



Security Council

Distr.: General
3 June 2025

Original: English

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an account of the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) from 19 February to 19 May 2025, pursuant to the mandate set out in Security Council resolution [350 \(1974\)](#) and extended in subsequent Council resolutions, most recently resolution [2766 \(2024\)](#).

II. Situation in the area of operations and activities of the Force

2. The ceasefire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic was generally maintained, notwithstanding multiple significant violations of the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces of 1974. The overall security situation in the UNDOF area of operations remained volatile. The situation continued to be characterized by the presence and activities of the Israel Defense Forces in the area of separation, affecting the operations of UNDOF, in violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution [2766 \(2024\)](#).

3. In employing its best efforts to maintain the ceasefire and to see that it is scrupulously observed, as prescribed in the 1974 Disengagement Agreement, UNDOF reports all breaches of the ceasefire line that it observes. All military presence and activity in the area of separation, other than of UNDOF, incidents of firing across the ceasefire line, and crossings of the ceasefire line by military aircraft, drones, vehicles, equipment and personnel, as well as other individuals, constitute violations of the Agreement. In its constant interactions with both sides, the leadership of UNDOF continues to call upon the parties to uphold their obligations under the terms of the Agreement, exercise restraint and avoid activities that may lead to a further escalation of tensions in the region.

4. During the reporting period, the Israel Defense Forces carried out several strikes on former Syrian armed forces positions in the area of limitation on the Bravo side. On 23 February, the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, stated that the Israel Defense Forces would remain on the “Syrian side of Mt. Hermon and the buffer zone in the Golan Heights for an unlimited period of time” and that “we will not allow [jihadist] forces or the new Syrian army to move into territory south of Damascus”. He also stated, “We demand the complete demilitarization of southern Syria in the provinces of Quneitra, Deraa and Suweida from the forces of the new regime”,



adding, “Likewise, we will not tolerate any threat to the Druze community in southern Syria”.

5. On 10 March, United Nations personnel observed two aircraft flying over the area of separation. Shortly thereafter, United Nations personnel at observation post 71 observed the impact of a strike in the area of limitation, in the vicinity of Waysiyah, and a further two aircraft, followed by two explosions at the same location. On 11 March, the Israel Defense Forces informed UNDOF: “During the night, Air Force fighter jets attacked radars and detection equipment used to build an aerial intelligence picture in southern Syria, in addition to military headquarters and sites containing weapons and military equipment of the Syrian regime in southern Syria. The presence of this equipment in southern Syria constitutes a threat to the State of Israel and the activities of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. These targets were attacked in order to remove future threats.”

6. On 25 March, United Nations personnel heard four explosions and observed one explosion in Kuwayyah, a village in the area of limitation. They also observed some individuals from that village fleeing, some on foot and others in vehicles, and two more explosions around the outskirts of that village, followed by small arms fire. Subsequently, the United Nations personnel noticed two Israel Defense Forces main battle tanks in the area of separation, with their turrets and guns pointed towards the same village. Following this incident, the Israel Defense Forces informed UNDOF: “This morning ... during a planned IDF activity, a number of armed individuals opened fire from Koayiah on IDF forces The IDF sent an aerial instrument to scan the field The aerial instrument attacked.” The Israel Defense Forces attached “a video of the incident demonstrating the armor used against the [Israel Defense Forces]”, further stating that “the [Israel Defense Forces] will not tolerate such actions and will continue to protect Israeli citizens from the [area of separation]”. Open sources reported seven people killed on 25 March by an Israel Defense Forces strike in a village in the Yarmuk basin area in the western countryside of Dar’a.

7. Early in the morning of 27 March, United Nations personnel in the area of separation observed the Israel Defense Forces fire at least 19 mortar rounds from the Alpha side (Israeli-occupied Golan) towards the Bravo side, with the point of impact of the rounds assessed by UNDOF to be a location in the area of limitation. Approximately three hours later, UNDOF personnel at Camp Faouar heard loud explosions at least 5 km from the Camp and observed a drone flying in the vicinity of Khan Arnabah. A United Nations patrol dispatched later that day to the general area of these incidents was approached by members of the community and the interim authorities, who stated that, late in the evening of 26 March, approximately 50 Israel Defense Forces soldiers in main battle tanks entered the village, destroyed three vehicles and six former Syrian armed forces positions, and killed 40 sheep. The patrol also observed that windows of houses in the area had been destroyed in the incident.

