



# Security Council

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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 47 of Security Council resolution [2717 \(2023\)](#), covers developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 20 September to 29 November 2024. It describes the 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. During the reporting period, political dynamics were marked by tensions within the political majority, deliberations over calls for a national political dialogue, discussions regarding a potential revision of the Constitution, the scheduling of previously annulled elections in Yakoma and Masi-Manimba territories, and ongoing regional and international efforts to de-escalate persisting tensions between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.

3. The allocation of posts for National Assembly standing committees sparked discontent within the ruling majority. Of the 11 committees, the presidential party, Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social, secured four positions, other majority parties six, and the opposition party Ensemble pour la République, one committee. Despite calls by both majority and opposition members of the National Assembly for the lifting of the state of siege in place in Ituri and North Kivu since 3 May 2021, it is being continuously renewed every 15 days.

4. Former presidential candidate Martin Fayulu continued to advocate the holding of a national political dialogue, which he said would restore territorial integrity, prevent mismanagement of public funds, protect human rights and guarantee transparent, credible and peaceful elections. Other actors of the political opposition, including Ensemble pour la République and Front commun pour le Congo, rejected that call. On 1 October, the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Félix Tshisekedi, publicly opposed a national dialogue, arguing that there was no political crisis and that it might result in arrangements that would stall national progress.



5. Meanwhile, party executives of Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social launched a campaign calling for the revision of the Constitution. The opposition and part of civil society invoked article 220 of the Constitution, which prohibits amendments to the number and duration of presidential terms. On 23 October, Mr. Tshisekedi announced the establishment of a multisectoral national commission in 2025 to propose a new Constitution adapted to Congolese realities and written by the Congolese people.

6. On 2 October, the Independent National Electoral Commission announced the holding, on 15 December, of national and provincial legislative elections in Yakoma territory, North Ubangi province, and Masimanimba territory, Kwilu province, following the annulment of the December 2023 legislative elections due to widespread irregularities. Meanwhile, new dates for postponed local elections across the country, as well as provincial and national legislative elections in Masisi and Rutshuru territories, delayed in December 2023 due to insecurity and the presence of Mouvement du 23 mars (M23), remain to be set.

7. Coordinated diplomatic efforts remained crucial in managing tensions between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. On 12 October, in Luanda, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda, Olivier Nduhungirehe, met under the auspices of the President of Angola, João Lourenço, the African Union-designated facilitator of the Luanda process, and reiterated their calls to respect the ceasefire agreement. On 5 November, in Goma, at the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, both ministers participated in a ceremony to mark the launch of the reinforced ad hoc verification mechanism. The mechanism is composed of 24 experts (18 from Angola, 3 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and 3 from Rwanda). Previously, on 31 October, experts from both countries, in a meeting in Luanda facilitated by Angola, prepared a concept of operations for the harmonized plans on the neutralization of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) and the disengagement of forces, which was considered by the ministers on 25 November in Luanda.

8. In successive communiqués, Alliance Fleuve Congo (AFC)/M23 continued to demand direct dialogue with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Meanwhile, in a letter dated 22 October addressed to the President of Angola, FDLR called for direct dialogue between the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandan opposition, including FDLR.

9. Following the request made by Angola for MONUSCO support for the operationalization of the reinforced ad hoc verification mechanism, a memorandum of understanding was signed on 23 November in Luanda by the Minister of External Relations of Angola, Tété António, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO, Bintou Keita.

10. On 26 September, the East African Court of Justice began proceedings in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in a case filed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which accuses Rwanda of acts of aggression that violate its sovereignty, territorial integrity, political stability and independence and argues that the actions of Rwanda have led to significant human rights violations in North Kivu. Rwanda requested that the case be dismissed, questioning the Court's jurisdiction and citing procedural concerns. On 14 October, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court announced renewed investigative efforts for crimes committed in North Kivu by all conflict parties since 1 January 2022, as part of a second referral, submitted by the Congolese authorities on 23 May 2023.

11. On 8 October, the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Judith Suminwa Tuluka, announced the Government's plan for building a responsible and sustainable mining sector, with priorities such as enhanced mineral exploration, support for legal artisanal mining and the development of a national traceability system.

12. On 20 November, at the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), held in Harare, with the participation of Mr. Tshisekedi, the mandate of the SADC Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was extended by one year.

### III. Security situation

13. During the reporting period, MONUSCO recorded 314 security incidents in Ituri and North Kivu, resulting in 304 civilians reportedly killed, including 53 women and 32 children, and 162 civilians injured, including 26 women and 7 children. Reportedly, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) remained the main perpetrators of violence against civilians (92 civilians killed in North Kivu and Ituri), followed by the Coopérative pour le développement du Congo (CODECO) (17 civilians killed in Ituri). In Ituri, the conflict between CODECO and Zaïre over territorial control and mining sites continued, albeit with comparatively lower intensity. Since the ceasefire came into effect on 4 August, clashes between M23 and other armed groups have persisted. In addition, M23 continued to expand the area under its control; between 20 and 30 October, it made significant advances westward towards Pinga in Walikale territory, North Kivu. The group further consolidated its control through the announcement, on 13 November, in a communiqué by the political president of M23, Bertrand Bisimwa, of the appointment of 17 administrators to areas under the group's control, with the aim of ensuring public service delivery.

14. In South Kivu, following the withdrawal of MONUSCO, local clashes were reported, particularly in the Hauts Plateaux of Uvira territory and Minembwe, as well as a rise in violations attributed to State security forces, mainly in Kalehe territory, due to the increasing militarization of the area. On 14 October, in Kageregere, heightened tensions between the Banyamulenge, Bafulero and Babembe communities led to internal clashes between Twirwaneho combatants. One Twirwaneho element was reportedly killed and two others were injured, while 42 combatants fled and surrendered to the Burundi National Defence Force in Kitoga. Meanwhile, Burundi National Defence Force operations against Résistance pour un État de droit au Burundi (RED Tabara) continued, with Mai-Mai Yakutumba providing support to the former. RED Tabara claimed that the Burundi National Defence Force lost more than 20 soldiers on 25 September. On 26 October, 15 soldiers from the Burundi National Defence Force were killed in a clash with RED Tabara and another 15 were injured, including the deputy commander of the Burundian contingent in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

#### Ituri Province

15. In Ituri, MONUSCO recorded 83 security incidents during the reporting period, mostly involving CODECO and ADF. In total, 84 civilians were reportedly killed, including 25 women and 7 children. A total of 41 civilians reportedly sustained injuries, including 3 women and 1 child, and at least 64 civilians were abducted, including 9 women and 20 children.

