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Implementation of Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) during the period from 3 November 2022 to 20 February 2023

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, issued on 15 November 2022 ([S/2022/858](#)), including on the provisions of resolution [2650 \(2022\)](#). 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. On 14 December, a peacekeeper was killed and three others were injured when a United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) convoy was attacked in Aqibiah, outside the area of operations, while moving to Rafic Hariri International Airport in Beirut. Lebanese officials swiftly condemned the attack and offered condolences. Following the attack, the caretaker Prime Minister of Lebanon, Najib Mikati, and the Commander of the Lebanese Armed Forces, General Joseph Aoun, visited UNIFIL together on 16 December. A delegation of members of Parliament also visited UNIFIL on 16 December, and the caretaker Minister of Defence, Maurice Sleem, visited the mission on 19 December. In addition to the statement issued by the Security Council on 15 December, several Member States also conveyed their condemnation and condolences.

3. The United Nations, Ireland and Lebanon have each launched separate investigations into the incident. On 9 January, the Military Prosecutor of Lebanon issued formal charges against seven suspects. One of the suspects has been arrested, and arrest warrants have been issued for the other six. The case has been referred by the Military Prosecutor to the first military investigation judge for further investigation.

4. Following the incident, some local media outlets disseminated incorrect assertions that peacekeepers were not allowed to be at the location of the incident and were required to be accompanied by the Lebanese Armed Forces. To address these



misperceptions, UNIFIL engaged with local and international media, issuing statements and participating in interviews to underscore the mission's mandate.

5. In identical letters dated 31 January addressed to the President of the Security Council and to me (S/2023/74), the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations expressed "great concern regarding the situation in southern Lebanon and in particular the ongoing attacks against ... UNIFIL". He stated that "UNIFIL has been subjected to inflammatory rhetoric and incitement This incitement ultimately led to the tragic incident of 14 December 2022".

6. Tensions along the Blue Line continued, after easing briefly following the establishment of the maritime boundary on 27 October 2022 between Israel and Lebanon (see S/2022/858, para. 39). UNIFIL observed illumination rounds fired by the Israel Defense Forces in response to what the latter asserted were suspicious activities, impacting north of the Blue Line on four occasions, near Marun al-Ra's and Aytarun on 6 November, Al Duhayra on 18 December (all Sector West), and Shab'a on 9 and 26 November (Sector East).

7. Construction and engineering works by the Israel Defense Forces near the Blue Line, including regular maintenance by the Israel Defense Forces of its infrastructure, were followed by tension on several occasions. UNIFIL interposed between the parties on 18 and 19 January near Sarda, with Lebanese Armed Forces personnel pointing weapons at Israel Defense Forces personnel on 19 January after the arm of an Israel Defense Forces excavator crossed north of the Blue Line. UNIFIL also interposed between the parties on 23 and 24 January near Markaba in connection with vegetation-clearing works by the Israel Defense Forces. Israel Defense Forces and Lebanese Armed Forces personnel pointed weapons at each other across the Blue Line on 6 and 14 December, following earth-levelling works by the Israel Defense Forces in a Lebanese "reservation area" close to Udaysah (Sector East).

8. UNIFIL launched a technical investigation into an incident of stone-throwing on 15 December near Ayta al-Sha'b (Sector West), which reportedly resulted in damage to an Israeli civilian vehicle. UNIFIL also launched an investigation into suspected mortar fire in the vicinity of Zibqin (Sector West) on 6 February. UNIFIL concluded its technical investigation into an incident on 22 August 2022 involving indirect fire and unauthorized carrying of firearms near Shab'a (Sector East) (see S/2022/858), and shared its findings with the parties.

9. The Israel Defense Forces continued its T-wall construction south of the Blue Line, from Shlomi to Hanita and from Zar'it to Biranit (see S/2022/556, para. 7, and S/2022/858, para. 5). The T-wall has reached a length of 11.2 km and remains outside the Lebanese "reservation areas".

10. On 12 December, UNIFIL observed a newly constructed fence in the vicinity of Shab'a, reportedly belonging to a Lebanese landowner, with a section crossing south of the Blue Line. UNIFIL has informed the Lebanese Armed Forces of this violation and requested that steps be taken to address it.

11. The Israel Defense Forces continued to enter Lebanese airspace in violation of resolution 1701 (2006) and of Lebanese sovereignty. From 3 November to 20 February, UNIFIL recorded 182 airspace violations, totalling 206 hours and 8 minutes. Uncrewed aerial vehicles accounted for approximately 73 per cent of the violations. UNIFIL protested all air violations to the Israel Defense Forces and urged their immediate cessation. On 20 December, the Israel Defense Forces informed UNIFIL that they had "downed a drone" crossing from Lebanon into Israel. On 13 January, the Lebanese Armed Forces stated on social media that, "while an army patrol was inspecting one of the violations in the outskirts of the town of Hula and Wadi Hunain, a drone belonging to the Israeli enemy violated the Lebanese airspace in the

aforementioned area and flew over the patrol, so the personnel opened fire at it". UNIFIL did not observe either incident.

12. From 3 November to 20 February, UNIFIL observed 381 ground violations by Lebanese civilians crossing south of the Blue Line, including 268 violations by shepherds and farmers and two by individuals near the Shu'ayb well near Blida (Sector East). Lebanese Armed Forces personnel crossed the Blue Line on 6 and 13 December while monitoring groundworks by the Israel Defense Forces south of the Blue Line near Udaysah, and on 19 January in Shab'a. Israel Defense Forces personnel crossed the Blue Line while patrolling near Kfar Shuba (Sector East) on 20 November. On 30 January, the Israel Defense Forces informed UNIFIL that an individual had crossed the Blue Line from south to north near Alma al-Sha'b (Sector West). The Lebanese Armed Forces subsequently informed UNIFIL that they had apprehended the individual. On 5 February, the Lebanese Armed Forces apprehended an individual who, according to media reports, had crossed from Israel to Lebanon in the area of Kfar Kila (Sector East). On 13 February, UNIFIL supported the International Committee of the Red Cross in the return of the individual to Israel.

13. The Israel Defense Forces continued to occupy northern Ghajar and the adjacent area north of the Blue Line in 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. Israeli contractors continued roadworks in the occupied area (see S/2022/858, para. 8) despite a request by UNIFIL for the Israel Defense Forces to cease all construction. In some instances, large quantities of debris and boulders were dumped on a UNIFIL patrol road, hindering the mission's freedom of movement. UNIFIL protested these incidences to the Israel Defense Forces.

14. To help to 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 111 temporary checkpoints and 298 counter-rocket-launching operations. UNIFIL observed unauthorized weapons in its area of operations on 320 occasions, including light machine guns on 3 occasions, assault rifles on 11 occasions, pistols on 4 occasions, unknown weapons on 2 occasions and hunting weapons on 310 occasions. Most of the above-mentioned assault weapons, including all observed light machine guns, were observed at the unauthorized firing ranges (see S/2022/556, para. 10, and S/2022/858, para. 10) in Zibqin and Dayr Amis (both Sector West) and in Qantarah and Frun (both Sector East).

