

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: Mr. Nambiar,

Please find attached, for your approval on behalf of the Secretary-General, the MONUSCO report.

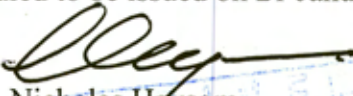
Though the general situation in DRC remained stable, the report takes note of the multiple inter-related challenges that lay ahead for the country, especially in the area of human rights. Some additional measures have been adopted by MONUSCO to enhance the protection of civilians and support Congolese judicial efforts to hold –perpetrators to account.

The report updates on the continued strengthening of relations between the DRC and its neighbours along with the establishment of a regional certification mechanism to curb illegal exploitation of natural resources.

On the national level, the report describes the preparations for the second post-transitional general elections scheduled for 2011-2012.

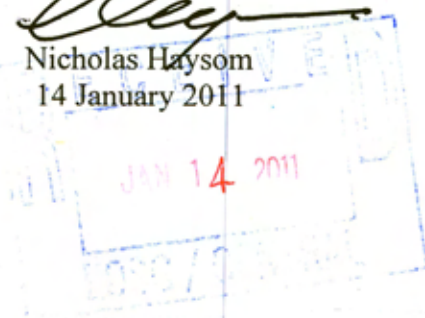
The report appeals to Member States to urgently contribute the required military helicopters to the Mission as withdrawals of military helicopters anticipated in the first quarter of 2011 would leave the Mission with ten military utility helicopters, four military observation helicopters and no attack helicopters.

The report is scheduled to be issued on 21 January.


Nicholas Haysom
14 January 2011

Cc: KWS

11-00257





ACTION COPY

Immediate
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Note to Mr. Nambiar

MONUSCO: Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council ✓

1. Please find attached the draft report of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO, which was prepared in consultation with MONUSCO and the United Nations country team, DFS, DPA, OLA, DSS, OCHA, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, DOCO, OCAAC, OSRSVC, UNDP and PBSO. The report covers developments since the Secretary-General's last report of 8 October (S/2010/512) and updates on progress on implementation of the objectives set out in paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1925 (2010).
2. With regard to recent developments, the draft report notes that, while the overall situation in most of the DRC remained relatively stable during the reporting period, the conflict in the East persisted with violent, mostly small-scale attacks on civilians by foreign and Congolese armed groups, and also by some national security elements. In this connection, the draft report outlines additional measures adopted by MONUSCO to enhance the protection of civilians and support Congolese judicial efforts to hold perpetrators to account, including following the Kibua-Mpofi attack by FDLR and Mayi-Mayi Cheka elements in from July to August 2010. It also describes the still-tenuous integration of the former Congolese armed groups into the FARDC. In this regard, the draft report takes note of the continued mining activities despite the Government's mining ban, as well as reports of desertions and new recruitment by CNDP elements. Meanwhile, the Government initiated some steps to revitalize implementation of the 23 March 2009 Agreements.
3. At the national level, the draft report describes preparation for the general elections scheduled to begin on 27 November 2011. It notes in this regard, that two prominent political figures have declared their intention to run for the presidency, namely, Etienne Tshisekedi and Vital Kamerhe, the former Speaker of the National Assembly. The report also takes note of continued preparations for the conduct of the polls with the support of MONUSCO and UNDP, while noting that the voter registration process continues to face delays, that essential electoral legislation has yet to be adopted by the Parliament and that a precise division of labour is needed in order for the Secretariat to secure the resources needed to support the electoral process.
4. The draft report also provides an update on the continued strengthening of relations between the DRC and most of its Great Lakes neighbours. In this connection, it takes note of the establishment of a regional certification mechanism to curb illegal exploitation of natural resources further to the ICGLR special Summit in Lusaka on 15 December 2010. The draft report notes, however, the expulsion of more than 12,000 Congolese citizens from Angola since September 2010, sometimes associated with serious human rights violations. The draft report also provides an update on developments related to human rights; progress in the area of DDR/RR, particularly with respect to the surrender of an increased number of FDLR high-ranking officers; continued slow progress with respect to SSR, in particular with respect to the Army, where training efforts also lack momentum; and rule of law.

5. The draft report also provides an update on the joint assessment by the UN and the Government of the situation on the ground and progress made toward the implementation of the objectives outlined in paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1925 (2010). The draft report notes that the first phase of the joint assessment covered 71 territories and localities in the Provinces of Equateur, Orientale, North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Katanga, and was concluded in October 2010. The draft report indicates that the results thus far have produced a common reading with respect to the threat of armed groups and ongoing military operations; the level of State capacity, including the degree to which civil administration, police, judicial institutions and national armed forces are present and functional; and major challenges to protection of civilians. It confirms that to date, the joint assessment process has indicated no need for reconfiguration of the Mission or its mandate.

6. In the observations section, the draft report underscores the many inter-related challenges that continue to face the Government and people of the DRC, and reiterates the commitment of MONUSCO and the United Nations country team to supporting their efforts to overcome them. The draft report also takes note of some positive developments, including with respect to efforts to tackle the illegal exploitation of natural resources. With regard to the elections, all parties are urged to promote free and constructive debate, respectful of democratic norms, and to ensure a credible and transparent electoral process, which will meet with the electorate's aspirations. At the same time, the report urges all partners in the process to pursue preparations vigorously in order to ensure that the polls can take place as planned. It also encourages the Parliament to expeditiously establish the new CENI and to rapidly enact the legislation required for the conduct of the polls in full compliance with the spirit and letter of the Constitution.

7. Concerning the protection of civilians, the draft report underlines that while the physical protection of civilians should remain the priority focus of the Mission, numerous threats facing the civilian population in the DRC and the instability that continues unabated in the East cannot be put to an end unless the underlying challenges are effectively addressed. In this connection, the report expresses concern that progress on FARDC training lacks momentum and about delays in the adoption of remaining key legislation on the reform of the army, police and judicial institutions. The report also appeals to Member States to urgently contribute the required military helicopters to the Mission. Withdrawals of military helicopters anticipated in the first quarter of 2011 would leave the Mission with just ten military utility helicopters, four military observation helicopters, and no attack helicopters.

