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Office of the Spokesperson and Media Relations

PRESS RELEASE

MONUSCO Condemns Ceasefire Violation and M23's Continued Territorial Expansion in North Kivu

Kinshasa, January 7, 2025 – Ms. Bintou Keita, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), strongly condemns the recent offensive launched by the March 23 Movement (M23) on January 2, 2025. This tragic attack resulted in the deaths of at least seven civilians and displaced tens of thousands of people, further exacerbating the severe humanitarian crisis in eastern DRC.

The M23, which according to the United Nations Group of Experts is supported by external forces from a neighboring state, violated the ceasefire agreement signed on July 30, 2024, between the DRC and Rwanda. As of January 4, the M23 had taken control of the town of Masisi, the administrative center of the territory bearing the same name. Ms. Keita emphasizes the importance of respecting the territorial integrity of the DRC, reiterating the United Nations' strong commitment to upholding this fundamental principle.

"This escalation of violence cruelly impacts civilian populations, marks a tragic turn at the start of 2025, and must cease immediately," said Ms. Keita. "I extend my deepest condolences to the families of the victims of these atrocities. I deplore the resumption of military offensives in North Kivu and call on all parties to fully support the ongoing Luanda peace process, under the leadership of President João Lourenço."

Ms. Keita reaffirms MONUSCO's unwavering commitment to promoting peace, security, and stability in the DRC and urges all stakeholders to work constructively to end violence and achieve a peaceful, lasting resolution to the conflict in the region.