15. Pursuant to resolution 2650 (2022), UNIFIL maintained its high operational tempo and visible presence, undertaking an average of 13,807 monthly operational activities, including 7,963 vehicular, air or foot patrols. It continued air reconnaissance patrols over areas where ground patrols have limited access, including private property, wadis and land contaminated by explosive remnants of war or anti-personnel mines. Six per cent of UNIFIL operational activities included at least one woman peacekeeper.

16. While UNIFIL freedom of movement was respected in most cases, the mission did encounter several restrictions (see annex I).^{*} In addition to the aforementioned fatal attack in Aqibiah (see para. 2), the most serious incident occurred in Jinnata (Sector West) on 21 January. UNIFIL personnel on a patrol were forced out of their vehicle after being surrounded by several vehicles and individuals, including one with a handgun. The UNIFIL vehicle's windows and side mirrors were broken, and two cell phones and a handheld radio were seized from the peacekeepers. UNIFIL

^{*} Circulated in the language of submission only.

informed the Lebanese Armed Forces, which intervened and escorted the UNIFIL patrol back to its base. UNIFIL has requested the Lebanese authorities to ensure a rapid investigation. On 6 February, near Dayr Siryan (Sector East), seven men hit a UNIFIL patrol vehicle with wooden sticks and broke the rear window. No injuries were reported. Stones or bottles were thrown at UNIFIL vehicles on four occasions and twice at UNIFIL positions. On 12 November, a glass bottle thrown at a moving UNIFIL vehicle in Wadi Jilu (Sector West) resulted in minor injuries to one peacekeeper.

17. There were several incidents of weapons being pointed at UNIFIL. On 2 December, three individuals in military-style attire pointed their weapons at a helicopter patrol near the Zibqin firing range. On 14 December, the Israel Defense Forces pointed weapons in the direction of UNIFIL personnel near Udaysah (Sector East). On 3 December, an Israel Defense Forces soldier aimed a laser pointer at personnel in a UNIFIL position near Aarab el Louaïze (Sector East). On 25 and 27 January, there were three incidents near Sarda (Sector East) in which individuals in civilian clothing pointed green laser beams at UNIFIL patrols. Also on 25 January, UNIFIL observed a green laser beam pointed at a United Nations position near Sarda from south of the Blue Line. UNIFIL informed the parties of these incidents.

18. Despite repeated requests to the Lebanese Armed Forces, UNIFIL has yet to gain full access to several locations of interest, including Green Without Borders sites, the tunnels crossing the Blue Line (see [S/2019/237](#)) and the aforementioned firing ranges. As at 20 February, there were 16 containers at 15 sites, and six watch towers at 4 sites close to the Blue Line. Two of the watch towers are at the same location as a container, and the other four watch towers are stand-alone installations at separate sites. Some of the structures had visible Green Without Borders markings. In identical letters dated 15 November addressed to the President of the Security Council and to me ([S/2022/859](#)), the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations stated that “the State of Israel expects that all Hezbollah outposts in southern Lebanon, including recently erected military infrastructure, be dismantled and removed immediately”.

19. The Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL continued their engagement within the framework of the strategic dialogue process. During the reporting period, the average percentage of operations that could be conducted in close coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces was maintained at 19 per cent. UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces conducted 126 joint training events aimed at improving common operational standards. UNIFIL continues to urge the Lebanese Armed Forces to deploy a first company at its model regiment headquarters in Sribbin (Sector West), drawing on existing troops in the south (see [S/2022/858](#), para. 18). As at 20 February, 63 personnel, including 10 women, were deployed to the regiment.

20. The UNIFIL Maritime Task Force continued to support maritime interdiction operations, hailing 1,874 vessels from 3 November to 20 February. The Lebanese Armed Forces inspected and cleared all 259 vessels referred to them by UNIFIL. On 1 December, the Lebanese Armed Forces-Navy started to assume command functions for maritime interdiction operations, with the continued support of the UNIFIL Maritime Task Force.

21. Within the framework of the strategic dialogue process, the UNIFIL Maritime Task Force and the Lebanese Armed Forces-Navy have identified three benchmarks for the partial transfer of responsibilities: in the short-term, to support the Lebanese Armed Forces-Navy Command Centre in performing maritime interdiction operations; in the midterm, to operate Protector-class coastal patrol boats as long-range interceptors in support of maritime interdiction operations; and in the long-term, to support the Lebanese Armed Forces naval school in Juniyah. UNIFIL

continued to support the capacity-building of the Lebanese Armed Forces-Navy, conducting 175 joint training sessions and exercises. The UNIFIL Maritime Task Force will continue to train, support, assist and advise the Lebanese Armed Forces-Navy in the execution of the training concept in order to help to sustain the latter's operational capability.

22. Following the establishment of the maritime boundary between Israel and Lebanon on 27 October 2022 (see [S/2022/858](#), para. 39), UNIFIL has adjusted the southern boundary of its area of maritime operations accordingly.

23. Pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution [2650 \(2022\)](#), UNIFIL provided non-lethal material and support to the Lebanese Armed Forces (see [S/2022/858](#), para. 19). On 5 December, the UNIFIL Head of Mission and Force Commander and the caretaker Minister of Defence of Lebanon signed a memorandum of understanding formalizing the provision of the support. As at 20 February, 195,000 litres of fuel, approximately 160,000 meal rations and 72 kg of medicine had been provided. The support amounted to \$298,393.75 (see annex II).*

24. Separately, on 11 November, following a request from the Lebanese Armed Forces, UNIFIL handed over infrastructure and engineering equipment and supplies no longer required for UNIFIL operations to the Lebanese Armed Forces. UNIFIL also provided electrical power for 13 observation posts and checkpoints of the Lebanese Armed Forces situated near UNIFIL positions.

B. Security and liaison arrangements

25. UNIFIL convened tripartite meetings on 14 November and 31 January, during which incidents along the Blue Line and violations of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) were discussed. Despite UNIFIL engagement with the parties, no progress was made on a common understanding of modalities for resuming talks to resolve the outstanding contentious points along the Blue Line, including the Lebanese "reservation areas".

26. As was agreed through the Tripartite Mechanism, UNIFIL, in coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Israel Defense Forces, facilitated the crossing of the Blue Line by Lebanese farmers harvesting olives in Blida (see [S/2022/858](#), para. 21). The mission also made use of its liaison and coordination mechanisms to decrease tension related to works by the Israel Defense Forces close to the Blue Line in the vicinity of Udaysah, Sarda and Markaba (see para. 7).

27. 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.

