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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 June to 16 September 2022. It describes progress and challenges in the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

II. Political developments

2. The opening of the September parliamentary ordinary session, electoral preparations, national and regional efforts to address insecurity in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and anti-MONUSCO protests marked the reporting period.

3. On 15 September, Parliament opened its ordinary session, which is dedicated to the adoption of the 2023 budget in a context of global economic deterioration, including inflation and fuel shortages.

4. On 21 June, the Constitutional Court elected Judge Dieudonné Kamuleta Badibanga, appointed by the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, as its President for a three-year mandate. On 30 July, Mr. Tshisekedi appointed Marthe Odio as the first President of the Conseil d'État, which is involved, among other things, in the management of provincial electoral disputes.

5. On 29 June, Mr. Tshisekedi promulgated the revised Electoral Law, which had been adopted by the Parliament on 15 June. The opposition political parties, some members of the ruling Union sacrée de la nation and civil society organizations highlighted its shortcomings, such as the lack of clarity regarding electronic voting, the transmission of results and the settlement of disputes. Some opposition leaders already announced their intention to run as candidates in the 2023 presidential elections, after Mr. Tshisekedi had announced, on 12 May 2021, his intention to run for a second mandate. In this context, the good offices of MONUSCO with national and local institutions and political and civil society actors were focused on



encouraging constructive initiatives for a consensual electoral framework and timely and free elections. On 11 August, the Independent National Electoral Commission announced its decision to use semi-electronic voting procedures, as it had done in the 2018 elections. The Commission also announced that the voter registration process would be conducted between December 2022 and March 2023, but it is facing pressure from some political and civil society actors to release its electoral calendar and budget.

6. On 23 June, the former Chief of Staff of Mr. Tshisekedi, Vital Kamerhe, and his two co-defendants were cleared of accusations of embezzling funds related to the 100-day programme of the President. On 16 August, the former Special Adviser for Security, François Beya, arrested on 5 February over alleged activities affecting national security, was provisionally released for health reasons.

7. On 20 June, in Nairobi, the third conclave of Heads of State of the East African Community (EAC) ordered the prompt deployment of a regional force of EAC in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and adopted its concept of operations. During the twenty-second ordinary summit of EAC, on 21 and 22 July, the Heads of State appointed the then President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, as the facilitator of the Nairobi process and directed that a special fund be established for the regional force. The Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Christophe Lutundula, commented that the regional force would be “an offensive mission” aimed at dislodging all armed groups, starting with the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23), should the political track of the Nairobi process fail. The status-of-forces agreement of the joint regional force of EAC, outlining the obligations and responsibilities of the force to be deployed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for an initial period of six months, was signed on 8 September in Kinshasa.

8. On 6 July, Mr. Tshisekedi and the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, met in Luanda under the mediation of the President of Angola and Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, João Lourenço, to de-escalate tensions between the two countries as mandated by the African Union, and adopted the “Luanda road map”.¹ On 16 August, MONUSCO was informed that Mr. Lourenço and Mr. Kenyatta had agreed to create a coordination mechanism between the Luanda road map and the Nairobi process. In addition, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in close coordination with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, visited Brussels and Paris to advocate the support of the international community for those regional initiatives. The Special Envoy also exercised his good offices in Arusha and Kampala for the harmonious and effective implementation of the initiatives.

9. From 20 to 21 July, the Joint Permanent Commission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda convened in Luanda to define parameters for the implementation of the road map. The Commission called for the rapid deployment of

¹ The Luanda road map lists six objectives: (a) to normalize political and diplomatic relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, and to establish a climate of trust between the States of the region and create optimal conditions for dialogue and political consultations in order to resolve the current security crisis in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo; (b) to prevent violations of territorial integrity and ensure compliance with the commitments made by the States members of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in that regard; (c) to verify the reciprocal accusations of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda concerning the support for M23 and the collaboration with the Forces démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda, respectively; (d) to revitalize the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region; (e) to promote economic partnership between the States of the region and strengthen regional mechanisms to combat the illegal exploitation of natural resources; and (f) to ensure the implementation of the road map and rebuild trust between partners in the Nairobi process.

the EAC regional force, the cessation of hostilities by M23 and the disarmament of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda and its splinter groups. In addition, the Commission urged Angola to fast-track the establishment of an ad hoc verification mechanism to be led by an Angolan senior military officer, assisted by a team of Angolan observers and liaison officers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.

10. On 25 July, in Kinshasa, during its twenty-first ordinary session, the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States called for Community solidarity and adherence to the Luanda road map with regard to the cessation of hostilities by M23 and its immediate withdrawal from its current positions.

11. On 10 August, in reaction to the content of a leaked monthly update to the Security Council from the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo requested that the Council take all appropriate measures, including urging Rwanda to withdraw all of its troops from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Government of Rwanda declined to comment on an unpublished report and denied responsibility, reiterating that M23 was a Congolese problem.

12. On 17 August, at the forty-second summit of Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community, held in Kinshasa, Mr. Tshisekedi was elected as Chair for one year. The Heads of State mandated the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Namibia, in his capacity as Chair of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and supported by the troop-contributing countries of the Intervention Brigade of the force, to engage with the Secretary-General to explore all avenues for supporting efforts towards improving the security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. On the margins of the summit, the Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community met the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and called for the increased and structured exchange of information between MONUSCO and the Community.

