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United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Secretary-General

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Reporting period: 20 June 2026–18 September 2026

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Key topics: Political conditions; protection of civilians in peacekeeping operations; human rights; rule of law

Summary

Political developments centred around constitutional review proposals and the organization of a national dialogue, amid the announcement on 27 August by the President of Democratic Republic of the Congo, Félix Tshisekedi, to launch a National Dialogue for Peace, Cohesion and State Renewal. Discussions on its scope, participation and expected outcomes continued among stakeholders.

Diplomatic efforts in support of the peace process and implementation of the ceasefire yielded some progress. Within the framework of the Doha process, the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism Plus, supported by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), deployed its first ceasefire monitoring missions, to Minembwe on 24 and 25 August and to Masisi from 10 to 12 September, marking the first operational test of the ceasefire architecture. Under the Washington process, the Democratic Republic of the Congo presented a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan for the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR). This was, however, rejected by Rwanda.

The security situation remained concerning with continuing clashes between the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) and the Alliance Fleuve Congo/Mouvement du 23 mars (AFC/M23) and their respective allies in South and North Kivu. Throughout the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, protection concerns, including conflict-related sexual violence, remained acute.



The rapid expansion of the Ebola virus disease outbreak, now the country's most severe on record, with 7,200 confirmed cases and 3,475 deaths as at 14 September, sharply increased humanitarian needs amid constrained access for both MONUSCO and humanitarian partners.

I. Key developments

A. Political developments

1. Amid continued concerns among political opposition parties that a revision of the Constitution could affect the presidential term limit, the group Coalition article 64 pour la défense de l'ordre constitutionnel (C64) called for protests on 8 July. The African Union Chairperson and President of Burundi, Évariste Ndayishimiye, the President of the Republic of the Congo, Denis Sassou Nguesso, and representatives of the Catholic and Protestant Churches engaged relevant parties to reduce the risk of confrontation, contributing to a postponement of the protests called by C64.
2. On 17 July, the Conférence Épiscopale Nationale du Congo announced that the President had confirmed intentions to launch a national dialogue. On 28 July, the Constitutional Court found the referendum bill consistent with the Constitution, subject to certain revisions. Accordingly, on 10 August the President returned the bill to Parliament for further deliberations.
3. On 27 August, the President formally announced the organization of a National Dialogue for Peace, Cohesion and State Renewal aimed at addressing the structural causes of instability and strengthening national unity. The process will comprise consultations across 26 provinces, followed by a national forum in Kinshasa bringing together political, religious and traditional leaders, civil society and diaspora representatives, with the objective of adopting a National Pact for Peace within three months. Opposition groups, including the platform of the former President, Joseph Kabila, Sauvons la RDC and C64, criticized the initiative as insufficiently inclusive and reiterated calls for a consensual framework to address the country's political, security and social challenges.
4. On 13 September, a presidential order established a preliminary organization committee ahead of the creation of the preparatory commission for the national dialogue. The committee is tasked with conducting initial consultations with stakeholders and identifying the operational requirements for the upcoming commission. It was announced that the committee will be composed of individuals appointed by the President, supported by a technical secretariat.
5. On 15 September, C64 organized a nationwide march. In Kinshasa, C64 leaders accused the Congolese National Police and Forces du progrès of attacking protesters in some areas while appreciating the professionalism of the Congolese National Police in other parts of the city.
6. On 28 July, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo announced that a faction of FDLR elements had signed a protocol on disarmament, demobilization and cantonment through sensitization, described as a step towards implementing the provisions of the Washington Accords for Peace and Prosperity between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda on FDLR neutralization. The Government of Rwanda rejected the plan, arguing that the Washington Accords require the verifiable neutralization of FDLR and claimed this was a delaying tactic by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
7. Under the Washington process, at the sixth Joint Security Coordination Mechanism meeting in Geneva on 12 and 13 August, the Democratic Republic of the Congo presented a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan for FDLR. The parties agreed to further meetings to revise the operations order for implementation of the concept of operations included in the Washington Agreement.
8. The African Union-led mediation continued efforts to implement the outcomes of the Lomé review meeting (see [S/2026/507](#), para. 14), including through a

harmonization meeting co-hosted with the Southern African Development Community in Gaborone, from 24 to 26 July, where participants agreed to an African Union road map and six-month action plan.