16. In Djugu territory, the cycle of reprisals between CODECO and Zaïre targeting civilians, community leaders and armed elements continued at a slower intensity compared with the previous reporting period, with CODECO responsible for at least 37 incidents and Zaïre responsible for 12 incidents. On 26 September, in Shabbat,

Zaire elements attempted to ambush the Chief of the Walendu-Djatsi sector, who was travelling to Bunia escorted by FARDC.

17. From 28 September to 2 October, in Kpandroma, the Lendu community organized an intracultural dialogue with CODECO leaders, with the financial support of the provincial authorities and the technical expertise of the Mission, which contributed to a temporary reduction of CODECO violence in Djugu territory. Nonetheless, as at 18 November, CODECO and Zaire violence has increased in the Roe, Maze and Drodro areas, including several incidents and mutual threats of attacks by both groups.

18. ADF continued to pose a threat in Irumu and to expand westward into gold mining and trading areas of Mambasa territory. During the reporting period, at least 57 civilians were killed by ADF, including 17 women. Joint operations by the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces and FARDC, as part of Operation Shujaa, neutralized 27 ADF elements.

### **North Kivu Province**

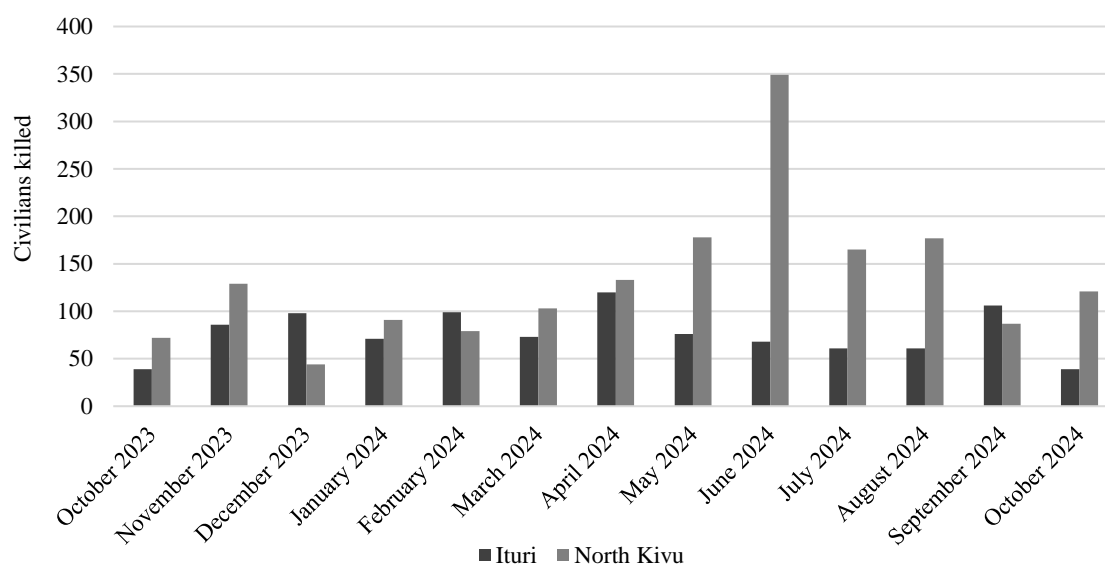
19. In North Kivu, MONUSCO recorded 231 security incidents, mostly involving ADF and M23. In total, 220 civilians were reportedly killed, including 28 women and 25 children, while a further 121 civilians sustained injuries, including 23 women and 6 children, and at least 120 civilians were abducted, including 5 women and 14 children.

20. In Rutshuru and Masisi territories, although the ceasefire agreement of 4 August largely held, clashes continued between M23 and other armed groups. On 17 September, in Rutshuru, M23 reportedly dislodged FDLR and Nyatura elements and took control of Marangara. In Kyahemba and Kalengera, M23 instructed the population to vacate areas and to suspend agricultural activities due to ongoing operations. On 20 and 23 September, clashes were reported in Muhongozi, at the border between Rutshuru and Masisi territories, following an attack by Nyatura elements on M23 positions. Clashes were also reported around Lukopfu in Masisi territory, and in the border area with South Kivu. On 15 September, M23 reportedly attempted to advance into Kalehe territory, South Kivu, and clashed with FARDC, supported by Nyatura combatants, resulting in one FARDC soldier killed and four others wounded. Since the beginning of the ceasefire, M23 has continued to train new combatants and reinforce its positions across all major frontlines in Masisi, Walikale and Lubero territories, as well as in Rutshuru territory, which is now under the group's full control. M23 clashed with Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et souverain (APCLS) and the Nduma défense du Congo-Rénové faction led by "General" Guidon Shimiray Mwissa and took control of Kalembe-Kalonge on 20 October, Mijenje on 26 October and other nearby localities in Walikale territory, in an attempt to advance to Pinga, representing the group's largest territorial advance since the start of the ceasefire. FARDC, with the support of MONUSCO, transferred one battalion to Pinga to block the advance.

21. On 23 and 24 September, FARDC launched an operation against FDLR that resulted in the arrest of 18 combatants. On those same days, FARDC clashed with APCLS near the Lushagala site for internally displaced persons, where six civilians were killed, including three women.

22. On 17 September, in Lubero territory, following internal tensions, leaders of armed groups operating under the "Wazalendo" or Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie (VDP) label signed a commitment, facilitated by the territorial administrator, to halt internal fighting and to work with the leadership of FARDC against M23. On 28 October, a new platform bringing together armed groups operating under the VDP label was created following a meeting held with FARDC in Rusambambu, Walikale territory, to counter M23 advances towards Pinga.

Figure I  
Reported killing of civilians in armed group-related incidents by province, October 2023–October 2024



Source: MONUSCO/Joint Operations Centre/Situational Awareness Geospatial Enterprise.