III. Security situation

13. The security situation was marked by persistent violence perpetrated mostly by the Coopérative pour le développement du Congo (CODECO), the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and M23 in Ituri and North Kivu, notwithstanding the continued extension of the state of siege in the two provinces. Mai-Mai groups intensified attacks on civilians in South Kivu. Anti-MONUSCO rhetoric, which had risen steadily in recent months, erupted in a wave of violent demonstrations targeting MONUSCO bases and personnel across the eastern provinces of the country.

A. Ituri Province

14. The security situation in Irumu territory remained volatile, with violence perpetrated by ADF persisting during the reporting period. In Djugu territory, the situation improved tenuously, following the commitment of CODECO factions on 4 June to ceasing hostilities, adhering to the Nairobi process and participating in the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme (P-DDRCS). Between 17 June and 31 August, armed group activities resulted in 204 civilians killed, with 59 others injured, including at least 13 women and 6 children. As of August, the number of internally displaced persons in Ituri stood at an estimated 1.7 million.

15. In Irumu and Mambasa territories, ADF continued to attack civilians, especially along the road connecting Komanda, Mambasa and Luna, and in the areas of Tchabi and Boga. Insecurity was heightened following the redeployment of State security forces to the Petit Nord area of North Kivu as part of the operations against M23. In Irumu and Mambasa, between 17 June and 31 August, ADF killed 111 civilians, including at least 12 women and 12 children, injured 20 others, including at least 2 women and 3 children, and abducted 214 others, including at least 51 children. In Djugu and Mahagi territories, violence against civilians declined, following the commitment by CODECO factions on 4 June. In western Djugu, however, competition between combatants of CODECO and the armed group Zaïre over the control of mining areas persisted, causing serious harm to civilians. Between 17 June and 31 August, CODECO combatants killed 37 civilians, including 7 women, and injured 25 others, including 2 women and 3 children. During the reporting period, Zaïre combatants killed at least 44 civilians, including 6 children and 12 women, most of whom were members of the Lendu community.

B. North Kivu Province

16. In the Grand Nord area, violence by ADF and Mai-Mai groups continued to cause extensive harm to civilians. Between 17 June and 31 August, ADF carried out at least 24 attacks against civilians, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and Uganda People's Defence Force troops in Beni territory, resulting in the killing of 95 civilians, including 8 women, and in injuries to 5 men. In Beni, threats of attacks by ADF against the central prison prompted national authorities and MONUSCO to reinforce prison security measures and transfer 150 high-risk inmates associated with the armed group to Kinshasa. On 10 August, armed combatants attacked Kakwangura prison in Butembo, resulting in the escape of some 816 inmates, including approximately 600 former members of armed groups, with the remainder forced to exit the prison under threat of death. Some 216 were recaptured in the following days. On 11 August, Islamic State Central Africa Province issued a communiqué in which it claimed responsibility for the attack. In Lubero territory, security conditions deteriorated owing to clashes among Mai-Mai groups seeking to exploit the vacuum created by the redeployment of FARDC to the Petit Nord area.

17. In the Petit Nord area, direct confrontation between FARDC, supported by MONUSCO, and M23 in Rutshuru and Nyiragongo territories continued, including in the vicinity of the Rumangabo military camp in late July. M23 reinforced its positions in eastern Rutshuru and expanded its control over western Rutshuru. In July, M23 announced its intention to establish a civilian administration in the areas that it occupied, after having taken over Bunangana in June.

18. There were indications that FDLR, Mai-Mai groups and Nyatura factions were collaborating on the recruitment of new members to counter M23, which engages in the forcible recruitment of young people. Between 17 June and 31 August, at least 26 civilians, including 8 children, were killed, and 9 others, including 3 women, were injured in incidents involving M23. A total of 184,420 civilians remained internally displaced, with a further 42,723 refugees in Uganda, owing to the conflict in the Petit Nord area.

19. Violent demonstrations and attacks against MONUSCO occurred in North Kivu in late July, following months of anti-MONUSCO campaigning on social media and a rally organized by the President of the Senate, Modeste Bahati Lukwebo, on 15 July, during which he accused MONUSCO of inefficiency and called upon the Mission to leave the country. On 25 and 26 July, equipped with petrol-based projectiles, crowds breached multiple mission premises, including the logistics base and regional alpha base in Goma, and engaged in extensive looting and destruction of property. Some

private residences of MONUSCO personnel were also ransacked. On 26 July, in Butembo, demonstrators fired upon mission personnel, killing two MONUSCO police officers and one military personnel. Two other MONUSCO police officers were injured. Later the same evening, another MONUSCO military personnel lost his life in a friendly fire incident. Subsequent measures were taken, in collaboration with the Congolese authorities, to enhance the safety and security of mission premises and personnel. At least 32 Congolese people were killed and 170 injured during the demonstrations in North Kivu. MONUSCO set up three joint investigation teams to provide technical support to the Congolese National Police and the Congolese military prosecutor's office in Goma and Uvira.

20. On 31 July, a grave incident occurred at the Kasindi border post between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. The incident involved MONUSCO military personnel escorting a military unit returning from leave, which, regrettably, resulted in the deaths of 3 civilians and physical injury to 2 Congolese National Police officers and 13 civilians. The Mission launched a fact-finding inquiry and convened a board of inquiry to investigate the incident. Meanwhile, the troop-contributing country involved appointed a national investigation team, which was deployed on 18 August to investigate the incident.

C. South Kivu and Maniema Provinces

21. Armed group activities continued to threaten civilians, especially in the Hauts and Moyens Plateaux of Fizi, Mwenga and Uvira territories. Between 17 June and 31 August, 38 security incidents were recorded, which resulted in the killing of 14 civilians, including 4 women, and injuries to 5 civilians. Approximately 18,495 people had been internally displaced within South Kivu and Maniema as of June.

