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Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution [2631 \(2022\)](#), in which the Secretary-General was requested to report every four months on progress made towards fulfilling the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). The report covers key developments relating to Iraq and provides an update on the activities of the United Nations in Iraq since my previous report of 29 April 2022 ([S/2022/368](#)) and the briefing to the Security Council by the Special Representative for Iraq and Head of UNAMI on 17 May 2022.

II. Summary of key political developments

A. Political situation

2. The government formation process remained at an impasse. The Prime Minister of Iraq, Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, has continued to lead a caretaker government. On 15 May, the Federal Supreme Court ruled that this government was not authorized to make decisions which would have a “significant” impact on the political, economic and social future of the country.

3. During the reporting period, the Council of Representatives passed two laws before its recess, which began on 9 June. On 26 May, it approved a law that criminalizes the normalization of relations with Israel. In addition, on 8 June, the law for emergency support for food security and development was passed. The legislation allocates 25 trillion Iraqi dinars (approximately \$17 billion) to support various sectors of government expenditure, including food security and the national agricultural sector; the securing of energy provision, including through the payment of debts to foreign energy suppliers; and support for the development of governorates not organized into regions.

4. On 15 May, the Sadrist Bloc leader, Muqtada al-Sadr, announced that his bloc would become a party of “national opposition for a period of at least 30 days”. Mr. al-Sadr added that “another decision” would be announced if political forces failed to form a government during that period. He then instructed the Sadrist Bloc’s parliamentary leader, Hassan al-Athari, to submit the resignations of the party’s 73 members of parliament on 12 June. Mr. Al-Sadr described the resignations as “a



sacrifice for the homeland” and thanked his allies in the Homeland Salvation Alliance for their “patriotism and steadfastness”, adding that they were free from obligation to him. The same day, the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Mohammed al-Halbousi, announced that he had “reluctantly” accepted the resignations. Addressing his parliamentarians on 15 June, Mr. al-Sadr stated that he had withdrawn from the political process, making any return conditional on the removal of the “corrupt” from politics.

5. On 13 June, the Shia Political Coordination Framework issued a statement in which it noted its respect for Mr. al-Sadr’s decision and reported that it would engage with all political forces to “fulfil constitutional requirements and form a national service government”.

6. On 23 June, the Council of Representatives held an extraordinary session to swear in 64 parliamentarians to replace the Sadrists parliamentarians who had resigned. The remaining seats remain unfilled. During the session, a communiqué from a meeting of the “political blocs” earlier that day was read out. In it, they acknowledged the Sadrists’ decision to withdraw from parliament and agreed to proceed to form a government that adhered to the principles of “balance, consensus and partnership”.

7. On 25 July, the Coordination Framework nominated Mohammed Shia’ al-Sudani, a former Governor and a Minister under the former Prime Minister of Iraq, Nouri al-Maliki, as its candidate for prime minister. On 27 July, Sadrists supporters gathered in Baghdad to protest Mr. al-Sudani’s nomination. They gained access to the International Zone and occupied the parliament building. Soon after, Mr. Al-Kadhimi called upon protesters to demonstrate peacefully, preserve public and private property, follow instructions given by the security forces and immediately withdraw from the International Zone and the parliament building. The President of Iraq, Barham Salih, and the Speaker of the Council of Representatives conveyed similar messages in separate statements. Following instructions from Mr. al-Sadr, the protesters left the International Zone later that day. On 28 July, Mr. Al-Kadhimi expressed his concern over the impact of events on national stability and social peace, calling on political forces to confront the crisis in the “spirit of national dialogue” and prevent the country from “being plunged into a security or social crisis amid complex regional and international circumstances”.

8. On 30 July, Sadrists supporters again entered the International Zone and moved into the parliament building for what a representative of Mr. al-Sadr described as “an open[-ended] sit-in”. The Ministry of Health subsequently reported that 100 civilians and 25 security personnel had been injured. In a speech broadcast that afternoon, the Mr. Al-Kadhimi called for “sincere and constructive dialogue” and “concessions for the sake of Iraq and the Iraqis”. In a statement released the same day, he also urged demonstrators to refrain from escalation and to abide by the orders of the security forces, who, he stated, sought to protect them and official institutions. Mr. Salih echoed the call for “national dialogue” and called upon the political parties to find solutions to the crisis. Mr. al-Halbousi announced the suspension of parliamentary sessions until further notice.

9. On 31 July, Mr. al-Sadr issued a statement in which he asserted that the International Zone had been “liberated” by a “spontaneous, peaceful revolution”, which he described as an opportunity to “fundamentally change the political system, the Constitution and the elections”. On the same day, the Coordination Framework reiterated calls for dialogue, especially with the Sadrists, but expressed concern over the escalation and called the events a “coup against the people, the State and its institutions, the political process, the Constitution and the elections”. Subsequently, the organizing committee for demonstrations to support the legitimacy and

preservation of State institutions called for a counterdemonstration in Baghdad to “defend the State”, suggesting that recent events were attempts to “abolish the democratic process”.

