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Office of the Spokesperson and Media Relations

## PRESS RELEASE

### **MONUSCO's Chinese Peacekeepers to leave the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

**Kinshasa, April 09, 2024:** After more than 20 years of service in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), United Nations Peacekeepers from the People's Republic of China are leaving the country. A ceremony was organized today to pay tribute to their contribution to the consolidation of peace and security in the province of South Kivu, where they were deployed. Their departure marks an important step in MONUSCO's disengagement from the DRC, initiated at the beginning of January 2024.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), Ms. Bintou Keita, the interim Governor of South Kivu, Mr. Marc Malago Kashekere, the Chinese Ambassador, HEM Zhao Bin, the Government Delegate General in charge of liaison with MONUSCO, Ambassador Noel Mbemba, took part in the meeting at the camp of the Chinese engineering contingent on the outskirts of Bukavu, in the province of South Kivu.

Since 2003, the Chinese contingent has contributed to strengthening the province's infrastructure with a range of projects including completing more than 580 engineering projects, repairing 1,800 kilometers of road, rehabilitating more than 80 bridges, and constructing 20 helipads. Their contribution has facilitated the implementation of MONUSCO's mandate in the region.

" I would like to express my deep gratitude to the People's Republic of China for deploying peacekeepers to South Kivu. Their know-how, professionalism and discipline enabled them to overcome challenges in sometimes very difficult conditions. Their commitment has been instrumental to promoting peace and security in the DRC" Ms. Bintou Keita, the SRSG, remarked.

During the ceremony, Mrs. Keita emphasized MONUSCO's commitment to collaborating with Congolese authorities in executing the joint disengagement plan, ensuring a structured, accountable, and sustainable withdrawal of the mission from the DRC.

“MONUSCO's disengagement from South Kivu province does not equal the United Nations' departure from the DRC. Instead, it represents a reconfiguration of the UN's presence to continue



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to support the people and government of the DRC. Following MONUSCO's departure, UN agencies, funds, and programs will pursue their support as per their mandates, while the Congolese government will assume the responsibility for civilian protection and security”, Ms. Keita concluded.