

OSMR/2026

Office of the Spokesperson and Media Relations

**STATEMENT BY MR. JAMES SWAN, SPECIAL  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN THE  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO AND HEAD OF  
MONUSCO**

*7 April 2026*

*N'djili Airport (KINSHASA)*

I am honoured to arrive in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to assume my responsibilities as Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MONUSCO at a particularly important moment for the country and the region.

I come with a message of solidarity to the Congolese people, at a time when the security and humanitarian situation in eastern DRC remains deeply concerning and civilians continue to bear the heaviest burden.

My priority is to ensure that MONUSCO delivers on the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council, with a clear focus on the protection of civilians, support to de-escalation, and conditions conducive to lasting peace.

The United Nations stands alongside the Congolese people and institutions, in full respect of the sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

There is no military-only solution to the current crisis. Progress will require dialogue, regional engagement, and the implementation of commitments already made.

The protection of civilians will remain at the centre of MONUSCO's action.

My previous experience in the DRC has given me deep respect for this country, its people, and the importance of working in close partnership with national authorities and communities.

I arrive in Kinshasa with humility and determination, fully committed to supporting the Congolese people and advancing the efforts needed for de-escalation and lasting peace.