28. Through quick-impact projects and outreach initiatives, UNIFIL continued to assist local authorities with the delivery of basic services. This included water and sanitation, electricity and health care, as well as support for Lebanese civil defence centres in improving emergency preparedness. Through civil-military cooperation initiatives, the mission supported, among other things, alternative energy production and the provision of medical assistance to the local population. For the 2022/23 financial year, 41.6 per cent of the allocated budget for quick-impact projects is dedicated to projects directly benefiting women.

29. UNIFIL continued to support the implementation of resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security, including by providing training on gender mainstreaming for 3,653 UNIFIL military and civilian personnel, of whom 415 were women.

* Circulated in the language of submission only.

C. Disarming armed groups

30. 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.

31. During five counter-terrorism operations between 3 November and 20 February, security forces arrested eight individuals, including suspected affiliates of Da'esh, mostly in northern Lebanon.

32. Multiple personal disputes escalated into shootings, resulting in 15 fatalities, including of one woman, and 94 injuries, mostly in northern and eastern Lebanon.

33. On 12 November, a dispute between groups affiliated with Fatah and Jund al-Sham, an Islamist faction, in Ein El Hilweh Palestine refugee camp escalated into heavy shooting, resulting in one fatality and damage to a school operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Armed clashes occurred in Rashidieh Palestine refugee camp near Tyre on 20 and 23 November, resulting in three injuries and the temporary closure of UNRWA installations. Armed clashes took place on 19 December in Shatila Palestine refugee camp in Beirut, resulting in one fatality and the temporary closure of one UNRWA school. On 16 January, a refugee attempted to set himself on fire at an UNRWA office in Beirut. On 27 January, in Beddawi Palestine refugee camp, armed clashes resulted in one injury.

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 remain 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 Hizbullah's military engagement in the Syrian Arab Republic continued.

37. The Lebanese Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces arrested 144 individuals in at least 80 operations to counter the smuggling of or dealing in drugs. On 12 January, a raid near Burj al-Barajinah escalated into a shooting, resulting in one death and several injuries, including to seven Lebanese Armed Forces soldiers. Seven individuals were arrested on drug and murder charges. On 29 January, in Hawr Ta'la, Baalbek-Hirmil, the Lebanese Armed Forces arrested seven Lebanese and one Syrian national for shooting, armed robbery and drug dealing. On 16 February, also in Hawr Ta'la, three Lebanese Armed Forces personnel and three persons wanted in connection with drugs-related activities were killed following a raid by the Lebanese Armed Forces.

38. In operations to counter migrant smuggling, the Lebanese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces arrested 73 individuals, including Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian nationals, mostly in the Akkar Governorate in northern Lebanon. The Lebanese Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces prevented three attempted

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irregular movements involving 73 individuals, mainly Syrian and Iraqi nationals, in North Lebanon Governorate. On 16 December, in Tripoli, North Lebanon, the Lebanese Armed Forces prevented an attempt to smuggle 31 Syrian nationals.

39. On 31 December, the Lebanese Armed Forces, assisted by two UNIFIL Maritime Task Force vessels, rescued at least 233 people, including Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian nationals, from a boat in distress approximately 48 km west of Tripoli. The bodies of a Syrian woman and a child were recovered from the water. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is aware of 55 attempted movements by sea in 2022 involving 4,629 passengers, compared with 38 such movements in 2021 involving 1,570 individuals.

E. Landmines and cluster bombs

40. UNIFIL cleared 6,758 square metres of land in its area of operations, finding and disposing of 1,441 anti-personnel mines and one unexploded ordnance. UNIFIL conducted 93 visits to monitor quality assurance and quality control, eight training sessions and two accreditation events for demining teams, as well as six risk awareness briefings for 180 United Nations military and civilian personnel, including 10 women. UNIFIL also supported the Lebanon Mine Action Centre by conducting an explosive ordnance risk education activity, benefiting over 1,000 students.

F. Delineation of borders

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

42. Pursuant to the maritime boundary delineation agreement of 27 October 2022 (see S/2022/858, para. 39), the French energy company TotalEnergies and its Italian partner ENI announced the signing of a "framework agreement" with Israel on 15 November. On 29 January, it was announced that QatarEnergy had replaced the Russian company Novatek in the consortium to explore Lebanese offshore blocks, taking a 30 per cent stake (TotalEnergies and ENI hold 35 per cent each in the consortium). Separately, the caretaker Minister of Energy and Water of Lebanon, Walid Fayad, extended the deadline for applications for exploration licences for the remaining eight offshore blocks until June 2023.

G. Political and institutional stability

43. Since the start of the presidential election period on 1 September 2022, the Parliament had convened 11 sessions as at 20 February to elect a successor to Michel Aoun, whose term of office as President ended on 31 October 2022 (see S/2022/858, para. 43). During the sessions, a member of Parliament, Michel Moawad, secured the highest number of votes, up to 44, but never the required two thirds majority in the 128-member legislature. Mr. Moawad was supported by the Lebanese Forces, the Progressive Socialist Party, the Kata'ib and numerous independent parliamentarians. Hizbullah, Amal Movement and Free Patriotic Movement members of Parliament repeatedly cast blank votes. On 19 January, after the eleventh inconclusive session, two parliamentarians representing emerging groups commenced an open-ended sit-in in the Parliament, saying that they were "fulfilling their national responsibilities by

staying in Parliament, which is required to convene in successive sessions until a president is elected”.

44. At the end of Mr. Aoun’s term and in accordance with the Constitution, the presidential prerogatives devolved to the caretaker Cabinet, led by the caretaker Prime Minister, Mr. Mikati. On 5 December, Mr. Mikati convened the Cabinet for the first time since entering caretaker mode in May 2022 (see [S/2022/556](#), para. 42), to address “pressing matters related to citizens’ needs”. Eight ministers affiliated with the Free Patriotic Movement boycotted the meeting, with the Free Patriotic Movement vowing to challenge all decrees approved by the caretaker Cabinet before the State Shura Council. On 18 January and 6 February, Mr. Mikati convened the Cabinet to address issues related to the electricity crisis, the education sector and subsidies for wheat and cancer medication. Six Free Patriotic Movement-affiliated ministers boycotted the two sessions.

45. The Constitutional Council concluded its review of the remaining 10 challenges related to the parliamentary elections in May 2022 (see [S/2022/858](#), para. 45), accepting two appeals and rejecting all others. On 24 November, the Council overturned the elections of Rami Fanj and Firas Salloum, who were replaced by Faysal Karami and Haidar Nasser to fill the Sunni and Alawite seats, respectively, in the Tripoli district. Mr. Fanj’s departure reduced the number of parliamentarians representing emerging groups to 12. Preparations for the municipal elections, which were postponed from May 2022 to May 2023 (see [S/2022/556](#), para. 51), continued, although the allocation of funding remains pending. On 1 February, the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities started the annual voter registration update process for over 3.9 million voters.