8. Late in the evening of 2 April, UNDOF observed Israel Defense Forces vehicles and troops moving in a south-easterly direction entering the Tasil dam forest in the area of limitation on the Bravo side. They later heard and observed multiple explosions in the southern part of the area of limitation on the Bravo side, which UNDOF assessed to be an Israel Defense Forces artillery fire, likely in Nawa and Tasil. On 3 April, the Israel Defense Forces informed UNDOF: “In the past few hours, the IDF has struck remaining military capabilities in the areas of the Syrian military bases Hama and T4, along with additional military infrastructure in the Damascus area. The IDF will continue to act to eliminate any threat to the citizens of the State of Israel.” Local media reported that, on 2 April, members of the local community clashed with an Israel Defense Forces convoy, forcing it to retreat under air cover.

9. On 19 April, United Nations personnel at position 80 observed approximately 20 drones flying from the Alpha side, crossing the ceasefire line and hovering briefly over the area of separation, and subsequently flying back to the Alpha side.

10. Between 5 and 8 May, United Nations personnel in the area of separation observed Israel Defense Forces construction at the unoccupied United Nations position 10. On 5 and 6 May, United Nations personnel noticed the movement of Israel Defense Forces personnel and their logistic vehicles, including excavators, commencing construction at the position. They expanded their presence at the position with further construction, troops and vehicles, including an ambulance and a tent. They informed UNDOF that they were developing a “front emergency room” as part of a civilian effort and assured UNDOF that “the IDF will not utilize UNDOF infrastructures, including the external areas within the post’s premises”. On 13 May, UNDOF observed the Israel Defense Forces at unoccupied United Nations 80A with a main battle tank, armoured vehicles, containers, a sentry hut, a gate, generators and surveillance equipment.

11. Communities in the area of separation continued to appeal to UNDOF and to protest regarding the presence and activities of the Israel Defense Forces in the area of separation. They reported to UNDOF instances of damage to roads, water pumping stations and solar panels in the villages caused by the Israel Defense Forces. UNDOF received 14 complaints, including letters and photographs, from members of the communities in the area of separation regarding the activities of the Israel Defense Forces in that area. The complaints included reports of detention of civilians, confiscation of motorcycles in Qunaytirah, and the seizure and shooting of livestock. On several occasions, the Israel Defense Forces fired shots to discourage shepherds with their livestock from approaching the ceasefire line. On 12 March, members of the local community approached United Nations personnel at position 80 to complain that the Israel Defense Forces had shot and killed 25 sheep from Rafid village and seized 50 sheep. On 13 May, UNDOF personnel at position 86B observed four Israel Defense Forces soldiers establishing a checkpoint 300 m from the position and stopping three individuals riding a motorbike. A few minutes later, the Israel Defense Forces forced two of the individuals to strip naked to conduct a search. The individuals were later released. UNDOF promptly shared all the complaints that it had received from the local residents with the Israel Defense Forces and followed up with the latter through its liaison channel. UNDOF continued to maintain regular dialogue with local authorities and mukhtars in the area of operations, including providing them with updates regarding the concerns raised by the communities.

12. On 24 February, approximately 85 people, some in military attire, demonstrated in front of United Nations position 80 against the presence of Israel in the Syrian Arab Republic and sought the assistance of UNDOF regarding the activities of the Israel Defense Forces in the area of separation affecting their livelihood. They also protested statements made by Mr. Netanyahu on that day (see para. 4). During the reporting period, the Israel Defense Forces engaged with the Druze community, mainly in the northern part of the area of operations around the villages of Hadar and Arnah. On 11 March, the Minister of Defence of Israel, Israel Katz, visited Mount Hermon in the area of separation, where he stated that “we will soon also allow Druze labourers from Syria to come to work in the Golan Heights communities in Israel”. On 15 March, at least 60 Druze clerics from the Bravo side travelled in buses to the Alpha side through an Israeli technical fence gate, under Israel Defense Forces security. The delegation returned to the Bravo side the same day, with celebratory gunfire to mark its return heard by UNDOF personnel in the vicinity of Hadar village.

