



JCSC HIGHLIGHTS

2025



As part of the Justice and Corrections Service (JCS), Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI), United Nations Department of Peace Operations, JCSC is a rapid response team that deploys to support United Nations peace operations and other United Nations partners including those of the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP).

It is located within the United Nations Global Service Centre in Brindisi, Italy.

Another year of exciting deployments has passed for us. In these times of turmoil and dwindling resources for international aid, the rapid response provided by the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity (JCSC) proved as necessary as ever to help our clients manage their challenges and deliver on their respective mandates.

Generally, it was still peacekeeping that kept us busy the most. As in previous years, much of our attention remained on United Nations transitions. Apart from advancing the transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), we were pleased to assist the United Nations in South Sudan with the revitalization of their early transition planning.

Additionally, we supported ongoing rule of law operations in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

Special Political Missions remained high on our radar. We had engagements in Haiti (responding to rule of law challenges and opportunities resulting from the deployment of the Multinational Security Support Mission - MSS), Somalia and for UNOWAS (including in the area of climate security and the rule of law).

Lastly, we were requested to support United Nations operations in non-mission settings, including in Burkina Faso (for the United Nations Development Programme - UNDP), Guinea (for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - OHCHR) and in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire (for the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Committee - CTED).

A big 'THANK YOU!' to all of our clients. And again, a big 'THANK YOU!' to Germany for the continued support to all of the Standing Capacities within the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) that keeps the engine running. Let this joint journey continue!

Wishing everybody a more peaceful 2025.

Carsten, Alice, Moussa, Gisèle, Oscar, Mohamed, Raffaella

A SNAPSHOT OF JCSC OPERATIONS IN 2024

Transition

MONUSCO / UNDP DRC

Between June and November, two JCSC Officers, one justice and one corrections, deployed to the DRC. The deployments were jointly requested by MONUSCO and UNDP DRC and supported by the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP). The team advanced a new joint United Nations justice and corrections programme for 2025-2029, which will facilitate the handover of crucial rule of law interventions by MONUSCO to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). The deployments included wide stakeholder consultations at the national and provincial levels and the drafting of the project document, based on a concept note produced earlier by the team.



JCSC Officers Mohamed Youssef and Moussa Diomandé (first & second from left) with the Director of the *Casier Judiciaire*, Kinshasa. Credit: *Direction du Casier Judiciaire/DRC*



JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer Mohamed Youssef (second row, first from left) and MONUSCO DSRSG-RC/HC Bruno Lemarquis (first row, first from left) with representatives of international organizations and the diplomatic corps at the *États Généraux de la justice en RDC*, Kinshasa. Credit: RTNC

UNMISS

Between July and August, the JCSC Team Leader deployed to UNMISS to assist the DSRSG-RC/HC to relaunch early transition planning. A review of the previous process led to concrete and recently endorsed recommendations on structure, scenario setting and sharpened integration arrangements with a view to pursuing protection objectives. Given the strong focus on the rule of law and related protection issues in the mandate of the Mission, this was an excellent opportunity to identify a process to sustain crucial United Nations rule of law support in South Sudan to contribute towards preventing a relapse into conflict.



JCSC Team Leader Carsten Weber (second from left) with UNDP Resident Representative Dr. Mohamed Abchir (middle) and other UNDP colleagues, Juba, South Sudan. Credit: UNDP

Strategic support to peace operations

UNISFA

Between January and February, the JCSC Team Leader deployed to UNISFA (supported remotely by the Standing Police Capacity - SPC) to follow up on a previous deployment that resulted in the drafting and endorsement of the Rule of Law Support Strategy for Abyei (ROLSSA). The new engagement led to the design of integrated structures for the smooth implementation of the ROLSSA, including a roadmap for sustained rule of law support within the Abyei Administrative Area.



JCSC Team Leader Carsten Weber with UNISFA colleagues discussing implementation of Rule of Law Support Strategy for Abyei. Credit: UNISFA

This deployment followed a joint engagement by a JCSC Corrections Officer with the SPC between August and September that resulted in the finalization of a Manual for seconded UNISFA detention officers. Additionally, JCSC developed a concept for a UNISFA detention facility, provided training on the recently adopted Mission-specific Standard Operating Procedures on Detention, and designed an updated training curriculum for community-based mechanisms that - in lieu of state structures in Abyei - undertake law-and-order-type functions, including detention.



