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Implementation of resolution [2732 \(2024\)](#)

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution [2732 \(2024\)](#), in which the Secretary-General was requested to streamline the tasks of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) as set forth in paragraph six of the resolution, and to report to the Council every six months, three times in total, with the first report occurring before 30 November 2024, on the progress made on the activities set out in paragraph six towards the transition of all responsibilities and the residual tasks of UNAMI. The report covers key developments relating to Iraq and provides an update on the activities of the United Nations in Iraq since the previous report of 7 May 2024 ([S/2024/369](#)).

II. Summary of key developments

A. National developments

2. The federal Government of Iraq continued to make progress towards its development agenda within its ministerial programme with the adoption of the 2024 Federal Budget Law. On 3 June, the Council of Representatives approved the estimates of the general budget tables for the year 2024 and granted the Prime Minister of Iraq, Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani, the authority to redirect up to 2 trillion Iraqi dinars (approximately 1.6 billion United States dollars) from the investment budget allocations designated for ministries to the regional development allocations for governorates that are not organized into a region. On 27 June, the President of Iraq, Abdullatif Jamal Rashid, ratified the 2024 Federal Budget Law.

3. On 26 June, the presidency of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq issued a decree setting 20 October 2024 as the new date for the Kurdistan Region's parliamentary elections following several postponements since the original election date, which was 1 October 2022. The Electoral Judicial Panel decided on 20 May to allocate 5 of the 100 seats in the Parliament of the Kurdistan Region to the Kurdistan Region's minority components. This followed the Federal Supreme Court ruling on 21 February 2024 that declared several articles of the Kurdistan Region Parliamentary Election Law unconstitutional, including those pertaining to the number of seats in the parliament and the minority quota provisions.



4. On 20 October, the Kurdistan Region of Iraq held its sixth election. The Independent High Electoral Commission opened a total of 7,070 polling stations in 1,431 polling centres for general voting on 20 October, and for special voting for security sector personnel on 18 October. The President of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Nechirvan Barzani, expressed his gratitude to the Independent High Electoral Commission, the federal Government and UNAMI for their contributions to the successful parliamentary elections in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, highlighting the importance of the elections in strengthening the democratic foundations of the Kurdistan Region. After casting his vote, the President of Iraq congratulated the people of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and expressed the hope that the new Parliament of the Kurdistan Region would address the needs of the citizens in the Kurdistan Region. The Prime Minister of Iraq also congratulated the citizens of the Kurdistan Region and its leaders, political parties and candidates for their role in the elections, and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Independent High Electoral Commission to ensure a successful electoral process. Reports indicated an orderly and peaceful voting process with no major incidents.

5. The Independent High Electoral Commission released preliminary results on 21 October. According to the Commission, official voter turnout reached 72 per cent, a significant increase from the 2018 elections (51 per cent), with 2,087,972 (including 954,728 women voters) of 2,899,578 registered voters participating in the elections.

6. Following months of negotiations since the certification of the Governorate Council electoral results in January, governors and other key posts in the Diyala and Kirkuk Governorates were elected on 2 and 10 August, respectively, thereby completing the local government administrations in all 15 federal governorates where elections were held. In both cases, the Governorate Council sessions that resulted in the election of the Diyala and Kirkuk governors and several other key positions took place in Baghdad amid continued political division among stakeholders, without the attendance of Council members opposed to the winning contenders for the posts of governor. On 8 August, the President of Iraq officially confirmed Adnan al-Shammari as Governor of Diyala during a ceremony in which the President emphasized the importance of “leveraging the diversity and pluralism that characterize Diyala as a source of strength”.

7. On 10 August, 9 of Kirkuk’s 16 Governorate Council members met in Baghdad to elect the Head of the Kirkuk branch of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Rebwar Taha, as Governor, in a process which generated legal objections from some stakeholders, notably the Iraqi Turkmen Front. On 13 August, the Iraqi Turkmen Front called on its supporters to demonstrate in Kirkuk to contest the election of the Governor and the proceedings of the 10 August session, which it viewed as excluding Kirkuk’s Turkmen component. The same day, the President of Iraq issued a decree confirming Rebwar Taha as Governor of Kirkuk. On 20 August, Iraqi Turkmen Front leader Hasan Turan confirmed in a press conference that his party was challenging the legality of the 10 August session, including through a case submitted to the Federal Supreme Court, on which the Court was expected to rule on 6 November.

8. The position of Speaker of the Council of Representatives had been vacant since 14 November 2023 and First Deputy Speaker Mohsen al-Mandalawi continued to serve as acting Speaker. On 31 October, Mahmoud al-Mashhadani was elected as Speaker. In his inaugural address, Mr. al-Mashhadani pledged to work with all members of the Parliament.