22. In the Hauts Plateaux, insecurity persisted owing to clashes between Mai-Mai groups and Twirwaneho combatants, especially around Minembwe, as well as fighting between State security forces and armed groups. The reporting period was marked by the continuous recruitment and training of new combatants by Twirwaneho in the Minembwe and Kahololo areas, including among the estimated 1,200 returnees formerly displaced to the Ruzizi Plain. In reaction to the surrender of approximately 35 former Twirwaneho combatants since January, the group stepped up its retaliation against individuals perceived to be involved in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. While security situation around Bibokoboko improved, Mai-Mai combatants continued to threaten Banyamulenge civilians. On 18 July, they ambushed a convoy of Burundian refugees undergoing repatriation. Elsewhere in Uvira territory, Mai-Mai groups continued to perpetrate armed activity on the Ruzizi Plain.

23. Two contingents of the army of Burundi, estimated to comprise 600 troops, entered the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 15 and 18 August and were cantoned in Luberizi, in the Uvira territory, as part of a bilateral agreement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi. As stated by the Deputy Minister of Defence, Séraphine Kilubu, at the meeting of the Council of Ministers on 19 August, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi had signed a memorandum of understanding as part of efforts to eradicate armed groups in South Kivu.

IV. Human rights situation

24. In June and July, MONUSCO documented 847 human rights violations and abuses, a reduction of 31 per cent compared with 1,233 documented in March and

April and a decrease from 1,210 during the same period in 2021. Armed groups were responsible for 62 per cent of those abuses. At least 428 people were victims of extrajudicial and summary killings (304 men, 71 women and 53 children), a significant increase from the 358 recorded in April and May, but a decrease from 435 during the same period in 2021. The vast majority of the killings were perpetrated by armed groups.

25. Approximately 89 per cent of abuses were committed in conflict-affected provinces. In North Kivu Province, ADF combatants appeared to be responsible for the highest number of abuses (119), followed by various Mai-Mai factions (103), Nyatura (84) and Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain (26). In North Kivu and Ituri, ADF appeared to be responsible for the killing of 182 civilians (132 men, 33 women and 17 children). In Ituri Province, CODECO appeared to have committed the highest number of abuses, summarily executing at least 70 civilians (50 men, 14 women and 6 children). In Rutshuru, M23 attacks intensified, resulting in the killing of at least 25 men, 6 women and 12 children, notably in retaliation for allegedly providing information to FARDC. The resurgence of M23 fuelled hate speech targeting Rwandans and Congolese of Tutsi origin.

26. Some 37.2 per cent of violations appeared to have been committed by State actors, down from 44.5 per cent during the same period in 2021. Among State agents, the Congolese National Police appeared to have committed the highest number of human rights violations (145 violations affecting 189 victims, compared with 187 violations affecting 319 victims during the same period in 2021, a 6 per cent decrease compared with the previous period). FARDC appeared to have committed 115 violations, including the extrajudicial killings of 12 men, 2 women and 2 children, a 32 per cent decrease compared with the previous period and down from 44 men, 12 women and 4 children during the same period in 2021. However, violations by the Congolese National Police often related to personal liberty and freedom of movement, whereas violations committed by FARDC frequently related to more serious crimes, including extrajudicial killings and sexual violence.

27. Documented violations of democratic space decreased by 16 per cent compared with the previous period. Violations allegedly committed by the Agence nationale des renseignements decreased by 10 per cent compared with April and May, but the agency continued to illegally detain more than 35 individuals in Kinshasa.

28. MONUSCO continued to provide technical and financial support for the efforts to combat impunity, leading to the trial and conviction of at least 44 Congolese soldiers, 15 Congolese National Police officers and 104 armed group members for crimes relating to human rights violations and abuses since January. MONUSCO is also providing technical support to the judicial authorities in carrying out investigations into deaths and the destruction of properties during anti-MONUSCO demonstrations in North and South Kivu Provinces, as well as into the incident at the Kasindi border post.

V. Humanitarian situation

29. The humanitarian crisis continues to be among the most complex and challenging in the world, with approximately 27 million people in need of assistance and protection. There are an estimated 5.53 million internally displaced people in the country, the largest caseload in Africa, with 1.29 million people newly displaced since January 2022. Rising insecurity, violence and crime have affected the ability of humanitarian partners to deliver assistance, at times forcing them to delay, suspend or relocate operations.

30. The country has continued to face challenges related to multiple recurring epidemics, including cholera, measles, polio, the Ebola virus disease and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). As at 31 August, the Ministry of Health had reported 92,633 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 1,400 resulting in death. Given the limited testing capacity, the total number of cases and casualties remains underestimated. According to the World Health Organization, 2,661,301 people have been fully vaccinated, representing 4.9 per cent of the eligible population.

31. Thanks to a robust response, on 5 July the Government declared the end of the fourteenth outbreak of the Ebola virus disease, which had claimed the lives of five people in Équateur Province. On 21 August, health authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared a resurgence of the disease in North Kivu, following the death of a 46-year-old woman in Beni on 15 August. With the support of the United Nations country team, working in close collaboration with government agencies and health partners, 160 of her close contacts were identified. The vaccination of front-line health workers started on 25 August with the support of the World Health Organization.

32. The Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to rank as one of the most insecure places for humanitarian workers globally. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 34 security incidents directly affecting humanitarian personnel or assets were recorded in July, the highest number since the beginning of 2022.