10. On 1 August, supporters of the Coordination Framework gathered outside the International Zone. Demonstrators followed instructions not to enter the Zone and dispersed after they were instructed to do so by Coordination Framework leaders. The organizing committee issued a statement in which it called for the parliamentary sit-in to end and criticized the caretaker government for not confronting “aggression against official institutions”, while urging the security forces to be unbiased and committed to the Constitution and law. The organizing committee also noted that the protesters had expressed their support for the judiciary, demanded the timely formation of a national service government and expressed their obedience to Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

11. The same day, Mr. Al-Kadhimi offered his appreciation for the demonstrators’ “commitment to calm” but highlighted the potential for escalation, calling upon them to cooperate with security forces, respect State institutions and leave their buildings, and maintain public order. He also called for a national dialogue through the formation of a committee comprising representatives of all parties in order to develop a “road map for a solution”. On 2 August, Mr. al-Halbousi issued a statement in support of Mr. Al-Kadhimi’s initiative, adding that a resolution of “the current crisis” could be followed by “parliamentary and local elections, according to specific timelines”.

12. In a speech broadcast on 3 August, Mr. al-Sadr distanced himself from further dialogue, stating that previous attempts had been unsuccessful despite guarantees made at the time. He then called for the dissolution of parliament and for early elections. The next day, the Coordination Framework affirmed support for any “constitutional path to address political crises” and included early elections as an option, provided there was a national consensus and a safe environment in which to conduct them. On 5 August, the Speaker of the Council also offered support for early elections.

13. On 2 August, Mr. al-Sadr’s representatives instructed the protesters at parliament to leave the building within 72 hours, which they did by 6 August. The sit-in continued in the surrounding area, but protesters also blocked the building’s entrance with barbed wired and stopped parliamentarians and staff from entering. Sadrist supporters were also called upon to attend “unified prayers” in the International Zone on 5 August, during which they listened to a sermon in which support was expressed for the calls for early elections and in which it was declared the sit-in would continue.

14. Following his request for early elections, on 10 August, Mr. al-Sadr called upon the judiciary to dissolve the Council of Representatives and called upon Mr. Salih to set a date for early elections, as constitutional timelines for government formation had been exceeded. He also called for cases on the matter to be filed with the Federal Supreme Court, expressing his hope that the judiciary would take the “interests of the people” into account and not succumb to pressure. The next day, a senior Sadrist official filed a case against the three presidencies, requesting the Federal Supreme Court to dissolve the Council of Representatives and requesting the Mr. Salih to call parliamentary elections. The Federal Supreme Court decided on 7 September that its jurisdiction does not include the dissolution of parliament. The Supreme Judicial Council reported on 14 August that it had discussed Mr. al-Sadr’s request on 14 August and noted that, although it agreed with his description of the government formation process, the Federal Supreme Court did not have the authority to dissolve parliament.

15. On 11 August, the organizing committee for demonstrations to support the legitimacy and preservation of State institutions announced a demonstration the next day to demand respect for State institutions and to demand the formation of a “national service government”. The demonstration occurred outside the International Zone, in the vicinity of the 14 July Bridge. Shortly after the demonstration commenced, the Organizing Committee announced its conclusion but declared that an open-ended sit-in had begun. The Committee also listed eight demands, which included the expediting of the formation of a national service government, the designation of a presidential candidate and the resumption of parliamentary activity by Mr. al-Halbousi.

16. On 17 August, Mr. Al-Kadhimi convened a national dialogue meeting attended by leaders of Iraqi political parties, in the presence of the three presidencies, the President of the Supreme Judicial Council, Fa’iq Zaidan, and UNAMI. Mr. al-Sadr declared in a statement the same day that the Sadrist Bloc would not participate either directly or indirectly. The Office of the Prime Minister reported that attendees had expressed a commitment to solving crises through dialogue to preserve Iraqi unity, security and stability, as well as the constitutional democratic system. Attendees agreed to continue this dialogue to develop a legal and constitutional road map to address the current crisis, while noting that early elections were not an “unprecedented event in the history of democracies” to address a political crisis. Furthermore, attendees stressed the need to reduce tensions and to protect State institutions. The statement also noted that attendees had called on the Sadrists to engage in the national dialogue.

17. On 23 August, Sadrist supporters gathered outside the Supreme Judicial Council headquarters in Baghdad, voicing demands that included the dissolution of parliament and the non-politicization of the judiciary. In a statement issued the same day, the Supreme Judicial Council announced the temporary suspension of its work and that of its affiliated courts and the Federal Supreme Court “in protest” of the “sit-in of the Sadrist Movement’s demonstrators ... to demand the dissolution of the Council of Representatives by pressuring the Federal Supreme Court”. The same day, Mr. Al-Kadhimi returned early from a regional summit in Egypt, reporting that doing so would allow him to directly follow-up on “the performance of ... the security forces in protecting the institutions of the judiciary and the State”. The demonstrators withdrew later that day and judicial offices reopened on 24 August.

18. On 29 August, Mr. al-Sadr announced his “final resignation” and the closure of all Sadrist entities with the exception of three religious and cultural ones. Soon after, additional Sadrist supporters moved into the International Zone, entering the government palace. This prompted Mr. Al-Kadhimi to suspend sessions of the Council of Ministers, and a curfew was imposed across the country, except in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. He also issued a statement in which he condemned the violation of State institutions and asked Mr. al-Sadr to call upon protesters to withdraw from government buildings. During the course of the events, multiple shots were fired, causing Mr. Al-Kadhimi to reiterate that the use of live rounds against protesters by any armed element was prohibited. He also called for an investigation into “the sources of shooting” and for perpetrators to be identified and held to account. Protests by Sadrists were also reported in southern Governorates, with some turning violent.