## IV. Human rights situation

### A. Human rights

23. During the reporting period, 910 human rights violations and abuses were documented across the country. Of those, 749 violations and abuses were documented in conflict-affected provinces, with 69 per cent attributed to armed groups. M23 was responsible for the greatest number of abuses (146), followed by various Mai-Mai groups (79), ADF (73), Nyatura (50), CODECO (43), Wazalendo (41), FDLR (23), Raia Mutomboki (17) and APCLS (14). The abuses reportedly committed by CODECO resulted in the highest number of victims (521 victims, comprising 290 men, 220 women, 7 girls and 4 boys). Of the 225 violations reportedly committed by State actors in conflict-affected provinces, FARDC were reportedly responsible for most of the violations (113), followed by the Congolese National Police (22), FARDC jointly with the Congolese National Police (4), and the Agence nationale de renseignements (3). At least 427 people (317 men, 86 women, 16 boys, 7 girls and 1 child of unknown gender) were killed by armed groups, allegedly by ADF (184), M23 (101), CODECO (34), Nyatura (18), Mai-Mai factions (17), Wazalendo (14), Zaïre (11) and FDLR (10). State actors were reportedly responsible for the summary or extrajudicial execution of 62 persons (44 men, 8 women, 4 people of unknown gender and age, 31 children of unknown gender, 2 boys and 1 girl). At least 209 men and 3 women died in detention, reportedly due to insufficient food, inadequate healthcare or disproportionate use of lethal force. In North Kivu, M23 reportedly committed the greatest number of human rights abuses of all armed groups, carrying out attacks and killing civilians. On 3 October, in Kamonyi, Masisi territory, a 7-year-old girl was reportedly killed by M23 on the grounds that her father was a Nyatura member. The Mission continued to face challenges in human rights reporting due to overall restrictions on freedom of movement.

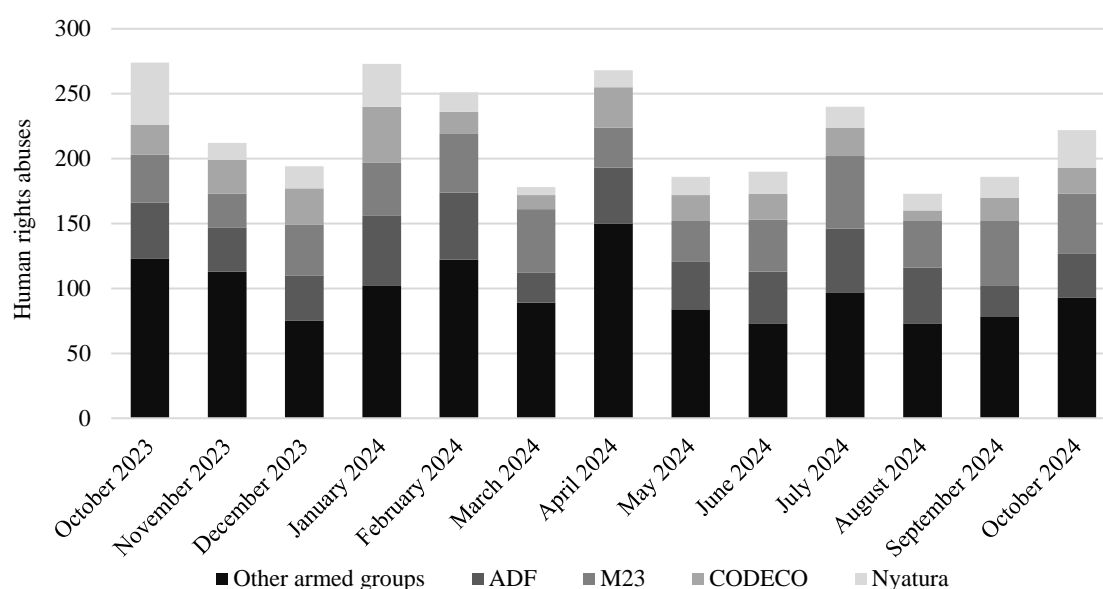
24. Twenty-two cases of human rights violations and abuses in relation to restrictions of civic space were documented: nine were attributed to members of the Congolese National Police, four to the Agence nationale de renseignements, three to Mai-Mai groups, three to Raia Mutomboki, one to Nyatura, one to FARDC and one to other State actors. The violations and abuses consisted of six cases of arbitrary arrest and detention of 19 men and 58 adults of unknown gender, four cases of restriction of freedom of expression, two cases of summary execution of two men, two cases of ill-treatment of three men and one woman, two cases of restriction of the right to peaceful assembly, one case of violation of the right to property of one man, and two cases of sexual violence against one man and one girl. The gang rape of one member of a youth wing of an opposition political party in July 2024 by agents of the Agence nationale de renseignements while in its custody was confirmed during the reporting period. As at 15 November, at least 21 people, all men, were detained throughout the country for exercising their right to freedom of expression and association.

25. In an effort to reduce prison overcrowding, and following the mass escape attempt at Makala prison on 2 September, which resulted in at least 200 inmates being killed in a confrontation with Congolese defence and security forces and 268 women being sexually assaulted, 3,139 detainees have been released from prison.

26. As at 23 October, with the technical assistance and logistical support of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and MONUSCO, the national judicial authorities had prosecuted 13 individuals for international crimes and gross human rights violations and abuses. They were convicted of the crimes against humanity of murder, deportation and persecution; war crimes of torture and hostage-taking; participation in an insurrectional movement; and child rape.

Figure II

**Human rights abuses attributed to armed groups, by alleged perpetrator, October 2023–October 2024**

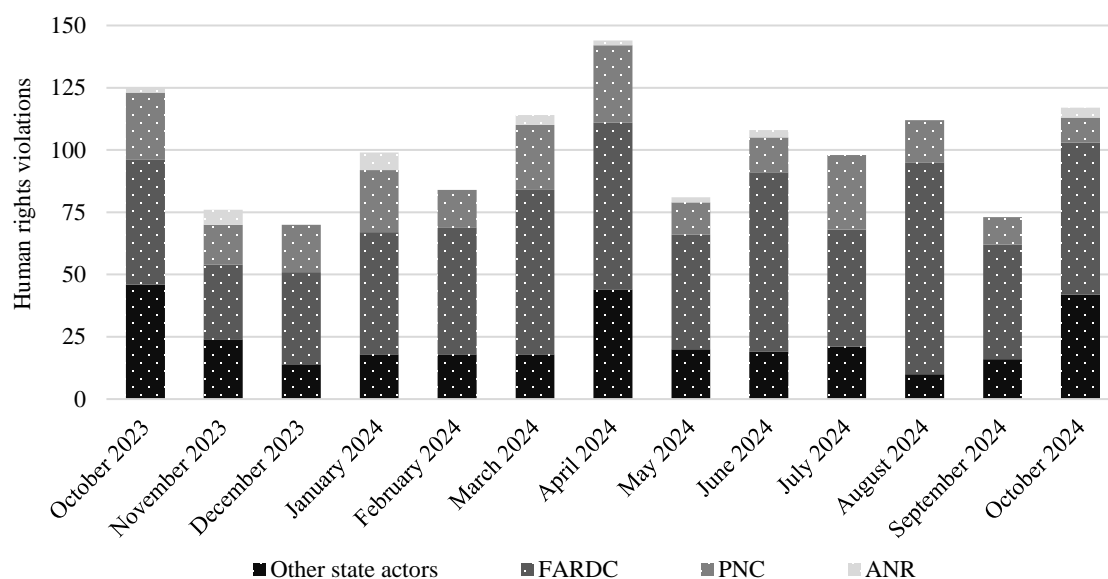


Source: MONUSCO/United Nations Joint Human Rights Office.