33. By 19 August, the humanitarian response plan for the Democratic Republic of the Congo for 2022, targeting 8.8 million people, had received 33 per cent of the required funding of \$1.88 billion.

VI. Protection of civilians

A. Mission strategies and political processes

34. In line with the Action for Peacekeeping Plus priorities, MONUSCO continued to implement mission-wide, area-based protection strategies, in close coordination with the United Nations country team, the Congolese authorities and civil society actors.

35. In this context, the Mission's leadership maintained active engagement with national and provincial authorities to address the security vacuum created by the repositioning of Congolese forces, supported by MONUSCO troops, in the Grand Nord area of North Kivu and in Ituri for operations against M23.

36. In response to a surge in hostile rhetoric targeting MONUSCO, including from government officials and political actors, the Mission shared a note verbale with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 18 July, recalling the status-of-forces agreement and the primary responsibility of the State to ensure the safety and security of mission premises and personnel. The Mission activated its crisis management mechanisms following violent anti-MONUSCO demonstrations in July. From 29 to 31 July, the Mission's leadership and the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations engaged with the national and provincial authorities, including the President and the Prime Minister, to enhance security measures, avoid further disruption to the Mission's operations and enable the Mission to continue to discharge its mandate to protect civilians. The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Protection and Operations and the Minister of Communications and government spokesperson made two joint appearances on national television and radio to appeal for

non-violence and stress that MONUSCO operated at the invitation and with the consent of the Government.

37. The team of eight experts contracted by the Mission on 1 June for a three-month period continued to support the political track of the Nairobi process. The team provided advisory, technical and logistical support during the second round of consultations, which were held in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu, from 17 to 24 May. MONUSCO continued to work with the joint secretariat of the Nairobi process to support transitional measures for combatants who voluntarily agree to cease hostilities, pending the full operationalization of P-DDRCS.

B. Field-level responses

38. Planning is under way to establish a base in the Mongbwalu mining area in western Djugu territory, where clashes between CODECO militias and Zaïre persisted. In Irumu territory, on 9 and 17 July, MONUSCO and FARDC exchanged fire with and repelled ADF combatants following an exchange of fire in Busiyo and Bwana-Sura, resulting in 4 civilian casualties and the abduction of 123 other civilians. On three separate occasions, the Mission's base in Tchabi provided protective shelter to hundreds of vulnerable civilians fleeing ADF attacks. MONUSCO police provided training to national counterparts on investigatory techniques because of the high number of abductions by ADF in Tchabi and Boga. MONUSCO continued to liaise with local stakeholders as part of early warning mechanisms and engaged with communities to consolidate gains from the Bira and Lendu intracommunity dialogues held in April and June, respectively. Efforts are under way to facilitate a similar dialogue with the Hema community.

39. In the Grand Nord area of North Kivu, the Mission facilitated workshops and round tables, including several informal political discussions, in Beni town and Butembo, with representatives of civil society, political parties, local authorities, security forces and community leaders, with a view to collectively addressing structural drivers of conflict. The Intervention Brigade of MONUSCO dispatched quick-reaction forces, especially in Mamove, Eringeti and Rwenzori, to counter the ADF and Mai-Mai combatants. On 29 June, a joint FARDC-MONUSCO patrol repelled ADF attacks on civilians in Kilya. From 11 to 29 July, a long-range mission was deployed in the Bulongo commune to deter further ADF attacks in the area and facilitate the safe passage of civilians fleeing the area. Furthermore, MONUSCO police trained Congolese National Police and donated material in Beni and Butembo.

40. In the Petit Nord area of North Kivu, the Mission maintained bases and defensive positions and established five new standing combat deployments in response to evolving risks to civilians and to support the FARDC against M23. On 4 July, MONUSCO troops ensured the safe passage of approximately 2,500 people fleeing clashes between FARDC and M23. On 17 July, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund, MONUSCO facilitated the return of 478 Congolese children who had fled to Uganda from Rutshuru territory, enabling them to attend school examinations. MONUSCO continued to engage closely with civil society in order to help to build mutual understanding, including through efforts to counter misinformation and negative perceptions of the Mission.

41. In South Kivu, MONUSCO provided support to Congolese forces in facilitating the voluntary return of internally displaced persons from Bweyera to Kahololo. A long-range patrol was dispatched in the Minembwe area to provide safe passage to refugees returning to Burundi. In addition, the Mission facilitated the voluntary disarmament of combatants in the Hauts Plateaux. Following violent anti-MONUSCO demonstrations, the Mission assisted the provincial authorities in conducting a joint

inquiry into the deaths of demonstrators in Uvira. Furthermore, the Mission continued to invest in community protection and early warning mechanisms by expanding, among others, community alert networks in Bukavu and several vulnerable areas in Walungu, Kabare, Kalehe and Shabunda territories.

42. The Mission's community alert network system received 578 alerts between 17 June and 31 August, of which 41 per cent originated from South Kivu, 39 per cent from North Kivu and 13 per cent from Ituri. State security forces and/or MONUSCO responded to 55 per cent of the alerts. The remaining 45 per cent were either too imprecise or too far away for assistance to be provided in time.

43. Through the Mine Action Service, MONUSCO conducted 154 spot tasks in North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika, between 17 June and 24 August. Nearly 1 million rounds of small arms ammunition were destroyed, as well as 2,050 explosive remnants of war, 2,714 other explosive devices and 6 weapons. Risk awareness sessions on explosive devices and explosive remnants of war were conducted in Kinshasa, Bukavu, Goma, Bunia, Beni, Lubero, Butembo and Rumangabo towns for United Nations military and civilian personnel, personnel of non-governmental organizations, local authorities and the local population. Five improvised explosive device incidents were reported and three such devices were destroyed in Beni territory.