13. As at 8 May, the Israel Defense Forces maintained and reinforced 12 positions that it had established on the Bravo side: 10 in the area of separation and 2 in the area

of limitation in the vicinity of the Bravo line. UNDOF continued to protest the presence and activities of the Israel Defense Forces in the area of separation, which constitute a violation of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement.

14. Throughout the reporting period, UNDOF personnel observed the continued construction by the Israel Defense Forces of counter-mobility obstacles along the ceasefire line. UNDOF personnel noticed excavators and other heavy equipment constructing obstacles along the barrel line encroaching into the area of separation. The Israel Defense Forces informed UNDOF that the construction of these obstacles was “a defensive measure to prevent any intrusion” onto the Alpha side by Syrian “personnel from the [area of separation].”

15. During the reporting period, UNDOF observed a significant increase in incidents of aircraft activity, including fighter jets and drones flying from the Alpha side across the ceasefire line and over the area of separation, and on some occasions across the area of separation towards the area of limitation on the Bravo side. UNDOF personnel on Mount Hermon also observed the Israel Defense Forces using helicopters to transport delegations of senior officials visiting the area, conduct casualty evacuation exercises and aerial reconnaissance, and rotate its troops.

16. The continued presence of Iron Dome systems, artillery systems, and multiple rocket launcher systems in the area of limitation on the Alpha side constitutes a violation of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement. Pursuant to the Agreement, the presence of any unauthorized military equipment or personnel in the areas of separation and limitation represents a violation.

17. UNDOF protested to the parties with regard to all violations of the Disengagement of Forces Agreement that it had observed, including the presence and activities of the Israel Defense Forces on the Bravo side, firing into and across the area of separation, as well as across the ceasefire line, the presence of unauthorized equipment and personnel in the areas of separation and limitation, and the crossings of the ceasefire line by Israel Defense Forces personnel and by drones and aircraft, as well as by individuals from the Bravo side. UNDOF liaised closely with the parties to de-escalate the situation, including during periods of heightened tension. In addition, UNDOF protested all restrictions on the movement of United Nations personnel carrying out their mandated activities.

18. UNDOF maintained engagement with both parties regarding observations of activities that were inconsistent with the Disengagement of Forces Agreement. This constructive dialogue with the parties resulted in the resolution of specific access issues and facilitation of critical movements. UNDOF liaised closely with the parties to de-escalate situations, particularly during periods of heightened tension.

19. The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed identical letters to the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General regarding developments in the UNDOF area of operations. In a letter dated 3 March ([A/79/806-S/2025/120](#)), he stated: “The Syrian Arab Republic rejects in its entirety and condemns in the strongest terms the statements made by the Israeli occupation entity Prime Minister on 23 February 2025, when he called for the Syrian State to demilitarize the southern Syrian governorates of Qunaytirah, Dara’a and Suwayda’, and said he would not allow any Syrian army presence south of Damascus.” He also stated: “These unacceptable statements are meant to pave the way for an escalation of Israeli aggression. They serve the occupation authorities’ agenda of diverting attention from its grave violations of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement and its failure to comply with that agreement or with Security Council and General Assembly resolutions demanding an end to the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan.” In a letter dated 7 April ([A/79/861-S/2025/216](#)), the Representative

stated that “on Thursday, 3 April ... the Israeli occupation forces launched several air strikes on five different areas across the country. They almost completely destroyed the Hamah military airport, injuring dozens of civilian and military personnel. They caused extensive destruction and damage to other military and civilian facilities in the Homs and Damascus governorates. Simultaneously, Israeli occupation forces conducted an incursion into the Dar‘a countryside and shelled the wooded area near the Jubayliyah Dam between the city of Nawa and the town of Tasil west of Dar‘a, killing nine civilians and injuring others.”

20. UNDOF assessed that the security situation on the Bravo side in some areas remained tense and volatile, with open-source reports of increased security incidents. UNDOF attributed this situation mainly to the presence and activities of the Israel Defense Forces, as well as to armed clashes between members of Syrian security forces and certain opposing factions in the area of limitation, and sporadic protests by some members of the community. Open sources reported several security incidents in the area of limitation related to targeted killing of non-State armed elements and sporadic gunshots.