9. On 8 September, the Prime Minister of Iraq highlighted various achievements of his Government during a televised address, emphasizing its focus on delivering public services to citizens as well as addressing unemployment, poverty and economic reform and fighting corruption. The Prime Minister outlined development

projects implemented to improve education, housing, social protection, electricity supply and public infrastructure more broadly, as well as to boost the agricultural and labour sectors. He also highlighted the Government's efforts to accelerate the implementation of strategic projects such as the Development Road project and the Al-Faw seaport.

10. Negotiations between the federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government continued over revenue-sharing, hydrocarbon management, border management and the payment of civil servants in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, among other key issues, and were marked by high-level visits to Baghdad and Erbil. Moreover, from 3 to 5 July, the leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, Masoud Barzani, conducted his first official visit to Baghdad since 2018 to discuss key files with federal Government officials, including the Prime Minister, and political party leaders. The leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Bafel Talabani, conducted regular visits to Baghdad during the reporting period. The salaries of civil servants in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq were disbursed from January through August 2024, based on financial transfers from the federal Ministry of Finance to the Kurdistan Regional Government, with recurrent delays linked to the auditing of salary lists, among other issues.

B. Regional developments

11. Throughout the reporting period, the Prime Minister and the Government of Iraq have remained actively engaged with key regional and international leaders to strengthen Arab and Islamic cooperation in calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon, de-escalating tensions across the region and addressing pressing humanitarian needs. On 11 June, the Prime Minister attended the high-level conference entitled "Call for action: urgent humanitarian aid for Gaza", held in Jordan. In his address, the Prime Minister stressed the need for an urgent ceasefire, which was echoed in a meeting that the Prime Minister held with the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Antony Blinken, on the margins of the conference that same day. In a 14 June telephone call with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, to discuss efforts to strengthen stability in Iraq, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Fuad Mohammad Hussein, expressed concerns over the possibility of regional escalation. In addition, during an 8 July meeting in Baghdad with the United States Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Middle East, Daniel Shapiro, the Prime Minister urged the international community to exert pressure to end the conflict in Gaza and provide humanitarian relief to the Palestinian people.

12. During the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit held in Washington, D.C., on 9 and 10 July, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq stressed the importance of international pressure to end the war in Gaza. During a 30 July visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran to attend the inauguration of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian, the Prime Minister met with the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. During the meeting, the leaders discussed the need to end the conflict in Gaza. Following the killing of Hamas Political Bureau Chair Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on 31 July, the Prime Minister had two telephone calls with the United States Secretary of State on 4 and 12 August, respectively, during which the Prime Minister stressed that efforts to prevent a regional escalation depended on ending the conflict in Gaza. In a letter dated 11 August 2024 addressed to the President of the Security Council and to the Secretary-General, the Prime Minister expressed urgent concern over Israeli military action in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in Lebanon, warned of violations of Security Council resolutions and

called for action to prevent further escalation, warning that failure to act could result in a major regional war. The Prime Minister echoed these points in his address to the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly on 26 September. He also instructed his Government to dispatch aid to Lebanon and welcomed Lebanese citizens displaced due to the conflict. During the week of 29 September, the Prime Minister had telephone calls with the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Mohammad Najib Azmi Mikati; the Speaker of the Parliament of Lebanon, Nabih Berri; the Amir of Qatar, Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani; King Abdullah II of Jordan; and the President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah Al Sisi. On 12 October, the Prime Minister had a telephone call with the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, during which the Prime Minister emphasized the importance of diplomatic initiatives to end the conflict as well as provide humanitarian aid to the Palestinian and Lebanese people. In a letter dated 10 October 2024 addressed to the President of the Security Council and to the Secretary-General, the Prime Minister of Iraq called on the Security Council to take “immediate and concrete steps to hold Israeli occupation authorities accountable” and to prevent further violations of international law and of the sovereignty of the States in the Middle East region (see [A/79/542-S/2024/764](#)).

13. On 22 September, the Prime Minister of Iraq and the Crown Prince of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Sabah, met on the margins of the Summit of the Future held in New York. During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their support for developing bilateral relations and agreed on the resumption of joint technical committee meetings. On 25 September, a joint statement was issued following the Ministerial Meeting of the United States and the Gulf Cooperation Council that reaffirmed decisions made a year earlier regarding outstanding issues between Iraq and Kuwait.

14. On 3 October, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq met with the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Barbara Leaf, in Washington, D.C. Discussions touched on the importance of resolving outstanding issues with Kuwait, with the Minister highlighting recent talks between Iraqi and Kuwaiti delegations in New York. On 16 October, a joint statement was issued following the conclusion of the first summit between the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council held the same day, expressing renewed support for Security Council resolution [2107 \(2013\)](#) and Security Council resolution [2732 \(2024\)](#) and “Security Council continued oversight of the matter”.

C. Security situation

15. Ongoing regional tensions, including the conflict in Gaza, Lebanon and Israel, continued to influence security dynamics in Iraq. From 1 May to 22 October, the self-proclaimed Islamic Resistance in Iraq claimed attacks against Israeli targets, most of which remain unconfirmed. The Islamic Resistance in Iraq has not claimed attacks against United States and international counter-Da’esh coalition facilities in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic since 4 February.