19. Mr. al-Athari then reported that Mr. al-Sadr had started a hunger strike because of “the violence and use of weapons”. However, protesters remained within the International Zone, and small-arms, machine-gun and indirect fire continued to be heard throughout the night, with the Security Media Cell reporting on 30 August that four “missiles” had impacted a residential complex in the International Zone. According to information verified by UNAMI, clashes in Baghdad on 29 and 30 August resulted in at least 46 deaths and 300 injuries, and clashes in Basrah

between 29 August and 1 September resulted in 5 deaths and 8 injuries. In the afternoon of 30 August, Mr. al-Sadr delivered a speech in which he said that he condemned the violence, regardless of who had started it, although he believed that his followers had been “disciplined and obedient”. He then gave them 60 minutes to withdraw from the International Zone, including those at the parliamentary sit-in. The withdrawal proceeded on schedule and the Joint Operations Command subsequently lifted the curfew. In addition, the sit-in at the 14 July Bridge was ended.

20. In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, discussions continued about the planned sixth regional parliamentary election. On 9 June, the President of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Nechirvan Barzani, in the presence of UNAMI, chaired a meeting with the political parties of the region to address pending issues, including the electoral framework and the reactivation or reform of the Board of Commissioners of the Independent High Elections and Referendum Commission of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. A presidential electoral committee was established to provide a report. The President chaired an additional meeting of the parties, again in the presence of UNAMI, on 10 August, during which the committee’s report was discussed and a decision was made to “complete all discussions regarding the election issue” in a final meeting in September.

21. The New Generation Movement led protests at several locations in Sulaymaniyah Governorate on 6 August, highlighting socioeconomic grievances and calling for timely regional elections. The media reported that security forces had attempted to disperse the crowd in Sulaymaniyah and that several arrests had been made.

B. Relations between Baghdad and Erbil

22. Revenue-sharing and oil and gas management issues remained a prominent element of relations between Baghdad and Erbil. On 6 June, the federal Minister of Finance, Ali Allawi, stated in an interview that federal budget transfers and other financial allocations to the Kurdistan Regional Government would be suspended unless the oil and gas issue was resolved. In the light of that statement, the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Kurdistan Regional Government announced on 13 June that it had filed lawsuits in Erbil in response to what it described as “illegal actions” taken by Baghdad. It deplored the fact that, among other measures, the federal Ministry of Oil had summoned international oil companies operating in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to a commercial court in Baghdad. The federal Minister of Oil, Ihsan Abdul-Jabbar Ismail, stated on 7 July that the court had invalidated four contracts with international oil companies operating with the Kurdistan Regional Government on 4 July.

23. On 29 June, the Kurdistan Regional Parliament amended the region’s oil and gas law, which the Federal Supreme Court had invalidated on 15 February, including by expanding the membership of the Regional Council of Oil and Gas Affairs. On June, the expanded Regional Council stressed the importance of resolving issues in accordance with the Constitution.

24. According to the readout published by the Kurdistan Regional Government, during its meeting on 6 July, the Council of Ministers of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq referred to “unjustified” pressure from the federal Government on the Kurdistan Region and stated that the federal Government’s halt of financial transfers to the region was “unconstitutional”. The Kurdistan Regional Government reiterated that it would defend the region’s constitutional rights, while stressing the importance of resolving issues on a constitutional basis.

25. On 23 July, Mr. Al-Kadhimi received the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Masrour Barzani, in Baghdad. According to a joint statement, they discussed political and security issues. Both agreed to increase dialogue between the federal Ministry of Oil and the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Kurdistan Regional Government in order to pursue the integration of the management of oil resources. After a meeting with Mr. al-Halbousi the same day, the Prime Minister announced that he had urged Mr. al-Halbousi to work with parliamentary blocs to introduce laws on oil and gas and on revenue-sharing. The Prime Minister also met with Mr. Zaidan on the same day.

C. Security situation

26. Da'esh continued to conduct asymmetric attacks, primarily in Anbar, Baghdad, Babil, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninawa and Salah al-Din Governorates. From 17 May to 31 August, 184 attacks, mostly targeting Iraqi security forces, were attributed to Da'esh. Iraqi security forces continued their counter-terrorism operations in response to Da'esh activity.

27. On 15 June, the media reported an attack against buildings in the Sinuni area of Sinjar district. The attack was strongly condemned and attributed to Turkish forces in a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq on 17 June. The Ministry described the attack as a “flagrant violation of Iraq’s sovereignty and a clear threat to the security of civilians”. The Ministry added that it would take further measures following investigations. According to the Turkish authorities, the attack was perpetrated by Kurdistan Worker’s Party (PKK) elements.

28. On 20 July, the Iraqi authorities reported that artillery shells had fallen near a tourist resort in the Zakho district of Dohuk Governorate. On the same day, the three presidencies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq, the President of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government all strongly condemned the attack. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye stated that “Türkiye carries out its fight against terrorism in accordance with international law, with utmost sensitivity to the protection of civilians, civilian infrastructure, historical and cultural property and the environment”. Throughout the reporting period, the Ministry of National Defence of Türkiye reported ongoing operations against PKK targets in northern Iraq.

