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United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 55 of Security Council resolution [2612 \(2021\)](#), covers developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 17 March 2022 to 16 June 2022. It describes progress made in the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) since the previous report of 21 March 2022 ([S/2022/252](#)), including progress towards the realization of the benchmarks and indicators of the transition plan.

II. Political developments

2. Preparations for the 2023 elections and political efforts to address insecurity in the eastern provinces marked the reporting period.

3. On the night of 2 to 3 June, the National Assembly passed the proposed revisions to the electoral law. The opposition did not participate in the vote, alleging that the proposed text did not reflect the prior consensus. The text contains provisions that could increase transparency in the management of electoral results. It also provides incentives for women's inclusion on candidate lists, including an exemption from payment of the required deposit for lists with a minimum of 50 per cent women in a constituency. The Senate will now consider the text.

4. The vote followed weeks of debate characterized by divergences between political stakeholders. The Front commun pour le Congo had boycotted the process, citing the requirement to review the composition of the Independent National Electoral Commission and the Constitutional Court and to reach consensus on the entire electoral process. On 22 April and 6 May, respectively, Martin Fayulu and the Bloc patriotique, composed of Catholic and Protestant lay organizations, political opposition parties and parts of the majority, held demonstrations to call for consensus on the entire electoral process. Both demonstrations were dispersed by the police. On 10 May, the Constitutional Court began the renewal of three of its nine members. Some opposition and civil society actors deemed this an illegal move aimed at tightening the presidential camp's political control over the Court. Meanwhile, women's organizations and parliamentarians intensified advocacy for the inclusion of



a gender quota or provisions for full gender parity in the revised electoral law. MONUSCO pursued its good offices to ease tensions, encouraging all stakeholders to be flexible and constructive and stressing the need for a consensual electoral law ensuring transparency and inclusivity.

5. As requested by the Independent National Electoral Commission, the United Nations deployed a needs assessment mission to Kinshasa from 21 March to 6 April to make recommendations on the scope and modalities of possible electoral assistance ahead of general elections to be held in 2023. On 6 and 9 May, gubernatorial elections were held in 14 of the 26 provinces, resulting in the election of three women as governors and one woman as vice-governor.

6. On 8 April, in Nairobi, the President, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, and the President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Summit of Heads of State of the East African Community (EAC), signed the treaty formalizing the accession of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the EAC. On the sidelines of the signing ceremony, the Presidents of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda held a first conclave of Heads of State, focusing on addressing insecurity caused by national and foreign armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. On 21 April, at a second conclave of Heads of State in Nairobi, the countries agreed to start a regional initiative to promote the disarmament of armed groups, based on political engagement and military enforcement.

7. Consequently, from 23 to 27 April, in Nairobi, a joint Kenyan-Congolese secretariat facilitated consultations between the Congolese authorities and local armed groups, with 30 delegates representing 18 armed groups from the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu. Following an alleged breach of the cessation of hostilities principle on 24 April, the M23 Makenga faction was suspended from the consultations, while the M23 Runiga faction remained. From 17 to 24 May, a second round of consultations was conducted in Bunia in Ituri Province, Goma and Beni in North Kivu Province, and Bukavu in South Kivu Province. Delegates of 56 armed groups and representatives of 40 local communities participated and provided recommendations on measures necessary for disarmament and community-based reintegration beyond amnesty or systematic army integration, which have been excluded from consideration. At the request of the joint secretariat, MONUSCO supported the consultations, providing logistical and planning assistance as well as contextual expertise.

8. On 27 May, following the resumption of fighting with the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) in North Kivu, Mr. Tshisekedi presided over a meeting of the expanded High Defence Council including parliamentary and judiciary authorities. The Council declared M23 a terrorist movement, accused Rwanda of supporting M23, suspended RwandAir flights to the country and summoned the ambassador of Rwanda. In multiple statements issued since the resumption of the fighting, various individuals and entities belonging to the Government of Rwanda denied supporting M23, alleged that the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo, FARDC) was colluding with armed groups including the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR), and suggested that the Mission, through its support to FARDC, was complicit.

9. Within a context of growing hate speech against speakers of Kinyarwanda in the country, the Government called on the population to refrain from such discourse. From 23 May onwards, MONUSCO, in coordination with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, provided good offices through engagement with relevant national and regional political and diplomatic actors to de-escalate tensions both within the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the

broader region. MONUSCO also engaged stakeholders in North Kivu to appease intercommunal tensions and seek accountability for those stoking them.

10. On 28 May, on the margins of the African Union summit in Malabo, the capital of Equatorial Guinea, the Chairperson of the African Union, Macky Sall, announced that he had engaged with Mr. Tshisekedi and the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, to de-escalate tensions, and nominated the President of Angola, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, in his capacity as Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, to resolve the dispute between the two countries. On 31 May, Mr. Tshisekedi visited Angola, where the situation between the two countries was discussed.

III. Security situation

11. The security situation was marked by the resurgence of M23 in North Kivu, as well as by continuing attacks on civilians by the Coopérative pour le développement du Congo (CODECO) in Ituri and by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in Ituri and North Kivu, the continuation of military operations in the context of the state of siege, which was debated in the National Assembly and assessed by the Government, and continued to be renewed without change every 15 days as required under the Constitution, and the rise of tensions between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.

A. Ituri Province

12. Attacks against civilians and State security actors persisted, perpetrated by CODECO and the armed group Zaïre in Djugu and Mahagi territories, and by ADF and the Force patriotique et intégrationniste du Congo (FPIC) in Irumu territory. Between 17 March and 31 May, 409 civilians, including at least 48 women and 32 children, were killed, and 127 civilians, including at least 21 women and 5 children, were injured. Although CODECO factions, save for one, signed a document on 4 June in which they stated their willingness to cease hostilities and adhere to the Nairobi process following an intercommunal dialogue supported by MONUSCO in Rethy, Djugu Territory, CODECO continued to attack civilians. The number of internally displaced persons in Ituri surpassed 2 million, representing up to 25 per cent of the province's population.