16. During the reporting period, non-State actors claimed at least five incidents targeting United States and international counter-Da’esh coalition facilities in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, while other incidents targeting United States-affiliated facilities remain unclaimed. On 8 August, the United States confirmed that a rocket attack on 5 August targeted the Ain al-Asad airbase in Anbar Governorate, wounding five United States service members. The United States Department of Defense Deputy Spokesperson also welcomed the announcement by the Iraqi Joint Operations Command that Iraqi security forces had arrested five individuals in connection with the attack. In a statement on 6 August, the Iraqi Joint Operations Command expressly rejected actions that endanger Iraqi military bases, diplomatic missions or international coalition advisers. On 10 September and 1 October, the United States

Embassy in Baghdad confirmed that rocket attacks had targeted the Baghdad Diplomatic Support Center near Baghdad International Airport, causing no injuries. On 31 July, the United States Department of State confirmed that it had conducted a “defensive airstrike” on 30 July targeting a facility in Babil Governorate. Iraqi official statements, including from the Popular Mobilization Forces, confirmed that four personnel from the Forces had been killed. The strike was widely condemned by the Government of Iraq and political parties as a violation of the country’s sovereignty, which undermined efforts to conclude negotiations regarding the transition of the international counter-Da’esh coalition to bilateral security cooperation.

17. The Government of Iraq remained closely engaged on the issue of the future presence of the international counter-Da’esh coalition. On 22 and 23 July, an Iraqi delegation led by the Minister for Defence, Thabet al-Abbasi, participated in the second Iraq-United States Joint Security Cooperation Dialogue, held in Washington, D.C. A joint statement noted that the discussions built on the Iraq-United States Higher Military Commission’s work over the previous six months, which was focused on assessing the threat of Da’esh, operational requirements and the capabilities of Iraqi security forces, and discussed efforts to strengthen bilateral security cooperation and assistance.

18. On 27 September, Iraq and the United States issued a joint statement published by the United States Department of State that announced the timeline for concluding the military mission of the international counter-Da’esh coalition before the end of September 2025, with several coalition members expected to develop bilateral security partnerships in a manner that “supports Iraqi forces and maintains pressure on ISIS”. In the statement, Iraq and the United States committed to formulating procedures and practical measures related to the timing and manner of the transition, and reiterated a commitment to protect coalition advisers present in Iraq during the transitional period, consistent with the Constitution of Iraq. On 30 September, representatives and ministers from members of the coalition gathered in Washington, D.C., for its tenth ministerial meeting, which was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The representatives and ministers issued a joint statement welcoming the leadership and cooperation of Iraq and commending its progress in repatriating over 10,000 of its nationals from the north-eastern part of the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as its efforts to apply accountability where appropriate, and its assistance to the displaced to reintegrate into their communities of origin. In the joint statement, the representatives and ministers also reaffirmed the coalition’s commitment to combating Da’esh globally and announced efforts to raise funds to support stabilization efforts in areas liberated from Da’esh, noting that the planned transition of the coalition’s military mission in Iraq to bilateral security partnerships reflected a reduction of the Da’esh threat.

19. During the reporting period, Da’esh continued to conduct asymmetric attacks, primarily in Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninawa and Salah al-Din Governorates, most of which targeted Iraqi security forces personnel or assets, while Iraqi security forces continued counter-terrorism operations in response to Da’esh activity. From 1 May to 21 October, 69 attacks were attributed to Da’esh, most of which targeted Iraqi security forces. On 29 August, in Western Iraq, according to a United States Central Command press release published on 13 September, a partnered operation between Iraqi security forces and United States military forces “resulted in the death” of 14 Da’esh fighters, including four high-level leaders.

20. Iraqi security forces, with support from the international counter-Da’esh coalition, conducted additional operations targeting Da’esh leadership in Iraq. On 14 October, according to United States Central Command and Iraqi statements, the ranking Da’esh leader in northern Iraq was “killed” alongside three other Da’esh fighters. According to a statement from the Prime Minister of Iraq on 21 October,

Iraqi security forces conducted an operation in Salah al-Din Governorate that resulted in the death of nine Da'esh leaders, including the group's top figure in Iraq.

21. Throughout the reporting period, the Ministry of Defence of Türkiye continued to report ground and air operations against Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) targets in northern Iraq, with the number of air operations increasing from February through September. According to the joint statement of the security mechanism between Iraq and Türkiye of 14 March 2024, PKK "represents a security threat to both Türkiye and Iraq", and the National Security Council of Iraq had taken a "decision to consider the PKK a banned organization in Iraq".

