



## KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Statement of

H.E. Karen Van Vlierberge, Deputy Permanent Representative of  
Belgium to the UN

**Briefing/consultations/VTC UNISFA  
UN Security Council**

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Mister President,

Thank you to the briefers.

As always, a discussion about Abyei cannot take place without referring to developments both in Sudan and in South Sudan. The transitions happening in both countries can positively influence efforts to solve the question of Abyei. We welcome positive steps taken in the past months.

We understand also that these transitions, alongside with dealing with the human and economic impact of the covid-19 crisis, require the full attention of both governments. We urge them however to keep the matter on their agenda, in order to reach a final settlement on the status of Abyei. Both governments' full and entire commitment is required to reach sustainable peace in the area. This includes creating the conditions for UNISFA to carry out its mandate.

We note that the security situation remains fragile, with some tragic outbursts of violence. We call on the parties to bring the perpetrators to justice.

We agree with the Secretary General that UNISFA continues to play a crucial role to curb violence and increasing crime and to protect civilians, including through the mitigation of intercommunity tensions. We also welcome UNISFA's efforts to foster peace, dialogue and conflict resolution, including by supporting the African Union High-level Implementation Panel.

Mr. President,

UNISFA cannot be an open-ended substitute for normal administrative and public services which the population of Abyei is entitled to receive. This is why a solution through political dialogue is needed. We call on parties to remain engaged to that end and seize the momentum of transition. Pending a final settlement on the status of Abyei, a responsible exit of the mission is difficult to envisage.

Finally, previous resolutions must be implemented, in particular by appointing a civilian deputy head of mission and by increasing the police component of this mission. We look forward to more progress in this regard.

Thank you.