



## PRESS RELEASE

### **MONUSCO welcomes the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the Government of DRC and the AFC/M23 as a major step toward peace**

**Kinshasa, 19 July 2025** – The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) welcomes the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Congo River Alliance/March 23 Movement (AFC/M23) as an important step toward sustainable peace.

Signed in Doha under the mediation of the State of Qatar, this Declaration reflects the parties' resolve to prioritize peaceful means, establish a ceasefire, and set up a joint mechanism to define its practical implementation.

“This important declaration marks a shift toward easing tensions and protecting civilians seriously affected by the conflict. We commend the commitments made and call for their timely and good-faith implementation,” stated Mr. Bruno Lemarquis, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in the DRC and Acting Head of MONUSCO.

MONUSCO welcomes the commitment of both parties to facilitate the voluntary, safe, and dignified return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their places or countries of origin. It also encourages inclusive dialogue, which is vital to addressing the root causes of the conflict and achieving lasting peace.

The Mission highlights the Declaration's emphasis on civilian protection and support for the ceasefire, with assistance from MONUSCO and regional mechanisms. It reaffirms its readiness to support the cessation of hostilities, particularly through the establishment of a credible and jointly agreed verification mechanism.

MONUSCO urges all parties to honor their commitments, act in good faith throughout the process, and prioritize human rights, security, and the aspirations of the Congolese people in all decisions. The Mission pays tribute to the State of Qatar, particularly the Minister of State for



Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi, whose mediation was instrumental in bringing the parties together.

MONUSCO remains fully engaged in supporting efforts for peace, reconciliation, and stabilization in the DRC, in close collaboration with national authorities, regional and international partners, and in accordance with its mandate.