VII. Stabilization and the strengthening of State institutions

A. Stabilization and drivers of conflict

44. MONUSCO continued to support the implementation of the national P-DDRCS strategy. Through its advocacy, the United Nations was able to secure the release of \$14.1 million from the multi-donor Stabilization Coherence Fund to support P-DDRCS. On 25 July, the national steering board of the Fund validated the final version of the concept note for the allocation of the funds in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu in support of implementation of P-DDRCS.

45. On 17 August, with the support of MONUSCO and the United Nations Development Programme, the national coordinator of P-DDRCS organized a workshop to present the national operational plan for the implementation of P-DDRCS for 2022–2023, budgeted at \$20 million. However, the development and validation of provincial operational plans, supported by MONUSCO, were delayed owing to the recent violent demonstrations and the lack of funding from the Government.

46. On 27 June, MONUSCO and the United Nations country team organized a one-day retreat in Kinshasa to coordinate and harmonize support for P-DDRCS. Participants agreed to create a joint coordination mechanism for supporting P-DDRCS. The mechanism is open to all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the World Bank and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region with a view to developing a joint United Nations programme for peace and stabilization for North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, Tanganyika, Maniema and the Kasai region. In addition, the mechanism will examine ways to best align support for P-DDRCS and transitional measures with the political track of the Nairobi process.

47. Implementing partners of the Stabilization Coherence Fund provided financial, technical and logistical support to Congolese authorities in organizing six mobile court hearings, in Tchomia, Iga-Barrière, Nizi, Fataki, Bule and Kpandroma, in Ituri Province, aimed at increasing popular trust and access to judicial services. During the

hearings, 635 cases were heard and 237 verdicts were rendered. Simultaneously, 2,000 people (including 1,600 women) were made aware of the work of the new Tribunal of Peace.

B. Security sector and justice system reforms

48. MONUSCO continued to support the strengthening of national oversight institutions in the security sector. On 23 June, MONUSCO facilitated a training session for members of the parliamentary commissions for defence and security. On 7 July, a training session was organized for parliamentary staff on the oversight role of the legislators in security sector governance.

49. On 27 June, MONUSCO supported the organization of a plenary session co-chaired by the presidents of the commissions for defence and security, on the establishment of an inclusive coordination mechanism for the national security sector. On 28 July, Mr. Tshisekedi signed into law the military programming bill for the period 2022–2025, which is focused on strengthening the financial, logistical and operational capacities of FARDC. The Government estimates the cost of implementing the law at \$1 billion annually.

50. MONUSCO supported the national police reform through its joint programme with the United Nations Development Programme. On 17 June, a meeting of the *Comité local d'approbation du programme conjoint des Nations Unies d'appui à la Police nationale congolaise* (2022–2025) approved a four-year plan budgeted at \$73,372,291 to strengthen Congolese police capacity.

51. MONUSCO continued to support the implementation of the national justice reform strategy through the joint justice reform support programme. While the hearings were conducted in accordance with fair trial standards, several victims of sexual violence did not appear in Luiza for fear of reprisals. During mobile hearings supported by the programme during the reporting period, 166 people were convicted of various offences, including 34 individuals convicted of rape of minors of 47 cases of sexual violence. In late June, in the context of its withdrawal from Tanganyika, the Mission also conducted capacity-building activities in Moba, Manono and Kongolo for 56 judicial police officers, 34 clerks, including 22 women, and 35 secretaries of prosecutors' offices, including 19 women. The advocacy of MONUSCO resulted in the release of 20 children detained with adults at Goma prison, including 2 girls.

52. Security and detention conditions remain challenging, including as a result of severe overpopulation in detention facilities. As at 31 August, the 11 priority detention facilities monitored and supported by MONUSCO recorded an increase of 338 prisoners, from 23,981 to 24,319, comprising 23,713 males and 606 females, including 705 juveniles. The number of pretrial detainees in the total prison population decreased by 384, representing a reduction to 76 per cent, down from 80 per cent in the previous reporting period, as a result of persistent advocacy and support for reducing prolonged pretrial detentions.

53. As at 31 August, 93 deaths, caused mainly by overcrowding, malnutrition and tuberculosis, had been recorded in eight prisons, with the highest tolls in Goma (32), Makala (28) and Bunia (23). To address the issue of overcrowding in prisons, the Mission reinforced collaboration with key stakeholders to advocate the implementation of more impact-oriented measures in that regard, including alternative sentencing policies adopted in the context of the ongoing prison reforms. Concurrently, on 11 July, the first phase of the rehabilitation of the Kabare medium-security prison was completed, and the facility was handed over to national authorities. The prison, with capacity for 500 detainees, was rehabilitated to help to

reduce overcrowding in prisons in North Kivu. Prior to the handover, 184 prisoners were transferred from Bukavu and Uvira prisons.

54. Following the attack on the Kakwangura prison in Butembo, MONUSCO helped the national authorities to enhance the security around prisons across the country, focusing mainly on priority prisons.

C. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

55. MONUSCO continued to support the voluntary disengagement of armed group combatants. Between 17 June and 5 August, the Mission disarmed and provided reintegration support to 25 Congolese former combatants, including 1 child, and facilitated their return to their communities of origin. Six conflict violence reduction projects were completed in Beni town and Bukavu, providing vocational training and income to 281 former combatants, at-risk young people and vulnerable women. In addition, five Rwandan combatants were repatriated.