13. In Djugu territory, there was an increase in CODECO attacks targeting Hema community members, including attacks on internally displaced persons sites, provoking reprisal attacks by Zaïre combatants against predominantly Lendu-inhabited areas. In the western area of Mongbwalu, both groups committed violence and attacked civilians, mainly around mining sites. Between 17 March and 31 May, 199 civilians, including at least 35 women and 26 children, were killed and another 89 civilians, including at least 9 women and 2 children, were injured in incidents attributed to CODECO. Zaïre combatants killed 19 civilians, including at least 3 women and 1 child, and injured another 9 civilians. CODECO combatants also reportedly killed 5 civilians and injured 2 civilian women in Mahagi territory.

14. In Irumu and Mambasa territories, between 17 March and 31 May, ADF perpetrated attacks in which 165 civilians, including at least 6 women and 3 children, were killed and 10 civilians, including 4 women, were injured. Most attacks were centred around Komanda and the roads to Mambasa and Luna. ADF activity spiked in April as combatants fled the Tshabi area under pressure from joint Congolese and Ugandan military operations. Furthermore, between 17 March and 14 April, 9 civilians were killed, including at least 1 woman, and 1 civilian man was injured, in

violence perpetrated by FPIC targeting the Hema community. On 14 April, during an intra-Bira community mediation forum facilitated by MONUSCO and local authorities, FPIC pledged to cease its attacks against Hema civilians.

B. North Kivu Province

15. In the Grand Nord area, security conditions deteriorated despite joint Congolese and Ugandan military operations, which, as FARDC and the Uganda People's Defence Forces announced on 1 June, would be extended for two months. Owing to military pressure, ADF combatants dispersed but conducted attacks over a wider geographical area. Between 17 March and 5 June, ADF perpetrated at least 48 attacks targeted at civilians and positions of FARDC, in the south-eastern, eastern and northern parts of Beni territory, killing 192 civilians, including 139 men, 49 women and 4 children, and injuring 35 civilians, including 28 men and 7 women. Islamic State Central Africa Province claimed responsibility for two ADF attacks conducted on 25 March and 19 April, in which a total of 5 civilians were killed. During the reporting period, 14 incidents involving improvised explosive devices attributed to ADF were reported, killing 3 civilians and 3 FARDC soldiers and injuring 11 civilians and 13 FARDC soldiers.

16. In the Petit Nord area, clashes between armed groups, as well as between armed groups and FARDC, continued to pose threats to civilians. In Rutshuru and Nyiragongo territories, fighting between M23 and FARDC reportedly left 22 civilians dead, including 4 women and 2 children, and displaced approximately 190,000 civilians, including more than 32,000 who crossed into Uganda. In Masisi territory, clashes involving Mai-Mai groups, Nyatura factions, Nduma défense du Congo-Rénové (NDC-R) factions and FARDC displaced approximately 4,500 civilians. In Walikale territory, hostilities between the NDC-R Guidon faction and the Forces patriotiques populaires-armée du peuple (FPP-AP) resulted in the killing of 17 civilians, including 7 men, 5 women and 5 children.

17. On 29 March, a MONUSCO helicopter conducting an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission crashed around Tshanzu, killing all eight peacekeepers on board. The incident remains under investigation.

18. On 22 May, M23 attacked separate FARDC and MONUSCO positions from multiple directions around Shanghi, Rutshuru territory. From 24 to 27 May, heavy fighting between FARDC and M23 continued in several locations around Rutshuru territory, with M23 threatening strategic military positions and route nationale 2. Following a period of relative calm that started on 28 May, fighting resumed on 6 June, with exchanges of small arms and artillery fire reported in various locations across Rutshuru territory. MONUSCO, in compliance with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces, supported FARDC with helicopter and artillery fire and combat support and helped redeploy FARDC troops from the Grand Nord to repulse M23 attacks.

19. On 23 May, the Government of Rwanda requested the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism to investigate alleged artillery fire hitting Kinigi and Nyange, in Musanze District in Rwanda. The Government of Rwanda claimed that artillery fire had come from FARDC, wounding multiple people and damaging local infrastructure. On the same day, FARDC informed MONUSCO of 17 artillery shells landing in Katale and within the perimeter of the Rumangabo military camp. The Military Governor of North Kivu formally requested the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism to investigate the shelling in Rumangabo and Katale. On 10 June, two children were killed and one was injured when mortar shells hit Biruma (20 km south of Rutshuru). On 12 June, three civilian men were killed by a shell that hit Kabindi

(9 km south-east of Rutshuru). The Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda issued further statements in which they traded allegations of shelling incidents for which they also requested the activation of the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism.

20. On 28 May, FARDC reported the arrest of two Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) soldiers at Biruma, 20 km west of the border with Rwanda. On the same day, the Government of Rwanda claimed that the RDF soldiers had been kidnapped by FARDC and FDLR at the border while on patrol duty inside Rwanda. On 11 June, RDF issued a statement acknowledging the release of the two soldiers following mediation efforts by the President of Angola.

C. South Kivu and Maniema Provinces

21. In South Kivu, insecurity persisted owing to violence by the Mai-Mai Raia Mutomboki in the north of the province, intercommunal conflict in the Hauts and Moyens Plateaux, clashes on the Ruzizi Plain between FARDC and Mai-Mai groups, as well as clashes between Burundian armed groups, including Résistance pour un État de droit au Burundi (RED Tabara) and, allegedly, troops of the Burundi National Defence Force. Between 17 March and 9 June, 52 civilians were killed, including 37 men, 12 women and 3 children, and 43 civilians were injured, including 37 men, 4 women and 2 children.