46. There was little progress in the implementation of the actions detailed in the staff-level agreement of April 2022 between the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Lebanon (see [S/2022/556](#), para. 50). Draft bank resolution and restructuring and capital control laws await parliamentary approval. The caretaker Government is yet to adopt a draft State budget for 2023, missing the constitutional deadline of 31 January. On 24 November, the Central Bank announced that an external audit of its gold reserves had found no inconsistencies. The previously announced gradual official devaluation of the Lebanese pound (see [S/2022/858](#), para. 49), which the authorities indicated was a first step towards the unification of exchange rates, went into effect on 1 February. In this regard, Lebanon abandoned the peg of 1,500 pounds to the United States dollar, lowering its value to 15,000 pounds to the dollar.

47. In its report entitled *Lebanon Economic Monitor: Time for an Equitable Banking Solution*, published on 23 November 2022, the World Bank projected that the gross domestic product of Lebanon would contract by 5.4 per cent and that inflation would average 186 per cent in 2022. In the absence of a macroeconomic stabilization strategy, the World Bank estimated a “sizeable current account deficit” for 2022 that would continue to deplete the Central Bank’s foreign exchange reserves. The World Bank noted that “divergent views among key stakeholders on how to distribute the financial losses remains the main bottleneck for reaching an agreement on a comprehensive reform agenda”.

48. As the difference between the rates on its currency exchange platform “Sayrafa” and the parallel market rapidly widened in December 2022, the Central Bank removed exchange caps and reduced the “Sayrafa” rate to 38,000 pounds to the dollar on 27 December. The Central Bank lowered the rate again to 43,600 pounds to the dollar on 8 February. The interventions only temporarily halted the ongoing depreciation, and on 16 February the Lebanese pound reached a new low of 82,000 pounds to the dollar in the parallel market.

49. On 25 January, the United States announced the roll-out of its livelihood support programme for the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces. Under the programme, personnel from those two State security institutions will receive monthly stipends over a six-month period through a financial transfer mechanism managed by the United Nations Development Programme, in coordination with the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon. The United Nations mechanism is in line with paragraph 10 of resolution [2650 \(2022\)](#) and the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces. Separately, the Lebanese Armed Forces have received \$30 million from Qatar to support the salaries of army personnel since 12 August 2022 (see [S/2022/858](#), para. 53).

50. On 9 December, the caretaker Minister of Energy and Water, Mr. Fayad, launched the recruitment process for members of the Electricity Regulatory Authority, a key institution for reforms in the electricity sector. During the Cabinet session of 18 January, advances amounting to \$116 million were approved to finance fuel imports and the maintenance of power plants. On 8 February, Mr. Fayad announced that the electricity supply would increase to four hours per day, with a tariff increase.

51. On 9 December, the National Anti-Corruption Commission launched an Anti-Corruption Code consisting of all legislation, rulings and doctrine on combating corruption in Lebanon. As part of continuing investigations into corruption allegations against the Governor or the Central Bank, Riad Salameh, judicial delegations from Germany, France and Luxembourg held consultations in Lebanon in the middle of January. On 10 February, the Governor stated during a television interview: “My decision is that, at the end of the term ... I will move to work outside the Central Bank”. His term as Governor of the Central Bank is due to expire on 31 July 2023.

52. Demonstrations and roadblocks to protest against deteriorating social conditions, inflation, currency depreciation and power shortages intensified in January and February, in particular in Beirut and North Lebanon. During the reporting period, individuals, some of whom were armed, entered eight banks, mostly in Beirut, to demand access to their funds. On 6 February, the Association of Banks in Lebanon launched an open-ended strike to protest against judicial developments affecting the sector. On 16 February, groups of depositors vandalized several banks in Beirut, and some attempted to enter the residence of the head of the Association of Banks. Since early January, public school teachers have been on a nationwide strike to demand better living conditions. On 9 January, judges ended a six-month-long strike after an agreement on financial assistance was reached.

53. The National Commission for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared in Lebanon is yet to become operational pending the allocation of resources and the appointment of 2 of the 10 commissioners (3 of the existing 8 commissioners are women). As a result of funding allocated in the 2022 State budget, the National Human Rights Commission, including the Committee for the Prevention of Torture, is now operational. It has provided legal support to victims of torture and followed up on cases of ill-treatment and torture.

54. After a 13-month pause in the investigation into the Beirut port explosion, due to a recusal lawsuit, Judge Tarek Bitar resumed his work on 24 January. He ordered the release of 5 of the 17 detained suspects and filed negligence and intentional murder charges against 11 senior security, customs and judicial officials. The General Prosecutor, Ghassan Oueidat, who was among those charged, stated that Judge Bitar’s decisions would be nullified and instructed the security forces to disregard Judge Bitar’s orders, despite having recused himself from the case in 2020 owing to a conflict of interest. On 25 January, Mr. Oueidat charged Bitar with “abuse of power”, imposed a travel ban and referred him to the Judicial Inspection Authority for disciplinary measures. He also ordered the release of all 17 detained suspects, 1 of

whom subsequently left the country despite being subject to a travel ban. Judge Bitar called Mr. Oueidat's actions "illegal" and the enforcement by security forces a "coup against the law", and refused to step down. Relatives of victims protested to demand a reversal of Mr. Oueidat's actions. After summoning the charged individuals for questioning in early February, Judge Bitar postponed the hearings indefinitely, citing a lack of cooperation by the public prosecution and non-enforcement of his judicial orders by the security forces. Separately, on 13 January, State Security arrested one of the relatives of a victim of the port explosion for offending the judiciary after he made critical remarks on television, and summoned him and 12 others for interrogations in connection with a previous demonstration. He was released a day later after public calls for his release.

55. As at 20 February, the prosecution of 68 individuals in the case of the deadly clashes in Tayyulah on 14 October 2021 (see [S/2021/953](#), para. 57) remained pending. No progress has been made in the investigation into the killing on 4 February 2021 of Lokman Slim (see [S/2021/240](#), para. 46). On 2 February, four special rapporteurs under the special procedures of the Human Rights Council noted that "it is incumbent on the Lebanese authorities to fully investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of this heinous crime".

56. With support from the United Nations, a new local women's mediation network was established, bringing the total to 11 such community-based networks. Present in eight governorates and comprising over 200 women, including local mediators and peacebuilders, the networks convened dialogues addressing the past and continued to work on non-violent conflict resolution. Throughout October and November 2022, the National Commission for Lebanese Women held consultations to measure the effectiveness of the implementation of the 2019–2023 national action plan on women and peace and security. The two-track dialogue process between women from traditional political parties and emerging groups continued.

