



PRESS RELEASE

MONUSCO ceases operations in South Kivu Province

Kinshasa, 30 April 2024: The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) is ceasing its operations today in South Kivu Province. At the request of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) government, the United Nations (UN) Security Council decided in its Resolution 2717 (December 2023), that the Mission will withdraw its Force from South Kivu by the end of April 2024 and will limit the implementation of its mandate to the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri from May 2024.

MONUSCO began winding down its operations in South Kivu in January 2024, and from 1 May 2024 the Mission's mandate, including its responsibility to protect civilians ceases in this province. Only the uniformed personnel required to provide security for UN staff, facilities, convoys, installations, and equipment will be maintained in the province, until MONUSCO's withdrawal is finalized.

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of MONUSCO, Ms Bintou Keita underlines that the responsibility for the security and physical protection of civilians now lies with the defence and security forces of DRC, who will continue to undertake this responsibility in close coordination with community and other local leaders. According to the disengagement plan, in parallel with the withdrawal of UN troops, the government is strengthening its presence in the areas that the Mission is leaving.

In this context, the Mission supports the government's intention, announced at the Council of Ministers meeting on 22 March 2024, to set up Local Security Councils to encourage "preventive action and the search for lasting solutions to the causes of insecurity".



As part of its disengagement, MONUSCO has transferred two military bases to national authorities. Of the remaining seven military bases, five (Mikenge, Minembwe, Rutemba, Uvira and Kavumu) will be transferred to the Armed Forces of the DRC between May and June 2024, while two (Baraka and Sange) will be closed in May. In addition to these military bases, 15 installations will also be transferred or closed. Despite a slippage in the chronogram for base closure and transfer, all uniformed personnel will be repatriated by 30 June 2024, leaving only a residual team of civilians to work on the transition.

The first UN Peacekeepers were deployed in 2003 under the auspices of MONUC, as the Mission was originally called. Since then, more than 100,000 Blue Helmets have served through many rotations in the province.

“I thank all the troop and police contributing countries that have sent women and men to dedicate their lives to protecting civilians in the province. Their commitment, expertise and resources have made an invaluable contribution to consolidating peace and security in South Kivu,” Ms. Keita said. “We must never forget the courage and sacrifice of those who spilled their blood and died on Congolese soil. They will remain in our hearts and memories always.”

Over the years, through its bases, military operations and day and night air and ground patrols MONUSCO's Force has provided direct physical protection to nearly three million people. However, the security situation in the province continues to give cause for concern, due to an overall remobilization of armed actors amid high regional tensions.

The withdrawal of MONUSCO from the province of South Kivu is not synonymous with the departure of the United Nations from the DRC. It is a reconfiguration of the UN presence in support of the people and government of the DRC. Following MONUSCO's departure, UN agencies, funds and programmes will continue to provide support in line with their respective mandates.

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