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Flash

MR SHOAB DASTGIR, DEPUTY POLICE ADVISOR VISITS MONUSCO

The UN Deputy Police Advisor at the Police Division of the Department of Peace- Keeping Operations in New York, Mr. SHOAB Dastgir has just concluded a field visit to MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He was accompanied during the visit by Mr. Alain Danloy, Mission Manager at the Police Division. General Pascal CHAMPION, MONUSCO Police Commissioner accompanied the visiting delegation during their official meetings both in Kinshasa and Goma. From 22nd to 30th June 2015, the two United Nations Headquarters staff and the host Police Commissioner held working sessions with MONUSCO Officials, Congolese Police authorities and the Senior Management of the Police Component in Kinshasa, Goma and Beni. The purpose of the working visit was to assess the implementation of the recommendations of the strategic review of 2014 by the Police Component, appraise how the UNPOL Component is contributing in mandate implementation especially in the domains of the capacity building of the Congolese National Police (PNC), Protection of Civilians as well as Stabilization/Restoration of State Authority in the DR Congo and evaluate potential adjustments in view of the Mission exit strategy.



In Kinshasa on 23rd June 2015, the delegation held talks with the Inspector General of the Congolese National Police, General J.D. OLEKO KOMBA in the presence of MONUSCO Police Commissioner. During this meeting, an evaluation of the activities of MONUSCO Police within the framework of rebuilding and training the Congolese National Police as well as recommendations of the Police Component in view of the exit strategy was made. In this regard, the Inspector General expressed satisfaction with the involvement of the Mission in the vulgarization of the role of his structure and other domains such as training and judicial police.

In the afternoon, Mr. Dastgir met with the Commissaire General of the Congolese National Police, General BISENGIMANA and his close collaborators. In his introductory statement, Mr. Shoab said he had come to acquaint himself with the field realities and exchange ideas on the best possible ways UNPOL can contribute in developing and building the capacity of the Congolese National Police (PNC) in the light of the successive United Nations Resolutions on MONUSCO. He was interested in knowing from his host, the level of cooperation between MONUSCO Police and the PNC, the achievements of UNPOL in favour of the PNC and the collaboration between UNPOL and PNC as concerns the Trans-national organized crime unit.

In response, the PNC Chief underlined the perfect collaboration existing between the two entities. He highlighted the substantial support received from UNPOL in the areas of capacity building through training, refresher courses and logistical support. He also emphasized that the immediate needs of the PNC are in the domains of training and refresher courses as well as technical support in view of up-coming elections in the country. Concerning the trans-national organized crime unit, the Congolese Police Chief said it is a recent creation that has to be developed with the collaboration of MONUSCO and other partners.

On 24th June 2015, the Deputy Police Advisor accompanied by General Pascal Champion held discussions with the Coordinator of the technical group for the security of elections, Commissioner Isidore ODIMULA, centered mainly on the potential threats to the electoral process, the objectives and functioning of this structure. He lauded the technical support of UNPOL members of this body and called for the sustainability of this collaboration until the end of the electoral process in the Democratic Republic of Congo. As part of MONUSCO Police support, a package of 400 retraining modules grouped into eight subjects on elections security were handed to the Coordinator by Mr. Shoab Dastgir.

Still in Kinshasa on 24th June 2015, the visiting delegation met with the Executive Secretary of the follow-up committee on the police reform, General ELESSE who briefed mainly on his structure's achievements and difficulties. Prominent among the difficulties are the lack of government funding of the Police reform process and lateness in signing and passing into law of relevant texts produced by the committee, he said.

On the sidelines of the meetings of the Deputy Police Advisor, Mr. Alain Danloy, member of the delegation accompanied by UNPOLs of the Serious Crime Support Unit (SCSU) held a series of meetings in Kinshasa on the 23rd and 24th of June 2015 with relevant partners in this domain. These included the adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary General in charge of SCSU, Mr. Eric MUKENDILA, Generals KAMANGA and BIDEKO Juvenal of the PNC and Mr. GOURGUES Patrick who heads the project for the fight against trans-border crime (ALCOTT) in the French Embassy.

In Goma on 25th June 2015, Mr. Shoaib also held meetings with some Mission officials and UNPOL's senior management team members including the Deputy Police Commissioner, Colonel Tabasky Diouf and UNPOL Planning Officer, Mr. Martin LANYUY. Discussions with Colonel Tabasky centered essentially on operational issues in relation to the "big four" priorities of the mission, namely; the neutralization of armed groups, restoration of state authority, elections and Human Rights. For each of these action pillars, the DPC briefed the delegation on UNPOL's contribution in enhancing the efficacy of the Congolese National Police. The meeting with the Planning Officer was focused on the impact of the unit on mandate implementation. After a quick review of deliveries within the unit including but not limited to the recent review of the police component's Concept of Operations (CONOPS) now at its final stage of validation, the UNPOL Work Plan 2015-2016, already forwarded to the UNPOL chain-of-command for review and validation etc, both parties were unanimous on the need to enhance mandate implementation control mechanism besides the already existing quarterly performance reporting while underscoring the need to beef-up the strength of the unit now manned by three officers including the Head of the unit.



A visit to the MUGUNGA Police School situated at 14 Km from Goma on 26th June 2015 enabled Mr. Shoaib not only to acquaint himself with the functioning of the institution, but also to obtain first-hand information on some of the problems hindering the attainment of its objectives. Topmost among these problems are insufficient infrastructure and inadequate funding. In this regard, the PNC Provincial Commander for North Kivu, General AWACHANGO Vital noted that even though funding from donor countries and organisations was welcome, the primary responsibility to allocate adequate funds for the school was incumbent on the Congolese government. The school has turned out one batch in basic training and 15 batches in specialized training and refresher courses since its inception in March 2012.

In Beni on 27th June 2015, Mr. Shoaib and his delegation accompanied by the Police Commissioner, Pascal CHAMPION met and held meetings with the Acting MONUSCO Head of Office, the Mayor of Beni, the PNC District Commander and the UNPOL Chief of Sector. An exhaustive presentation of the political and security situation was given by the representative of the Head of Office, while the Mayor briefed mainly on the positive impact of the Integrated Strategy for the Fight against Insecurity in Beni (SOLIB) in re-establishing security in Beni town.

In a Town Hall meeting attended by all UNPOLs serving in Goma on 28th June 2015, the Deputy Police Advisor after restating the purpose of his visit, remarked that he was impressed with the existing relations between UNPOL and their Congolese Police counterparts based on humanity and mutual respect. What is expected of UNPOL is demonstrable and measurable impact of their activities on the field in the various key areas of the mandate such as the protection of civilians, capacity building, stabilization and elections, he said and called on all to read the four main documents that under-pin UNPOL activities. These are, the Concept of Operations, the Directive on the use of force, the Directive to UNPOLs and the Directive for the Police Commissioner. Participants took the floor and asked wide-ranging questions to which ready answers were provided by Mr. Shoaib.

The Deputy Police Advisor held separate meetings with the UNPOL Chief of Staff, Chief of Personnel and Administration, the Serious Crime Support Unit, the Formed Police Units Coordination and Operations during which he was briefed on the functioning of these Sections as well as drawbacks before leaving Goma on 29th June 2015 for Kinshasa at the end of his visit.

