL Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major General Stefano Del Col, the Deputy Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Najat Rochdi, and the staff of the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, the civilian and military personnel in UNIFIL and the members of the United Nations country team.

## Annex I

### **Restrictions on the freedom of access and movement of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon from 20 February 2021 to 18 June 2021**

1. In its resolution [2539 \(2020\)](#), the Security Council called upon the Government of Lebanon to facilitate the access of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in line with resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), while respecting Lebanese sovereignty.
2. During the reporting period, UNIFIL conducted an average of 6,555 monthly patrols during the day and night, of which 2,116 (33 per cent) were foot patrols. The mission conducted an average of 2,365 patrols each month along the Blue Line, both by vehicle and on foot (48 and 52 per cent, respectively). In addition, the mission conducted an average of 81 helicopter patrols each month, as well as an average of 973 inspection activities, including the operation of temporary and permanent checkpoints, and counter-rocket-launching operations. While the freedom of movement of UNIFIL was respected in most cases, there were instances of restrictions in the freedom of movement. The Lebanese Armed Forces continued to object to some patrol routes that were proposed by UNIFIL in order to expand its presence in areas outside main routes and municipal centres, on the grounds that they were either private roads or involved areas of strategic importance to the Lebanese Armed Forces. UNIFIL has consistently followed up on reported incidents with the appropriate authorities and 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 along the Blue Line**

3. UNIFIL is yet to gain full access to several sites of interest, including a number of Green without Borders sites, despite repeated formal requests 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 [2539 \(2020\)](#).

#### **Freedom of movement incidents**

4. On 5 March, an Observer Group Lebanon patrol was stopped by an individual in civilian clothes, near the entrance to the village of Dib'al (Sector West). The Observer Group Lebanon personnel stated that they were conducting a routine patrol, but the individual insisted that the patrol could not proceed any further. Shortly thereafter, two other individuals approached the patrol and accused the Observer Group Lebanon personnel of spying on behalf of Israel, adding that the "United Nations had no business" in that area and should focus "on the Blue Line". The patrol then left the area. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces about the incident and followed up with the mayor of Dib'al.
5. On 8 March, a UNIFIL vehicle patrol accompanied by the Lebanese Armed Forces was blocked by a group of approximately 20 individuals in civilian clothes who had placed their vehicles across the road in the vicinity of Ayta al-Sha'b (Sector West). While the Lebanese Armed Forces talked to the group, the members of the group did not show any hostility during the interaction but were unwilling to remove their vehicles from the road. As a result, the UNIFIL patrol and the Lebanese Armed Forces had to reverse and return to the base.
6. Also on 8 March, a UNIFIL vehicle patrol was stopped by a group of 15 to 20 individuals in civilian clothes who had placed four vehicles across the road in the centre of Bint Jubayl (Sector West). The UNIFIL patrol commander exited his vehicle

and spoke to the apparent leader of the group, which led to an altercation during which some of the individuals in the group repeatedly slapped the UNIFIL patrol commander and another patrol member. During the altercation, members of the group snatched a rifle magazine and a map that were attached to the utility belt of one of the UNIFIL soldiers. As the patrol members returned to their vehicles and locked the doors, the crowd surrounded the patrol vehicles, preventing them from leaving the area. About 26 minutes later, Lebanese Armed Forces personnel arrived at the location and spoke to the individuals, who returned the magazine and removed their vehicles, allowing UNIFIL to leave the area. On 23 March, the Lebanese Armed Forces returned the map that had been taken during the incident. UNIFIL personnel sustained bruises during the incident but no major injuries. The Lebanese Armed Forces informed UNIFIL in a follow-up meeting that the individuals involved had been arrested.

7. On 7 April, a vehicle, from a UNIFIL patrol of three armoured vehicles, got stuck in the mud in the vicinity of Yanuh (Sector West). Approximately 20 individuals in civilian clothes approached and surrounded the patrol. Some of the individuals became agitated and began insulting the peacekeepers. They searched the UNIFIL vehicles and took three GPS devices, a map and a personal laptop, despite the objections of the UNIFIL personnel. Soon thereafter, a UNIFIL quick response team followed by Lebanese Armed Forces personnel arrived at the site of the incident, upon which the individuals left the area. The vehicle was eventually dislodged with the help of a civilian backhoe and returned to the United Nations position. The three GPS devices have been retrieved.

8. On 13 May, one of the six UNIFIL patrols following up on the rocket-launching incident was stopped by six individuals in civilian clothes, some of whom were armed, north-west of Qulaylah (Sector West). The individuals had placed their vehicles across the road. The individuals pointed their weapons at the patrol from a distance of approximately 15 m. The patrol reversed its vehicles and proceeded towards the coastal road. While the same patrol was moving towards the coastal road, two additional vehicles appeared and blocked the road, nearly hitting one of the UNIFIL vehicles. The patrol managed to manoeuvre around the vehicles, but was followed until it reached a Lebanese Armed Forces position close to Qulaylah. UNIFIL has launched an investigation into the incident.

9. Also on 13 May, seven individuals in civilian clothes blocked the path of a UNIFIL patrol close to Hanin (Sector West) by placing two vehicles across the road. The individuals then exited the vehicles and started to hit the UNIFIL patrol vehicles, damaging a mirror on one of the vehicles. The patrol was able to manoeuvre out of the location and returned to its position. UNIFIL has launched an investigation into the incident.

10. On 7 June, a UNIFIL patrol en route to Naqurah inadvertently deviated from the main road in the village of Hanin (Sector West). Two individuals in civilian clothes riding a scooter in front of the UNIFIL patrol vehicle shouted and signalled the peacekeepers to follow them. Subsequently, another civilian placed two barrels on the road in front of the UNIFIL vehicle. The UNIFIL patrol managed to bypass the barrels and continued driving. However, it was followed by the scooter for approximately five minutes. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces about the incident.

## Annex II

### Implementation of the arms embargo

1. In paragraph 20 of its resolution [2539 \(2020\)](#), the Security Council recalled paragraph 15 of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), according to which all States should 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. No response was received during the reporting period to my letter dated 22 October 2019 addressed to the President of Lebanon, in which I reiterated my request that the Government of Lebanon share with the Secretariat any pertinent information or developments related to the arms embargo.
3. Pursuant to paragraph 15 of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), 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 materiel of all types. During the reporting period, no 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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