Note: Includes violations and abuses across conflict-affected provinces.

Abbreviations: ADF, Allied Democratic Forces; CODECO, Coopérative pour le développement du Congo; M23, Mouvement du 23 mars.

Figure III  
**Human rights violations attributed to State actors, by alleged perpetrator, October 2023–October 2024**



Source: MONUSCO/United Nations Joint Human Rights Office.

Note: Includes violations and abuses across conflict-affected provinces.

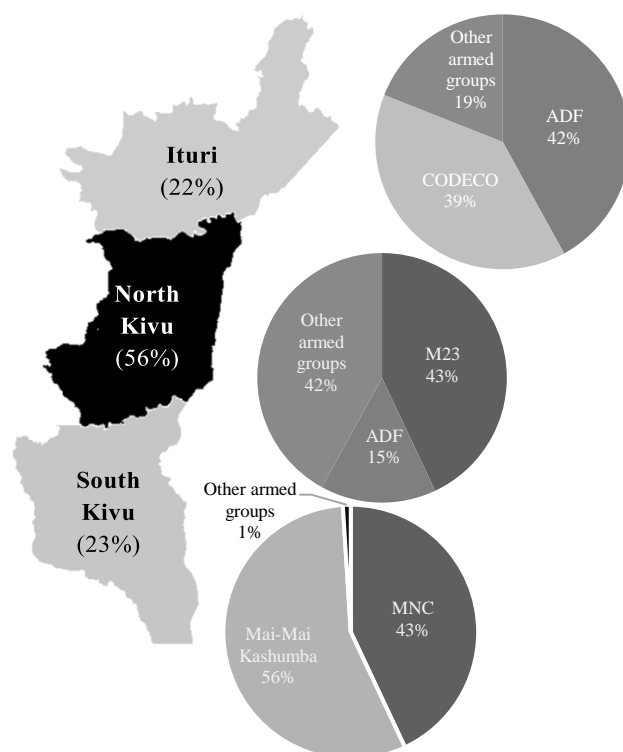
Abbreviations: ANR, Agence nationale de renseignements; FARDC, Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; PNC, Congolese National Police.

## B. Child protection

27. Between 20 September and 15 November, MONUSCO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) verified 108 grave violations of children's rights against 102 children (67 boys and 35 girls), including recruitment and use (34), abduction (28), killing and maiming (27), sexual violence (18) and attack against a school (1). The violations were mainly attributed to M23 and to nine other armed groups, while one case of sexual violence and one case of killing were attributed to FARDC.

28. At the invitation of FARDC, MONUSCO and partners conducted age assessments of 405 male candidates for recruitment into the armed forces, 1 of whom was verified to be a child and excluded from recruitment.

Figure IV  
Grave violations against children in armed conflict, by alleged perpetrator,  
verified in July–November 2024



Source: MONUSCO/Child Protection Section.

*Note:* The boundaries shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Armed groups, including the ones identified above, were reportedly responsible for the majority of the grave violations. The two armed groups identified in the chart regarding South Kivu voluntarily released a large share of children. The data on South Kivu was provided by UNICEF with the support of the residual capacity of MONUSCO.

*Abbreviations:* ADF, Allied Democratic Forces; CODECO, Coopérative pour le développement du Congo; M23, Mouvement du 23 mars; MNC, Mouvement national congolais.

### C. Gender and conflict-related sexual violence

29. Continuous fighting in the eastern provinces heightened the vulnerability of women and girls to gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence, with potential cases of trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation in and around sites for internally displaced persons, in particular Goma. During the reporting period, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office verified cases of sexual violence against 476 individuals (371 women, 104 girls and 1 man) throughout the country, including conflict-related sexual violence against 125 individuals (71 women and 53 girls) in conflict-affected provinces (North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, Tanganyika and Maniema). Of these, 92 were victims of conflict-related sexual violence allegedly committed by armed groups, including M23 (21 women and 12 girls), various foreign armed groups (16 women and 6 girls), Nyatura (4 women and 7 girls), Mai-Mai groups (2 girls and 6 women), CODECO (4 girls and 3 women), Raia Mutomboki (6 women), FDLR (2 girls), Nduma défense du Congo-Rénové



(NDC-R) (1 woman), other armed groups (1 woman) and Wazalendo (1 woman). State actors were allegedly responsible for incidents of conflict-related sexual violence against 33 survivors, namely FARDC (17 girls and 12 women), members of the Congolese National Police (2 girls) and other State actors (2 girls). Conflict-related sexual violence continued to be underreported due to logistical and security constraints, including fear of retaliation by armed groups against survivors, witnesses and members of support networks.

## **V. Humanitarian situation**

30. The Democratic Republic of the Congo continued to face one of the world's most severe displacement crises. As at 1 October, almost 6.4 million people were displaced due to armed conflicts and natural hazards.

31. In Goma, North Kivu, the presence of armed groups, widespread availability of weapons, and overcrowded sites for internally displaced persons contributed to heightened insecurity, criminal activity, civilian casualties and an increase in sexual and gender-based violence. The proximity of the FARDC artillery positions and military operations to sites for internally displaced persons continues to endanger the lives of civilians. Violations of international humanitarian law continue to hinder humanitarian access, with 343 security incidents affecting humanitarian workers and nine deaths reported since the beginning of the year.

32. Epidemics, including cholera, measles and mpox, further exacerbated the humanitarian crisis. As at 18 November, over 43,210 suspected cases of mpox and 1,132 deaths related to the recent outbreak had been reported, with the provinces of Equateur, Sankuru and South Kivu particularly affected. As at 18 November, over 51,000 people had been vaccinated against mpox in the six most affected provinces.