8. The report is scheduled to be issued by 21 January. SRSB Meece will present it in person to the Council on 7 February 2011, and a Troop Contributing Countries/Police Contributing Countries (TCCs/PCCs) meeting is also being arranged. We would be grateful if you could obtain the Secretary-General's approval of the draft report at his earliest convenience.



Alain Le Roy
10 January 2011

cc: Ms. Malcorra
Mr. Pascoe

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations
Organization Stabilization Mission
in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)

Approved on behalf of the Secretary-General.


Vijay Nambiar

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to resolution 1925 (2010) of 28 May 2010, by which the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) until 30 June 2011. By paragraph 20 of that resolution, the Security Council requested that I report, by 21 January 2011, on the progress on the ground and the assessment conducted jointly with the Congolese authorities regarding implementation of the objectives set out in paragraph 6 of the resolution. The report covers developments since my report of 8 October 2010 (S/2010/512) until 13 January 2011.

II. Major Developments

2. While the overall situation in most of the Democratic Republic of the Congo remained relatively stable during the reporting period, the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo persisted with violent, mostly small-scale attacks on civilians by foreign and Congolese armed groups. A number of human rights violations were also committed by some elements of national security forces. The integration of former Congolese armed groups into the Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) remained tenuous and some FARDC units, mostly those composed of recently integrated elements, continued mining activities despite the Government's mining ban. MONUSCO took further steps to enhance its efforts to protect civilians, improving communication with local populations and enhancing early warning. To enhance the protection of civilians

strengthen

in particularly vulnerable areas, the Mission conducted several military operations closely coordinated with the FARDC.

3. After reported desertions and renewed recruitments by elements of former Congolese armed groups who had previously integrated into FARDC, the Government initiated some steps toward resuming implementation of the 23 March 2009 Agreements. Further progress was made in implementing the Government's Stabilization and Reconstruction Plan for Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (STAREC) programme. However, there was limited progress with regard to security sector reform, in particular concerning the training of the FARDC.

4. President Kabila's reaffirmation of his Government's commitment to hold general elections in 2011 was accompanied by continued preparations for the elections. Political parties began to prepare for the elections with two prominent political figures, Etienne Tshisekedi and Vital Kamerhe, expressing their intention to run for the presidency. However, delays in the voter registration process and with respect to the adoption of essential legislation pose challenges to the timely holding of the polls.

North and South Kivu provinces

5. The FARDC conducted unilateral military operations against the Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR), the Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU), and residual Congolese armed groups, which were not supported by MONUSCO. In North Kivu, the main theatres of operations were in Walikale and Lubero territories, whereas in South Kivu, the focus was on Fizi, Uvira and Shabunda territories. The FARDC also conducted joint operations with

MONUSCO in some of these areas in the context of Operation Amani Leo and in accordance with the Conditionality Policy.

6. In North Kivu, between 18-22 December, MONUSCO conducted Operation Usalama Wa Umma (Secure the People) jointly with the FARDC in the area of Kimua and Luvungi, on the border between Masisi and Walikale territories. In Walikale territory, between 29 December and 7 January 2011, MONUSCO conducted Operation Hatua Yamana (Formidable Reach) jointly with the FARDC in the Kimua-Ngenge area, an FDLR stronghold. MONUSCO also continued efforts to enhance security in communities affected by the FDLR and Mayi-Mayi Cheka where mass rapes and looting were perpetrated between 30 July-2 August (see paragraph 8 of my last report (S/2010/512)) during the ongoing judicial investigations and to prevent reprisal attacks. In addition, MONUSCO undertook additional measures to enhance the protection of civilians and support Congolese judicial efforts to hold perpetrators to account in connection with the Kibua-Mpofi attacks, which are outlined in paragraphs 38-41 and 62 of this report.

7. In South Kivu, between 18-30 November, MONUSCO conducted Operation Protection Shield in the Baraka-Fizi-Minembwe area in response to increased activity by the FDLR and other armed groups including the Forces Républicaines Fédéralistes (FRF) and elements of the Burundian Forces nationales de libération (FNL), whose activities are reported to be increasing in the province. The operation aimed to deter armed group activity and enhance the protection of local populations. The Mission also supported FARDC operations against the FDLR in South Kivu in the Hauts Plateaux of Uvira, as well as in Mwenga, Walungu and Kalehe territories.

8. Action was also taken against the FDLR leadership outside

the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On 11 October in Paris, French authorities arrested Callixte Mbarushimana, Executive Secretary of the FDLR, on charges of crimes against humanity committed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2009, under a warrant issued by the International Criminal Court. On 21 December, a French Court separately charged Mr. Mbarushimana with crimes against humanity for his alleged role in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. On 17 December, German prosecutors announced that FDLR President Ignace Murwanashyaka and his deputy Straton Musoni, who were arrested in November 2009, had been indicted on charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes allegedly committed in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo between January 2008 and July 2009.

9. Military and judicial pressure on the FDLR contributed to continued progress with respect to FDLR desertions and voluntary participation in the MONUSCO disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration process (DDRRR) (see paragraph 54). However, the FDLR military leadership structure remained largely intact and dispersed FDLR elements established presences in remote areas of eastern Maniema and northern Katanga provinces. In addition, the FARDC's ability to hold ground in areas freed from armed groups and to exploit operational successes remained limited. FDLR, CNDP deserters, Mayi-Mayi and other Congolese armed groups continued to forge loose alliances, notably to gain or maintain control of illegal mining activities.

10. Armed groups continued to target civilians, particularly in Rutshuru and Masisi territories in North Kivu and Mwenga territory in South Kivu. Human rights violations by elements of the national security forces also continued to be reported in

the context of ongoing military operations. Notably, following a dispute between a FARDC element and a civilian, on the night of 1-2 January, FARDC elements carried out multiple exactions against the civilian population, including lootings, rape, torture, arrests and extortion in Fizi town. MONUSCO immediately ^{dispatched} ~~launched~~ a patrol on 2 January and met with local PNC and FARDC officials. A mobile operating base was established in Fizi on 7 January, and a joint protection team mission was deployed on 8 January. ^{NEW PARA} MONUSCO was also targeted. On 23 October, peacekeepers were attacked at their base in Rwindi, North Kivu, by some 50 armed Mayi-Mayi elements. In the ensuing firefight, eight assailants were killed; three were injured and four were captured by the FARDC. MONUSCO suffered no casualties.