JCSC Corrections Officer Oscar Ouedraogo (second from right) conducting an assessment in Abyei. Credit: UNISFA



JCSC Corrections Officer Oscar Ouedraogo (first standing from left) addressing female Community Protection Committee members at Abyei detention facility. Credit: UNISFA

Strategic support to peace operations

BINUH



JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer Mohamed Youssef (right) facilitating a working session with senior leaders from the justice and penitentiary sectors and members of civil society in Port-au-Prince. Credit: BINUH

Between January and March, a JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer deployed to BINUH to assess the impact of the MSS on the Haitian criminal justice system, with a focus on due process rights, fair trial guarantees and the protection of victims, including survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Following extensive consultations with national actors, the JCSC Officer drafted a concept note outlining strategies to respond to potential increased demands on the Haitian criminal justice system resulting from the MSS deployment. BINUH shared the note with the Haitian Ministry of Justice.

Also in relation to the potential impact of the MSS, a JCSC Corrections Officer deployed between October and November (with ongoing remote assistance) to support BINUH in designing tailored tools for the operationalization of a detention facility for high-risk prisoners to be financed by the United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). The JCSC developed a capacity-building programme for Haitian Corrections Officers who will be assigned to the new facility. The deployment also supported the establishment of a collaboration network for stakeholders involved in the fight against gang-related criminality.

UNSOM*

Between January and March, a JCSC Corrections Officer temporarily assumed the role of Chief Corrections Officer to prevent critical gaps and ensure continuity, especially regarding the finalization of the corrections model within the framework of the constitutional reform process in Somalia. The deployment resulted in a concept note on demilitarizing the Custodial Corps and implementation of the Federal Corrections Model, which was adopted by the Federal Government, as well as a joint review of the Prison Law, in collaboration with UNODC.



Working session on the Corrections Model at the Ministry of Justice & Constitutional Affairs (MOJCA) in Mogadishu, Somalia. From left to right: MOJCA Director of Corrections and JCSC Corrections Officer (standing) and MOJCA Director of Planning (sitting). Credit: MOJCA

*As of 1 November 2024, UNSOM has begun the formal transition of its functions and is now called UNTMIS.

Strategic support to peace operations

MINUSCA

Between July and October, a JCSC Rule of Law Officer deployed to MINUSCA to support the Central African Republic authorities in advancing the implementation of the Law on Legal Aid through the operationalization of the National Legal Aid Committee. To achieve her goals, the Rule of Law Officer was partly embedded within that Committee to support its proper functioning. The deployment also supported (i) the development of concept notes identifying new approaches for the future support of MINUSCA to the informal justice system and (ii) the planning for the next phase of joint United Nations rule of law programming.



JCSC Rule of Law Officer Gisèle Samvura (second from right) after the meeting with members of the CNAL (*Comité National de l'Aide Légale*), Bangui, CAR. Credit: Ministry of Justice



JCSC Rule of Law Officer Gisèle Samvura debriefing the Chief of Cabinet of the Minister of Justice on her support provided to the CNAL, Bangui. Credit: MINUSCA

UNMISS

Between October and December, a JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer supported UNMISS on a Norway-funded project focusing on advancing accountability for sexual and gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence in hot spots of South Sudan. Based on a desk review and field consultations, the JCSC Officer assessed progress, advised on monitoring, evaluation and planning and prepared an impact report summarizing results, key challenges and next steps. This report will also serve as an advocacy and resource mobilization tool.



JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer with the State Police Investigator in Bentiu, Unity State, South Sudan. Credit: South Sudan National Police Service

Regional Engagement

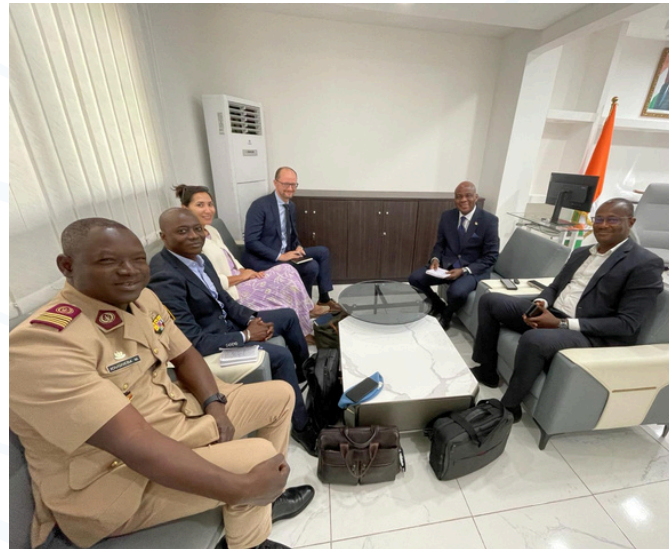
UNOWAS

In three consecutive deployments between January and February, June, and July to September, a JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer provided support to UNOWAS. The first deployment included a trip to Côte d'Ivoire to inform good offices of the SRSG in the fight against terrorism. Subsequent deployments focused on further support to the revitalization of the West African Bar Association (WABA), a key body in upholding respect for the rule of law, judicial independence and conflict prevention efforts. This included support to the 2024 Annual Conference of WABA which resulted in the adoption of a new Constitution and the election of new governing bodies. A specific project proposal was prepared to help further strengthen the United Nations governance and rule of law engagement in West Africa and the Sahel.