33. With the resumption of the rainy season, floodings and landslides caused new displacements of vulnerable populations, with at least 78,000 people affected in the Tshopo, Ituri and South Kivu provinces from September to November 2024.

34. As at 21 November, the humanitarian response plan for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, budgeted at \$2.6 billion, was funded at 47.8 per cent, with \$1.23 billion disbursed, a significant improvement from the total funding of \$940 million received in 2023. That funding allowed humanitarian partners to provide emergency and life-saving assistance to 5.8 million people between January and September 2024.

## **VI. Women and peace and security**

35. On 4 October, in Kinshasa, MONUSCO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) handed over a 20-room furnished dormitory for women at the Centre supérieur militaire to FARDC to support women's participation in higher professional military training and improve their retention in the armed forces.

36. On 18 and 19 October, in Luanda, MONUSCO participated in the High-level Regional Forum of Women of the Great Lakes Region, organized by the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security in collaboration with the Government of Angola. The Forum recommended the establishment of a platform for women experts to support ongoing regional political efforts, in particular the Luanda process.

## VII. Implementation of mandated priorities

### A. Protection of civilians

37. MONUSCO continued to implement its protection of civilians mandate through tailored strategies to address specific conflict dynamics in each province, including local protection plans. However, restrictions on the Mission's freedom of movement in North Kivu hindered its ability to fully carry out its protection tasks. Engagement with and the prioritization of women and young people was mainstreamed throughout the Mission's approach to the protection of civilians, including military and police operations. MONUSCO continued to provide dynamic and proactive physical protection to displaced persons residing in sites. Since September 2024, MONUSCO has conducted 361 patrols as part of Operation Secure Harvest, which is intended to deter armed groups in key agricultural lands in Ituri and enable safe farming for local communities.

38. Between 20 September and 14 November, the MONUSCO community alert network received 398 alerts from Ituri and North Kivu. State security forces, MONUSCO and humanitarian actors responded to 78 per cent of alerts. The Joint Operations and Coordination Centre in Bunia has significantly improved its response times, responding to alerts received within 7 to 15 minutes. Efforts to enhance the Mission's early warning and response system continued, including through additional community alert network focal points in areas prone to attacks and the strengthening of coordination mechanisms. During the reporting period, MONUSCO delivered capacity-building workshops to two local security committees and strengthened early warning and rapid response mechanisms in four districts of Goma town.

39. In Ituri, the Mission continued to support the Government in the organization of consultations with armed groups, local communities and civil society with a view to establishing a permanent dialogue mechanism. The Mission also continued to provide robust physical protection, resulting in the prevention of at least 16 potential attacks by local armed groups.

40. In North Kivu, MONUSCO maintained its robust posture, including through its blocking positions in Sake and north of Goma. This includes the full deployment of an artillery position in Rusayo. The Mission continued to protect civilians in and around its temporary operating bases in Kiwanja, Kitchanga and Kanyabayonga in M23-controlled territory. On 9 October, M23 blocked a MONUSCO patrol deployed to conduct a safety assessment of the Kiwanja-Rwindi road.

41. In line with Security Council resolution [2746 \(2024\)](#), MONUSCO strengthened its coordination with the SADC Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, paving the way to clear, jointly agreed procedures. MONUSCO also provided logistical support to the SADC Mission and training for its personnel on the protection of civilians, child protection, the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence, civil-military coordination, disarmament, and the management of weapons and ammunition. MONUSCO also provided training to the SADC Mission on conduct and discipline, including the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

42. From 20 September to 15 November, the MONUSCO police component delivered food and fuel supplies to support local police operations, providing 10,823 kg of rations and 8,410 litres of fuel in Goma, Bunia, Beni and Oicha as part of the integrated operational strategy to combat insecurity. That supported the conduct of 1,081 patrols and 1,450 interventions by the national police, leading to the arrest of 553 individuals. From 20 September to 15 November, the MONUSCO police component carried out 1,189 routine patrols, 260 joint patrols in collaboration with the Congolese National Police and the Force, and six patrols around sites for

internally displaced persons. Those patrols played a crucial role in maintaining security while also providing reassurance to the local population and fostering a sense of safety and trust within the community.

43. Between 20 September and 14 November, MONUSCO, through the Mine Action Service, conducted 98 explosive ordnance spot tasks, destroying 4,192 explosive remnants of war and 252,553 rounds of small arms ammunition. Some 271 civilians (165 men, 62 women, 23 girls and 21 boys) received awareness-raising training on explosive ordnance and improvised explosive devices. On 12 October, 20 FARDC elements completed an explosive threat assessment course.

44. The Mission continued to ensure compliance with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces. During the reporting period, 41 risk assessments were carried out, including the screening of 204 personnel from 82 FARDC units and national police officers, and mitigating measures were proposed to ensure that MONUSCO support to nine units in conflict-affected provinces is compliant with human rights. During the reporting period, 18 meetings of the follow-up committees on human rights violations attributable to FARDC (8 meetings) and the Congolese National Police (10 meetings) were held. In addition, four risk assessments were carried out for requests to provide logistical support to the SADC Mission.

## **B. Disarmament, demobilization, reintegration**

45. On 1 October, MONUSCO participated in a high-level meeting of the Group of Friends of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, held in New York. The Congolese authorities presented the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme, and participants discussed relations between the Programme, the Armed Defence Reserve and regional political processes, and defined modalities for the repatriation of foreign combatants.

46. During the reporting period, MONUSCO facilitated the establishment of one national and three provincial technical committees to coordinate projects under the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme. The national committee offers strategic and technical support to the Stabilization Coherence Fund, ensuring alignment with the Programme's strategic priorities. The provincial committees enhance the coherence and coordination of interventions at the local level. Consultations were also held on the operational modalities for the rapid response mechanism, a tool designed to provide rapid reinsertion support to armed group members willing to disarm at short notice.

47. The Mission engaged with the World Bank to develop socioeconomic and governance projects in North Kivu. Twenty-five per cent of the beneficiaries are ex-combatants. Planned activities include 16 basic infrastructure projects (schools and health centres), rehabilitation of three roads totalling 66 km, and funding and capacity-building support for two local governance entities in Walikale and Beni territories.