11. The period under review was also marked by unauthorized movements and desertions of former Congrès national pour la défense du peuple (CNDP) elements integrated into the FARDC. In an apparent show of discontent, on 29 October, some 100 integrated former CNDP elements gathered near Kavumu airport, 40 km from Bukavu in South Kivu. In consultation with FARDC, MONUSCO deployed a quick reaction force to secure the airport. In a separate development, some integrated former CNDP elements boycotted the distribution of FARDC identification cards and uniforms in parts of North Kivu, protesting lack of clarity about their military ranks. In addition, former CNDP elements were involved in the recruitment and training of new cadres, particularly in Masisi territory where illegal taxation by the group resumed in some areas.

12. Against this backdrop and continued expressions of dissatisfaction by signatory armed groups regarding the perceived failure by the Government to make progress on the

implementation of the 23 March 2009 Agreements, on 30 October, President Kabila signed a decree which extended the Government's STAREC programme to June 2011, and reactivated the Comité National de Suivi (CNS) overseeing ^{the} implementation of the Agreements. On 23 November, the CNS Rapporteur général met in Goma with representatives of armed group signatories, as well as with civil society and MONUSCO, to prepare for the re-launch of the CNS. In December, the political wings of the CNDP and a PARECO faction signed agreements to join the ruling political coalition, the Alliance pour la Majorité présidentielle (AMP). ^{The} CNDP and the PARECO faction had previously concluded an alliance between them.

13. In Beni territory, North Kivu, FARDC military operations under Operation Rwenzori continued against the Ugandan armed group, the Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF-NALU). MONUSCO is not involved in the planning or execution of the operations and the FARDC have not requested support for them, ^{however, MONUSCO} ~~but will have a~~ military liaison ^{will be placed} presence in the Joint Coordination Centre established between FARDC and the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) in Beni. Operation Rwenzori continued to be associated with the displacement of some 60,000 people, as well as with reported human rights violations by the ADF/NALU and some FARDC elements.

Orientale Province

14. In Orientale province, LRA attacks involving looting and abductions of civilians continued in the areas of Bangadi, Ngilima and Niangara in Haut Uélé district, as well as in the northern part of Ango Territory, Bas Uélé district. Military operations by FARDC and the UPDF against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) continued. A Joint Intelligence Operations Cell

became operational in Dungu, with the support of MONUSCO, to enhance coordination between FARDC and UPDF.

15. On 30 November, MONUSCO launched Operation Rudia Umbrella in the areas of Duru, Bangadi, Ngilima and Niangara in Haut Uélé, aimed at deterring further LRA action such as the massacres committed in December 2008 and 2009. As part of the operation, MONUSCO established several temporary forward bases from which to conduct extensive day and night patrols. In Bas Uélé, between 27 December and 13 January 2011, MONUSCO conducted Operation Kimiana Lombango (Swift Peace) in Ango and the surrounding area with the aim of facilitating humanitarian access to the area and deterring LRA attacks.

16. Efforts were also made to enhance coordination and information sharing among partners in the LRA-affected areas. On 13 and 14 October, the African Union (AU) convened a regional inter-Ministerial meeting on the LRA in Bangui. Government representatives from the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan (including the regional Government of Southern Sudan), and Uganda attended the meeting, along with senior officials from the United Nations peacekeeping and political Missions in the Central African Republic, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Chad as well as from the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). As a follow-up, the AU is considering the establishment of a Regional Task Force on the LRA. In a separate initiative, the United Nations Missions in the Central African Republic, Sudan, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo developed a strategy aimed at enhancing coordination and information sharing on the LRA, and harmonizing efforts for the protection of civilians. On

24 November, in line with legislation passed earlier in the year, the United States President presented Congress with a Strategy to Support the Disarmament of the LRA focusing, *inter alia*, on regional multilateral efforts.

17. In Ituri district, on 11 December, MONUSCO launched operation Ituri Umbrella jointly with the FARDC in Bogoro, Marabo, Idohu, Aveba and Bukiringi in southern Irumu territory, in order to increase pressure on two residual Ituri armed groups, the Front de résistance patriotique d'Ituri (FRPI) and the Front populaire pour la justice au Congo (FPJC) and enhance the protection of civilians.

Western provinces

18. In Equateur province, the situation remained mostly calm. However, reports of low-level activity by Enyele insurgents, now called the Mouvement de Libération des Indépendants et Alliés (MLIA), continued. MONUSCO maintained some 350 troops in the affected area who conduct patrols, including along the river between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Congo.

19. In Bandundu province, a radio appeal by the director of a local association, Fraternité des Natifs de Kikwit (FRANAKI) led to riots by youths in Kikwit on 5 November to protest an attack on a FARDC logistics base and the killing of two civilians by unknown armed elements on 2 November. The Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Security travelled immediately to the provincial capital to consult with local authorities, followed by the FARDC Chief of General Staff. A company of Police d'intervention rapide (PIR) dispatched to Kikwit was quickly able to restore order.

Political Developments and Institutions of Government and Parliament

20. National political developments were dominated by preparations for elections scheduled to begin on 27 November 2011 with the first round of presidential and national legislative elections. On 8-10 October, the AMP held a retreat to discuss political strategy for the elections. On 10-14 December, the Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social (UDPS) organized its first pre-election congress in Kinshasa and endorsed the candidacy of its chairman, Etienne Tshisekedi, for the presidential elections. The opening ceremony of the congress was attended by representatives of a number of other opposition parties, including the Mouvement de Libération du Congo led by Former Vice-President Jean-Pierre Bemba. In addition, on 14 December, the former Speaker of the National Assembly, Vital Kamerhe, announced his resignation from Parliament and his intention to run for the presidency under a new opposition political party, the Union pour la Nation Congolaise (UNC). In a subsequent visit on 15 December to Goma, ^{by Mr. Kamerhe} North Kivu, a gathering of Mr. ^{his} Kamerhe's supporters was dispersed by the Police nationale congolaise (PNC). He was also prevented from holding a public rally in Bukavu the following day.

21. On 3 January, ^{replace with para attached} the Government Spokesperson announced that the AMP will propose a constitutional amendment to hold presidential elections in a single round. The proposal elicited negative reactions from the opposition and is under discussion in the Parliament.