29. In the annex to a letter dated 22 July 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2022/574](#)), the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Fuad Mohammad Hussein, writing on 21 July, attributed the Zakho district attack to Turkish forces and stated that it had resulted in the deaths of 9 civilians (5 men, 1 woman and 3 girls) and injured 33 others. The same day, on the instruction of the Iraqi National Security Council, the Ambassador of Türkiye to Iraq was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Chargé d’affaires a.i. of Iraq to Türkiye was recalled from Ankara on 23 July, and a national committee was formed to investigate the incident, led by the Mr. Hussein. At the request of the Government of Iraq, the Security Council convened a meeting on 26 July to discuss the situation. Both Iraq and Türkiye addressed the Council. In remarks delivered by Mr. Hussein, Iraq attributed the attack to the Turkish army and condemned the “illegal presence of Turkish forces on Iraqi territories”. Türkiye rejected the allegations and expressed support for the Iraqi authorities in their investigations. Türkiye also reiterated its inherent right of self-defence, as outlined in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, and stressed that it continued to “prioritize the protection of civilians” in its military operations. In a press statement dated 25 July, the Security Council condemned the attack “in the

strongest terms” and urged all Member States to cooperate actively with the Government of Iraq and all other relevant authorities in support of investigations.

30. According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye on 27 July, an attack was carried out on the Consulate General of Türkiye in Mosul in the morning hours of 27 July, during the Security Council meeting. On the basis of the press release, Türkiye condemned the attack “in the strongest terms” and noted that it expected that those responsible for the attack would be brought to justice as soon as possible. At the Security Council meeting, Iraq responded that it would need to verify the attack and that, if it had indeed occurred, its Government would condemn the act and investigate it. Iraq also stressed its obligation to protect diplomatic and consular representations and their personnel on its territory.

31. Throughout the reporting period, the Counter-Terrorism General Directorate of the Kurdistan Region reported a number of attacks in the Zilkan area, Ba’shiqa subdistrict in Ninawa Governorate, including four rockets launched on 26 June striking a Peshmerga checkpoint and a military base that hosts Turkish troops, and nine rockets fired towards the base on 25 August. The first attack was claimed by a group calling itself the “Islamic Resistance Ahrar Al-Iraq Brigade”. Furthermore, 11 similar attacks in the same area were claimed by armed groups or reported by the media from 17 May to 31 August.

32. From 17 May to 31 August, 15 attacks were reported against trucks belonging to Iraqi companies contracted to carry supplies for the international counter-Da’esh coalition, in Babil, Baghdad, Basrah, Dhi Qar, Muthanna and Salah al-Din Governorates. A member of the Iraqi Security Forces was reported to have been injured in one attack. Five armed groups claimed 11 of the attacks.

33. On 24 May, the Security Media Cell reported that air defences had destroyed an unmanned aerial vehicle close to Martyr Mohammad Alaa airbase, within the Baghdad International Airport complex.

34. On 30 May, in an attack confirmed by the spokesperson of the State Department of the United States of America, multiple rockets impacted the vicinity of the Ain Al-Asad airbase in Anbar Governorate without causing casualties. The attack was claimed by a group naming itself the “International Resistance Faction”.

35. On 8 June, the Counter-Terrorism General Directorate of the Kurdistan Region reported that an explosive-laden unmanned aerial vehicle had impacted in Erbil, injuring three civilians. On the same day, Mr. Al-Kadhimi called the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government and reaffirmed his commitment to working with the regional government to hold perpetrators accountable. Mr. Salih condemned the attack in a statement on 9 June.

36. On 22, 24 and 25 June and 25 July, rockets targeted the Khor Mor gas field in Sulaymaniyah Governorate, with two staff members injured on 22 June. On 26 June, the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government reported that, during a telephone conversation with Mr. Al-Kadhimi, he had emphasized the need for a joint federal and Peshmerga force and urged him to act to deter the attacks.

37. On 26 August, an improvised explosive device detonated near a convoy of the Embassy of Australia that was making its way through Baghdad, damaging one of the convoy’s vehicles. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq condemned the incident and affirmed its commitment to the protection of diplomatic personnel and facilities.

D. Regional and international developments

38. Mr. Salih outlined the foreign policy of Iraq in meetings with newly appointed Ambassadors on 17 May, emphasizing that it centred on balanced relations and improving political, economic and trade cooperation. He also highlighted the need for international and regional cooperation to meet global challenges, noting that Iraq seeks to bridge differences and ease tensions in the region.

39. On 16 June, reporting on a telephone conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Mr. Hussein confirmed the Government's determination to continue to facilitate direct talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia. On 25 June, Mr. Al-Kadhimi travelled to Saudi Arabia, where he was received by Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Al-Saud. Mr. Al-Kadhimi reported that they had discussed bilateral relations, regional and international issues of common interest, as well as efforts to consolidate regional peace. The next day, he travelled to the Islamic Republic of Iran where he was received by the President, Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi. Mr. Al-Kadhimi noted that bilateral and regional issues were discussed. He also reported that Mr. Raisi had praised Iraqi efforts in "bringing views closer and establishing calm in the region".