Moreover, based on a desk review, analysis and consultations on the ground and with regional experts, JCSC prepared an analytical paper on the interlinkages between climate, peace, security and the rule of law, with recommendations on how the rule of law can help prevent and address climate-induced tensions and grievances in the region.

CTED

In November, a JCSC Corrections Officer participated in a regional assessment visit undertaken by CTED covering Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. The aim of this mission was to evaluate progress and challenges in the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions on terrorism-related threats to international peace and security, and to build on lessons learned from previous visits in 2018 and 2019. The final report will be shared by CTED with the two host governments.



JCSC Corrections Officer Moussa Diomandé and Judicial Affairs Officer (second & third from left) in a meeting with the prosecutor of the special investigation and counter-terrorism cell, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. Credit: Ministry of Justice



JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer (third from right) attends the 2024 WABA Conference in Benin. Credit: UNOWAS



JCSC Corrections Officer Moussa Diomandé (fourth from left) during a working session with the Ghanaian authorities in Accra. Credit: Ghana Ministry of National Security

Non-Mission Settings / GFP

As a United Nations system-wide service provider and member of the GFP, JCSC continued to operate in non-mission settings.

OHCHR Guinea

Between January and February, a JCSC Corrections Officer deployed to OHCHR Guinea to support the Guinean National Directorate of Penitentiary Administration and Reintegration (DNAPR) to assess prison security and administration and establish priority areas to inform the OHCHR corrections support strategy. Moreover, this deployment resulted in the initiation of the DNAPR Strategic Development Plan and the design and endorsement of tools to gather and analyse prison statistics and other data, which are now being used by the DNAPR.



JCSC Corrections Officer Moussa Diomandé (first from left) during a session with the Director of Dubréka Prison (second from right), Guinea. Credit: DNAPR

UNDP Burkina Faso

Between November and December, a JCSC Rule of Law Officer deployed to UNDP Burkina Faso where she conducted wide consultations with stakeholders, including national authorities, civil society organizations (CSOs), judicial authorities, the Bar Association, and international partners, to inform the design of a new Joint United Nations Rule of Law Programme. The programme will outline strategic priority areas for the United Nations in the country to jointly address root causes and serve as a resource mobilization tool.



JCSC Rule of Law Officer Gisèle Samvura (third from right) conducting a working session with the Direction Générale de l'Administration Pénitentiaire (DGAP), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Credit: DGAP

Other activities

Challenges Annual Forum

In December, the JCSC Team Leader participated in the Challenges Annual Forum in Berlin (hosted by the Center for International Peace Operations - ZiF), which was devoted to the future of peace operations, and attended by a variety of senior officials from the United Nations, Member States, academia and civil society. The topic was of specific interest to JCSC, as rapid deployment is expected to play a big role in any future configuration of peace operations mandated by the Security Council or General Assembly.



JCSC Team Leader Carsten Weber (third from left) at Challenges Annual Forum, Berlin, Germany. Credit: ZiF

Engagement with new generations



Students from the European High School of Brindisi after a presentation with JCSC Correction Officer Oscar Ouedraogo and JCSC Administrative Assistant Raffaella Spedicati (sixth and seventh from left), Brindisi, Italy. Credit: UNGSC

JCSC also remained engaged in education programmes for students. In May, facilitated by the United Nations Global Service Centre in Brindisi (which hosts all OROLSI Standing Capacities), JCSC provided a lecture to students from Trieste University on the topic of “Rule of Law in Peace Operations – a reality check”. JCSC also presented to students from the European High School in Brindisi in June and from the Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna in Pisa in October.

Special Committee on Peacekeeping

In December, JCSC, along with the Chiefs of the SPC and the Standing Capacity for Security Sector Reform and Governance (SSuRGe team), briefed the United Nations Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C34) at their request on the use and operations of the OROLSI Standing Capacities. This was an excellent opportunity to underline the role of JCSC as a bridge between outgoing and incoming United Nations operations in transition contexts, and its contribution to preventing relapse into conflict following Mission draw-down. The role of JCSC as a system-wide service provider was also underlined in line with previous encouragements by the C34 for OROLSI to operate in prevention settings.

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JUSTICE AND
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