22. With regard to legislative activity, the Parliament adopted the organic law on the Constitutional Court, and the laws on the code of the organization and jurisdiction of ordinary courts,

New para 21

On 11 and 13 January respectively, the National Assembly and the Senate adopted a motion to introduce proposed constitutional amendments, including changing the voting system for the presidential elections from a two-round to a one-round system. Other significant proposed amendments would allow the President to dissolve provincial parliaments and governments, and to introduce proposals for constitutional amendments without the prior concurrence of both chambers of Parliament. While in accordance with the constitution, the move to introduce the proposed amendments elicited negative reactions from a number of opposition and civil society actors, and political opposition deputies withdrew and did not participate in the Parliamentary voting.

and on the procedure before the Court of Appeal. All three laws now await promulgation by the President.

23. The National Assembly also adopted three draft organic laws related to the reform of the FARDC: on the general organization of defence; on the organization and functioning of the armed forces; on the organization, allocation and functioning of the Superior Council of Defence; as well as the draft organic law on the police. These draft laws are now to be considered by the Senate. On 15 December, both Chambers adopted the 2011 national budget in the amount of approximately \$7 billion.

Humanitarian Situation

24. An estimated 1.7 million people remained displaced in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including some 1.3 million in the Kivus. In addition, new displacements occurred in the Kivus, Katanga and Orientale provinces, while returns in the Kivus slowed due to continued insecurity. In Haut and Bas Uélé districts, approximately 300,000 people remained displaced as a result of ^{the groups} ~~LRA~~ activity, ^{LRA} where the ~~group~~ continued to target civilians. On 18-19 November, a joint mission composed of MONUSCO, United Nations country team members and international non-governmental organization (NGO) officials visited Ango, Bas Uélé, to assess the impact of the LRA presence in the area and identify opportunities to deliver humanitarian assistance in the area starting in 2011. Local authorities attributed to the LRA some 37 attacks against civilians and the abduction of over 300 children in Ango territory since March 2009.

25. On 29 October, a Tripartite Agreement was signed in Kampala between Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and UNHCR to facilitate the return of Congolese refugees from Uganda. In

October, UNHCR completed the return of Congolese refugees from Zambia. Some 1,087 Congolese refugees have been repatriated from Burundi since the beginning of the process under the December 2009 Tripartite Agreement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi and UNHCR, while more than 3,500 Burundian refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo were repatriated in 2010. In 2010, UNHCR facilitated the return of 10,625 refugees from Congo to Rwanda.

26. The new Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) for the Democratic Republic of the Congo was launched on 9 December, outlining estimated humanitarian needs for 2011 of \$ 719 million. As of 31 December, the HAP for 2010 had received pledges and commitments of 60% of a requested \$ 828 million.

Regional Developments

27. Following consultations on 17-18 October in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwandan Ministers of Defence announced their satisfaction with the military operations against the armed groups in the Kivus and reaffirmed their intention to continue working together to stabilize the security situation in the region. A reciprocal visit of the Congolese Defence Minister to Kigali took place on 1-2 November. In addition, the Rwandan Defence Force Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Charles Kayonga, continued to meet regularly with his Congolese counterpart to discuss common security threats and strategies to address the FDLR. Separately, on 2 December, the Ugandan Minister of Defence met with his counterpart in Kinshasa to discuss common security concerns, including the operations against the ADF/NALU.

28. On 15 December, President Kabila and several other Heads of

State from the Great Lakes region attended a special Summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) on mineral resources management and certification in Lusaka, ^{Zambia} The Summit, which was also attended by the Deputy Secretary-General and my Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, agreed *inter alia* on ~~establishment of~~ a regional certification mechanism to curb illegal exploitation of natural resources, as well as the recently codified Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Due Diligence Guidelines for responsible supply chains of minerals from conflict affected and high-risk areas.

29. Relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola deteriorated in connection with their ongoing maritime border dispute. In addition, since September, over 12,000 expulsions of Congolese nationals from Angola were recorded. In November, joint missions to Bandundu and Kasai Occidental Provinces comprising MONUSCO, United Nations country team members and international NGOs were informed by returnees from Angola that a number of the expulsions were associated with serious human rights violations including detention, forced labour, sexual violence and beatings.

III. Joint Assessment Process

30. As outlined in my last report, the United Nations and the Government have conducted an assessment of the situation on the ground and progress made toward the implementation of the objectives outlined in paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1925 (2010). The first phase of the joint assessment covered 71 territories and localities in the Provinces of Equateur, Orientale, North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Katanga, and was concluded in October. The exercise was

characterized by excellent cooperation and communication between the Government and MONUSCO teams. The sites selected jointly for examination provided a representative sampling of conditions on the ground, with a particular focus on areas that have experienced armed conflict in the past and where armed groups are still present.

31. The results of site visits were carefully reviewed at the provincial and national levels, producing a common reading with respect to the threat of armed groups and ongoing military operations; the level of State capacity, including the degree to which civil administration, police, judicial institutions and national armed forces are present and functional; and major challenges to protection of civilians. A common finding is that MONUSCO's deployments do coincide with areas where the Mission's military assets are most needed.

32. With respect to protection of civilians, the assessment process confirmed the continued, albeit somewhat reduced threat from armed groups in areas where military operations are being conducted. The assessment exercise also highlighted other sources of threats against civilians, including the risk of re-recruitment of former combatants whose reintegration process was incomplete; violence related to competition over mineral resources; poaching; and conflicts over land tenure and customary leadership. The joint assessment did note human rights violations perpetrated by elements of the national security forces, but also acknowledged attempts by the DRC authorities to bring perpetrators to justice.

33. The joint assessment provides a common understanding of security conditions on the ground. The exercise continues, taking into account lessons learned to date and building on

information thus far collected to provide a sound basis for decisions on MONUSCO's deployments and security-related operations. Currently, the joint assessment process has not indicated the need for any reconfiguration of MONUSCO's mandate or deployment.

IV. Preparations for Elections

34. Since the promulgation of the law establishing the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) on 28 July, no agreement has been reached by the National Assembly regarding the proposed list of nominees for the CENI Board. The announced review of the electoral law by the Parliament has also yet to take place. In addition, the delimitation of electoral constituencies has yet to be completed.