40. The regional impact of climate change was the subject of a telephone conversation between Mr. Hussein and Mr. Amir-Abdollahian on 24 May. They agreed to convene a meeting between Iraqi and Iranian technical delegations on these matters. On 29 May, Mr. Al-Kadhimi received the Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Head of the Department of the Environment, Ali Salajegheh. Mr. Al-Kadhimi reported that they discussed ways to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation to address environmental challenges. Similar issues were discussed in a separate meeting between Mr. Salajegheh and Mr. Hussein, in the presence of the ministers of agriculture, water resources and the environment. Mr. Raisi reported that environmental issues were also raised in a telephone conversation with Mr. Al-Kadhimi on 29 May. On 14 July, the Minister of Environment of Iraq, Jassim Abdul Aziz al-Falahi, then met Mr. Salajegheh in Tehran and signed a memorandum of understanding on addressing dust storms.

41. On 6 June, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt, Sameh Hassan Shoukry Selim, and his Jordanian counterpart, Ayman Safadi, visited Baghdad, where they jointly attended meetings held separately with the three presidencies. Discussions centred on the need to enhance tripartite cooperation in the political, security and economic fields, and to build on decisions taken at previous tripartite summits.

42. Other high-level visitors included the Minister of Justice and Security of the Netherlands, Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius; a European Parliament security and defence delegation; the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, Marina Serini; a defence and foreign affairs delegation from the Senate of France; a Senator of the United States, Lindsey Graham; and Minister for Foreign Affairs and the National Community Abroad of Algeria, Ramtane Lamamra.

43. On 16 July, Mr. Al-Kadhimi attended the Jeddah Security and Development Summit in Saudi Arabia. In his speech, he highlighted the regional role of Iraq and called for the establishment of a "Middle East bank for development and integration" in partnership with the Gulf Cooperation Council, Egypt and Jordan, to finance infrastructure projects to help to connect the region's economies. The Summit's final statement listed a range of issues, including electricity interconnection agreements between Iraq and Gulf Cooperation Council member States, as well as among Iraq, Egypt and Jordan. Mr. Al-Kadhimi also met separately with regional leaders and with the President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden Jr., who commended his efforts "to foster a more stable, prosperous and interconnected region". A joint statement

issued after the latter meeting reaffirmed both countries' "shared commitment to [their] partnership ... under the Strategic Framework Agreement and their determination to continue security coordination to ensure that ISIS can never resurge".

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

A. Political activities

44. In line with her good offices mandate and in the context of the political crisis that emerged as a result of the protracted government formation process, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI engaged intensively with the three presidencies, Mr. Zaidan, the leadership of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, political party leaders and other authorities. As part of these efforts, she reiterated the urgent need to de-escalate tensions, commit to inclusive dialogue, prioritize the national interest and work towards transformative change.

45. During multiple visits to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, the Special Representative met with the President of the Kurdistan Region, the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government and regional political party leaders. She emphasized the importance of reaching an agreement on a presidential candidate and underlined the broader need to resolve intra-Kurdish disagreements to facilitate the resolution of the outstanding differences between Baghdad and Erbil, including oil management and revenue-sharing, security cooperation and the implementation of the Sinjar agreement.

46. On 26 May, the Special Representative convened a round-table meeting in Erbil with representatives of the six largest political parties of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to reach a common understanding about the situation in the region and the legal and technical framework for the Kurdistan Regional Parliament elections. During follow-up meetings chaired by the President of the Kurdistan Region in Erbil on 9 June and 10 August, the Special Representative urged all participants to collaborate to address the challenges faced by the region, highlighting the need to empower democratic institutions.

47. As part of a high-level United Nations delegation accompanied by the Chief of the National Security Service of Iraq, Hamid Al-Shatri, the Special Representative visited the Hawl camp in north-eastern Syrian Arab Republic on 5 June to raise awareness of the approximately 28,000 Iraqi citizens still residing in the camp. The delegation issued a statement underlining the protection and security risks that would emerge if the camp residents, half of whom are under the age of 12, were not repatriated to their countries of origin. The Special Representative commended the Iraqi authorities for having repatriated over 2,500 Iraqis while respecting the principles of accountability and reintegration. In addition, she expressed the readiness of the United Nations to continue to provide post-return humanitarian and protection assistance.

48. In response to the shelling in the Zakho district on 20 July, the Special Representative issued a statement that same day, in which she strongly condemned the attack and called for a thorough investigation of the incident. On 26 July, the Special Representative briefed the Security Council on the situation.

49. Following the protesters' entering the International Zone and the parliament building on 27 July, the Special Representative issued a statement reaffirming the right to peaceful protest while recalling the need to respect State institutions and safeguard public and private property. After protesters again occupied the parliament

building on 30 July, she encouraged all actors to de-escalate the situation and to act in compliance with the Constitution. In a statement issued on 3 August, she welcomed calls for national dialogue and appealed to all actors to actively engage and agree on solutions.

50. As part of her engagements with the leadership and political leaders of Iraq, on 4 August, the Special Representative met with Hadi al-Ameri, a senior member and representative of the Coordination Framework. The next day she visited Mr. al-Sadr in Najaf to identify solutions to the challenges facing Iraq. At the invitation of Mr. Al-Kadhimi and participating party leaders, the Special Representative attended the first session of the national dialogue, on 17 August.

51. On 23 August, after protests led to the closure of the Supreme Judicial Council building, the Special Representative again issued a statement acknowledging the right to peaceful protest while stressing that constitutional compliance and respect for State institutions were equally important.