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

A. Mission leadership activities

22. Mohamed Al Hassan arrived in Baghdad on 10 October to serve as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI. Shortly after his deployment, he held introductory meetings with the President, Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, the President of the Supreme Judicial Council, Fa'iq Zaidan, and other government officials, during which, among other issues, the Special Representative reaffirmed the full commitment of UNAMI and its staff to continue serving Iraq while ensuring the orderly closure of the Mission. The Mission's assistance in support of the conduct of parliamentary elections in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq was appreciated by all Iraqi interlocutors. The Special Representative also met with the Minister for Migration and Displacement on 17 October, with whom he discussed the Government's efforts to return internally displaced persons to their areas of origin in a voluntary, safe and orderly manner and ways in which the United Nations could continue to assist.

23. On 15 and 16 October, the Special Representative travelled to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, where he met with the President and Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Qubad Talabani, as well as with the President of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, the Secretary-General of the Kurdistan Islamic Union party, Salahuddin Muhammad Bahaauddin, and the President of the Kurdistan Justice Group, Ali Bapir. The Special Representative discussed the Kurdistan Region parliamentary elections and the Mission's technical support and advice to the electoral institutions as well as preparations for the transition of UNAMI in 2025.

24. On 20 October, the Special Representative returned to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to witness, in person, the holding of parliamentary elections. He met with the Independent High Electoral Commission and discussed election preparations and visited polling stations in Erbil and Dohuk Governorates. Addressing the media, the Special Representative congratulated the people of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq on the holding of the elections and commended the Kurdistan Region authorities, the security services and the Independent High Electoral Commission for the orderly voting process.

25. During the reporting period, the Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs and Electoral Assistance, as Officer-in-Charge of UNAMI, engaged closely with the Chair of the Independent High Electoral Commission in Baghdad and the Head of the Commission's Central Committee in Erbil on technical preparations for the Kurdistan Region's parliamentary elections scheduled for 20 October 2024. He also met with leaders of the Kurdistan Region, including the President, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, as well as leaders of political parties,

including those representing minorities, in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. During these engagements, he underlined the importance of free and transparent elections and broad voter participation as well as United Nations efforts to strengthen women's political participation. In a 28 August interview with a local media outlet, the Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Special Representative underlined the importance of the elections for the legitimacy of the Kurdistan Region's institutions, outlined the support role of UNAMI and urged voters to turn out at the polls.

26. The Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Special Representative participated in a number of events, seminars and conferences in Baghdad. He attended the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Da'esh attack on Sinjar and the ensuing international crimes committed against the Yazidi community by Da'esh and participated in a seminar on the crimes committed by Da'esh organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On 10 August, the Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Special Representative participated in the sixteenth annual conference to address violence against women and girls, where he expressed concern that the long-awaited law against domestic violence had yet to be adopted and urged more effective implementation of the 2021 Yazidi Survivors Law, particularly with regard to providing compensation to victims of sexual violence by Da'esh. He urged political leaders to ensure that any proposed legislation protected the rights of women and children, including the proposed amendments to the Personal Status Law No. 188 of 1959, in line with the international human rights commitments of Iraq.

27. On 31 August, in Karbala', the Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Special Representative participated in a session of the fifth "Islam is life" international conference, entitled "Human rights and contemporary challenges". He highlighted the role of the United Nations with regard to the protection and promotion of human rights globally and called for an open, inclusive and respectful dialogue on the proposed amendments to the Personal Status Law and their potential impact on the human rights obligations of Iraq. The Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Special Representative also discussed the proposed amendments to the Personal Status Law, and other human rights and legislative issues, with the President of the Supreme Judicial Council and the Head of the National Wisdom Trend (Hikma).

B. Support to electoral processes

28. UNAMI provided advisory support and technical electoral assistance to the Independent High Electoral Commission as preparations resumed for the parliamentary elections in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, following the 26 June decree issued by the presidency of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq that set 20 October 2024 as the new election date. UNAMI electoral advisers supported the Commission in updating the electoral timeline and in assisting the work of the committee tasked by the Commission to coordinate all electoral preparations, including the resumption of biometric voter registration and the reopening of the registration of electoral alliances, political parties and individual candidates.

29. Upon request from the Independent High Electoral Commission, UNAMI provided advice on the finalization of the electoral regulations for candidate registration and seat allocation, including with regard to the representation of minorities, in line with the decision of the Electoral Judicial Panel, dated 20 May 2024, that 5 of the Parliament of the Kurdistan Region's 100 seats were to be allocated to the Kurdistan Region's minority components. UNAMI also assisted the Commission in preparing and conducting the lottery process that determined the ballot paper sequence for the two alliances, 12 political parties, and 123 independent candidates vying for the Kurdistan Region parliamentary elections. The Commission

announced, at the end of the candidate vetting period, that there were 1,191 candidates, including 368 women, running in the elections.

30. UNAMI provided operational and information technology support to the Independent High Electoral Commission to finalize the voter registry and the electoral results management system, among other technical support. The Commission announced that 2.9 million voters were eligible to participate in the Kurdistan Region parliamentary elections, distributed across 7,067 polling stations in 1,431 polling centres. The Commission recruited and trained more than 41,000 personnel to serve on election day, using the cascade training methodology.

