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From being a United Nations Online Volunteer to a United Nations Volunteer

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo – Prior to joining the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo (MONUSCO) as an International UN Volunteer, I worked in the private sector and within the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for four years as an assistant and human resource specialist in my own country, Tunisia. In conjunction, I was using my skills for the United Nations Volunteers programme's Online Volunteering service. I thus had the opportunity to draft reports for the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as, translating documents for the UN Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat. This rewarding experience pushed me to continue along that path And motivating my decision and motivating my decision to apply to become a UN Volunteer on the field. After registering online and submitting my profile, I received a volunteering opportunity to work as a Public Information Officer for MONUSCO, one of the most important UN peacekeeping missions.

In the DRC, we are close to 250 people including 6 UN Volunteers deployed in 5 different offices working within the division. Our aim is to promote the visibility of the MONUSCO military and civil actions, to explain the different mandates and of course to promote the work of the different components of the mission. More specifically, my role is to bring administrative and logistical support to the Public Information Division. Today for instance, I am attending the preparatory meeting of the weekly MONUSCO press conference which provides an update on the safety and humanitarian situation of the country. With the help of the technical unit, I am also in charge of the proper execution of the press conference. In addition, as part of my professional development plan, I participate in a “mentoring, advising and coaching” pilot project aimed to train UN Volunteers to become mentors and to advise and strengthen the skills of MONUSCO national staff. It is good to keep in mind that we have been deployed in DRC in order to share our experience and technical skills. It is also rewarding to know that I am involved in the career development of two members of the mission.