35. On 20 November, the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) launched the voter registration process in Maniema Province. To date, the process has been completed in Bas Congo province, and Kinshasa has been partially completed. However, the process in the nine remaining provinces was delayed by up to two months due in part to the late disbursement of Government funds, and is currently expected to begin in the first quarter of 2011.

36. As of 31 December, MONUSCO had distributed more than 1,600 tons of electoral material to 12 hubs and 175 sub-hubs across the country. The material will be further distributed by the CEI to some 6,500 registration centres and additional sub-hubs. In addition, MONUSCO Police plan to conduct training of PNC territorial and anti-riot units on election security.

37. With regard to funding, the European Union and Belgium announced contributions of 47.5 million euros and 12.5 million euros respectively for the general elections, leaving a funding

gap of \$25 million. Other donors have indicated their willingness to consider additional funding. The Government contribution is expected to amount to \$154 million, or approximately 60 per cent of the budget estimated by the CEI for the general elections.

V. Progress toward the achievement of MONUSCO's mandate

Protection of civilians

38. Since my last report, MONUSCO reinforced existing efforts and initiated new approaches to protect civilians. The Mission took a number of measures to enhance communication with the local population and increase their confidence in MONUSCO. This included expanding the presence of MONUSCO troops in Walikale territory to six company or temporary operating bases in Walikale, Kibua, Pinga, Mpofi, Kashebere, and Buniampuli, and increasing the number of day and night patrols, including foot patrols. In addition, MONUSCO developed new standard procedures for the Force regarding the protection of civilians.

39. The Mission's Senior Management Group on Protection (SMG-P), which includes UNHCR as Protection Cluster Lead, and OCHA, also endorsed establishment of community alert networks (CANS). CANS aim to enable isolated communities in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo under imminent threat to contact local authorities and nearby MONUSCO military bases to request intervention. Under this initiative, the distribution of some 300 mobile phones to community focal points has begun. MONUSCO and partners also continued to work with the Democratic Republic of the Congo Government to encourage expansion of mobile phone network coverage throughout the country.

40. Cooperating with international NGO partners, MONUSCO also

stepped up efforts to establish early warning systems in vulnerable areas. As part of this effort, high frequency radios will equip company or temporary operating bases and be distributed in selected villages without mobile network coverage in the Kivus, as well as in Haut Uélé. MONUSCO also deployed additional Community Liaison Interpreters (CLIs) to cover five additional locations in North Kivu.

41. MONUSCO's senior management reviewed and identified gaps in the Mission's protection strategy, and took steps to ensure regular follow-up to SMG-P decisions. Provincial-level SMG-Ps were established in Bunia and Dungu, Orientale province, and Mbandaka, Equateur province, in addition to those in Goma, North Kivu and in Bukavu, South Kivu.

Status of support to FARDC and Implementation of the Conditionality Policy

42. MONUSCO continued to apply its Conditionality Policy with respect to the provision of support to FARDC in keeping with procedures elaborated by the Mission, despite a number of challenges outlined in my previous report (see S/2010/512) paragraph 50). The Mission screened Battalion commanders and the chains of command of units receiving support in Operation Western Thrust in Equateur province, as well as the FARDC operations supported by MONUSCO in Orientale province. MONUSCO also continued to support FARDC battalions in the context of Operation Amani Leo, primarily in South Kivu. On 11 November, following positive actions taken by the FARDC to address several cases of human rights violations committed in 2009, MONUSCO resumed support to the 911 "Ours" Battalion in Haut Uélé, which had been suspended in June.

43. In follow-up to the recommendations of the inter-agency mission to assess the implementation by MONUC/MONUSCO of the Conditionality Policy, on 11 November the Mission issued a standard operating procedure for the provision of support to FARDC and the PNC to ensure uniform understanding of the policy and its implementation. Steps were also taken to improve communication regarding the Conditionality Policy, both within the Mission and with relevant Congolese interlocutors.

Human rights

44. The human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remained of grave concern. Despite expressions of renewed commitment by the Government, efforts toward structural reform necessary to improve the human rights situation in the country remained inadequate. In the East, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) continued to document violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by national security elements and armed groups, mainly the FDLR and the LRA, including murders, sexual violence, looting and abductions.

45. New threats and acts of violence were perpetrated against human rights defenders, journalists and political opponents. On 29 September, two members of the human rights association Toges Noires present at the arrest of a man accused of throwing rocks at a presidential convoy in Kinshasa, were taken into custody. They were released on 4 and 6 October respectively, while the arrested man died in detention at a military camp in Kinshasa. Investigations by Congolese authorities into the circumstances of his death have made little progress. On 12 October, the Government lifted the suspension of Radio France Internationale (RFI) signals throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo

which it had imposed on 26 July 2009.

46. On 12 November, the trial in the case of the killing^{on 2 June} of human rights activist Floribert Chebeya of the Congolese NGO Voix des Sans Voix and the disappearance of his driver, Fidèle Bazana, ~~on 2 June~~ began before a military court in Kinshasa. Five of the eight accused PNC officers appeared at the trial's first hearing. The whereabouts of the three others is unknown and they are expected to be tried in absentia. The Congolese investigation into the case continues. The former Inspector General of the PNC, John Numbi, with whom Mr. Chebeya had an appointment on the eve of his death, remained suspended from his duties. Mr. Numbi has not been indicted in connection with this case, but he has appeared before the Court as a witness.

47. Between 16 and 21 October, following preliminary findings published on 24 September, the UNJHRO undertook further investigations into the Kibua-Mpofi attacks^{of 5 dates}. The investigation established that at least 387 people, including 300 women, 23 men, 55 girls and 9 boys, were raped by FDLR and Mayi-Mayi Cheka elements, and elements of a group formed the year before by an ex-CNDP officer and FARDC deserter, "Colonel" Emmanuel Nsengiyumva. In addition, at least 923 houses and 42 shops were looted and 116 civilians abducted and subjected to forced labour.