52. On 24 August, she participated in a meeting with the three presidencies and Mr. Zaidan.

53. On 27 August, the Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs and Electoral Assistance participated in the annual Islamic conference on countering violence against women, organized by the Al-Hakim Foundation on the theme “Educating her is the renaissance of the nation” and attended by the three presidencies. The Deputy Special Representative emphasized the importance of ensuring that girls and women have access to education and highlighted the need for women’s participation in the political process, including national dialogue, to find solutions to the current political impasse.

B. Electoral assistance

54. UNAMI conducted capacity-building activities in support of the Independent High Electoral Commission. These included workshops and trainings held in Amarah, Baghdad, Basrah, Erbil, Kirkuk and Mosul, on election logistics management (for 115 staff, including 8 women); information technology and election data management (for 67 field coordination and governorate office staff, including 10 women); election security planning and management (for 57 staff); software use for the Commission’s database (for 53 staff, including 4 women); and communication and public outreach (for 23 staff, including 2 women).

55. In the context of capacity-building, UNAMI continued to hold monthly meetings with the Electoral Judicial Panel on the management of electoral appeals and engaged with the Commission’s legal committee on the electoral legal framework.

56. In addition, UNAMI supported the Commission’s efforts to upgrade its biometric voter registration system. In this regard, UNAMI briefed senior Commission officials on biometric voter registration issues and, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), organized a study visit to Malawi for the Commission to learn from that country’s experience in civil and voter registration.

57. UNAMI also provided recommendations to the Commission’s 2022 gender workplan, including on gender mainstreaming strategies and the structure and composition of the Commission’s gender team.

58. Upon the request of the presidency of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, UNAMI attended meetings of the region’s technical electoral committee tasked with addressing pending electoral issues. The committee discussed the electoral

framework, the reactivation or reform of the Board of Commissioners of the Independent High Elections and Referendum Commission of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and the use of voters' lists. On 21 June, UNAMI briefed the committee on international practices regarding constituency delineation and minority representation in order to guide the committee in its deliberations.

59. UNAMI also discussed electoral preparations with the Speaker of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament, Rewaz Fa'iq, in Erbil on 6 July, and met several times with the acting Board of Commissioners to discuss its status, potential areas of support, and coordination with the federal Independent High Electoral Commission.

C. Human rights and rule of law developments and activities

60. From 1 April to 31 August, UNAMI documented 87 incidents resulting in at least 201 civilian casualties (65 deaths, including 47 men, 4 women and 14 children, and 136 injured, including 73 men, 31 women and 32 children). The majority were caused by small-arms fire, improvised explosive devices, shelling and explosive remnants of war.

61. During the same period, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting verified, through UNAMI, 63 grave violations against 55 children (38 boys and 17 girls), including the killing and maiming of 25 children (11 boys killed and 10 boys and 4 girls maimed), 5 abductions (3 boys and 2 girls), 1 incident of rape and other forms of sexual violence against a girl, and 8 incidents of denial of humanitarian access. The Task Force also verified the use and recruitment of 24 children (14 boys and 10 girls) by the PKK.

62. On 26 and 27 April, during its seventy-third session, the Committee against Torture considered the second periodic report of Iraq on measures taken to uphold the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In concluding observations, adopted on 9 May, the Committee welcomed the country's initiatives to introduce legislation, policies and procedures relevant to the Convention but highlighted key concerns, including allegations of widespread torture or ill-treatment, lack of respect for fundamental legal safeguards, lack of accountability, and poor conditions of detention. The Committee provided recommendations to address the concerns and urged Iraq to expedite the adoption of pending anti-torture legislation.

63. On 2 June, UNAMI and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights released a joint report, entitled "Update on accountability in Iraq: limited progress towards justice for human rights violations and abuses by 'Unidentified Armed Elements'". While some positive developments are noted in the report, in particular on the compensation of victims, its conclusion is that progress towards accountability for violations by unidentified armed elements has been limited. According to the report, many of those seeking accountability have been subjected to threats and violent intimidation. The report included recommendations to the Government of Iraq aimed at ending impunity, ensuring redress for victims and protecting families and witnesses.

64. On 20 June, UNAMI and the Office of Counter-Terrorism conducted a workshop on the prevention of torture and the mainstreaming of human rights compliance during counter-terrorism investigations at the intelligence academy of the Ministry of Interior of Iraq.

65. On 26 June in Erbil, to mark the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, UNAMI held a dialogue on reparative justice on the topic of ensuring effective reparations in Iraq, in cooperation with the General Directorate of

Survivors' Affairs, civil society groups and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Participants included representatives from the federal and the Kurdistan Regional Governments, United Nations agencies and civil society, and survivors.

66. On 17 May, UNAMI and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide facilitated a dialogue on countering hate speech, discrimination and marginalization. Representatives from component groups, civil society organizations, the High Commission for Human Rights of Iraq, the Bar Association of Iraq and the Communications and Media Commission of Iraq raised key concerns and identified solutions for countering hate speech.

67. On 30 June, UNAMI facilitated an event in Baghdad under the banner "We are Iraq" that brought together 32 primary school children (19 girls and 13 boys) from different communities to counter hate speech through the celebration of diversity. The event was also attended by tribal elders, government officials, teachers and civil society representatives.