31. The Independent High Electoral Commission launched an intensive public outreach campaign to promote voter participation and enhance confidence in the electoral process. On the advice of UNAMI, voter education materials were developed through a decentralized approach, involving the Commission's field offices in Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, recognizing the Kurdistan Region's ethnic and linguistic diversity and putting emphasis on the inclusive participation of youth, women and minorities. The Commission also took steps to encourage national and international observation of the process, with several briefing sessions held for the purpose of informing national organizations and the international community about the accreditation process.

32. At the onset of the electoral campaign period, UNAMI encouraged and supported the Independent High Electoral Commission in its engagement with the Kurdistan Region's authorities and electoral stakeholders. The Commission established committees to monitor the conduct of the electoral campaign and to address any reported violations or electoral-related violence, in coordination with the Supreme Security Committee for Elections. UNAMI and the Independent High Electoral Commission also engaged with the relevant regional and federal institutions, including the High Council for Women and Development in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, to enhance women's participation beyond the quota for 30 per cent of seats to be held by women, and to address and mitigate the targeting of women as voters, candidates and electoral officials.

C. Humanitarian and development assistance

33. As at 1 October 2024, the number of internally displaced persons who had returned stood at 4.9 million, as a result of Government efforts and the coordinated support of the United Nations in Iraq. Some 1.05 million remained internally displaced in formal and informal settlements across the country.

34. In July 2024, the federal Government extended the deadline to close camps hosting internally displaced persons throughout Iraq (including the Kurdistan Region of Iraq) beyond the original 30 July date set by the Council of Ministers in January 2024. At the time of writing, camps remained operational. Earlier, on 4 July, the Prime Minister of Iraq had established a committee to address the issue of internally displaced persons, chaired by the Ministry of Migration and Displacement, with representatives from the federal and Kurdistan Region of Iraq authorities, in collaboration with the United Nations. The committee held its first meeting on 12 August, issuing recommendations informed by a road map on durable solutions for internally displaced persons to the Cabinet for further discussion.

35. As of September 2024, the remaining internally displaced persons' camps, all in Dohuk and Erbil Governorates, hosted 26,611 families (130,480 individuals). A total of 8,089 families (38,347 individuals) departed camps in Tazade and Ashti, in Sulaymaniyah Governorate, which closed in March and June 2024, respectively. The

families either returned to their areas of origin in Diyala, Ninawa and Salah-al-Din Governorates or relocated to surrounding areas within the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

36. Meanwhile, since May 2021, 2,437 households comprising 9,535 individuals (including 5,554 women and girls) have been registered in the Jad'ah rehabilitation centre in Ninawa Governorate, an increase of 367 households (comprising 1,352 individuals) since the previous report. Of these, 1,970 households (7,294 individuals) – including 543 additional households (1,784 individuals) since the previous report – have since left Jad'ah for their areas of return.

37. On 9 October, as part of the seventeenth round of organized returns led by the Government of Iraq, 181 Iraqi families (706 individuals, 297 male and 409 female) returned from Hawl camp in the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Jad'ah rehabilitation centre. As of the end of October, 651 households remained in the centre (2,559 individuals, including 1,449 women). The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) continued to support the centre's residents in obtaining and processing civil documents. In June, the World Food Programme (WFP) conducted an assessment which highlighted the need for urgent and sustained food assistance in the centre.

38. On 10 July, the Minister for Interior of the Kurdistan Regional Government, with advocacy and technical support from UNHCR, adopted administrative instructions harmonizing and standardizing asylum procedures across the Kurdistan Region, including the definition of who qualified as an asylum-seeker. The regulatory framework upholds the rights of asylum-seekers and is expected to enhance the protection of refugees in the Kurdistan Region.

39. Since April 2024, collaboration between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Government of Iraq has resulted in 500 Yazidi homeowners receiving official deeds of title. It is a step towards fulfilling the Government's commitments to accelerating the process for the 14,000 remaining beneficiaries in Sinjar who currently await the conversion of their occupancy certificates issued by UN-Habitat into official deeds of title. Official deeds of title will provide lasting security and stability for thousands of Yazidi families. Meanwhile, since May 2024, the United Nations Office for Project Services has rehabilitated 392 shelters in Anbar and Ninawa Governorates, benefiting 2,705 individuals (1,326 women and 1,379 men), as well as four water stations in western Anbar, benefiting some 37,340 people.

40. In July 2024, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister of Iraq, announced the establishment of the Iraqi National Committee for the Memory of the World Programme, which has begun work to nominate documents related to Da'esh crimes to the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. From June to August, UNESCO also organized a series of training activities on freedom of expression and the safety of journalists.

41. The Mine Action Service cleared 347,090 m² and 1,501 items of explosive ordnance in Ninawa Governorate. The Mine Action Service continued to advance localization efforts by partnering with the Iraqi Ministry of Interior to train police officers on safe and effective methods to reduce risks to the public from explosive ordnance. The Mine Action Service trained 89 police officers (including 16 women), notably on using technology such as drones, global positioning systems and metal detectors to survey and dispose of explosive ordnance.