56. In Bunia, Ituri, the Mission helped to identify eight potential sites for the implementation of P-DDRCS, which could accommodate 1,000 combatants. The Mission was requested to provide future support for weapons control, awareness-raising, reinsertion and reintegration.

VIII. Women and peace and security

57. In line with the Action for Peacekeeping Plus commitments, MONUSCO continued to support women's participation in political and decision-making processes. The Mission organized two capacity-building workshops, in Goma on 23 June and in Kinshasa on 29 June, to advance women's political participation, including in the upcoming electoral process. Between 2 and 15 July, the Mission also conducted awareness-raising workshops on combating sexism and on gender-sensitive governance in Bunia, Ituri Province, and in Bukavu, South Kivu. Participants included 123 young leaders, including 31 girls; 35 university student leaders, including 30 women; and 48 representatives from political parties, civil society organizations and media groups, including 5 women. The participants committed themselves to promoting peace and gender equality.

58. MONUSCO promoted the meaningful participation of women in ongoing conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes, namely, the Nairobi process and the implementation of P-DDRCS. On 22 June, MONUSCO, in partnership with the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Ministry of Gender, Family and Children, organized a workshop on women and peace and security. To follow up, the Mission facilitated a joint high-level advocacy mission in Kinshasa from 12 to 15 July led by the former transitional President of the Central African Republic and co-Chair of the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation, Catherine Samba Panza, assisted by the Vice-President of the National Assembly of Burundi and President of the Regional Women's Forum of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, Sabine Ntakarutimana. The delegation collected the views and recommendations of Congolese authorities, women and youth groups, representatives of political parties, and traditional and religious leaders in relation to key peace and security challenges.

59. From 28 June to 2 July, MONUSCO conducted capacity-building activities on the women peace and security agenda for administrative authorities, members of security and defence forces and local politico-administrative authorities in Vitshumbi

and Kibirizi in Rutshuru territory. The awareness of participants was raised with regard to women's participation in peace processes and in the protection of civilians.

IX. Child protection and conflict-related sexual violence

60. Between 17 June and 31 July, MONUSCO verified 285 grave violations perpetrated by armed actors against 212 children (156 boys and 56 girls), including 40 children killed or maimed (27 boys and 13 girls). ADF was responsible for the largest share of verified violations (43). Congolese soldiers were allegedly responsible for eight cases of sexual violence against eight girls, the abduction of three girls, the killing and maiming of one boy and one girl, and three attacks on schools, in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu.

61. Between 17 June and 31 July, 68 children (54 boys and 14 girls) who had escaped from, been separated from or been voluntarily released by armed groups were verified as having been recruited and used. Six children were newly recruited. The Aluta M'Chingwa self-defence group, Mai-Mai Mazembe and Nyatura were alleged to be the main perpetrators of child recruitment and use among cases of verified grave violations of children's rights.

62. In June and July, at least 82 women were victims of conflict-related sexual violence, a 23 per cent decrease compared with the previous reporting period. Armed groups were allegedly responsible for incidents affecting 74 victims, while State actors were reportedly responsible for 8, including 4 attributed to Congolese soldiers. Among armed groups, the main perpetrators were various Mai-Mai groups (24 victims), CODECO (19), Nyatura (16), Mai-Mai Raia Mutomboki (10) and Twa militiamen (10). Most cases were recorded in Tanganyika (33 per cent), South Kivu (30 per cent), North Kivu (24 per cent), Ituri (12 per cent) and Maniema (1 per cent).

63. MONUSCO continued to engage with national authorities, including the Personal Representative of the President on Sexual Violence and Child Recruitment, to support the implementation of the joint communiqué on the efforts to combat conflict-related sexual violence. Focal points in MONUSCO provided technical support to ensure the implementation of their action plans.

64. National coordination activities for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse were focused on areas experiencing emergencies in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Awareness-raising and training activities were carried out in Masisi, Roe, Rutshuru, Uvira, Nyunzu and Kinshasa. A total of 876 humanitarian actors were trained, and activities with communities reached 2,116 community members. The national coordination team also facilitated the training of 21 local investigators, including 10 women, with the aim of deploying them to carry out investigations in different provinces once standard operating procedures have been adopted.

65. The national coordination team provided members of different humanitarian clusters with training courses on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, enabling each cluster to develop its own prevention strategy and action plan by the end of 2022, in accordance with the humanitarian response plan.

X. Exit strategy and transition

66. The Mission leadership continued to work towards the operationalization of the transition plan. The transition sub-working group continued to be active and met regularly until mid-July. A two-day technical-level meeting was held on 23 and 24 June, with the aim of exchanging lessons learned from the past two progress

reports submitted to the Security Council and identifying good practices and areas for improvement or revision. Participants included members of the expanded technical secretariat of the transition sub-working group and civil society. They agreed on the need to revise repetitive indicators, develop ways to better reflect trends and visualize progress towards the achievement of benchmarks, and further engage civil society in the monitoring and reporting process.

67. Following the violent anti-MONUSCO demonstrations, the President instructed the Prime Minister, on 1 August, to review the transition plan with MONUSCO. The Prime Minister subsequently indicated that the Government had formulated the concept and criteria for the review but that they had yet to be shared with the Mission.

68. On 21 June, MONUSCO closed its Kalemie field office in Tanganyika during a ceremony attended by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, a representative of the Minister of Interior and the Governor of Tanganyika. The Governor thanked MONUSCO for its contributions over the years and committed herself to working collaboratively with the United Nations country team that would remain in the province, supported by a residual complement of 29 MONUSCO staff and a temporary force presence in Bendera. A joint United Nations workplan for the period 2022–2023 has been developed with the provincial authorities, as part of the larger MONUSCO transition planning.