22. In the north of South Kivu, mainly in Shabunda territory, Mai-Mai Raia Mutomboki factions continued to perpetrate attacks concentrated around mining sites. Meanwhile, violence continued to decrease gradually in Kalehe territory, following the truce between the Tembo, Hutu and Havu communities agreed in late 2021.

23. Conditions in the Hauts and Moyens Plateaux of Uvira, Fizi and Mwenga territories remained volatile, marked as they were by violence between armed groups purporting to represent community interests, as well as by attacks perpetrated against FARDC and civilians, including displaced populations. The vicinities of Minembwe, Mikenge, Bijombo, Kahololo, Bibokoboko and Baraka remained hubs of insecurity. Between 17 March and 9 June, 40 civilians, including 27 men, 10 women and 3 children, were killed, while 38 civilians, including 33 men, 4 women and 1 child, were injured. Twirwaneho and Mai-Mai groups continued to recruit and train new combatants.

D. Tanganyika Province

24. Security conditions remained relatively stable, notwithstanding two residual pockets of insecurity in the North Lukuga sector of Nyunzu territory and in the Bendera area of Kalemie territory. Persistent banditry by Mai-Mai groups, often concentrated around mining sites, against a backdrop of an insufficient presence of State security forces, resulted in 94 security incidents between 17 March and 6 June. Some armed groups responsible for these incidents, such as Mai-Mai Yakutumba, operated from Maniema and South Kivu Provinces and perpetrated attacks in Tanganyika. During clashes between Twa and Bantu militias around mining sites south of Kalemie between 10 and 14 May, 32 civilians were killed and 16 were injured. Cases of sexual violence against 42 women and 7 girls were also recorded. As at 31 March, the number of displaced persons had risen to 407,818, located mostly in Kongolo, Nyunzu and Kalemie territories. A significant portion of the rising displacement emanated from Maniema Province into Kongolo territory.

IV. Human rights situation

25. In March and April, MONUSCO documented 1,233 human rights violations and abuses, a slight increase of 2 per cent compared with the previous two-month period of January to February (1,212). Armed groups were allegedly responsible for 57 per cent of those violations and abuses. At least 479 people were victims of extrajudicial and summary killings (352 men, 96 women and 31 children), a decrease from the 539 recorded in January and February.

26. More than 89 per cent of violations and abuses were committed in conflict-affected provinces. Nyatura combatants in North Kivu Province allegedly committed most of the documented abuses, while ADF allegedly continued to be responsible for the deadliest attacks, resulting in 225 civilians killed (183 men, 39 women and 3 children). M23 attacks in Rutshuru territory also led to human rights abuses, including on 28 March, when 13 men and 3 women were killed and 3 men, 1 woman and 1 child were wounded by M23 combatants during an attack on FARDC positions.

27. FARDC soldiers deployed to North Kivu and Ituri Provinces allegedly continued to perpetrate violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including the extrajudicial killing of 49 men and 9 women.

28. Documented violations of democratic space increased by 19 per cent compared with the previous quarter. Violations allegedly committed by members of the Agence nationale de renseignements doubled. In North Kivu, on 1 April, 12 members of the citizens' movement Lutte pour le changement (LUCHA), who had been arrested on 11 November 2021 during a sit-in held to protest the state of siege, were sentenced to 12 months in prison by the garrison military tribunal in Beni. Congolese security forces also violently repressed peaceful protests. On 22 April, 20 demonstrators were arrested and another 20 were injured in Kinshasa. From 26 to 29 April, MONUSCO participated in a forum on hate speech in Bangui as part of efforts with United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and Economic Community of Central African States to develop a regional strategy to prevent and combat hate speech in Central Africa. MONUSCO held three workshops in Kinshasa with journalists, civil society organizations and authorities, respectively, including in support of the adoption of a bill against tribalism, racism and xenophobia. On 6 June, MONUSCO held a meeting in Goma with Hunde, Hutu, Nande, Nyanga, Tembo and Tutsi community leaders. Following the meeting, the leaders encouraged their respective community members to refrain from hate speech and signed a joint communiqué in which they committed to promoting peaceful coexistence between communities and called on political and civil society actors to refrain from incitement, hate speech and violence.

29. At least 25 FARDC soldiers, 10 officers of the Congolese National Police, 7 agents of the Agence nationale de renseignements and 62 armed group members were convicted for crimes relating to human rights violations. The Military Tribunal in Beni convicted 47 armed groups members and their accomplices for offences including crimes against humanity and war crimes. Their sentences ranged from five years' imprisonment to the death penalty.

V. Humanitarian situation

30. The country continues to endure multiple endemic diseases including cholera, measles, polio, meningitis and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). As at 3 June, the Ministry of Health had reported 89,189 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 1,338 deaths. According to the World Health Organization, 1,302,638 persons are fully vaccinated, representing 1.2 per cent of the eligible population.

31. On 23 April, the Ministry of Health declared the fourteenth Ebola virus disease outbreak in Mbandaka, Équateur Province. As at 1 June, five cases had been confirmed, all fatal, in three health areas in Mbandaka and Wangata. The Ministry of Health activated the national and provincial emergency management committees to coordinate the response. Building on lessons learned from previous responses, the humanitarian community mobilized to support the Government in preventing the further spread of the disease. Interventions have been strengthened in seven health zones in Équateur Province, including early warning systems, infection prevention and control activities, and community engagement. The vaccination of first- and second-degree contacts of confirmed cases started on 27 April. As at 31 May, 1,513 people had been vaccinated. Key challenges in containing the outbreak include tracing, infection prevention and control, having insufficient resources and encountering insufficient community acceptance. As at 7 June, service providers involved in the response had been on strike for 12 days to claim payment arrears, which had an impact on tracing activities.