42. In July, WFP launched a three-year project on enhancing climate adaptation for food security and stability to strengthen local capacities for climate preparedness and

promote sustainable agricultural practices. In June and July, IOM led a United Nations inter-agency mission to southern Iraq to conduct a technical assessment on climate-induced displacement in Basrah, Dhi Qar and Muthanna Governorates, whose findings will enable a joint response seeking to minimize climate change-induced displacement.

43. In July, WFP signed a letter of cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs on the “Economic empowerment pathway project”, which seeks to enhance the social safety network of Iraq by providing technical assistance and capacity-building, and by establishing a platform to connect beneficiaries with economic empowerment opportunities. WFP is also preparing to transition the digitalized public distribution system – the social safety net programme that provides food assistance to communities across Iraq – to the Ministry of Trade, following the completion of the digitalization process in Najaf and Muthanna Governorates in 2023 and 2024, respectively. WFP is also working to deploy the digitalized system in other governorates, in partnership with the Ministry.

44. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continued supporting governmental efforts to integrate sustainable agricultural practices while promoting innovative technologies and approaches. In collaboration with the Government of Iraq, FAO is facilitating the removal of hazardous waste from water inflows into the marshes. In addition, FAO is making significant strides in preserving agricultural biodiversity and conserving plant genetic material in Iraq through the restoration and establishment of gene banks in the Baghdad and Sulaymaniyah Governorates.

45. On 22 July, at the second international conference on countering narcotics in Baghdad, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime launched a report entitled “Drug trafficking dynamics across Iraq and the Middle East (2019–2023): trends and responses” which, in addition to an analysis of drug trafficking trends in Iraq and the Middle East, contains a road map to assist national, regional and international authorities in accelerating collaboration to counter trafficking in illegal narcotics.

46. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided technical support for the security sector reform process in Iraq, including advice to strengthen implementation planning for the country’s national Security Sector Reform Strategy for 2024–2032 and capacity-building for inter-agency cooperation in conducting financial crime investigations. Pursuant to evolving security sector needs to respond to climate change, UNDP, in collaboration with the Office of the National Security Adviser of Iraq and the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, issued a report on the Iraqi security sector’s roles in addressing climate and environmental security challenges. Furthermore, UNDP hosted a round table with the Supreme Judicial Council and the Ministry of Environment on environmental adjudication. It also supported a comprehensive assessment of the Ministry of Interior’s 2024 action plan and supported Iraqi security sector institutions in developing a women’s empowerment action plan.

47. The Government of Iraq and the United Nations country team produced an advanced draft of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2025–2029) that takes into account UNAMI activities that will be handed over to the United Nations country team in accordance with the Secretary-General’s plan for the transition and liquidation of UNAMI. On 30 July, the Joint Steering Committee comprising the United Nations country team and the Government met to discuss the annual results and endorsed priorities for 2024 under the current United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2019–2024).

D. Human rights and rule of law developments and activities

48. During the reporting period, UNAMI provided technical support to the secretariat of the Supreme Committee to Counter Hate Speech, established by the Prime Minister and chaired by the Minister for Communications, to assist its efforts to develop a national strategy to counter hate speech in line with international standards. The Supreme Committee is currently working to prepare a preliminary draft, which will then be shared for further consultation with government experts, civil society, UNAMI and other relevant stakeholders.

49. During the reporting period, UNAMI organized three round-table discussions in Baghdad, Basrah and Dohuk Governorates on the protection of civic space and freedom of expression. The sessions were attended by journalists, bloggers, lawyers, human rights advocates and civil society representatives, and aimed at identifying key issues and concerns related to freedom of expression in online and offline spaces. This initiative culminated in a fourth workshop, in Baghdad, during which UNAMI facilitated a structured dialogue on freedom of expression between civil society representatives and relevant government authorities, including representatives from the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Council of Representatives' Human Rights Committee, the Commission on Media and Communications and the judiciary.

50. From 28 to 30 July, UNAMI, jointly with Impunity Watch, an international non-governmental organization, delivered a three-day training workshop for civil society representatives and family members of disappeared persons from across Iraq on national and international protection mechanisms against enforced disappearances. The workshop aimed at enhancing participants' capacity to engage effectively with these mechanisms.

51. On 23 August, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination issued its concluding observations on the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh combined periodic reports of Iraq on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The delegation of Iraq, led by the Minister for Justice, Khaled Shwani, held a constructive dialogue with the Committee, which welcomed the legislative, institutional and policy measures taken by Iraq since the most recent periodic review of Iraq in 2019. The Committee made recommendations to address the concerns identified, including that Iraq should adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation.

52. On 28 and 29 August, at the request of the Commission of Integrity of Iraq, UNAMI, jointly with UNDP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, conducted a two-day workshop entitled "A human rights-based approach to anti-corruption efforts". Participants included staff from the Commission of Integrity, together with representatives of the judiciary, government ministries, the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights and civil society organizations.