48. Following the issuance of the report of the mapping exercise documenting serious human rights violations committed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo between 1993 and 2003, the Minister of Justice and Human Rights indicated in a press release on 2 October that the Democratic Republic of the Congo Government favoured establishing specialized chambers of mixed character within Congolese jurisdiction. On 29 and 30 November,

the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights organized a workshop in Kinshasa on specialized chambers and non-judicial mechanisms of transitional justice.

49. Between 30 September and 10 October, a high-level panel convened by the High Commissioner for Human Rights visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo to address the issue of reparations for victims of sexual violence. In mid-December, the panel submitted to the Government its report aimed at complementing efforts to promote justice by providing assistance and support to victims, and to advance a national strategy on sexual violence with regard to reparations.

Sexual violence

50. The United Nations system in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in coordination with my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Margot Wallström, continued efforts to address the high incidence of rape and other acts of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In October and November alone, MONUSCO recorded nearly 2,000 reported incidents of sexual violence throughout the country.

51. MONUSCO and the United Nations country team worked closely with the Ministry of Gender, Family and Children in coordinating the implementation of the National Strategy on Sexual and Gender-based Violence. The Mission facilitated 16 coordination meetings in Kinshasa, Goma, Bukavu and Bunia with United Nations agencies, implementing partners, Government representatives and donors aimed at streamlining interventions, evaluating progress and identifying gaps and programmatic coverage as well as funding needs. In addition, MONUSCO launched the pilot of a database compiling information on reported acts of sexual

violence in Kinshasa and North Kivu, to improve the Mission's capacity to report and analyse trends in sexual violence.

Children and armed conflict

52. In 2010, MONUSCO facilitated the release of 2,006 children from national security forces and armed groups, 393 of whom were separated from the FARDC. However, evidence of increased recruitment and re-recruitment of children by armed groups and national security elements including integrated former CNDP elements, particularly in Masisi territory, remained a source of concern.

Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources

53. Cooperating with the Democratic Republic of the Congo Ministry of Mines, MONUSCO continued to support the establishment of mineral trading counters to combat the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Kivus. Construction of counters in Isanga, Walikale territory; Rubaya, Masisi territory; and Mugogo, Rutshuru territory, is expected to be completed by February 2011. Additional resources will be required to complete construction of the counter at Itebero, Walikale territory. In addition, MONUSCO conducted a three-week training course in Bukavu of 40 PNC elements who will provide security at the counters as soon as they become operational.

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and DDRRR

54. Since October, ~~MONUSCO extracted~~ some 940 individuals, including 290 Rwandan and 315 Congolese FDLR combatants, including 17 "officers", ^{participated in the DDRRR programme} mainly from the Kivus and Katanga Provinces. About one-third of the FDLR disarmed by MONUSCO were children, primarily Congolese. Since the beginning of the year,

1,881 FDLR combatants were demobilized, slightly less than the 1,997 demobilized in 2009. However, the number of "officers" demobilized increased from 45 to 65 and included higher ranking commanders up to the level of "Colonel". A total of 2,323 individuals, including dependents, were repatriated to neighbouring countries, the majority of which were returned to Rwanda. 19 LRA combatants were also repatriated, but only two ADF/NALU combatants surrendered in 2010.

55. The positive trend was attributed to several factors, including the military operations in the Kivus, enhanced DDR/RR efforts targeting mid-level commanders, and judicial pressure on the FDLR leadership in Europe. MONUSCO also observed an increase in the surrender of Burundian combatants in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

56. On 9 December, the Funding Board of the Stabilization and Recovery Funding Facility (SRFF) recommended a project for funding by the Peace Building Fund, to support the disarmament and demobilization of 4,000 residual elements of ex-armed groups in North and South Kivu.

Security Sector Reform (SSR)

57. Concrete progress on SSR during the reporting period was very limited. MONUSCO continued efforts to harmonize SSR support to the Democratic Republic of the Congo Government. My Special Representative held consultations with senior Government officials and international partners aimed at enhancing strategic dialogue on SSR. MONUSCO also continued to convene working group meetings on security sector reform, which are now regularly co-chaired by relevant Democratic Republic of the Congo ministry officials.

58. In addition, MONUSCO began compiling information to map existing security institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including the location and capacities of the national army, police, judiciary and corrections systems across the country. The Mission also initiated the development of a matrix outlining national, bilateral and multilateral projects and programmes in support of the Government's reform plans for the FARDC, police, judiciary and corrections systems.

59. Adoption by the National Assembly of the three organic laws relating to Army reform marked a step forward (see paragraph 23), though their passage by the Senate and promulgation by the President is still awaited. MONUSCO ^{is} ~~was~~ aware of only two bilateral training programs for the FARDC that remained active.

60. On 5 October, MONUSCO launched preparations for a basic 45-day refresher basic training course for 500 PNC personnel at the Munigi training centre in North Kivu. Intensive training continued for some 500 newly integrated police personnel at the Kapalata training centre. However, financial support has yet to be received to train, equip and garrison three police units as envisaged in a pilot project developed by MONUSCO, or for equipping three military police battalions, in response to the Government's request (see my report of 30 March 2010 (S/2010/164)). The Security Council did not authorize MONUSCO to provide such support.

61. On 30 November, the Democratic Republic of the Congo authorities launched the police census process to assess the strength and capabilities of the PNC with the support of MONUSCO's police component. In coordination with the interim Inspector General of the PNC, the Mission also worked with the European Union Police Mission (EUPOL) and other partners on the

establishment of an implementation body for the reform of the PNC developed by the Steering Committee for Police Reform (CSRP). In addition, MONUSCO Police appointed PNC reform focal points at the provincial level to provide advice and support to the PNC reform process. As indicated in paragraph 23, the National Assembly adopted the draft organic law on the police, a critical element of the reform process.

Rule of Law and Corrections

62. Further to the Government's request to MONUSCO to support the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Military Tribunals by providing them with transport and communications equipment, and reinforcing the capacity of their administration (see my report of 30 March 2010, S/2010/164), on 7 October, the Military Prosecutor requested assistance in carrying out investigations in connection with the Kibua-Mpofi attacks. Consequently, on 14-17 October, MONUSCO, UNDP and other partners conducted training for 24 Congolese magistrates and police officers. FARDC investigators were deployed to Walikale with the support of MONUSCO, UNDP and other partners to collect witness and victim testimonies from 28 October to 29 November. "Lieutenant Colonel" Mayele, a Mayi-Mayi Cheka commander suspected of being among those primarily responsible for the attack, remained in detention by Democratic Republic of the Congo authorities in Goma. Separately, in South Kivu, on 16 December, the Military Prosecutor requested assistance to investigate alleged attacks by FARDC elements in Shabunda and Uvira.