32. Humanitarian actors continued to operate in an increasingly dangerous environment. Since the beginning of the year, a total of 126 incidents affecting humanitarian access were reported, including 69 security incidents affecting humanitarian workers or their assets. Altogether 4 aid workers were killed, 10 abducted and 1 injured. Reported security incidents included acts of violence by armed groups, and criminal activities. Humanitarian partners continued to face administrative constraints.

33. By 7 June, the 2022 humanitarian response plan for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, targeted at 8.8 million people, had received 15 per cent of the \$1.88 billion required. Humanitarian organizations struggled to mobilize resources beyond immediate emergency assistance. In this context, from 5 to 12 May, the Minister of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Actions and National Solidarity, Modeste Mutinga, undertook a joint advocacy and resource mobilization tour with the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator) to several European capitals.

VI. Protection of civilians

A. Mission strategies and political processes

34. MONUSCO continued to build upon both Mission-wide and area-based strategies, in collaboration with the United Nations country team and national, provincial and local authorities, to protect civilians under threat from armed groups. Amid the resurgence of M23, the Mission worked to anticipate and mitigate hate speech, and on 17 March, a local protection contingency plan was adopted for the Petit Nord region of North Kivu. On 30 March, following a review of the Mission's early warning and response system that had been concluded in December 2021, MONUSCO issued guidance to upgrade early warning and response mechanisms, including the identification and processing of alerts and the tracking of response performance for improved accountability.

35. The Mission continued to liaise with FARDC to plan and conduct joint offensive operations, in compliance with the human rights due diligence policy. In coordination with the United Nations country team, MONUSCO worked to prevent and mitigate possible negative repercussions of such operations for civilians and engaged with FARDC and the Uganda People's Defence Forces to strengthen tripartite coordination, including by seeking the establishment of a coordination centre in Beni.

B. Field-level responses

36. The Mission's community alert network system received a monthly average of 330 alerts, 45 per cent of which originated from North Kivu, 36 per cent from South Kivu and 15 per cent from Ituri. State security forces and/or MONUSCO responded to 49 per cent of the alerts. The remaining 51 per cent were either too imprecise or beyond reach.

37. In Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika, MONUSCO, through the Mine Action Service, conducted 194 spot tasks between 17 March and 8 June, resulting in the destruction of 6,800 rounds of small arms ammunition, 293 explosive remnants of war and 16 other explosive devices. Risk-awareness sessions on explosive devices and remnants of war were conducted in Kinshasa, Bukavu, Goma, Bunia and Beni for United Nations military and civilian personnel, personnel of non-governmental organizations, local authorities and the population. The Mine Action Service destroyed 27 improvised explosive devices and approximately 50 kg of commercial explosives.

38. In Ituri, the Mission maintained a proactive military posture, complemented by non-military measures, in each conflict-affected territory. In Djugu territory, MONUSCO continued efforts to protect vulnerable populations at sites for internally displaced persons near Bayoo, Fataki, Drodoro, Roe and Jina. Preventive patrolling and prompt responses to alerts, often involving exchanges of fire with CODECO combatants, thwarted or mitigated multiple attempted attacks. Community engagement activities to enhance early warning efforts led to the establishment of new local protection committees, including one in Saliboko, near Roe, on 3 May. On 5 April, the Mission conducted a cordon-and-search operation in the Bali area, neutralizing 10 armed combatants; one MONUSCO peacekeeper was killed in action. On 24 April, MONUSCO and FARDC conducted a joint offensive operation in the Bula area, during which it succeeded in dismantling a CODECO encampment. From 1 to 5 June, MONUSCO supported State authorities in convening an intracommunity dialogue for the Lendu community in Djugu territory. Hundreds of people participated, including representatives of CODECO factions, who pledged to cease hostilities against FARDC and other armed groups and join the Nairobi process.

39. In response to intensified ADF activity in Irumu territory, the force's Intervention Brigade expanded its area of operations and responsibility into Ituri Province. The Intervention Brigade established a temporary operating base in Komanda on 23 March. From 17 to 21 April, the Intervention Brigade conducted a joint offensive operation with FARDC, dismantling ADF encampments in the Mount Hoyo reserve. Furthermore, the Mission intensified community engagement efforts in the Komanda area to facilitate cooperation with the local population.

40. In the Grand Nord area of North Kivu, the Intervention Brigade continued to provide physical protection for civilians through robust patrolling along key roads and in areas vulnerable to attacks. The Mission also worked to identify and establish, in collaboration with the United Nations country team, safe havens near Intervention Brigade bases to accommodate displaced persons if needed. MONUSCO engaged with local protection actors throughout the Grand Nord and facilitated capacity-building workshops on security governance in Butembo and Beni towns, which resulted in the production of local security plans. MONUSCO also liaised with civil society and political groups in North Kivu with a view to attenuating tensions and helped to mediate between these groups and local authorities in Beni town.

41. In the Petit Nord area of North Kivu, the Mission maintained and established standing combat deployments in Rutshuru and Masisi territories, including in Kibumba, Rumangabo, Kabindi, Rwanguba, and Chengerero, to ensure physical

protection for civilians, safe passage for displaced persons, and access for humanitarian actors. In addition, MONUSCO established a forward operating base to serve as a blocking position in the area of Shangi. The Mission liaised with provincial authorities to address threats to civilians posed by clashes between M23 and FARDC and facilitated a three-day workshop for media professionals on disinformation and hate speech to forestall and mitigate potential hate speech targeted at communities perceived as being aligned with M23.

42. In South Kivu, the Mission facilitated conciliation meetings in Kalehe territory involving representatives of the Tembo, Hutu and Havu communities, following the agreement they had reached in December 2021. As a protective measure, MONUSCO also conducted 135 long-range patrols in the vicinity of mining sites in Shabunda territory. In the Hauts and Moyens Plateaux, MONUSCO conducted 95 long-range patrols to deter armed activity and violence related to intercommunity tensions. The Mission reinforced its presence near Bibokoboko, where Mai-Mai groups threatened to attack the approximately 17,000 members of the Banyamulenge community who had returned to the area. Furthermore, in collaboration with provincial authorities, the Mission facilitated a meeting between Banyamulenge, Babembe, Banyindu and Bafuliru communities in Baraka to relaunch intercommunal dialogue.