48. At the conclusion of the first phase of community reinsertion pilot projects in North Kivu, in which 584 beneficiaries, including 150 ex-combatants and 173 women, participated, 94 km of roads had been rehabilitated, 30 local peace structures had been established and 16 women's organizations had been strengthened. An increasing number of members of armed groups expressed their interest in joining the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme. MONUSCO is currently supporting the Programme by putting in place a mobile disarmament process for those groups.

49. The Mission continued to support the repatriation of foreign combatants, repatriating seven male combatants, three female combatants, one boy and three girl dependents to Rwanda jointly with the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme.

### **C. Security sector reform and support to the justice system and the fight against impunity**

50. MONUSCO continued to support the National Security Council in leading a holistic security sector reform process by providing strategic advice on designing a nationally owned security policy. Following the creation of the National Commission on Security Sector Reform, which is under the leadership of the national security adviser, MONUSCO facilitated a presentation on the new security sector reform coordination and monitoring structure to international partners on 29 October.

51. On 31 October, MONUSCO supported an outreach campaign in Kinshasa, organized by civil society organizations and security institutions, on the theme “Security for all by all”, to promote civic engagement through effective communication.

52. From 8 to 10 November, in Goma, MONUSCO and the Mine Action Service, in collaboration with the National Commission for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Reduction of Armed Violence, held a regional forum on small arms and light weapons. The event promoted regional policies and frameworks for the management and regulation of small arms and light weapons, and facilitated information-sharing and best practices among stakeholders, in accordance with international standards.

53. On 2 October, the United Nations joint programme in support of the reform of the Congolese National Police 2024–2028 was presented to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Security, Decentralization and Customary Affairs by UNDP and MONUSCO.

54. On 24 September, MONUSCO handed over an office building to the provincial branch of the General Inspectorate of the Congolese National Police in Goma. MONUSCO also supported capacity-building for 50 police officers, magistrates and penitential officers, including 12 women, to address radicalization and violent extremism in prison settings, through three training sessions held between 21 September and 12 October, in Bunia and Kinshasa.

55. On 30 and 31 October, 79 individuals, including local police officials, administrative authorities and technical and financial partners, participated in a workshop organized by MONUSCO and UNDP on an integrated operational strategy to combat insecurity, in preparation for the handover of the coordination of operational strategy to national actors.

56. MONUSCO and the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office continued to provide technical and logistical support to the Government in combating impunity for international crimes. On 3 October, the military court of Ituri convicted eight CODECO elements of crimes against humanity, including murder, persecution and deportation, committed between 2019 and 2020. On 4 November, a Raia Mutomboki leader and his co-accused were convicted in Miti, South Kivu, of crimes against humanity, including murder, rape, sexual slavery, torture and other inhumane acts, committed between 2018 and 2021. That conviction followed a mobile court hearing held from 25 October to 4 November, with the assistance of MONUSCO through its residual capacity in South Kivu. From 23 October to 8 November, MONUSCO provided technical support to institutions in Bunia, Bukavu and Goma for a national

exercise aiming at prioritizing cases of international crimes to advance judicial investigations and prosecutions. MONUSCO and the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office supported the national authorities in organizing the national consultations on the justice system, held from 6 to 16 November in Kinshasa.

57. MONUSCO provided support to address issues of prolonged pretrial detention and prison overcrowding. The Mission supported an inspection of judicial and penitentiary institutions in Bunia from 11 to 25 October, which led to the release of 17 detainees. From 20 September to 15 November, MONUSCO technical and logistical support for judicial inspections in Congolese National Police detention facilities in Bunia, Beni, Goma and Bukavu enabled the release or transfer of 190 persons to the relevant judicial authorities.

58. MONUSCO also provided remote technical support to the Kinshasa ad hoc decongestion commission at Makala and Ndolo military prisons. To date, 3,139 prisoners, including 33 women and 218 children (10 of whom are girls), have been released. In the aftermath of the incident at Makala prison, three commissions were established by the Government to address emergency response, funeral arrangements and communications. MONUSCO and international partners facilitated the coordination of humanitarian and medical support, including for female inmates who had been sexually assaulted. As the United Nations was not authorized to access Makala prison, MONUSCO continued to provide remote technical support to the prison and organized humanitarian deliveries to address urgent needs in the women's wing. To prevent similar incidents, two joint missions to North and South Kivu were undertaken between 30 September and 18 October to reinforce operational and managerial capacities in prisons in conflict-affected areas.

## **VIII. Gradual, responsible and sustainable withdrawal**

### **A. Update on the implementation of the joint disengagement plan**

59. During the reporting period, discussions with the Congolese authorities on the implementation of the joint disengagement plan continued, with a focus on identifying key lessons learned from the withdrawal of MONUSCO from South Kivu. It was agreed that, going forward, the security situation in each of the areas where MONUSCO is present would need to be assessed regularly to ensure that the implementation of the disengagement plan reflects evolving conflict dynamics and protection risks in hotspot areas across North Kivu and Ituri provinces.

60. Overall, MONUSCO donated 1,160 assets worth \$10.48 million (acquisition value) to national and provincial authorities and donated or sold 274 assets worth \$2.3 million (acquisition value) to United Nations agencies, funds and programmes at a nominal cost of \$0.3 million.

61. MONUSCO has commenced preparations for future phases of disengagement in all its premises by conducting camp clean-ups, disposing of scrap from troop-contributing countries and contingent-owned equipment and ammunition in a responsible and sustainable manner, in strict compliance with applicable environmental policies. With the support of the Mine Action Service and the MONUSCO explosive ordnance team, the Mission has disposed of 35.9 tons of unserviceable and expired ammunition to date, out of a total of 126.8 tons.

## **B. Update on the transition**

62. Progress has been made in the implementation of both the provincial road map for the transition in South Kivu and the related United Nations support plan, with efforts from the provincial authorities and the United Nations country team to scale up activities. In South Kivu, authorities have launched initiatives to improve infrastructure, including key roads, to facilitate responses to early warning alerts and ensure continued functionality of early warning mechanisms handed over to the Directorate for Civil Protection.

63. Meanwhile, through its regular meetings, the provincial integrated transition team in South Kivu continued to monitor and report on the implementation of the provincial road map. To that end, the United Nations country team undertook technical consultations for the development and endorsement of a quarterly monitoring and evaluation framework for the United Nations support plan for the transition in South Kivu. In addition, the Government and MONUSCO will work jointly to ensure the early identification, commitment and disbursement of resources from the central Government and partners for a successful transition.