63. Progress was also made towards establishment of Prosecution Support Cells (PSCs), the first of which is being established in North Kivu with support from Canada. On 9 December, the Funding Board of the SRFF approved a project to support the

establishment of two additional PSCs for funding by the Peace Building Fund. In addition, the United States provided a military justice expert to assist MONUSCO with the establishment of the Cells.

64. At the national level, the Parliament adopted three organic laws relating to the organization of the DRC's legal institutions (see paragraph 22). One of the main objectives of these laws is to create a Constitutional Court and a Court of Appeal to replace the Supreme Court as provided in the Constitution, and revise existing rules on the organisation and the jurisdiction of ordinary courts. Among the Constitutional Court's responsibilities is adjudication of electoral and referenda-related disputes. Separately, 200 of nearly 1,000 newly appointed Congolese magistrates began work in Kinshasa. In addition, a draft of the United Nations Multi-Year Joint Justice Support Programme, developed jointly by MONUSCO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), was shared with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.

65. MONUSCO's corrections unit was significantly enhanced by the secondment to the Mission by Member States of some 50 corrections officers, more than half of whom have been deployed. This will support efforts to provide strategic direction to the Democratic Republic of the Congo Prison Administration with the aim of supporting structural reform, capacity building and good prison management practices in conformity with international norms.

MONUSCO and United Nations country team Stabilization and Peacebuilding Efforts

66. President Kabila's ordinance of 30 October extended the Government's STAREC programme to two districts of Equateur province (see paragraph 12). Under the framework of the International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy for the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (ISSSS) which supports the STAREC, on 11 November, the first police station was inaugurated in Sake, North Kivu and turned over to trained, newly-integrated PNC elements. Another 25 facilities have also been completed, and are expected to be staffed in the coming months. Significant progress was also made in rehabilitating 454 km of roads and bridges on three priority axes, namely Bukavu-Shabunda and Bukavu-Humbo in South Kivu, and Sake-Masisi in North Kivu.

67. In response to the Democratic Republic of the Congo Government's request to enhance support for peace consolidation and development activities, MONUSCO, the United Nations country team and the World Bank developed, in consultation with donors, a concept note for the Peace Consolidation Program (PCP) (see paragraph 75 of my last report S/2010/512). The concept note proposes interventions in the areas of State-building, peacebuilding and decentralization within two pillars: one for strengthening the rule of law and justice system, and a second for community recovery and access to basic social services. On 16 November, the Prime Minister endorsed the process and content of the concept note. Under the PCP, joint MONUSCO-United Nations country team offices are being established in Bas Congo, Kasai Orientale and Kasai Occidental. Separately, MONUSCO and the country team agreed to revise the draft Integrated Strategic Framework in keeping with Government priorities.

VI. Observations

68. Developments since my last report have continued to underscore the many inter-related challenges that face the Government and people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Extending and strengthening rule of law, establishing and reinforcing legitimate State authority and providing essential services to the population are constant priorities in many parts of the country. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to grapple simultaneously with the need to provide security for the population and eliminate the threat of armed groups; fight impunity; and establish conditions and infrastructure needed for sustainable development. MONUSCO and the United Nations Country Team remain committed to helping the Government and people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in these tasks.

69. Reform of the FARDC and PNC ^{one of the element} is essential for the consolidation of peace and stability. Decisions regarding the shape and development of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's security forces are a sovereign prerogative. I am, however, ^{about the lack of} concerned that progress on FARDC training lacks momentum and about delays in the adoption of remaining key legislation on the reform of the army, police and judicial institutions. I welcome the Government's willingness to engage with my Special Representative ~~in dialogue~~ on key security issues, including MONUSCO's support to the FARDC and the application of the Conditionality Policy, and the Mission's role in supporting the Government's SSR activities. ~~I fully support his efforts and~~ ^{MONUSCO} I urge international partners to work with him to identify possible opportunities for progress in this critical area.

70. I am encouraged by some of the positive indicators on the issue of illegal exploitation of natural resources. The region

and the international community have shown a growing willingness to act together through initiatives such as the Lusaka Summit convened by the ICGLR, as well as the elaboration of international due diligence guidelines and national legislation. Such steps can help create a supportive environment for the Democratic Republic of the Congo's own efforts - including the ban on mining activities in the Kivus and Maniema and the establishment of the trading counters - to prevent illegal exploitation that drives conflict and deprives the Democratic Republic of the Congo of revenues that would benefit the population. In addition, regular contact and improved relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its eastern neighbours have created possibilities for more effective cooperation.

71. With the necessary will and commitment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's leaders, and constructive engagement of civil society, these developments can help create the environment needed to improve the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Renewed efforts by all sides to address issues covered in the 23 March 2009 Agreements should also lead to new political approaches for addressing the long-standing causes of conflict.

72. The international community has continuously supported the democratic process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo over the past ten years. This support continues as the country prepares for the crucial second post-transitional general elections scheduled for 2011-2012. In recent months, Democratic Republic of the Congo actors have taken important steps in preparation for these elections. As candidates emerge and campaigning begins, I urge all parties to promote free and

constructive debate respectful of democratic norms, and to ensure a credible and transparent electoral process which will meet with the electorate's aspirations. I am encouraged by the Government's continued commitment to the electoral timetable and urge all partners in this process to pursue preparations vigorously in order to ensure that the polls can take place as planned. I also encourage the Parliament to expeditiously establish the new CENI and to enact the legislation required for the conduct of the polls in full compliance with the spirit and letter of the Constitution.