43. In Tanganyika, MONUSCO conducted 18 long-range patrols along the road between Kalemie and Bendera to address persistent banditry and Mai-Mai activity in the Bendera area. As part of its transition planning in the province, the Mission reinforced the capacities of local protection actors along the road between Kalemie and Bendera. On 17 March, MONUSCO, in collaboration with the provincial civil protection authority, trained 65 local actors, including 28 women and many young people, on the use of protection tools for early warning.

VII. Stabilization and the strengthening of State institutions

A. Stabilization and the root causes of conflict

44. The national strategy for the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme (Programme de désarmement, démobilisation, relèvement communautaire et stabilisation, P-DDRCS) was validated on 4 April, bringing stabilization efforts under an overarching peacebuilding framework focused on social cohesion, the restoration of State authority, community recovery and governance, including transitional justice. The new strategy incorporates lessons learned from the previous national stabilization and recovery programme and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, with an emphasis on community-driven, decentralized and civilian-led processes. The aim is to give provincial and local actors the ability to adapt the programme to their contexts and ensure that outcomes respond to their community's economic and security needs.

45. At the request of the Government, MONUSCO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized discussions with national, provincial and local stakeholders, as well as with donors and civil society, to support the development of provincial operational plans for P-DDRCS. On 27 and 28 April, 100 stakeholders, including the provincial Governor and members of the P-DDRCS national coordination office, participated in a workshop on the operationalization of the Programme's strategy in South Kivu organized by non-governmental organizations and UNDP. During the workshop, the members of the consultation frameworks for peace and programme support were officially nominated. However, delays in nomination of provincial coordinators and the allocation of resources to the national and provincial coordination offices have hindered implementation.

46. On 7 May, the Prime Minister, Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge, convened a meeting with donors and the United Nations to discuss the Stabilization Coherence Fund and announced that he would act as co-Chair of the steering board. A meeting of the steering board followed on 23 May, during which it was decided to allocate \$11 million for activities aligned with P-DDRCS in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu. The interventions were to link short-term community-based reintegration to longer-term stabilization issues. There would be two phases, starting with democratic dialogue and cash-for-work activities to mobilize community support and achieve quick impacts for both demobilized combatants and community members, to be followed by the implementation of recommendations resulting from the dialogues to improve equitable and inclusive local governance. On 26 May, the President appointed the three P-DDRCS Provincial Coordinators for, respectively, Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu, one of whom was a woman, together with their six deputies, three of whom were women.

47. Socioeconomic reintegration activities were launched under the project entitled “Appui à la cohésion sociale et la résilience des communautés affectées par la Force de Résistance Patriotique d’Ituri (FRPI)” led by the International Organization for Migration in Irumu territory to support the resilience of affected communities, and reduce recruitment and mobilization by armed groups. Local authorities, civil society and MONUSCO developed an advocacy and communication strategy for Djugu and Irumu territories during a workshop in Bunia held from 29 March to 1 April under the project entitled “Ensemble pour la paix et la sécurité à Djugu” funded by the Stabilization Coherence Fund.

B. Security sector and justice system reforms

48. During the reporting period, MONUSCO continued to facilitate dialogue and national ownership of the security sector reform process. On 24 and 25 March, in collaboration with the defence and security commissions of the National Assembly and the Senate and with the office of the national security adviser, MONUSCO held a workshop on planning and projections for 2022 as part of monitoring and evaluation of the security sector reform process.

49. The implementation of the Joint Justice Reform Support Programme continued to support service delivery by and the accountability of judicial institutions. The Mission liaised with court authorities in Beni town, providing technical and security advice, as well as logistical support for hearings in the cases of the May 2021 murder of two imams. This is part of a larger set of cases involving former ADF and Mai-Mai combatants. The Mission also facilitated mobile hearings in cases involving sexual violence in the towns of Mambasa (Ituri), Katana (South Kivu) and Tshikaji (Kasai Central). Altogether 8 FARDC soldiers, 7 Congolese police officers and 30 civilians were convicted of rape, while 2 FARDC soldiers, 3 police officers and 1 civilian were convicted of murder in Katana.

50. MONUSCO continued to support the national authorities in the development and implementation of a transitional justice strategy. The Minister of Human Rights launched national consultations with the population on the possible establishment of transitional justice mechanisms. Consultations began on 2 March in Kalemie (Tanganyika), followed by Tshikapa (Kasai) on 14 March, Goma (North Kivu) on 18 March and Matadi (Kongo Central) on 21 March, with technical support from MONUSCO.

51. The Mission continued to reinforce the capacity of State judicial and corrections personnel. During the reporting period, MONUSCO facilitated training for 161 judicial police officers, clerks and prosecution secretaries, including 40 women, on

the effective fulfilment of their duties. In response to a request from FARDC, the Mission organized a five-day training on digital forensic investigations for six military judicial personnel in view of the creation of a digital investigations cell within the Office of the Chief Prosecutor of the Armed Forces. MONUSCO led a training on prison security, human rights and incident response for 25 police officers and 3 women officers assigned to the prison. From 13 to 19 May, MONUSCO facilitated prison security training for 60 personnel, including 13 women, in Beni, Butembo and Bunia.