68. UNAMI convened a high-level policy dialogue in Erbil on 27 June to enhance capacity and build political will to investigate and prosecute gender-related killings, thereby contributing to increased accountability for such crimes. Participants included the High Council for Women and Development in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, investigative judges, criminal court judges, the region's Directorate of Combating Violence against Women and Family and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

D. Humanitarian assistance, stabilization and development

69. As of August, approximately 1.17 million persons remained internally displaced in Iraq, including 180,000 persons hosted in 25 camps administered by the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and in 1 camp in Ninawa Governorate, and approximately 990,000 people (internally displaced persons and returnees) were in acute need of humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian organizations recorded a deterioration of living standards in some camps for internally displaced persons, with gaps in service in several camps attributed to a lack of funding.

70. Over 1,700 families (7,201 individuals) fled their homes following clashes between Iraqi security forces and armed elements in the Sinjar area in early May. Many of the families were accommodated in camps for internally displaced persons in Dohuk Governorate. The authorities (led by the Directorate of Migration and Crisis Response of the Kurdistan Regional Government), humanitarian agencies, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and national non-governmental organizations provided humanitarian assistance to meet the immediate needs of those who had fled. At least 1,033 families have since left the camps either for Sinjar or urban areas in Dohuk Governorate.

71. Humanitarian funding declined despite ongoing needs. As at 31 August, the 2022 humanitarian response plan was 33 per cent funded, having received \$130 million of the \$400 million required to meet the needs of the 990,000 people in acute need of humanitarian assistance. In that context, the United Nations and its partners continued their collaboration with the federal and Kurdistan Regional Governments to hand over humanitarian operations and to support the federal Government in assuming responsibility for the provision of life-saving and life-sustaining services to conflict-affected populations in Iraq. The law for emergency support for food security and development, adopted on 8 June, has provisions to assist

the Government in assuming responsibility for humanitarian services but has not yet been fully implemented in that regard.

72. The humanitarian community in Iraq increased efforts to transition and scale down international humanitarian efforts in the country. To that end, a transition advisory group was established to discuss operational aspects of the humanitarian transition with all key stakeholders. The Iraq humanitarian country team and donor contact group agreed on 5 July not to develop a humanitarian needs overview or a humanitarian response plan for 2023 while discussions continued on the format for a planning document for 2023. In that context, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Iraq has started to transition into a humanitarian advisory team.

73. The United Nations and its partners continued to provide assistance to internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees in Iraq. As of 1 August, assistance has reached 100 per cent of the camp population, 100 per cent of the targeted out-of-camp displaced persons and 69 per cent of the targeted returnees.

74. During the reporting period, IOM continued to support the Government-led repatriation of Iraqi nationals from the Hawl camp. From May 2021 to 31 August, a total of 756 households (3,083 individuals) were relocated to the Jeddah 1 camp in Ninawa Governorate. During the period, 416 households (1,622 individuals) departed from the Jeddah 1 camp to return to their areas of origin or other out-of-camp locations, predominantly in Anbar, Ninawa and Salah Al-Din Governorates. IOM also provided mobile camp management to 40,794 internally displaced persons who continue to live in 91 informal settlements in Anbar, Ninawa, Kirkuk, Baghdad and Salah Al-Din Governorates. In addition, UNHCR and its partners facilitated the issuance of 154 civil identification cards to the Jeddah 1 camp's residents and processed 275 unified identification card applications, as well as 165 other civil documents.

75. In response to health issues among refugees in mid-May, UNHCR ensured the availability of medicine and medical supplies in camp-based health facilities and supported the early identification of cholera cases.

76. In 2020, the United Nations country team in Iraq was selected as a pilot team to implement the United Nations country team accountability scorecard on disability inclusion. In 2022, IOM, UNFPA and UNAMI, in fulfilling the secretariat function of that effort, established the disability inclusion coordination group as a key mechanism for joint United Nations action, advocacy and coordination on disability inclusion.

77. The International Labour Organization (ILO) in partnership with IOM, UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund and WFP, drafted a paper outlining the United Nations position on social protection reform in Iraq. It was shared with the Ministers of Finance, of Planning and of Labour and Social Affairs, with the aim of holding follow-up sessions. In addition to the position paper, ILO, in collaboration with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNHCR and WFP, engaged with the Government of Iraq to facilitate the transition of the caseload of 1.17 million internally displaced persons from humanitarian cash assistance support to the national social protection system as part of the work at the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in Iraq.

78. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), in collaboration with the High Council for Women and Development in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, organized the region's first Board meeting on Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) in Erbil on 21 June, during which the Board announced the implementation plan for the protection pillar of the Iraq national action plan. Moreover, on 1 July, IOM organized a workshop to develop a

road map for the implementation of a gender-sensitive community engagement and policing plan.

79. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization completed all training activities related to the prevention of violent extremism that had been organized for education actors at the primary and secondary levels. This benefited over 8,500 education actors (over 60 per cent women) from 250 schools in Anbar and Ninawa Governorates.

80. IOM continued to support the General Directorate of Yazidi Survivors Affairs under the federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to prepare for the registration of women survivors from Yazidi, Shabak, Turkmen, and Christian communities who were exposed to conflict-related sexual violence perpetrated by Da'esh. This will enable survivors to receive the benefits stipulated in the 2021 Yazidi female survivors law.

81. Climate change and water shortages have eroded the livelihoods of over 6,000 rural families in the Iraqi Marshes. To support buffalo breeders in that area, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations purchased food stocks and, by July 2022, trained 6,000 livestock producers, including women, on buffalo feeding techniques. In other areas, WFP worked with partners on efficient natural resource management and water-conservation agriculture techniques, alongside protective farming, to support the rural communities of Iraq in transforming their livelihoods.