73. I welcome the Government's commitment to bear a greater portion of the cost of the general elections. I encourage the Government to make available the resources it has allocated to avoid any further delays in the voter registration process, and in the preparations for the general elections. I also welcome the significant pledges by international partners to support the polls and urge all concerned to meet their commitments in a timely manner throughout the process. For its part, MONUSCO and the United Nations country team will continue to support this effort to the maximum extent authorized by the Security Council and the General Assembly. The fiscal constraints facing all Member States make it essential that the Secretariat and MONUSCO achieve the highest degree of effectiveness and efficiency in the use of resources, including in the area of electoral support. A logistical plan and the precise distribution of tasks between electoral authorities and MONUSCO needs to be agreed upon in order for the Secretariat to make reliable estimates of the resources required and to seek the approval of the General Assembly.

74. Protection of civilians continues to be an overriding

imperative. I continue to be deeply concerned about the high levels of insecurity, violence and human rights abuses facing the Democratic Republic of the Congo population, particularly in the conflict-affected areas in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Looting, rape, forced labour, and robbery remain daily occurrences in this region. Recruitment and abduction of children by armed groups is also of concern. Human rights violations by national security elements are frequently reported. Well-known structural deficiencies of the armed forces, including the lack of training, supplies, equipment and logistical support, hinder the efforts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo authorities to impose discipline and bring perpetrators to justice. These challenges are compounded by the incomplete and tenuous integration of the CNDP and other Congolese armed groups into the FARDC, and involvement of some FARDC personnel in illegal exploitation of natural resources.

75. I welcome the steps taken by the Government and judicial authorities to bring to justice the perpetrators of the horrendous crimes committed against civilians in Walikale Territory, along the Kibua-Mpofi axis last July-August. The arrest, with MONUSCO's support, of one of the main alleged perpetrators was a positive development. I urge the Government and its international partners to extend the maximum possible support to the country's justice system, and to address swiftly sexual violence and similar crimes committed against civilians.

76. As it pursues justice against FARDC personnel accused of crimes against civilians, the Democratic Republic of the Congo authorities should also explore, together with MONUSCO and other partners, possible incentives for FARDC commanders and troops to respect international human rights, humanitarian and refugee

law.

77. Protecting civilians remains the sovereign responsibility of the Government. Meanwhile, MONUSCO has adopted a more robust posture and continued to develop and carry out new approaches for protecting civilians. Measures taken have focused on expanding patrols and improving their effectiveness, enhancing communication between MONUSCO troops and local populations, and enabling local communities to warn authorities and MONUSCO of possible or impending attacks. The MONUSCO operations highlighted in this report represent a major proactive effort by MONUSCO to contain the activities of armed groups, to deter them from attacking civilians and to reassure the population in sensitive areas of North and South Kivu, and Orientale provinces.

78. MONUSCO has undertaken the military operations either on its own, but in close coordination with the FARDC; or jointly with the FARDC. It has improved upon procedures to ensure compliance with the conditionality policy wherever it has provided support to FARDC operations. At the same time, the FARDC has also conducted unilateral military operations against the armed groups without MONUSCO support.

79. Military operations must, however, be part of a broader set of actions that include a concerted effort to protect civilians. I urge all stakeholders to increase their coordination and commitment to acting together to eliminate the threat of armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While the physical protection of civilians should be a priority, numerous threats facing the civilian population in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the instability that continues unabated in the East cannot be eliminated unless the underlying

challenges are effectively addressed. These include the establishment of effective State authority, building professional and adequately equipped and supplied security and rule of law institutions particularly the armed forces, the national police and the judiciary, curbing the illegal exploitation of natural resources, the weak or absent presence of the State, and neutralizing the illegal foreign and local armed groups.

80. With regard to the FDLR, the combination of military action and pressure on the diaspora leaders appears to have contributed to a steady flow of FDLR combatants, including officers, presenting themselves to the DDRRR programme. In this connection, I welcome the steps taken by France to arrest FDLR Executive Secretary Callixte Mbarushimana on the basis of an ICC warrant, and the new indictments in Germany in connection with the arrest there of the FDLR President and his Deputy in November 2009. I encourage other Governments in countries where FDLR leaders and support networks reside to take appropriate legal action against them. ^{NEW PARA} As for the LRA, I welcome the initiatives of the African Union in this regard and urge the States of the region and the broader international community to work together with the African Union to better define feasible steps towards a coordinated strategy aimed at protecting civilians from the LRA threat, and at ultimately eliminating the group's capacity to terrorize civilians.

81. MONUSCO's capability to protect civilians and to implement other core elements of its mandate is dependent on the availability of the necessary resources, in particular the number of military helicopters available to the Mission. The decline in military helicopters is expected to be aggravated in

early 2011, when the Secretariat has been advised that letters of assist for 10 of MONUSCO's remaining military helicopters will not be renewed. Without additional pledges from a contributor or contributors, the Mission will be left with just 10 military utility helicopters, four military observation helicopters, and no attack helicopters. Civilian helicopters alone cannot fill the gap created by the loss of these military aircraft, which will diminish the Force's ability to protect civilians and its own forces, to deter armed groups, and to support a number of its temporary or company operating bases in remote and high-risk areas. I appeal to Member States to urgently contribute military helicopters in order to fill this critical capability gap.

82. I am pleased to note that the past several months have been characterized by steady and constructive communication between MONUSCO, the United Nations country team, the Government and a range of governmental and non-governmental actors in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While constant efforts are required to reach out to key stakeholders and the public, current discussions on issues such as the justice reform programme, police training and reform, stabilization, and peace consolidation are encouraging. The successful conduct of the ongoing joint assessment process described in Section III of this report has played an important part in this regard. The assessment process, including site visits by mixed teams and reviews at provincial and national levels, has served as an important point of departure for dialogue between the Government and MONUSCO. This has allowed the Government and the Mission to develop a common understanding of the situation on the ground. The assessment process has also underlined the need for sustained international support for efforts aimed at

establishing rule of law and State authority throughout the country, but especially in areas emerging from conflict. The assessment process is continuing, and will examine the situation in a number of additional areas. I will keep the Council informed of the process, as necessary, in my forthcoming reports.

83. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all MONUSCO civilian, military and police personnel, who support the stabilization effort in the Democratic Republic of the Congo under the leadership of my Special Representative, ^{Mr. Roger Meele,} My continued recognition goes to countries contributing troops and police to MONUSCO and to their uniformed personnel. I would also like to express my appreciation for the work of the United Nations country team and the humanitarian community, as well as donor countries and multilateral and non-governmental organizations.