



CP/OSMR/2025

Office of the Spokesperson and Media Relations

PRESS RELEASE

MONUSCO welcomes the signing of the cessation of hostilities agreement in Ituri and calls on non-signatory armed groups to join the peace dynamic

Bunia, 1st July 2025 – The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) welcomes the signing, on Saturday 28 June in Aru, of the cessation of hostilities agreement in Ituri by six local armed groups (CODECO, Zaire/Auto-Defense, MAPI, FRPI, FPIC, and Chini Ya Tuna), parties to the dialogue known as Aru II. The Mission takes note of their commitment to work towards the restoration of peace in this province, which has been severely affected by years of violence.

"This agreement marks a significant step forward in the quest for stability in Ituri. It paves the way for a new era focused on reconciliation, security, and development. As the primary victims of this conflict are women, girls, and children, it is imperative that this peace momentum be translated into concrete action on the ground," said Ms. Vivian van de Perre, Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in DRC and Acting Head of MONUSCO.

MONUSCO commends the Congolese government, community leaders, and all partners who contributed to the success of this dialogue, known as Aru II, and stands ready to support the implementation of its recommendations.

The Mission encourages the signatory armed groups to continue sensitizing their ranks to ensure strict compliance with the commitments made in Aru, to honor their obligations, and to help create a climate of trust and reconciliation conducive to the return of displaced persons and the revival of Ituri's economic and social development.

"This peace agreement represents a concrete step, provided it is implemented effectively and inclusively, toward what we all hope for: an end to violence, the return of displaced populations, and a future based on lasting peace and prosperity. Ituri has all the assets it needs to recover," added Ms. van de Perre, urging non-signatory armed groups to seize this historic opportunity and join without delay this inclusive and hopeful peace process, for the good of the population and the future of the province.

MONUSCO expresses its sincere condolences to the families of the victims of the recent attacks on the Djangi displacement site in Djugu territory and firmly condemns these acts of violence against civilians. The Mission recalls that the swift and full implementation of the commitments made in Aru II is essential to breaking the cycle of violence and restoring lasting peace in Ituri.