21. UNDOF continued to liaise with the Israel Defense Forces to streamline the latter’s crossing procedures at the Alpha gate at the Qunaytirah crossing, including on the need for UNDOF and Observer Group Golan personnel to cross using only documents issued by UNDOF at the crossing and to return to the established procedure, so as to facilitate the operational and administrative effectiveness of UNDOF. The Israel Defense Forces maintained two scheduled weekly crossings at the Alpha gate and facilitated 26 operational crossings at that gate.

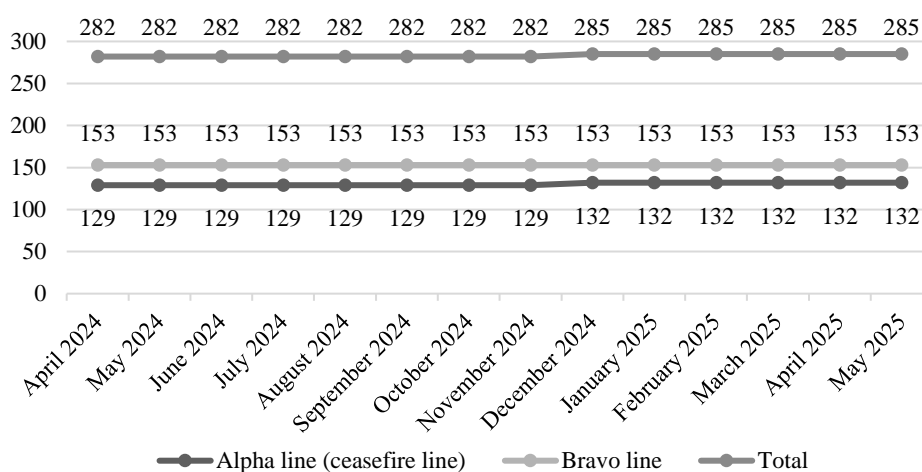
22. During the reporting period, UNDOF established a liaison mechanism with the interim Syrian authorities to facilitate the operations, including administrative and logistics activities.

23. Both parties facilitated, through engagement with UNDOF on specific restrictions of movement, the freedom of movement of UNDOF and Observer Group Golan to conduct their mandated activities in the areas of separation and limitation. Challenges remained in the movement and access of United Nations personnel from the Alpha side, through the Israeli technical fence gates, to United Nations observation posts in the area of separation, as well as regarding some roadblocks. UNDOF continued to engage with the Israel Defense Forces with a view to addressing these issues.

24. Since 8 December 2024, authorities on both the Alpha and Bravo sides have not facilitated the conduct of the fortnightly inspections, carried out by Observer Group Golan, of military positions of the Israel Defense Forces and the Syrian security forces in the respective areas of limitation.

25. As part of the return to full mandate implementation on the Bravo side, UNDOF continued restoring, repainting and refurbishing the barrels marking the ceasefire line and the Bravo line, which delineate the area of separation, with 132 barrels restored along the ceasefire line and 153 barrels along the Bravo line (see figure I). UNDOF continued to consult with the parties on the barrel refurbishment and, in some instances, replacement activity along the ceasefire line.

Figure I
Number of barrels restored, repainted and refurbished along the ceasefire line and the Bravo line



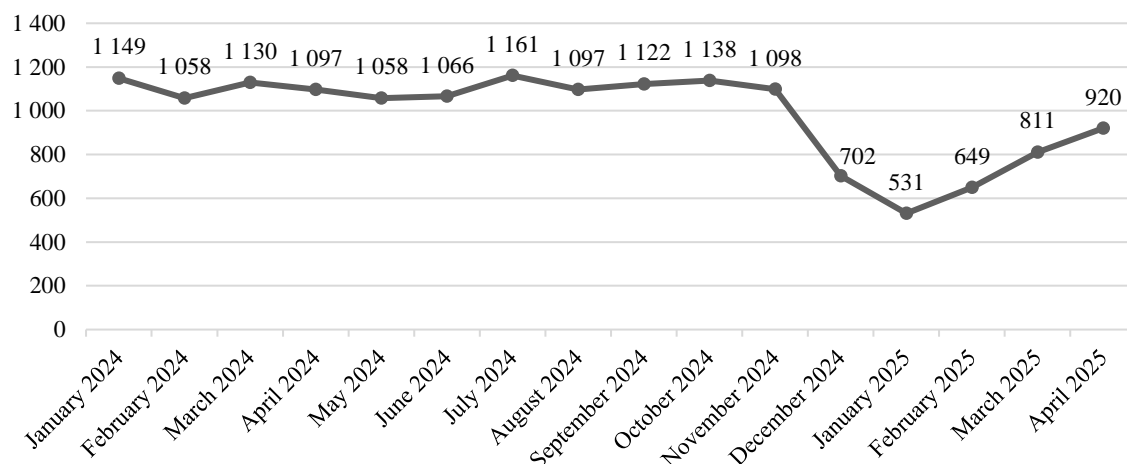
26. Reconstruction of observation post 52 was completed and it was reoccupied on 14 May. The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) reconstructed the observation post, which is accessed from the Alpha side through the Israeli technical fence gate, with the facilitation of the Israel Defense Forces. This completed the return of military observers in Observer Group Golan to all the observation posts in the area of separation that the Group temporarily vacated in 2014 owing to the deterioration in the security situation.