82. The general secretariat of the Council of Ministers, jointly with the relevant ministries and UNDP, launched an initiative in June to empower Iraqi women in addressing challenges associated with climate change, such as additional economic burdens and reduced quality of life. The Government of Iraq plans to update the national strategy on the advancement of women for the period 2023–2030 in that regard.

83. The Mine Action Service cleared 2,141,694 square metres of explosive-ordnance-contaminated areas in Anbar, Basrah and Ninawa Governorates. The Mine Action Service enhanced the Government's mine action capacity and promoted gender equality through training activities. In June 2022, 19 police staff from the Ministry of the Interior graduated from a level 3 course on explosive ordnance disposal supported by the Mine Action Service. For the first time, an Iraqi woman graduated from this training, which had previously only been open to men.

IV. Security and operational issues

A. Update on security arrangements

84. The Department of Safety and Security monitored developments throughout Iraq and implemented risk management measures to enable United Nations operations. The Department continued to carry out its monitoring activities, adjust security measures and contingency plans, liaise with host Government authorities, and disseminate information and advisories to maintain personnel awareness of changes in the security environment.

85. The Department supported an average of 41 field missions per day across the country, all at risk levels assessed as medium or high. Close coordination with the host Government continued to ensure the necessary security support for United Nations operations.

B. UNAMI facilities, logistics, aviation, financial and legal issues

86. UNAMI completed the refurbishment of accommodation at the Forward Support Base in Baghdad. Refurbishment projects at regional offices and the United Nations Guard Unit camp continued, all under strict health and security protocols.

87. In collaboration with the World Health Organization and the federal Ministry of Health, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccination campaign for United Nations personnel and dependants in Iraq continued. As at 31 August, UNAMI had administered 7,192 first and second vaccination doses and 486 booster doses. In addition, 95 per cent of UNAMI international staff and 93 per cent of UNAMI national staff are fully vaccinated.

V. Observations

88. Almost one year after the holding of parliamentary elections on 10 October 2021, the formation of a new fully empowered government remains elusive – but just as essential. Further delays risk undermining political stability in Iraq. I strongly urge all parties to rise above their differences and act in the national interest to form a new government as soon as possible.

89. Iraqi women continue to be widely excluded from the government formation process despite their remarkable performance in the October 2021 elections. I reiterate my call upon political leaders to ensure the meaningful participation of women in the government formation process.

90. I welcome the efforts of the Independent High Electoral Commission, with UNAMI support, to improve its capacities and implement the lessons learned from the 2021 parliamentary elections. It is now important for the Independent High Electoral Commission and the Independent High Elections and Referendum Commission of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to strengthen cooperation and exchange technical expertise.

91. In the current fragile political environment, I call upon all political actors to take concrete steps to de-escalate tensions. Everything must be done to prevent the risk of miscalculation that could have dangerous unintended consequences. While the right to peaceful protests must be upheld at all times, compliance with the Constitution and respect for State institutions are vital. The best way forward for resolving differences is through genuine and inclusive dialogue based on peaceful, democratic and constitutional principles and means.

92. Once established, the new government will need to be fully empowered to deliver on long-standing demands for reform. To that end, the Council of Representatives and all other State institutions need to be able to operate unimpeded.

93. Responding to the demands and aspirations of the people of Iraq, it will be critical for the new government to implement swift and tangible measures to improve the daily life of all Iraqis, which includes the following: reliable delivery of basic services, including electricity, to all citizens; strengthening the capacity and performance of State institutions; diversifying the economy; and promoting effective and accountable governance.

94. I note with appreciation the efforts of the Government of Iraq to foster regional dialogue and to seek cooperation to address regional and global issues. I encourage the country's regional and international partners to support those efforts, which will benefit the long-term stability of Iraq and the wider region. I once again call upon all sides concerned to exercise restraint and avoid escalation. I also urge the country's

partners to support its efforts to advance regional peace, stability and security, in accordance with the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and good-neighbourly relations.

95. The promotion of accountability is fundamental to the future stability and prosperity of Iraq. Ensuring justice and accountability will make a vital contribution to the protection of human rights, strengthening the rule of law and promoting a just society. While acknowledging the steps taken by the Government to compensate victims, I note with concern the limited progress made to date in providing accountability. I reiterate the importance of ending impunity, both as a means of providing justice to victims and enhancing trust between the Government and its citizens.

96. As the transition from humanitarian to development support moves forward, I congratulate the Government for the progress already made, especially with regard to its increased focus on social protection for all Iraqi citizens. Strengthening the social contract with citizens is key to this process, and I note efforts to include the internally displaced persons within this process. I also welcome the adoption of the law for emergency support for food security and development and call for its rapid implementation, which will contribute to alleviate the suffering and hardship facing Iraqis until a government is formed.

97. Lastly, I would like to thank my Special Representative for Iraq and Head of UNAMI, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, and the United Nations staff in Iraq for their continued dedication to implementing the Organization's mandate during extraordinary times and under challenging circumstances. I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to my Deputy Special Representative, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, Irena Vojáčková-Sollorano, as she concludes her assignment with UNAMI, for her leadership and dedicated service to the United Nations in Iraq.