53. The United Nations in Iraq continued to monitor developments in legislative deliberations on proposed amendments to the Personal Status Law and encouraged broad consultations with a wide spectrum of Iraqis on the proposed changes. On 16 September, the Council of Representatives completed the second reading of the proposed amendments to the Law. The proposed amendments, if enacted into law, may be inconsistent with the international human rights obligations and standards of Iraq, including the principle of equality and non-discrimination. The Prime Minister called for a thorough discussion of these matters before a vote on the amendments, and the debate in Parliament and in the public arena continues.

54. Civil society organizations and journalists continued to face restrictions on their freedom of expression, including arrest and prosecution under broad provisions in the Penal Code that prohibit defamation and insult. During the reporting period, UNAMI documented 10 cases in which activists and journalists voicing criticism of government officials or public figures were charged with defamation. Activists also continued to face intimidation and violence for exercising their right to freedom of expression. In one incident documented by UNAMI, on 30 July, an activist and lawyer was forced to relocate following threats from unidentified armed elements after he made a statement at a public event criticizing the presence of militias in Iraq. In another example, on 12 July, unidentified armed men fired live rounds at the residence of an activist who had criticized corruption in local government.

55. On 3 October, the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, one of the largest worldwide human rights networks overseeing the compliance of national human rights institutions with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), conducted a special review of compliance by the High Commission for Human Rights of Iraq with the Paris Principles.

56. The High Commission for Human Rights has been without a legally appointed Board of Commissioners since 2021. In the absence of a properly constituted Board, the Minister for Justice currently acts as the de facto Head of the High Commission. Considering its role as the constitutionally mandated independent national human rights institution of Iraq, it is of critical importance that the Council of Representatives take immediate steps to expedite the appointment of the Board of the High Commission, in full compliance with the procedures established under national law and in line with the Paris Principles.

57. During the reporting period, UNAMI verified the execution of at least 40 prisoners, including 1 woman, the majority of whom were reportedly convicted and sentenced to death for terrorism offences, with the most recent executions of 21 prisoners taking place on 25 September.

58. From 1 May to 21 October, UNAMI documented 23 conflict-related incidents resulting in at least 43 civilian casualties (28 fatalities, including 18 children and 1 woman, and 15 injured, including 4 children and 1 woman). The majority of these civilian casualties were caused by explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices, followed by aerial attacks, small arms fire and indirect fire.

59. From 1 May to 21 October, the country task force on monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children in armed conflict verified 34 grave violations against 26 children (15 boys and 11 girls), including the killing and maiming of 19 children (14 boys and 5 girls) as a result of explosive remnants of war (12 killed and 5 maimed) and airstrikes (2 killed), the abduction of 5 girls and 1 boy, and one attack on a hospital.

IV. Security and operational issues

A. Update on security arrangements

60. To enable United Nations operations, the Department of Safety and Security continued to carry out its monitoring and analysis activities, adjust security measures and contingency plans, liaise with host Government authorities and disseminate safety and security alerts and advisories to inform staff of emerging threats or developments in the security environment.

61. The Department supported an average of 38 field missions per day across the country in areas where the risk was assessed as medium or high. Close coordination with the Government continued to ensure the necessary security support for United Nations operations.

B. Update on the Mission's transition activities

62. In line with Security Council resolution [2732 \(2024\)](#), preparations for the transition and liquidation plan, to be completed by 31 December 2024, are under way, in consultation with the Government of Iraq. The plan will set out the modalities and processes whereby UNAMI will begin the transfer of its tasks, as well as the orderly and safe drawdown and withdrawal of its personnel and assets, by 31 December 2025, after which UNAMI will cease all work and operations except with regard to any remaining liquidation activities.

63. In view of the preparations for the transition, an integrated working group at United Nations Headquarters was established in June 2024 to provide strategic direction and coordinate with the Mission on the transition planning process. During the reporting period, UNAMI undertook a mapping exercise of its activities to plan for their gradual transfer, where applicable, to other United Nations entities and partners, and supported three integrated assessments on key transition issues to inform the transition and liquidation plan. The United Nations country team has taken steps to enable the integration of relevant mandated tasks of UNAMI into the forthcoming United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2025–2029) for Iraq.

64. During the reporting period, UNAMI leadership engaged extensively with various stakeholders involved in the transition process. In August, the Government of Iraq informed UNAMI of the establishment of a committee to facilitate interactions with UNAMI leadership on transition issues, in line with resolution [2732 \(2024\)](#). The Committee met with the Mission's transition team on 11 August, 12 September and 6 October to discuss various matters relating to the plan being developed for the transition and liquidation of UNAMI. On 15 October, UNAMI transmitted to the committee the draft transition and liquidation plan for formal consultation.