57. As at 31 December 2022, 823,568, refugees and asylum-seekers were registered by UNHCR in Lebanon, including 811,421 Syrian refugees and 12,147 refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities. With new registrations of Syrian refugees by UNHCR suspended by the Government of Lebanon since 2015, the actual number of refugees remains unknown. The Government estimates that there are 1.5 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon. On 5 and 6 January, UNHCR received reports that the Lebanese Armed Forces had arrested Syrians in the border areas near Wadi Khalid and Buqay'ah in Akkar, northern Lebanon, and handed them over to Syrian authorities inside the Syrian Arab Republic. Following the boat incident on 31 December (see para. 39), surviving Syrian passengers were reportedly detained and transferred back to the Syrian Arab Republic without due process. UNHCR has reached out to the authorities to discuss the issue.

58. On 16 December 2022, the Permanent Military Court in Beirut held the first session in a trial concerning the torture and murder of a Syrian refugee who died in August 2022 in a State Security centre in Bint Jubayl in southern Lebanon (see [S/2022/858](#), para. 63).

59. Palestine refugees continued to face food insecurity, restrictions on livelihood opportunities, and barriers to accessing education and medical care. According to a recent UNRWA survey, 93 per cent of Palestine refugees in Lebanon live in poverty, up from 86 percent in March 2022. Palestine refugees continued to disrupt UNRWA services, demanding greater assistance and access to employment opportunities with UNRWA. Incidents of protests, sit-ins, and violence and threats against UNRWA staff and facilities continued.

60. During the reporting period, Lebanon recorded 11,978 cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and 106 associated deaths, for a cumulative total of 1,230,901

cases and 10,816 associated deaths since 21 February 2020. As at 20 February 2023, 5,614,714 individuals, including Syrian and Palestine refugees and migrant workers, had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. During the reporting period, 6,137 new cases of cholera and five associated deaths were confirmed, for a cumulative total of 6,543 cases and 23 deaths since 6 October 2022. A total of [1,151,800] oral cholera vaccines had been administered out of a target of 2.2 million doses, primarily in North Akkar, Tripoli and the Biqa'. To help to prevent transmission, the United Nations provided fuel to water pumping stations and wastewater treatment plants and supported chlorination efforts. During the reporting period, eight new cases of mpox infection were confirmed, for a cumulative total of 26 cases.

61. While medical shortages eased, affordability remained a significant barrier to access to medications and hospital supplies. The price of the food basket monitored by the World Food Programme (WFP) reached 1.2 million Lebanese pounds per person per month in December 2022. Under the Emergency Social Safety Net Project financed by the World Bank, WFP had delivered cash payments to 360,000 Lebanese as of December 2022. On 11 February 2023, the first shipment of wheat financed by a World Bank loan approved on 18 October 2022 (see [S/2022/858](#), para. 54) arrived in Lebanon. The United Nations estimates that approximately 3.9 million people in Lebanon are not able to meet their humanitarian needs, including 2.1 million Lebanese, 1.5 million Syrian refugees, 211,400 Palestine refugees and 81,499 migrants.

62. The United Nations started the operationalization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the period 2023–2025, with priority areas that included social protection, food security, education, and the productive sector and income generation. During the final quarter of 2022, reported funding under the Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework stood at \$52.4 million, including \$35.63 million in received funding and \$16.77 million carried over from 2021. The Framework's pooled fund, the Lebanon Financing Facility, managed by the World Bank, reported that \$69.98 million had been paid in as at 31 December 2022.

63. As at 21 February, the emergency response plan to provide life-saving humanitarian support to the most vulnerable Lebanese citizens, Palestine refugees and migrants affected by the crisis was 75.8 per cent funded, with \$413.7 million out of \$546 million requested. On 1 December 2022, the Emergency Relief Coordinator launched the 2023 Global Humanitarian Overview, which includes the 2023 emergency response plan for Lebanon. As at 31 December 2022, overall international assistance to Lebanon reported by donors stood at \$1.84 billion, including \$1.321 billion disbursed in 2022 and \$525.5 million carried over from 2021. Donors reported \$415 million in outstanding commitments for 2023 and beyond. The appeal for the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan for 2022 is 45 per cent funded at \$1.5 billion of \$3.36 billion requested, with United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations reporting \$1.17 billion in funds received in 2022 and \$331.8 million carried over from 2021.

64. Pursuant to Security Council resolution [1757 \(2007\)](#), the mandate of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon was extended from 1 March to 31 December 2023 for the limited purpose of completion of the non-judicial residual functions of the Tribunal and for its orderly closure.

III. Security and safety measures

65. While the COVID-19 situation in the Mission and in the country continued to be monitored, mandatory quarantine for incoming troop rotation personnel in UNIFIL ceased.

66. In accordance with the Action for Peacekeeping commitment to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers, UNIFIL continually 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 54 missions to the Arqub area, including by members of the United Nations country team.

67. UNIFIL continued to monitor proceedings in Lebanese military courts against individuals suspected of planning or perpetrating serious attacks against peacekeepers. On 29 January, there were hearings related to appeals against the verdict issued on 24 March 2021 regarding two serious attacks against UNIFIL peacekeepers, in Sidon on 26 July 2011 and Burj Shemali on 9 December 2011. The next hearing is scheduled for 5 June. The next hearing of the Military Court of Cassation regarding an attempted attack against UNIFIL peacekeepers in 2008 in Tyre was scheduled for 7 March. The Permanent Military Court has scheduled the next hearing for 26 May concerning the attack in Khiyam (Sector East) on 24 June 2007 and the case of terrorist intent opened in January 2014. The next hearings in two cases involving serious attacks against UNIFIL peacekeepers in Qasimiyah on 16 July 2007 and in Rumaylah on 27 May 2011 are also scheduled for 26 May. There has been no progress in criminal proceedings related to the 4 August 2018 incident in Majdal Zun (Sector West) (see [S/2018/1029](#)) or acts of aggression against UNIFIL peacekeepers in Shaqra (Sector East) on 22 December 2021, Bint Jubayl (Sector West) on 4 January 2022 and Ramiyah (Sector West) on 25 January 2022 (see [S/2022/214](#), para. 70).

IV. Deployment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

68. As at 20 February, UNIFIL comprised 10,116 military personnel, including 808 women (8.0 per cent), from 48 troop-contributing countries; 230 international civilian staff, including 86 women (37.4 per cent); and 548 national civilian staff, including 148 women (27.0 per cent). The UNIFIL Maritime Task Force comprised five (temporarily four) vessels and 587 of the Force's military personnel, including 33 women (5.6 per cent). In addition, 53 military observers, including nine women (17.3 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 and the most senior civilian woman served at the D-2 level.

69. As part of the Action for Peacekeeping efforts to support effective performance and accountability, UNIFIL completed its regular data collection, analysis and performance assessment, within the framework of the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System, thereby confirming the effectiveness of mission operations. UNIFIL continued implementing recommendations stemming from the System, including on improving information management and data governance.

70. In accordance with the implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping commitments and resolution [2436 \(2018\)](#), UNIFIL finalized the assessment of 12 subordinate units for logistics, training and operational preparedness in the fourth quarter of 2022. Minor shortfalls were identified in three units related to communication, information-sharing, training, operations and logistics, which are being resolved.

