Panel managing talks between the CPA parties. This process has received significant support from the government of Ethiopia, UNMIS leadership, and key AU member states. UNMIS Special Representative to the Secretary-General (SRSG) Haile Menkerios was appointed as the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Sudan and South Sudan in July 2011 to continue political engagement after the conclusion of the UNMIS mandate.

The Abyei dispute (addressed in detail later) is just one of many pending post-independence issues on the agenda for negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan. There are also other contested areas along the north-south border that must be negotiated before border demarcation can take place, and pending issues on financial arrangements, including the sharing of oil revenues (the majority of revenues come from oil fields in the south) and access to oil pipelines and refineries (located in the north). On 18 September 2011, Sudan and South Sudan did reach agreement on the opening of ten border-crossing points during the first meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism, which is designed to strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

The issue of citizenship also remains to be settled. Khartoum has taken the line that all those eligible to vote in the southern referendum automatically became citizens of South Sudan at the succession of the south. This has created uncertainty among the 1–2 million individuals from the south living in the north. It is estimated that since August 2011 three peacekeepers serving with the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) died after the government of Sudan threatened to shoot down a helicopter dispatched for their evacuation after their patrol was hit by a landmine. While the Sudanese government denies any interference, the incident fits a pattern of previous action on its part to limit peacekeeping activity, and violates the status of forces agreement between the UN and the government of Sudan. The incident also underscores the significant risks for UN personnel operating in these insecure and volatile environments.

**Box 2.6 Safety and Security**

Staff of peacekeeping missions regularly operate in highly volatile and insecure environments, risking injury, harassment, abduction, civil unrest, terrorism, and conflict. While these risks are present in all peacekeeping contexts, they are particularly acute in the least-secure environments, including Afghanistan, Somalia, and Sudan. In Afghanistan, the ten-year international operation suffered its deadliest month ever in August 2011, with 66 peacekeeping fatalities; between January and September, over 300 troops were killed. As of October, UN peacekeeping as a whole suffered 91 fatalities in 2011, with significant losses in Côte d’Ivoire and Sudan.

Recognizing these risks, the UN has made a number of improvements in its approach to ensuring the safety and security of personnel. In 2005 it established the Department of Safety and Security, which is mandated to lead and oversee the UN’s security management system in reducing the risks that UN personnel face in the field. The UN bases its security approach on a “how to stay” principle aimed at finding ways to keep personnel safe and secure during their engagements.

In January 2011 the UN introduced a new security system, based on objective threat assessment, to assist missions in identifying the most acute threats and possible options for mitigation. The UN has also extended security training to nationally recruited staff and introduced a new security policy manual. It has also established an executive group on security to advise and support the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security.

Despite these advancements, it is ultimately the host governments that bear the primary responsibility for the security of UN personnel. To date, only 89 of the UN’s 193 member states have signed the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, which requires states “to take all appropriate measures to ensure the safety and security” of these personnel. The challenge of addressing this significant gap in the provision of safety and security for peacekeepers was brought into sharp focus in 2011 in Sudan, where in August three peacekeepers serving with the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) died after the government of Sudan threatened to shoot down a helicopter dispatched for their evacuation after their patrol was hit by a landmine. The incident also underscores the significant risks for UN personnel operating in these insecure and volatile environments.