52. The Mission maintained support in the 11 priority prisons. As at 3 June, the priority prisons had a total population of 23,950, including 626 women and 689 children, with a 75 per cent pretrial detention rate and an overcrowding rate of 442 per cent. On 21 April, the Mission handed over the rehabilitated Lubero prison as part of efforts to decongest Butembo prison. During the reporting period, 1,276 convicted prisoners were released under presidential pardon orders issued in July and December 2021. MONUSCO provided technical and advisory support to the authorities for the identification of eligible inmates and the processing of their cases. The Mission also continued to support food security projects to address the problem of severe malnutrition in prisons. As at 7 June, the number of recorded deaths of inmates in priority prisons stood at 98, compared with 48 deaths recorded over the previous reporting period. This increase is attributable to the impact of growing prison overcrowding, resulting in malnutrition and poor health conditions, including the spread of infectious diseases.

53. The Mine Action Service and the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons conducted three field evaluations in Goma, Kalemie and Bukavu to assess weapons and ammunition management of State-held weapons. On 25 April, the Mine Action Service initiated training on physical security and stockpile management for FARDC, the Congolese National Police and the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation.

C. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

54. MONUSCO advocated for the prioritization by State authorities of P-DDRCS implementation in Tanganyika Province. The Mission also initiated a pilot project in the province in support of the programme focused on road rehabilitation, improved or new water sources, solar panel installation and agricultural development in and around the village of Lambo Katenga. At the request of State authorities, the Mission also undertook engineering works to build hygiene and living facilities at the severely congested Mubambiro centre for disarmament and demobilization in North Kivu, which is managed by FARDC and P-DDRCS.

55. MONUSCO continued to support the voluntary disengagement of armed group combatants. Between 17 March and 7 June, the Mission disarmed and provided reintegration support to 83 Congolese former combatants, including three women, and facilitated the return to their communities of origin. As part of ongoing MONUSCO disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement efforts, two male Burundian former combatants and seven male Rwandan former combatants with four male and nine female dependents, were hosted at transit sites. The Rwandan former combatants and dependents, and one of the Burundian combatants, were repatriated.

VIII. Women and peace and security

56. MONUSCO continued to support women's participation in political and decision-making processes. On 22 March, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO met with women leaders to discuss media perceptions of their role, with a focus on electoral processes. During the reporting period, Radio de la femme, supported by MONUSCO, continued to broadcast a weekly programme promoting women and youth participation in the electoral process. From 2 to 4 May, in Zongo, Kongo Central Province, UNDP, UN-Women and MONUSCO held a retreat for national deputies and civil society experts. The participants reviewed the draft electoral law to identify ways to increase the participation of women and people living with disabilities. On 21 March, MONUSCO held a workshop for women mediators in Kitshanga, North Kivu. The meeting contributed to the revitalization of the local network of women mediators and an assessment of the conflict resolution and mediation activities that participants had implemented.

57. To promote meaningful participation in the security sector by women, MONUSCO conducted mentoring sessions for 90 FARDC and 50 women officers of the Congolese National Police on 19 and 26 April, focusing on leadership and career development at the senior level. On 28 April, MONUSCO, in collaboration with forensic police, trained 20 policewomen on their role as first police responders to crime scenes.

IX. Child protection and conflict-related sexual violence

58. Between 17 March and 31 May, MONUSCO verified 459 grave violations by parties to the conflict against 408 children (288 boys and 120 girls). Among them, 102 were killed or maimed (69 boys and 33 girls). Mai-Mai Apa Na Pale (102) and ADF (76) were responsible for the largest shares of verified violations. Among State security actors, FARDC soldiers were allegedly responsible for five cases of sexual violence against five girls, two cases of killing and maiming, and one attack against a hospital. One Congolese police officer was found responsible for one case of sexual violence against one girl, while one agent of the Agence nationale de renseignements was found responsible for the maiming of a boy.

59. During the reporting period, 170 children (147 boys and 23 girls) who had escaped from, had been separated from or had been voluntarily released by armed groups, were verified as having been recruited and used. Twenty-three boys were verified as having been newly recruited. Mai-Mai Mazembe (25), Nyatura factions (25) and Mai-Mai Kipangu (24) were alleged to be the main perpetrators of child recruitment and use. No additional armed group commanders signed unilateral declarations or roadmaps to end and prevent child recruitment and use and to prevent sexual violence against children. Nevertheless, 36 children, including 8 girls, were voluntarily released during the reporting period as part of existing commitments. The Mission continued to engage with commanders to obtain new commitments.

60. From February to April, at least 117 adults (116 women and 1 man) were victims of conflict-related sexual violence, similar to the previous three months (118). During the reporting period, armed groups were allegedly responsible for incidents affecting 89 victims, and State actors for 28, FARDC soldiers (16 victims) allegedly being the main perpetrators. Among armed groups, CODECO (19 victims), Nyatura (19 victims), Mai-Mai Apa Na Pale (4 victims) and FDLR (4 victims) allegedly were the main perpetrators. Most cases were recorded in North Kivu (37 per cent) Ituri

(28 per cent), Maniema (13 per cent), Tanganyika (11 per cent) and South Kivu (10 per cent).

61. The Mission continued its engagement with national authorities to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence through technical support for the establishment of a reparations scheme for victims and for sensitization and capacity-building programmes for judicial police officers and military judicial authorities that were related to combating conflict-related sexual violence and grave violations. In May, in Bukavu, MONUSCO and UNDP held a meeting with heads of police in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo to increase their participation in efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence, strengthen their support to operational units and adopt good practices associated with the deployment of a specialized police team supported by Canada, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania.

X. Exit strategy and transition

62. MONUSCO leadership visited Tanganyika in April and engaged with local authorities, who requested support to elaborate local development plans and joint actions with the United Nations system in the province. The United Nations country team, jointly with MONUSCO, is finalizing a joint programmatic transition plan for Tanganyika ahead of the Mission's withdrawal in line with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach. The plan will be focused on security for communities, strengthened social cohesion, peaceful cohabitation between Twa and Bantu communities, and access to justice, including for vulnerable groups. At its first meeting, on 14 April, the Joint Steering Committee of the Peacebuilding Fund decided that the \$5 million allocated to Tanganyika Province from the 2022 Fund's priority investment plan should be used to accompany transition priorities.