71. UNIFIL continued implementation of the assessment of the continued relevance of UNIFIL resources (see [S/2020/473](#)), pursuant to resolution [2539 \(2020\)](#). The last

two positions identified as per the assessment were successfully handed over to the Government of Lebanon in November 2022.

72. Pursuant to paragraph 24 of resolution [2650 \(2022\)](#), UNIFIL is in the final stages of developing a strategy on countering disinformation and misinformation.

V. Conduct and discipline

73. From 3 November through 20 February, UNIFIL recorded 12 cases of possible unsatisfactory conduct and two allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. Induction and awareness training on United Nations standards of conduct was provided to 664 civilian and 2,382 military personnel in UNIFIL. Both UNIFIL and the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon remain committed to strict adherence to the United Nations zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, including sexual harassment. In this regard, UNIFIL organized eight sessions of targeted training on sexual harassment for 108 staff officers and undertook 17 comprehensive risk monitoring and oversight visits.

VI. Observations

74. I condemn in the strongest terms the attack against UNIFIL peacekeepers in Aqibiyah, extend my condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the peacekeeper who was killed in the incident and wish the injured a speedy recovery. I am encouraged by the swift reaction from Lebanese authorities and underscore the importance of the perpetrators being brought to justice. Attacks against UNIFIL are unacceptable. The safety and security of peacekeepers must be ensured and those who attack or threaten them must be held accountable. In this regard, I express serious concern at the continuing acts of intimidation against peacekeepers during the reporting period.

75. I note with concern that the presidential vacancy has entered its fourth month, as the Government continues to operate in caretaker mode. This situation undermines the country's ability to address its pressing socioeconomic, security and humanitarian challenges. I appeal to all stakeholders to demonstrate leadership and flexibility and intensify efforts to achieve consensus for the sake of the citizens of Lebanon.

76. It is disappointing that, 11 months since the staff-level agreement with IMF, the country has yet to secure a financial programme with IMF that can help to stabilize the economy and usher in the necessary fiscal, financial, sectoral and governance reforms, responding to the needs and aspirations of the Lebanese people. I encourage all stakeholders to work with the caretaker Government to avoid paralysis and dysfunction, ensure the effective working of State institutions and facilitate decision-making on issues of urgent and critical importance.

77. I welcome the ongoing preparations for the municipal elections. It is important that they be conducted in line with the adjusted electoral calendar. I strongly encourage efforts to strengthen the participation and representation of women, including the adoption of temporary special measures.

78. 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 action necessary to ensure that there are 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. I repeat my call that outstanding elements of resolution 1701 (2006) and the issue of the national defence strategy need to be addressed through a national dialogue and encourage relevant actors within Lebanon to reinvigorate efforts towards this objective. It remains important for earlier decisions of the Lebanese National Dialogue to be implemented, especially those 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.

79. After the initial decrease in tensions along the Blue Line following the establishment of the maritime boundary on 27 October 2022, I am disappointed by the return of small-scale but concerning incidents and posturing, notably directly between the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Israel Defense Forces. Each such incident has the potential to lead to escalation, with serious consequences. In reducing potential flashpoints, I encourage the parties to utilize the tripartite format of UNIFIL to resume discussions on outstanding contentious points along the Blue Line. More broadly, I continue to urge Lebanon and Israel to initiate talks on the delineation of their land boundary. The United Nations stands ready to support such a process, if requested by the parties.

80. The continued presence of unauthorized weapons in the area between the Litani River and the Blue Line, including as observed at unofficial firing ranges, is of serious concern. The presence and active use of weapons at these firing ranges outside State control represents a grave violation of resolution 1701 (2006). The continued lack of access to the firing ranges, despite the repeated requests of UNIFIL to the Lebanese Armed Forces to facilitate a joint visit, is unacceptable. I reiterate the obligation of the Lebanese Armed Forces to ensure access by UNIFIL to all areas requested by the mission and the need for the Government of Lebanon to investigate any restrictions on the movement of UNIFIL.

81. Incidents affecting the freedom of movement of UNIFIL remain of great concern. It remains important for the Lebanese authorities to help to dispel inaccurate notions and to raise understanding among local communities of the mission's mandate, including its freedom of movement, both with the Lebanese Armed Forces and independently. Wrong perceptions may fuel fear and suspicion of the mission's activities, undermine the safety of personnel and reduce the operational space of peacekeepers.

82. Cooperation and coordination between UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces remains important for the successful implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). The Lebanese Armed Forces continue to experience resource constraints, affecting operational capabilities, amid the economic and financial crisis. Such challenges also affect progress in the strategic dialogue with UNIFIL aimed at increasing deployments and extending State authority. In this regard, the launch of the mechanism for emergency financial support to the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces is welcome. The funding provided through this mechanism will help to sustain the two State security institutions in the short term and contribute to security and stability across the country. I appeal to all partners to consider allocating funding to demonstrate our collective commitment to the State security institutions and stability of Lebanon.

83. The assumption of maritime interdiction operation command functions by the Lebanese Armed Forces-Navy is encouraging. Further demonstrable commitment by the Lebanese authorities to an effective and durable deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces to the south is required.

84. The continued violations of Lebanese airspace by Israeli aircraft and uncrewed aerial vehicles remain of deep concern and must cease. The overflights constitute violations of resolution 1701 (2006) and Lebanese sovereignty, cause distress to the

Lebanese population and undermine the credibility of UNIFIL. I reiterate my condemnation of all violations of Lebanese sovereignty.

85. The occupation of northern Ghajar and an adjacent area north of the Blue Line represents a continuing violation of resolution 1701 (2006) and must cease. I note that the disposal of debris in this area hinders the access of UNIFIL to the Blue Line and poses a danger to peacekeepers. I again urge the Israeli authorities to fulfil their obligation under resolution 1701 (2006) to withdraw from northern Ghajar and the adjacent area north of the Blue Line.

86. The ongoing delays regarding the Beirut port explosion investigation are deeply concerning. The Lebanese authorities must put the interests of the victims first and follow through on an impartial, thorough and transparent investigation. After more than two years since the killing of Lokman Slim, I urge that progress be made in the investigation into his killing. I also urge progress in the investigation into the Tayyunah clashes. These cases underscore the need to strengthen and empower an independent judiciary capable of delivering justice.

87. 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 actors 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 between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, in violation of resolution 1701 (2006).

88. As the country's socioeconomic situation continues to deteriorate, it is worrying to see the steady decline in the ability of State institutions to provide basic public services, including in key sectors such as water, energy, education and health. The public institutions of Lebanon require coherent, urgent support to allow the country to get back on a development track and advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Recognizing that a long-term, sustainable solution lies solely with the Lebanese leaders, I call on them in parallel to take responsibility for and decisively address the underlying causes of the crisis.