27. UNDOF operations continued to be supported by UNTSO military observers in Observer Group Golan, who are under the operational control of the UNDOF Force Commander and maintain 11 fixed observation posts within the UNDOF area of operations. The focus of Observer Group Golan remained on continuous static observation and situational awareness. In addition, the military observers are tasked with conducting investigations of incidents within the UNDOF area of operations.

28. UNDOF monthly operational patrols continued in the areas of separation and limitation, with 649 operational activities carried out in February, 811 in March and 920 in April (see figure II). The full operational movements of United Nations personnel in the area of separation, including patrolling and logistics movement, have been affected by the presence and roadblocks of the Israel Defense Forces.

29. The interim Syrian authorities streamlined the entry visa processes for all UNDOF personnel to facilitate their crossing at the Judaydah and Masna' border crossing between the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon. As a result of the improvement in the security situation in Lebanon, UNDOF resumed the utilization of this route, which is its main supply route.

Figure II
Number of Force patrols carried out per month



30. UNDOF continued to assess that there remained a significant threat to United Nations personnel in its area of operations from explosive remnants of war, including unexploded ordnance and mines, as well as a possible threat as a result of localized violence, including the possible presence of sleeper cells of armed groups. UNDOF continued to clear, for operational purposes, any unexploded ordnance or remnants of war found or reported to the best of its ability. Over the reporting period, UNDOF found and disposed of 160 explosive remnants of war in the area of separation.

31. UNDOF continually conducts assessments and updates contingency plans for the reinforcement, extraction and evacuation of positions and observation posts on both the Alpha and Bravo sides, in addition to regular rehearsals, exercises and training for various contingencies. Risk mitigation measures, including force protection measures, continue to be developed at positions, observation posts, the operational base at Camp Ziouani, and headquarters at Camp Faouar.

32. UNDOF recorded no allegations of misconduct during the period from 1 February to 30 April 2025. The mission continued to implement regular personnel training related to the prevention of misconduct.

33. As at 14 May, UNDOF had met all evaluation requirements, achieving high standards of compliance in implementing the Action for Peacekeeping commitment and Security Council resolution [2436 \(2018\)](#). Improvements have been made to induction training to ensure that it is both timely and relevant.

34. As at 14 May, UNDOF comprised 1,179 troops, including 90 women peacekeepers. Troops are deployed from Argentina (1), Australia (4), Bhutan (4), Czechia (4), Fiji (148), Ghana (15), India (199), Ireland (3), Kazakhstan (143), Nepal (439), the Republic of Korea (1), Uruguay (214) and Zambia (4). In addition, 80 military observers from Observer Group Golan, including 12 women, assisted UNDOF in carrying out its tasks.

III. Implementation of Security Council resolution [338 \(1973\)](#)

35. In its resolution [2766 \(2024\)](#), the Security Council called upon the parties concerned to immediately implement resolution [338 \(1973\)](#). It decided to renew the mandate of UNDOF for a period of six months, until 30 June 2025, and requested the Secretary-General to report every 90 days on developments in the situation and the

measures taken to implement resolution 338 (1973). The search for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Middle East, in particular the efforts made at various levels to implement resolution 338 (1973), was addressed in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East (A/79/194), submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 78/11, entitled “The Syrian Golan”.

