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Office of the Spokesperson and Media Relations

## PRESS RELEASE

# MONUSCO transfers its Kamanyola base to the Congolesse authorities

**Kamanyola, 28 February 2024:** The Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Head of MONUSCO, Ms Bintou Keita, today handed over MONUSCO's first base to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as part of its disengagement from the country. This base, established in Kamanyola in 2005, ensured the protection of civilians and the security of the local population. It will now be managed by the Congolesse National Police.

This transfer of responsibilities and equipment is one of the first acts of MONUSCO's disengagement from the province of South Kivu. The joint memorandum signed on 21 November 2023 by the DRC government and MONUSCO identifies South Kivu as the first province from which MONUSCO is to withdraw as part of its orderly, responsible and phased withdrawal from the country.

"We hope that the handover of Kamanyola, combined with MONUSCO's ongoing construction of the Congolesse National Police sub-station, will serve as a model and inspiration for the rest of MONUSCO's disengagement process," said Ms Keita. "I congratulate the Congolesse authorities on the reinforcement of the Congolesse National Police in Kamanyola, in accordance with the commitments made by the Government, in order to increase the strength and capacity of the defence and security forces, in parallel with MONUSCO's disengagement.

The Head of MONUSCO praised the commitment and remarkable work of the peacekeepers of the Pakistani contingent who, for 19 years, have worked to protect civilians, in coordination with the national defence and security forces.

"The contribution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, a troop-contributing country that has been committed to MONUSCO for several decades, to peace-building in the DRC is admirable," said Ms Bintou Keita. "I would like to honour their dedication and thank them for their excellent service to the people of Kamanyola and to the United Nations."



She reiterated MONUSCO's commitment and readiness to work jointly with the Congolese authorities to implement the disengagement plan, in order to ensure an orderly, responsible and sustainable withdrawal of the mission from the DRC.

For several years in Kamanyola, MONUSCO has supported the establishment of local protection committees bringing together all the communities working alongside the local authorities on issues of security and protection of civilians. A community early warning system is also in place.

The Head of MONUSCO reiterated that MONUSCO's withdrawal from South Kivu province is not synonymous with the United Nations leaving the DRC. Rather, it is a reconfiguration of the UN's presence in support of the people and government of the DRC. After MONUSCO's departure, the UN agencies, funds and programmes will continue to provide support in accordance with their respective mandates. Responsibility for the protection of civilians and security will lie exclusively with the Congolese government.