89. The effort of Lebanon to protect refugees despite all the challenges is commendable, and I remain thankful for the remarkable hospitality the Lebanese people have shown. A robust and united response, including from the international community, is vital to address the rising needs of refugees and host communities. I call on the international community to continue to provide the necessary support, and for Lebanese authorities to act to prevent tensions between host and refugee communities and help to promote social stability. Application of legal and procedural safeguards, notably the principle of non-refoulement, remains vital.

90. It is crucial that UNRWA receive consistent and sufficient funding to ensure that it can meet the protection needs of the Palestine refugee community. I urge the international community to provide the necessary resources to the Agency.

91. I express 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 extend my appreciation to the United Nations 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 the 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 3 November 2022 to 20 February 2023

1. In paragraph 16 of resolution [2650 \(2022\)](#), the Security Council urged the parties to ensure that 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, was fully respected and unimpeded. It called on the Government of Lebanon to facilitate prompt and full access to sites requested by the Mission for the purpose of swift investigation, including several Green Without Borders sites, the tunnels crossing the Blue Line (as reported in [S/2019/237](#)) and unauthorized firing ranges, in line with resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#), while respecting Lebanese sovereignty.

2. During the reporting period, UNIFIL conducted an average of 7,963 monthly patrols during the day and at night, of which 44.9 per cent were foot patrols. The Mission conducted an average of 2,166 patrols each month along the Blue Line, both by vehicle and on foot (51.7 and 48.3 per cent, respectively). In addition, the Mission conducted an average of 50 helicopter patrols and 890 inspection activities, which included the conduct of temporary and permanent checkpoints and of counter-rocket-launching operations each month.

3. While the freedom of movement of UNIFIL was respected in most cases, the Mission continued to experience some restrictions, mostly verbal threats but also laser- and weapons- pointing, as detailed in paragraph 17 in the report above. Instances in which verbal aggression or gesticulation was accompanied by damage to UNIFIL property or impeded the conduct of a patrol, the incidents are noted in the present annex. Despite the widespread condemnation of the fatal attack on the UNIFIL convoy at Aqibiyah on 14 December 2022, there were continuing acts of intimidation against UNIFIL peacekeepers. Such acts included forcing peacekeepers out of their patrol vehicles and the seizure of UNIFIL property. Some acts involved the presence of assault weapons.

Access to all locations of interest

4. UNIFIL maintained access to all parts of the Blue Line that had previously been temporarily restricted by containers or prefabricated buildings throughout the reporting period (see [S/2022/858](#), annex I, para. 5). UNIFIL is yet to gain access to several other sites of interest, including the firing ranges, as well as a number of Green without Borders sites close to the Blue Line. Repeated formal requests have been made 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 [2650 \(2022\)](#).

5. The Lebanese Armed Forces continued to object to some patrol routes proposed by UNIFIL to expand its presence outside main routes and municipal centres. It has been asserted that these are either private roads or areas of strategic importance to the Lebanese Armed Forces.

Freedom of movement incidents

6. On 12 November, a glass bottle was thrown at a moving UNIFIL military vehicle in the vicinity of Wadi Jilu (Sector West). The bottle hit the vehicle's side mirror and the glass fragments caused a minor injury to one of the peacekeepers. The injured

peacekeeper was subsequently treated at a UNIFIL hospital. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces and contacted local authorities.

7. On 26 November, two stones were thrown from a vehicle without licence plates towards a UNIFIL vehicle patrol in the vicinity of Marwahin (Sector West), cracking the windscreen of one vehicle. No injury was caused to UNIFIL personnel. The peacekeepers suspended the patrol and returned to base. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces and the mayor of Marwahin.

8. On 28 November, two individuals in a vehicle without licence plates overtook a UNIFIL patrol near Kunin (Sector West) and stopped in front of the patrol, blocking its route. One of the individuals disembarked from the vehicle, waved his arms to make the patrol stop and signalled for it to go back. The UNIFIL patrol reversed and made a detour to continue its patrol. The vehicle followed the patrol for 200 m and then left the area. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces and the mayor of Kunin.

9. On 30 November, a cell phone was seized from a UNIFIL peacekeeper in the vicinity of Udaysah (Sector East). The peacekeeper had been taking pictures with the phone when an individual, one of a group of six individuals who had been observing the peacekeeper, took it. The group then promptly left the area in two vehicles. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces and the mayor of Udaysah.

10. On 5 December, UNIFIL peacekeepers took pictures of four individuals in civilian clothes who were taking pictures of an area south of the Blue Line, near Udaysah (Sector East). The four individuals approached the peacekeepers, seized a cell phone and binoculars and then left the area. The phone was later returned by another individual. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces and contacted the mayor of Udaysah.

11. On 6 December, four individuals in civilian clothes, two of whom were armed with assault weapons, approached UNIFIL personnel returning from a foot patrol in the vicinity of Hallusiyat al-Fawqa (Sector West) and requested them to leave the area. The patrol continued to its base in accordance with the planned itinerary. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces and the local authorities.

12. On 8 December, two civilian vehicles blocked the path of a UNIFIL vehicle patrol driving towards Kunin (Sector West). The peacekeepers suspended the patrol and left the area. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces and contacted the mayor of Kunin.

13. On 14 December, a UNIFIL convoy travelling to the Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport was attacked in the village of Aqibiyah. One peacekeeper was killed and three were injured, one of them seriously. Investigations by the United Nations as well as Lebanese and Irish authorities into the incident are ongoing (see para. 2 and subsequent paras. in the report above).

14. On 21 December, four individuals in civilian clothes with their faces covered approached a UNIFIL patrol in the vicinity of Aytarun (Sector West) and demanded, in an unfriendly manner, that the peacekeepers leave the area. The patrol withdrew from the location. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces and local authorities.

15. On 28 December, four individuals in civilian clothes blocked the path of a UNIFIL patrol in the vicinity of Khirbat Silm (Sector West) by placing two vehicles across the road. Having been requested to turn back, the patrol deviated from its planned route and continued patrolling on a parallel road. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces and followed up with the mayor.

16. On 28 December, four individuals in civilian clothes on motorcycles blocked the path of a UNIFIL patrol near Dayr Ntar (Sector West) and asked the patrol to turn

back. The patrol made a detour and continued patrolling on an alternative route. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces and local authorities.

17. On 31 December, two individuals in civilian clothes blocked a UNIFIL patrol near Rishknaniyah (Sector West) by placing a vehicle across the road. After the two individuals asked the patrol to turn back, the patrol took an alternative route and continued its mission as planned. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces and the mayor.

18. On 31 December, a UNIFIL patrol encountered a barrier blocking a road in the vicinity of Kfar Kila (Sector East). Shortly thereafter, two individuals approached the patrol, stating that it could not continue. The UNIFIL personnel took a detour and continued their patrol. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces, which subsequently informed the mission that the road was private property.