36. Since the discontinuation of indirect peace talks in December 2008, there have been no negotiations between the parties. The United Nations will continue to monitor reports about indirect and informal contacts between the two sides with a view to de-escalation. I look forward to a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and the resumption of efforts towards a comprehensive, just and durable peace settlement, as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 338 (1973) and other relevant resolutions.

IV. Financial aspects

37. The General Assembly, by its resolution 78/304 of 28 June 2024, appropriated the amount of \$68.7 million for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

38. As at 14 May 2025, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNDOF amounted to \$30.7 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to \$2,836.5 million.

39. Reimbursement of troop costs has been made for the period up to 31 December 2024, whereas the reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment costs has been made for the period up to 30 September 2024.

V. Observations

40. I remain deeply concerned about the continued violations of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement, including the continued presence and activities of the Israel Defense Forces in the area of separation. All actions that are inconsistent with the Agreement are unacceptable and must cease. I call upon the parties to uphold their obligations under the Agreement, including by ending all unauthorized presence in the areas of separation and limitation, as well as refraining from any action that would further undermine the ceasefire. There should be no military forces and activities in the area of separation other than those of UNDOF. I reiterate my commitment to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic. The parties should use the opportunity of recent developments in the country to restore full compliance with the Agreement.

41. Any crossing of and firing across the ceasefire line is in violation of the Agreement and must cease immediately. The continued presence of unauthorized weapons and equipment in the areas of limitation on both the Alpha and the Bravo sides, as well as the flying of aircraft and drones across the ceasefire line and over the area of separation, violates the Agreement. I continue to encourage members of the Security Council to support efforts to raise awareness of the risk of escalation and the need to preserve the ceasefire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic.

42. I note that both parties to the 1974 Disengagement Agreement continue to express commitment to the terms of the Agreement. It remains critical that the parties maintain and enhance their liaison with UNDOF. All violations of the ceasefire line increase tensions between the signatories to the Agreement and undermine stability

in the area. The continued liaison of UNDOF with the parties has contributed to de-escalation during times of heightened tensions in the region.

43. The continued commitment of both Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic to the Disengagement of Forces Agreement and support for the presence of UNDOF remain essential. I count on the continued cooperation of both parties to ensure that the Force can fully implement its mandate, including the resumption of inspections on both sides. I note the completion of the return of UNTSO military observers in Observer Group Golan to all their positions in the area of separation, and the facilitation of the Israel Defense Forces of reconstruction and reoccupation by UNTSO of the last observation post, which is accessed from the Alpha side. I further note the parties' facilitation of the freedom of movement of UNDOF in its area of operations and call for any remaining restrictions, including at the Israeli technical fence gates and Alpha gate at the Qunaytirah crossing, to be lifted. UNDOF must have full freedom of movement to carry out its mandated tasks.

44. Given the worrying trend of continued violations of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement and the volatile security situation on the Bravo side, the safety and security of military and civilian personnel in UNDOF and Observer Group Golan are of particular concern. The parties must refrain from any activity that may risk the safety of the peacekeepers. It is therefore of particular importance that the Security Council continue to influence the concerned parties to ensure that UNDOF can operate safely, securely and freely in accordance with the Agreement. It also remains important that the parties continue to facilitate the deployment of all personnel to UNDOF for effective mandate implementation.

45. The continued support of Member States, particularly the confidence of troop-contributing countries in UNDOF and their commitment to it, remains a key factor in the Force's ability to carry out its mandate. I am grateful to the Governments of Argentina, Australia, Bhutan, Czechia, Fiji, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Nepal, the Republic of Korea, Uruguay and Zambia for their contributions and the commitment, resolve and consummate professionalism of their military personnel in UNDOF. I am also thankful to the Member States that have contributed military observers to UNTSO.

46. I consider the continued presence of UNDOF in the area essential. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force for six months, until 31 December 2025. The Syrian Arab Republic has given its assent to the proposed extension. The Government of Israel also has expressed its agreement.

47. In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to the Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major General Anita Asmah, the military and civilian personnel serving under her leadership in UNDOF, and the military observers in Observer Group Golan, who continue to perform the important tasks assigned to them by the Security Council with efficiency and commitment, under extremely challenging circumstances and a continually evolving operational environment.

Map