C. Mission facilities, logistics, aviation, financial and legal issues

65. By July 2024, UNAMI had completed its solar energy project and at the time of writing was meeting 50 per cent of the energy needs of the United Nations compounds in Baghdad, Erbil and Kirkuk through renewable sources. The renewable energy projects are in line with the mission-wide environmental action plan and set an example in a region that is facing the adverse consequences of climate change. As part of its strategy to build local staff capacity, the Mission involved local engineers and staff in the design and implementation of the project. Moreover, on locations of United Nations compounds, freshwater consumption is expected to decrease by 50 per cent through upgrades to wastewater treatment plants and the use of treated water for drip irrigation, along with an 80 per cent reduction in effort required for manual irrigation.

66. The Mission's waste management efforts have reduced solid waste transportation to landfills by 60 per cent, particularly in Baghdad, Erbil and Kirkuk. The Mission's positive environmental legacy includes the continuous monitoring of system performance to reduce its carbon footprint and increase energy savings. UNAMI has developed plans to share its expertise in environmental initiatives with the Government of Iraq, the United Nations country team and other partners.

67. In line with Security Council resolutions [2379 \(2017\)](#) and [2697 \(2023\)](#), UNAMI provided mission support services for the liquidation of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, whose mandate concluded on 17 September 2024.

V. Observations

68. I commend the efforts of the Government of Iraq in its pursuit to bring peace and development and promote stability in Iraq, and particularly the efforts of Prime Minister Al Sudani in this regard. Amid the continued regional escalation, I reiterate my call for vigorous political efforts towards de-escalation. I also thank the Government of Iraq for its continued support to the work of the United Nations, and for its provision of life-saving assistance to Lebanon and Gaza.

69. The election of a new Speaker of the Council of Representatives after a prolonged political impasse is a welcome development. An effective legislature is vital for enacting key legislation, exercising oversight and building stronger State institutions.

70. I commend the efforts made by all stakeholders towards the holding of the parliamentary elections of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq on 20 October 2024. I particularly commend the efforts of the Independent High Electoral Commission for the orderly preparation and conduct of the elections.

71. I congratulate the people of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq who came out to vote, made their voices heard and chose their public leaders and representatives for the coming four years. I also wish to highlight the importance of respecting the will of the people as expressed through their votes and of accepting the electoral results. I encourage political parties and candidates to avail themselves of the appropriate legal channels to address any electoral complaints, and encourage the electoral judicial authorities to adjudicate electoral disputes swiftly, leading to the timely certification of results and the eventual formation of duly elected regional government institutions.

72. Durable solutions for internally displaced persons remain a priority in Iraq. I commend the Prime Minister's decision to establish a national high committee in consultation with the United Nations to tackle the issue of displacement in Iraq and find suitable solutions for the displaced persons in and outside camps and for vulnerable returnees.

73. The United Nations will continue its support to the Government of Iraq in its efforts to repatriate its citizens from the Hawl Camp in the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic. I applaud the Government for its continued and systematic efforts to return Iraqi citizens from the Hawl Camp back to Iraq.

74. I also appeal to all Member States with nationals in the Hawl Camp to repatriate them without further delay. It is my hope that we will be able to bring this humanitarian challenge to an end in the near future.

75. The impact of climate change and water scarcity is felt every day in Iraq and must be addressed urgently. This requires concerted efforts at the regional and international levels. The United Nations stands ready to support the Government of Iraq, as well as other countries in the region, in developing practical and sustainable solutions in that regard.

76. The forthcoming United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2025–2029) will serve as a common strategic framework between the United Nations country team and the Government of Iraq to support the

implementation of the country's National Development Plan (2024–2029) and its commitments towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It will assume any residual tasks of UNAMI in accordance with Security Council resolution [2732 \(2024\)](#). I look forward to the financial contribution of Iraq for the implementation of the next United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

77. Amending the Personal Status Law of Iraq is a significant legal and social undertaking that requires careful consideration regarding its impact on the rights of women and children. I call upon all Iraqi stakeholders to ensure that any amendments to the Law are in line with the country's international human rights obligations. I also urge the prompt adoption of pending legislation against domestic violence, in line with international standards.

78. Civil society, human rights advocates and the media play a critical role in a democratic society by highlighting human rights concerns and working with the authorities to find solutions. I emphasize the importance of protecting civic and democratic space and allowing civic actors to engage freely in efforts to promote democratic values and the protection of human rights.

79. I welcome the establishment of the Government committee dedicated to facilitating the transition of UNAMI, as well as the consultation process on the transition and liquidation plan in line with resolution [2732 \(2024\)](#). The plan is intended to enable UNAMI to start an orderly, gradual and safe transition and drawdown, while continuing to discharge its streamlined mandate until 31 December 2025.

80. It is my hope that the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait will continue to make progress on outstanding issues between them, on the basis of the principles of mutual respect, respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and good neighbourly relations.

81. Finally, I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI, Mohamed Al Hassan, who recently took up his duties, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Claudio Cordone, for acting as the Officer-in-Charge from June to September 2024, and the United Nations staff in Iraq for their continued dedication to implementing the Organization's mandate in the country.