XI. Mission effectiveness

A. Mission performance

1. Assessment of the performance of the civilian and uniformed components

Military component

69. As at 12 September, the military component of MONUSCO had deployed 12,748 troops, 5.80 per cent of whom were women, and 495 United Nations military experts on mission, 25.66 per cent of whom were women, of an authorized strength of 13,500 troops (with 12,919 currently budgeted) and 660 United Nations military experts on mission (with 508 currently budgeted).

70. In line with the Mission concept, from 21 June to 31 July, MONUSCO implemented 13 standing combat deployments and conducted 3,999 day patrols, 4,147 night patrols, 1,181 long-range patrols and missions, 1,246 joint patrols, 667 escorts and 6 aerial reconnaissance operations. The operations assisted in locating armed groups and facilitated the conduct of offensive operations to restrict their movements.

71. In line with the Action for Peacekeeping Plus commitments, the Mission conducted evaluations of six military units, covering three infantry battalions, one engineering unit, one intelligence unit and one medical unit. All units were evaluated as satisfactory. The evaluations revealed positive indicators in terms of professionalism, morale, high standards during exercises and discipline of personnel. Areas requiring improvement included the identification of threats and risks to the protection of civilians, the preparation of protection-of-civilians plans, operations room updates and base defences. A performance improvement plan was developed as a corrective measure. The operational effectiveness index teams continued to highlight the need to increase the number of female engagement teams, currently at 9 per cent of the force's total strength. Other outstanding issues relate to the maintenance of accommodations and other facilities.

72. 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 developed by the Office of Military Affairs and already rolled out for infantry units. In addition, pilot evaluations for military engineering, logistics and military aviation units are under way.

73. Women represent 25.46 per cent of MONUSCO military staff officers and military observers, compared with 25.71 per cent during the previous quarter, while contingent female participation stands at 5.64 per cent, compared with 5.47 per cent in the previous quarter. 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.

Police component

74. The formed police units of MONUSCO comprised 1,222 officers (1,023 men and 199 women), constituting female representation of 16.2 per cent. In order to achieve the target of 25 per cent women in such units by the end of 2022, MONUSCO assessed the need for improvements in infrastructure, including female accommodation and further outreach in the context of the uniformed gender parity strategy for the period 2018–2028. The MONUSCO police component conducted 391 training sessions for 6,182 formed police unit combatants and 19 inspections to boost the performance, readiness and efficiency of the units. Owing to the prevailing situation in the east, following anti-MONUSCO demonstrations, the next round of quarterly performance evaluations of the units was postponed.

75. As at 31 August, there were 441 individual MONUSCO police officers (310 men and 131 women), constituting female representation of 29 per cent. The performance assessment score of the officers was 83 per cent, a 9 per cent increase compared with the previous quarter. This reflects the positive impact of training sessions conducted during the reporting period on the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System, the protection of civilians, and Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments.

Civilian personnel

76. As at 14 September, 2,512 civilian personnel (23.8 per cent women), including 304 United Nations Volunteers and 46 government-provided correctional personnel, were serving with MONUSCO. This represents 91.1 per cent of the 2,757 approved positions.

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

77. On the basis of the first impact assessment using the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System, conducted from 12 to 15 April, MONUSCO developed a fact sheet containing visualized data, which was used to support the Security Council briefing on the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 29 June. MONUSCO refined the impact indicators and further streamlined and integrated data as a baseline for measuring progress towards the implementation of the transition plan. The next impact assessment is planned for the third quarter of 2022.

3. Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mandate implementation

78. In line with the host country and United Nations Headquarters guidance, all MONUSCO personnel resumed work from United Nations premises as from 1 June. The Mission continued to monitor developments and implement prevention measures against COVID-19, including vaccination campaigns and the promotion of safety

precautions. As at 8 August, 1,790 United Nations personnel had tested positive for COVID-19, of whom 1,777 had recovered, while the number of deaths remained unchanged at 13. Through the United Nations vaccination campaign for Organization personnel and their dependents and personnel of international non-governmental organizations, 23,409 vaccine doses have been administered. A total of 9,232 United Nations personnel and dependents in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been fully vaccinated (6,125 military, 508 police, 2,440 civilians and 159 dependents).

B Serious misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse

79. Between 1 June and 31 August, MONUSCO recorded six new allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse occurring in 2022. Twelve other allegations referring to incidents that had occurred between 2006 and 2021 were also recorded. The 18 allegations, involving 15 uniformed personnel and 3 civilians, include 16 alleged victims and 12 paternity claims. All allegations are pending investigation by the relevant police- and troop-contributing countries and by the United Nations.

80. Victims continue to be the focus of MONUSCO when an allegation of sexual exploitation is made. In coordination with the Senior Victims' Rights Officer, MONUSCO ensured that the 16 alleged victims and 12 children subject to paternity claims were supported and received appropriate assistance, notably medical and psychosocial support, in a timely manner, in accordance with the victim assistance protocols established with service providers, including the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund.

81. In line with the zero-tolerance policy of the Secretary-General and the United Nations with regard to sexual exploitation and abuse, MONUSCO further reinforced its prevention strategies, including its ongoing risk assessments and the implementation of mitigation measures. MONUSCO, in partnership with local authorities and civil society organizations, carried out extensive awareness-raising activities, especially in areas where the Mission had a strong presence, in particular of uniformed personnel. In addition, the Mission has been taking all measures necessary to ensure its full compliance with the policy, including by following up with the United Nations investigation entities to ensure adherence to agreed deadlines and sharing the outcome of investigation reports and related recommendations with the relevant United Nations authorities.