19. On 31 December, 15 individuals in civilian clothes blocked the path of a joint UNIFIL-Lebanese Armed Forces patrol near Dayr Qanun al-Nahr (Sector West). Following the intervention by the Lebanese Armed Forces personnel present, the joint patrol continued its mission as planned.

20. On 7 January, a UNIFIL patrol was stopped by an individual in civilian clothes with a car in the vicinity of Kafra (Sector West). The individual told the patrol to turn back. The patrol reversed and left the area. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces and contacted the mayor.

21. On 21 January, a civilian vehicle blocked the path of a UNIFIL vehicle patrol in the vicinity of Dayr Qanun al-Nahr (Sector West). One man got out of the vehicle and requested the patrol to turn back. The patrol reversed and, using an alternative route, continued its planned itinerary. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces. Later that same day, the same patrol was surrounded by seven civilian vehicles and around 50 individuals in civilian clothes with their faces covered in the vicinity of Jinnata (Sector West). One individual in the crowd was armed with a handgun and another with an assault weapon. The crowd forced the UNIFIL personnel to exit the patrol vehicles and kneel on the ground. Two cell phones and one handheld radio were then seized from the peacekeepers, and the windows and side mirrors of the two patrol vehicles were broken. UNIFIL informed the Lebanese Armed Forces, which deployed to the area and escorted the UNIFIL patrol back to its base.

22. On 6 February, a UNIFIL patrol near Dayr Siriane (Sector East) was stopped by seven men with wooden sticks. The men hit the UNIFIL vehicle and broke the rear window. None of the peacekeepers were injured. After the individuals left the area, the peacekeepers returned to their base. The Lebanese Armed Forces were informed.

Annex II

Support by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon to the Lebanese Armed Forces further to paragraph 11 of Security Council resolution 2650 (2022)

1. Further to the request of the Government of Lebanon dated 15 March 2022 addressed to the Presidency of the Security Council, the Council, in operative paragraph 11 of its resolution 2650 (2022), requested the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), in line with resolution 1701 (2006), to exceptionally extend 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 and no longer than 28 February 2023. The support was requested to be provided from 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 human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces. The support was also to be without prejudice to the mandate and its implementation, the concept of operations and the rules of engagement of UNIFIL, while fully respecting Lebanese sovereignty and at the request of the Lebanese authorities, and subject to appropriate and immediate oversight and scrutiny.

Support provided

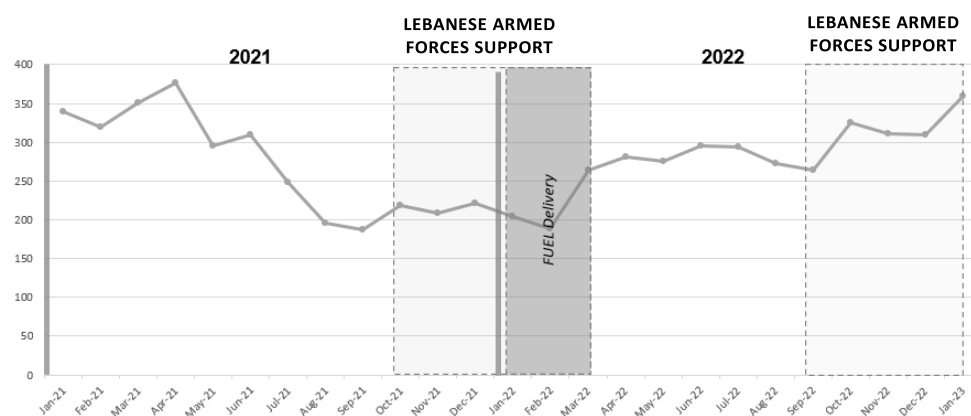
2. Following the Council's adoption of resolution 2650 (2022), UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces set targets for joint activities and concomitant requirements for fuel and food rations, bearing in mind both the vehicles and personnel required for those activities. The plan was based on the needs and absorption capacity of the Lebanese Armed Forces. On 5 December, UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces signed a memorandum of understanding detailing provisions, oversight and compliance with the human rights due diligence policy. For the provision of assistance prior to that date, handover certificates, detailing quantities as well as the oversight requirements in the memorandum, were signed with each delivery. Since the end of September, deliveries have been made at the end of each month.

3. Altogether, between the end of September and 20 February, UNIFIL provided 195,000 litres of diesel fuel, food rations for approximately 160,000 meals and 72 kg of medicine to the Lebanese Armed Forces. This support has amounted to a value of \$298,393.75. Provisions were drawn from existing UNIFIL stocks or obtained using existing contracts. The final delivery was scheduled for 28 February 2023.

Impact assessment

4. Overall, operational activities in close coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces rose demonstrably, almost back to the pace registered prior to the country's economic crisis. Whereas towards the end of 2019, UNIFIL was conducting an average of 22.2 per cent of its operations in close coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces, the average dropped to a low of 13.8 per cent by July 2021. By April 2022, with the assistance provided by UNIFIL under Security Council resolution 2591 (2021), such operations had reached an average of 18.3 per cent. With the provision of assistance since September 2022 under resolution 2650 (2022), this was sustained at around 19.8 per cent, in accordance with pre-planned targets for joint activities.

Figure
Monthly average number of joint vehicle patrols of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the Lebanese Armed Forces



5. The positive impact of UNIFIL assistance was most clearly demonstrated with regard to fuel support and vehicular activities, as fuel provided by UNIFIL offset some of the main constraints of the Lebanese Armed Forces caused by rapidly rising fuel prices. (Fuel prices tripled in Lebanon between February 2022 and February 2023, from 400,000 to 1.2 million Lebanese pounds per gallon).

6. Some 264 monthly joint vehicle patrols were conducted during September, 325 in October, 311 in November, 309 in December and 359 in January. Joint foot patrols and market walks, which are vital for force acceptance, also rose significantly. Combined vehicle and foot patrols in close coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces increased from 1,926 in August to 2,073 patrols in September and 2,081 in October. After that, a slight dip was seen, with 1,997 patrols in November and 1,931 in December, as the Lebanese Armed Forces were called on to perform additional public security functions amid mounting political uncertainty. For January, all joint patrolling conducted by UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces stood at 2,033 foot, market and vehicle patrols.

7. With the provision of food and medicines, UNIFIL delivered a small yet useful amount of material support to Lebanese Armed Forces troops amid a collapse in the purchasing power of their salaries and organizational budget constraints. The resulting morale boost and the valuable impact of the overall assistance have been recognized by Lebanese government officials in recent communications with senior United Nations officials.

8. UNIFIL operations in close coordination with the Lebanese Armed Forces are central to the mission's mandate implementation. The joint operations also contribute to the objective of resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#) of supporting the extension of State authority in southern Lebanon.

Annex III

Implementation of the arms embargo

1. In paragraph 22 of its resolution [2650 \(2022\)](#), 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. 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 new information was shared with the Secretariat in this regard.
 3. 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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