63. In the light of the transition, the withdrawal of MONUSCO from Kasai and Kasai Central and the preparation of the office closure in Kalemie, Tanganyika, development initiatives have been scaled up in the three provinces concerned. Initiatives supported by the Peacebuilding Fund contributed to securing peace dividends in transitional justice, conflict management and social cohesion by facilitating the work of 14 local peace and development committees, operationalizing the Kasai provincial truth, justice and reconciliation commission, as well as 24 local committees that support young people from the Twa and Bantu communities in achieving peaceful cohabitation.

64. MONUSCO and the United Nations country team continued to engage with the Government and civil society organizations to assess progress in implementing the transition plan, including the realization of its benchmarks and associated indicators. In parallel, the joint sub-working groups – on transition, protection and human rights, disarmament, demobilization, recovery and community stabilization, and institutional reforms – continued to work on the operationalization of the transition plan and the evaluation of progress. Meanwhile, on 24 and 25 May, at a collective workshop, relevant national institutions, civil society and United Nations entities collectively examined progress and trends. The joint working group, co-chaired by the Special Representative and the Prime Minister, met on 1 June and approved the second progress report.

XI. Mission effectiveness

A. Mission performance

1. Assessment of the performance of the force and police components

65. In line with the protection-through-projection approach, from 17 March to 23 May, MONUSCO deployed 30 standing combat deployments, conducted 8,352 day patrols, 7,289 night patrols, 2,220 long-range patrols and missions, 1,805 joint patrols, 1,057 escorts and 25 aerial reconnaissance operations. The purpose of the latter was to assist in locating armed groups and facilitate the conduct of offensive operations to restrict their movements.

66. During the reporting period, six military units were evaluated, covering two infantry battalions, two engineering units, one aviation unit and one medical unit. Five units were evaluated as satisfactory, while one unit was rated as needing improvement in training and protection of civilians. The evaluations revealed positive indicators with regard to professionalism, morale, high standards during exercises and discipline of personnel. Areas requiring improvement included identification of threats and risks to the protection of civilians, preparation of protection of civilians plans, operations room updates and base defences. The units are taking corrective measures to address these issues. The operational effectiveness index teams also identified the need to increase the number of female engagement teams, currently at 9 per cent of total strength. Other outstanding issues relate to the maintenance of accommodations and other facilities.

67. As part of the ongoing strengthening of the military unit evaluations, the military component conducted in-mission evaluations that are still under review using task, standards and indicators methodology that has been rolled out for infantry units. In addition, MONUSCO is currently undertaking pilot evaluations for military engineering, logistics and military aviation units.

68. Women represent 25.71 per cent of MONUSCO military staff officers and military observers, compared with 25.86 per cent during the previous quarter, while contingent female participation is 5.47 per cent, compared with 5.44 per cent in the previous quarter. During the reporting period, female and mixed engagement teams conducted 12 activities, including gender-sensitive long-range patrols and foot patrols to address security and protection needs in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu.

69. During the reporting period, quick reaction forces participated in joint offensive operations including Operation Bali and Operation Sake against CODECO and Operation Komanda against ADF, while several quick reaction force teams participated in joint operations under Operation Sabinyo against M23. Initial arrivals of the South African quick reaction force were inducted on 19 April. The rest of the quick reaction force arrived on 15 May, completing the re-configuration of the force Intervention Brigade.

70. MONUSCO conducted a quarterly performance evaluation of 377 individual police officers, including 99 women officers. The overall performance assessment score was 74 per cent, an increase of 1 percentage point compared with the previous quarter.

71. All eight formed police units were evaluated as satisfactory during the quarter. Two units are addressing shortfalls related to unavailable or outdated equipment following the findings of an inspection by the Contingent-Owned Equipment/Memorandum of Understanding Management Review Board. Formed police units regularly updated their contingency plans and by May had conducted 1,488 training sessions on protection of civilians, public order management, firearms,

command and control, and camp security. A total of 29 operational readiness inspections were carried out, 138 training inspection reports were issued and 5 induction training sessions were held for all formed police units in order to increase their readiness to respond to security threats and protect civilians.

72. Women currently represent 28.2 per cent of the number of individual police officers and 16.3 per cent of the number of formed police unit personnel. To achieve the target of 25 per cent women in formed police units by the end of 2022, MONUSCO assessed the need for improvements of infrastructure, including female accommodation; the development of a conducive environment; and further advertisement for female deployment within the framework of the uniformed gender parity strategy 2018–2028.

2. Progress in the implementation of the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System

73. MONUSCO undertook its first comprehensive planning and performance assessment from 12 to 15 April and subsequently produced an impact report containing the results. During the exercise, Mission components jointly reviewed progress against the mandated priorities, assessed the Mission's impact based on a set of indicators and proposed operational adjustments to enhance mandate implementation. MONUSCO also aligned its comprehensive planning and performance assessment framework with the benchmarks of the transition plan for the use of those indicators as a baseline for measuring progress towards the plan's implementation.

3. Impact of the coronavirus disease pandemic on mandate implementation

74. MONUSCO continued to implement prevention measures against COVID-19, including a 14-day quarantine for newly deployed uniformed personnel, while prioritizing operational activities focused on the protection of civilians. As at 7 May, 1,691 United Nations personnel had tested positive for COVID-19, 1,452 of whom had recovered, while the number of deaths remained unchanged, at 13. Through the United Nations vaccination campaign for Organization personnel and their dependents and for personnel of international non-governmental organizations, 23,292 vaccine doses have been administered. A total of 9,182 United Nations personnel and dependents have been fully vaccinated (6,125 military, 506 police, 2,399 civilians and 152 dependents).