XII. Safety and security of United Nations personnel

82. The safety and security of United Nations personnel and facilities remained a priority in line with the Action for Peacekeeping Plus commitments. Following the violent anti-MONUSCO demonstrations on 25 and 26 July, in North Kivu, the Mission swiftly adopted mitigation measures, including movement restrictions and the relocation of personnel. As at 16 September, all personnel based in Butembo had been temporarily relocated to Beni and Kiwanja. The relocation was coordinated with the Congolese authorities, and the vacated mission premises were placed under the protection of FARDC and the Congolese National Police.

83. A total of 130 security incidents affecting United Nations personnel, operations and facilities were recorded, an increase of 45 from the 85 security incidents reported during the previous quarter. Of those incidents, 3 were related to armed conflict, 54 to crime, 48 to civil unrest and 35 to hazards. A total of 91 United Nations personnel were affected, comprising 57 national (49 men and 8 women) and 34 international (30 men and 4 women) United Nations personnel. Compared with the previous

reporting period, there was a decrease of 16 armed conflict incidents but an increase of 36 civil unrest incidents owing to the violent anti-MONUSCO demonstrations. The Mission continued to systematically call for the application of the status-of-forces agreement by the national, provincial and local authorities.

XIII. Observations

84. I welcome the ongoing efforts of the Government, Parliament and the Independent National Electoral Commission to lay the critical groundwork for the holding of elections in 2023, in line with the constitutional deadlines. The timely issuance by the Commission of its electoral calendar and comprehensive budget would be particularly important in order for partners to plan their support for the electoral process.

85. I remain concerned by the apparent lack of consensus among political and civil society actors on key aspects of the electoral process. I call upon all stakeholders to work towards the creation of a conducive environment for the holding of peaceful and transparent elections. I encourage the Independent National Electoral Commission to pursue its consultations with political and civil society actors to build trust and defuse tensions. The United Nations stands ready to work with the Commission and all stakeholders towards this end.

86. I commend the women and peace and security advisory board for the Great Lakes region for its efforts to increase the meaningful participation of Congolese women in the country's political and peace processes, including the 2023 elections. I encourage further regional efforts to promote best practices in this regard.

87. I am profoundly troubled by the unspeakable suffering that civilians, in particular women, children and internally displaced persons, are forced to endure by armed groups. I condemn the continued attacks by armed groups on the civilian population. I reiterate my call upon all armed groups to lay down their weapons unconditionally. I urge Congolese armed groups to join the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme and foreign armed groups to demobilize and return to their country of origin.

88. I deplore the recent surge in ethnically charged hate speech in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I welcome the steps taken by the Congolese authorities to publicly condemn this reprehensible behaviour and call upon them to ensure that those responsible are held accountable. I encourage the Congolese authorities to pursue their efforts to develop a legal framework to combat tribalism, racism and xenophobia.

89. It is deeply regrettable that the recent protests against MONUSCO in North Kivu and South Kivu resulted in the deaths of Congolese citizens and United Nations personnel. I welcome the Government's commitment to prosecuting those responsible, with the full support and cooperation of MONUSCO. I also extend my condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the incident on 31 July at the Kasindi border post in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Investigations into this tragic incident are under way, and the United Nations will do everything in its power to ensure that those found responsible are held accountable for their actions.

90. I acknowledge the frustration caused by the persistent violence and insecurity facing so many Congolese in the country's eastern provinces. However, I strongly condemn the violent nature of the demonstrations against the Mission, deplore the resulting losses and call upon the authorities to uphold their responsibility to protect United Nations assets and personnel. I wish to reassure all those genuinely committed to addressing the daunting security challenges facing the Democratic Republic of the

Congo that MONUSCO is ready to work with them to address any perceived shortfalls in its performance peacefully and constructively. I encourage the Congolese authorities to work closely with MONUSCO in a transparent manner to ensure that the common objectives of peace and stability in the country are achieved.

91. The closure of the MONUSCO field offices in Tanganyika in June is a historic milestone in the Mission's progressive drawdown and withdrawal. Every effort must be made to ensure that the hard-won security gains achieved in this vitally important province, with the support of MONUSCO, are preserved. I take note of the Government's call for a review of the joint transition plan for MONUSCO. I hope that this exercise will serve as a vehicle for identifying concrete steps that must be taken, as a matter of priority, to create the minimum-security conditions for the Mission's responsible, conditions-based exit from the three conflict-affected provinces that constitute the focus of its operations.

92. The constructive engagement of regional partners remains a key condition for lasting peace and stability in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is also imperative that regional partners genuinely uphold their obligation to refrain from all acts that undermine the peace, stability or territorial integrity of the country. I reiterate the full support of the United Nations for the ongoing mediation efforts by the President of Angola, João Lourenço, and for the leadership of the Nairobi process by the former President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta. I welcome the ongoing efforts to ensure that these initiatives are mutually reinforcing. Given the complexity of the situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, close coordination between MONUSCO and the East African regional force, once it has been deployed, will be essential to enable the protection of civilians, the maintenance of humanitarian access and the continued monitoring of human rights during military operations against armed groups.

93. Lastly, I wish to express gratitude to my Special Representative, Bintou Keita, for her efforts and leadership. In addition, I 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 achieving peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