## **C. Update on integration and resource mobilization**

64. During the ongoing budget year, MONUSCO allocated a \$10 million transition portfolio from its programmatic funding to supplement the United Nations support plan for the transition in South Kivu, budgeted at \$23 million. Those transition portfolio funds are being allocated among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, targeting the protection of civilians, the promotion and protection of human rights, the reinforcement of State authority and support for the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme. Additional funding for the United Nations support plan is also available from the 2024 Peacebuilding Fund allocation and the Stabilization Coherence Fund. To date, over 75 per cent of the required funds for the United Nations support plan have been identified. In the interim, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes utilized existing resources to support transition-related tasks.

65. Efforts are ongoing to support the \$57 million provincial road map for the transition in South Kivu, as the Government has yet to release its announced contribution of \$30 million.

# **IX. Mission effectiveness**

## **A. Mission performance**

### **Military component**

66. From 24 September to 8 November, MONUSCO deployed 10,164 troops, 7.74 per cent of whom were women, and 451 United Nations military experts on mission, 23 per cent of whom were women, against an authorized strength of 11,500 troops and 600 United Nations military experts on mission. During the reporting period, MONUSCO established four standing combat deployments and conducted 3,251 day patrols, 2,837 night patrols, 336 long-range patrols and missions, 709 joint patrols and 514 escorts. It conducted no aerial reconnaissance operations, in part due to an expanded no-fly zone owing to armed groups targeting United Nations aircraft on several occasions.

67. In line with its Action for Peacekeeping Plus commitments, MONUSCO conducted evaluations of 18 military units. A performance improvement plan was developed for each unit to implement specific improvement measures.

68. The number of engagement platoons remained at 13, representing 2.4 per cent of the total strength of the Force. Engagement platoons conducted 132 activities over the month of October, spanning from civil-military to outreach projects and including 13 targeted patrols, compared with 212 activities during the previous reporting period.

69. The percentage of women among the Mission's military staff officers and military observers remained at 23 per cent, as in the previous reporting period. Contingent female participation remained almost the same, at 7.73 per cent, compared with 7.72 per cent in the previous period.

#### **Police component**

70. As at 7 November, the MONUSCO police component had deployed 1,324 personnel from 30 contributing countries, comprising 1,047 formed police personnel from six formed police units (including 211 women) and 272 individual police personnel (including 92 women). The overall performance of the six formed police units is "satisfactory" under the new statement of unit requirement, although some logistical gaps were identified. The overall performance rating of individual police officers from the quarterly performance evaluation remained unchanged, at 80 per cent, compared with the previous reporting period. From 8 to 10 October, 14 MONUSCO police officers, including 6 women, benefited from a capacity-building session on the protection of civilians. In addition, 6 individual police officers received training on child protection, pilot predeployment material and human resources management.

71. Formed police units conducted 1,133 quick-response interventions, 50 escorts, 785 patrols, 124 joint patrols with individual police officers, 11 joint patrols with the Congolese National Police, 18 joint patrols with individual police officers and the MONUSCO Force, 22 joint patrols with individual police officers, the Congolese National Police and the MONUSCO Force, 5 long-range patrols and 48 patrols around sites for internally displaced persons.

#### **Civilian component**

72. As at 31 October, 2,000 civilian personnel (26 per cent women), including 253 United Nations Volunteers (48 per cent women) and 40 government-provided personnel (38 per cent women), were serving with MONUSCO.

### **B. Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System**

73. MONUSCO continued to implement the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System. Data generated against the Mission's results framework informed an impact assessment that was conducted over two days in November and led to an impact report with recommendations to enhance the Mission's impact against mandated priorities. The data were also used to produce fact sheets and infographics in support of ongoing assessments in the context of the transition.

### **C. Strategic communications**

74. A series of press briefings and informal exchanges with the media were held in Kinshasa and Goma to explain the mandate of MONUSCO and the disengagement approach jointly agreed upon with the Government. More than 200 local and

international media interactions took place during the reporting period. On several occasions, MONUSCO sent 2.2 million text messages to mobile phones in 10 different locations in North Kivu and Ituri to encourage armed groups to disarm and cease their attacks against civilians.

75. During the period under review, five training of trainers sessions on fighting misinformation, disinformation and hate speech in the context of the disengagement of MONUSCO were held in Kinshasa, Goma and Beni for 1,700 young people, with women accounting for 30 per cent of participants. MONUSCO also launched a social media literacy campaign with animations to inform audiences and enable them to assess in a critical manner online content before spreading potential disinformation. Radio Okapi played a crucial role in countering disinformation, with 15 fact-checks produced as radio reports and then shared as articles on its website.

#### **D. Serious misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse**

76. In line with the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, MONUSCO continued to strengthen its preventive efforts, including through outreach and training activities and engagement with troop-contributing countries, local communities and the United Nations country team. MONUSCO is actively promoting partnership with Member States to enhance their commitment to combating sexual exploitation and abuse among their personnel and to ensure that victims of sexual exploitation and abuse receive the necessary support, in coordination with the Senior Victims' Rights Officer. The Mission is reinforcing accountability by reclassifying curfew violations as serious misconduct, thereby deterring personnel from accessing off-limit establishments linked with the presence of sex workers.

77. Misconduct cases, including curfew violations and visits to out-of-bounds locations, have been reported and are currently being investigated. During the reporting period, no cases of sexual exploitation and abuse were recorded. The Mission also continued to support the Office of Internal Oversight Services in investigating cases involving civilian personnel.

78. In South Kivu, MONUSCO formally handed over the community-based complaint network platform to the United Nations country team and provided the team with the list of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse to ensure the continuity of support and reporting mechanisms. From 24 to 26 September, MONUSCO held a training of trainers workshop for 106 focal points on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse.

### **X. Safety and security of United Nations personnel**

79. During the reporting period, the Department of Safety and Security registered 550 security and safety incidents. The incidents affected 75 United Nations personnel, including 5 women. They are categorized as follows: 73 armed attacks, 347 crime-related incidents, 49 civil unrest cases and 81 cases characterized as hazards.

80. On 18 September, a MONUSCO fire truck responding to a fire near a fuel station in Beni was pelted with stones, forcing it to withdraw. On 12 October, a MONUSCO military convoy was pelted with stones near the Lushagala site for internally displaced persons in Goma; there were no injuries.