B. Serious misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse

75. MONUSCO recorded two allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse between 1 March and 31 May, including two paternity claims, involving two civilian staff members for incidents that reportedly occurred in September 2020 and January 2022. MONUSCO also received 19 complaints related to past incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse involving uniformed personnel, 12 of which related to exploitative relationships and 7 to sex with minors, with 2 paternity claims that reportedly related to the period from 2004 to 2017. The complaints, which are as yet unverified, are being assessed to determine whether further action, if any, may be required, while the Senior Victims' Rights Officer has provided support as appropriate. The protection from sexual exploitation and abuse network, which includes United Nations agencies, funds and programmes as well as national and international non-governmental organizations, received 30 complaints in the first quarter of 2022.

76. MONUSCO has further strengthened measures to sensitize the population to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and facilitated reporting, in coordination with local authorities and the community-based complaint network, particularly in Masisi, where the reported 19 past sexual exploitation and abuse incidents had allegedly occurred.

XII. Safety and security of United Nations personnel

77. The safety and security of United Nations personnel and facilities remained a priority in line with Action for Peacekeeping commitments. During the reporting period, nine MONUSCO personnel were killed, including one peacekeeper, as a result of hostile action during an operation on 5 April in Ituri Province, and eight peacekeepers in a helicopter crash on 29 March in North Kivu Province. Armed group activities and clashes between FARDC and M23 affected the safety of staff and affected the delivery of United Nations programmes. A total of 129 security incidents affecting United Nations personnel and facilities were recorded during the reporting period, a decrease from the 148 security incidents reported during the previous quarter. Those included 19 incidents related to armed conflict, 59 to crime, 12 to civil unrest and 39 to hazards. Eighty-eight national staff (84 men and 4 women) and 23 international staff (17 men and 6 women) were affected.

XIII. Observations

78. I welcome the ongoing efforts of the Government, the Parliament and the Independent National Electoral Commission to prepare the ground for the holding of elections in 2023, within the constitutional deadline. The adoption of revisions to the electoral law by the National Assembly, featuring some provisions that could increase transparency and create incentives for greater participation of women candidates is an important step in the direction of achieving gender parity in accordance with the Constitution. However, I am concerned by the increase in restrictions on democratic space, including the suppression of peaceful opposition protests. I call on all stakeholders to redouble their efforts to achieve consensus in the next steps of the electoral process, so as to restore confidence and defuse rising political tensions.

79. It is vital that all stakeholders do their part in creating conditions conducive to women's meaningful participation in all stages of the electoral process. In particular, I urge political party leaders to enable the inclusion of women and youth candidates on their electoral lists.

80. I am deeply concerned by the continued impact of armed group violence on civilians, particularly vulnerable populations, including women, children and internally displaced persons. I condemn the continued attacks by armed groups on civilians, the Congolese security forces and United Nations peacekeepers. I again call on all armed groups to lay down their weapons and participate unconditionally in the political process. I welcome the appointment of the P-DDRCS Provincial Coordinators and urge stakeholders to swiftly develop the Programme's provincial operational plans. I am also deeply concerned by the rise in hate speech, including that associated with the resurgence of M23. I urge all stakeholders to condemn ethnic stereotyping and hate speech. I encourage the Government to prosecute those engaged in such irresponsible behaviour.

81. I welcome the determination of the Heads of State of the East Africa region to promote peace, stability and development in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the greater region, through the dual-track approach set out in the Nairobi process. I strongly urge all foreign armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the

Congo, including ADF, Red Tabara and FDLR, to disarm unconditionally and call upon Congolese armed groups to participate in ongoing consultations, with a view to identifying political measures necessary for the swift implementation of the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme. I call on M23 to immediately cease all hostilities and disarm.

82. I am deeply concerned about the deterioration of relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda and urge both countries to de-escalate tensions and resolve their differences peacefully, through existing regional mechanisms and the Nairobi process. I welcome the nomination by the Chairperson of the African Union of the President of Angola in his capacity as Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, to facilitate dialogue between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. The United Nations is fully committed to supporting his efforts.

83. The United Nations remains determined to work with the Government and all relevant stakeholders to create the conditions for the progressive and responsible drawdown of MONUSCO in accordance with benchmarks set out in the joint transition plan. As the Mission prepares to withdraw from Tanganyika Province in a responsible manner, it is critical that United Nations agencies, funds and programmes are provided with the additional resources required to scale up their presence and activities to help provincial authorities and local partners to preserve hard-won stabilization gains. I urge Member States and development partners to support the recently developed provincial transition plan for Tanganyika and encourage them to continue to support peacebuilding initiatives in that province and other areas of the country.

84. I remain firmly committed to a policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse in the United Nations. The Mission and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in partnership with implementing partners continue to strive for the implementation of the country-wide protection from sexual exploitation and abuse action plan with the goal of ensuring full accountability by their respective personnel. I urge Member States and donors to continue to support the action plan through predictable and sustainable funding arrangements.

85. I am deeply disturbed by the continued threats to the safety and security of United Nations personnel and humanitarian workers. Their safety and security are essential to ensure the implementation of the Mission's mandate and provide humanitarian assistance to those in need. I strongly condemn the killing of a peacekeeper who had placed himself in harm's way to protect civilians who were at risk of violence. Furthermore, I deeply regret the death of eight peacekeepers in the helicopter crash on 29 March and I renew my determination to ensure that everything possible is done to shed light on the circumstances of that incident. I renew my condolences to the families of all fallen peacekeepers. I strongly condemn all attacks against peacekeepers and reiterate that those may constitute war crimes, while threats and attacks against humanitarian personnel and assets are violations of international humanitarian law. I urge the Congolese authorities to investigate those incidents and, where relevant, bring those responsible to justice.

86. Lastly, I wish to thank my Special Representative, Bintou Keita, for her efforts and leadership. I also wish to acknowledge and thank all MONUSCO personnel, members of the United Nations system, troop-and police-contributing countries and the Office of my Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region for their steadfast commitment to achieve peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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