81. During a mission in South Kivu on 15 October, a World Food Programme helicopter made an emergency landing in Ibumba, Fizi territory. MONUSCO promptly recovered the aircraft, and a United Nations helicopter safely evacuated



three crew members and eight non-governmental organization staff members. MONUSCO secured the helicopter's emergency landing site. After an engine replacement, the helicopter flew to Goma on 21 October.

82. During the reporting period, MONUSCO recorded further Global Positioning System (GPS) jamming and spoofing incidents that affected the land and air assets of the United Nations security management system. On 22 September and 29 October, two different MONUSCO unmanned aerial vehicles lost communication due to interference. The first incident led to the temporary suspension and diversion of flight operations in Beni. Investigations into the incidents are ongoing.

## **XI. Observations**

83. The ongoing security and humanitarian crisis that has engulfed parts of the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo remains a source of grave concern. The ceasefire between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which came into effect on 4 August, represents a significant milestone in ongoing diplomatic efforts to find a political solution to the conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. I welcome the steps taken to operationalize the reinforced ad hoc verification mechanism, which is tasked with monitoring the ceasefire, and the holding of the 6th ministerial meeting on 25 November, in Luanda, to discuss the harmonized plan for the neutralization of FDLR and the disengagement of forces. I reiterate my calls for all parties to respect the ceasefire and implement swiftly all agreed commitments.

84. I commend the President of Angola, Mr. Lourenço, for his determined diplomatic efforts. The United Nations remains committed to supporting the Luanda process, including through MONUSCO support to the reinforced ad hoc verification mechanism. Nevertheless, I remain deeply concerned by the continued territorial expansion of M23 and its tightening administrative control over illegally occupied areas.

85. MONUSCO support to the SADC Mission is a key element of the broader regional effort to create a conducive environment for a lasting political settlement to the conflict that has caused such devastation in North Kivu and brought the region to the brink of a regional conflagration. Following the decision taken at the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of SADC to renew the mandate of the SADC Mission for one year, I welcome the proactive steps taken by MONUSCO and the SADC Mission to ensure the timely and effective implementation of Security Council resolution [2746 \(2024\)](#). I remain committed to working with SADC, the African Union and key regional leaders to maximize the impact of our combined efforts to bring an end to a crisis that has deprived millions of innocent civilians of their right to a life of peace and dignity.

86. I condemn the heinous attacks against civilians being perpetrated in North Kivu and Ituri by armed groups, including ADF, M23 and CODECO. I am particularly alarmed by the numerous reports of abductions, killings and summary executions of civilians in areas under the control of M23. I once again urge all armed groups to lay down their weapons immediately and unconditionally and join the Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme or return to their countries of origin. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo must be respected at all times. Member States, entities or individuals offering any kind of support or encouragement to armed groups must cease to do so.

87. The number of victims of sexual and gender-based violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to rise sharply, both in absolute numbers and in comparison with other violations and abuses affecting the civilian population. Women and girls affected by conflict continue to bear the brunt of such acts of violence. I call upon all actors to unite in bringing an end to this unacceptable scourge, which not only destroys lives but erodes the country's social fabric.

88. I take note of the election of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the Human Rights Council on 9 October and look forward to its contributions within the body to promoting and protecting human rights.

89. I strongly urge regional and international partners, as well as actors in the private sector, to do their part to bring an end to the illegal exploitation of the country's natural wealth. The United Nations stands ready to support the Democratic Republic of the Congo in its efforts to combat the illicit trafficking of natural resources, including by fighting forced labour.

90. Funding for the coordinated humanitarian plan in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has reached almost \$1.23 billion. This reflects the commitment of donors and Member States to alleviate the suffering of those most in need the country, despite the multiplication of crises around the world. The continued commitment of donors will be required to assist the 11 million vulnerable people targeted in the 2025 humanitarian needs and response plan, out of 21.2 million people in need. I strongly condemn attacks against humanitarian workers and call upon actors to ensure unfettered humanitarian access to populations in need and to uphold international humanitarian law. I encourage all partners to support, when conditions allow, large-scale initiatives to provide durable solutions for the internally displaced, as a means of promoting stability and social cohesion.

91. I remain firmly committed to the successful completion of the progressive disengagement and withdrawal of MONUSCO from the conflict-affected territories where the Mission is still present. Close alignment between MONUSCO, the United Nations country team, the Government and key regional and international partners is essential in creating conditions conducive to the State's full assumption of responsibility for the protection of civilians in areas where the Mission will be withdrawing.

92. The United Nations is committed to supporting the transition in South Kivu, following the departure of MONUSCO from the province. I am encouraged by the Government's commitment to provide \$30 million of the \$57 million required for the implementation of the South Kivu transition plan. I urge the country's partners to do their utmost to avoid financing gaps and allow the United Nations country team to play its rightful role in the implementation of programmes aimed at strengthening the capacity of Congolese institutions to protect civilians, uphold the rule of law and ensure respect for human rights long after the Mission's departure.

93. In the current context, the protection of civilians, support for the national Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme, and security sector reform should remain priority areas for MONUSCO. The Mission also stands ready to continue facilitating the search for lasting political solutions to the underlying drivers of conflict, including through its support for ongoing regional and local peace initiatives. The Mission is also committed to pursuing its engagement to monitor and report on human rights violations and abuses, as well as mainstreaming, throughout its mandate, the meaningful engagement of women and young people, with consideration for their specific needs.

94. United Nations peacekeepers must enjoy the freedom of movement and manoeuvre they need to protect civilian populations. I urge all security actors present in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo to maintain active and constructive coordination and cooperation with MONUSCO so that the Mission can better support the State in protecting the civilian population. That includes putting an end to spoofing and jamming activities in North Kivu, which hinder the safety and security of peacekeepers.

95. It is imperative that United Nations peacekeepers and civilian personnel maintain the highest standards of conduct and discipline. I reiterate my unwavering commitment to a strict policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse. I count on the cooperation of troop- and police-contributing countries to prevent such reprehensible acts and to ensure that, if they do occur, those responsible are held to account. I reiterate the commitment of the United Nations system to ensuring that adequate safeguards are put in place to prevent the occurrence of sexual exploitation and abuse and that survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse receive the holistic care and support to which they are entitled.

96. I wish to express my gratitude to the Special Representative for her determined leadership and persistent efforts and to all MONUSCO personnel, members of the United Nations system, troop- and police-contributing countries, humanitarian workers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region for their continued efforts towards lasting peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