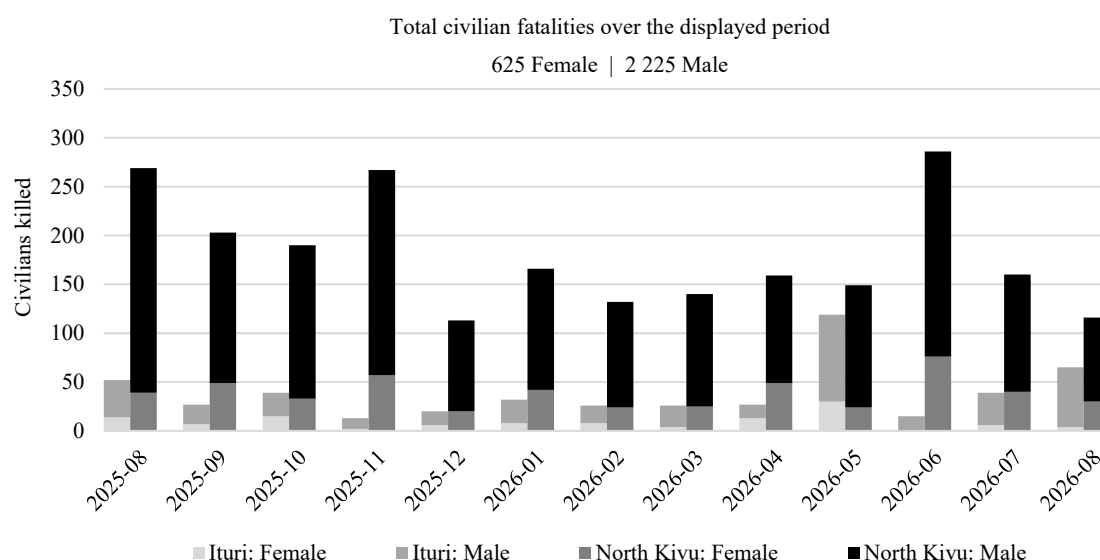
9. Negotiations under the Doha process resumed from 17 to 21 August in Montreux, Switzerland, with the parties agreeing on a road map, setting out sequenced steps and timelines for further negotiation. On 7 August, the Government facilitated, through the International Committee of the Red Cross, the release and transfer to AFC/M23 of 15 detainees under the prisoner exchange protocol of the Doha Framework. AFC/M23 subsequently claimed that only 9 of the 15 individuals appeared on the list of 768 prisoners it had submitted

B. Protection of civilians

10. MONUSCO documented 518 protection incidents across North Kivu and Ituri, resulting in 470 civilian deaths, including 61 women and 56 children, with the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and M23 being the two largest perpetrators, with 214 and 170 fatalities, respectively.

Figure I

Reported killings of civilians in armed group-related incidents in Ituri and North Kivu, August 2025–August 2026, disaggregated by sex



Source: MONUSCO/Joint Operations Centre /Situational Awareness Geospatial Enterprise.

Note: Victim counts are likely underreported due to restrictions on access in North Kivu.

11. In Ituri, armed violence in Djugu decreased following the unilateral ceasefire by the Convention pour la Révolution Populaire (CRP) in May, though the security environment remained fragile. Following the killing on 15 July of the leader of the Front Patriotique et Intégrationniste du Congo (FPIC), Edouard Kakadi Tondabo (alias Hérode), MONUSCO deployed a mobile base in Marabo, helping to prevent escalation.

12. ADF concentrated attacks in southern Mambasa and along the Ituri-North Kivu border, often targeting mining sites. In response, MONUSCO re-established a presence in Mambasa on 20 June, as well as a mobile operating base in Nia-Nia, in

the far west of Mambasa territory, conducting joint patrols with FARDC and facilitating humanitarian access for the Ebola outbreak response in coordination with the World Health Organization (WHO).

13. The Ministry of Interior convened an interprovincial security meeting in Kisangani from 2 to 4 July, to strengthen coordination among national and provincial security actors in countering ADF. MONUSCO supported this effort by establishing standard combat deployments in Mamove and Sayo, expanding the Mission's reach and enabling joint long-range patrols with FARDC.

14. FDLR abuses of the civilian population remained concentrated in Rutshuru territory, but also Masisi, Nyiragongo and Walikale, primarily consisting of armed robbery, extortion, targeted killing and forced disappearances of community leaders and alleged collaborators appointed by AFC/M23. FDLR also engaged in low levels of forced recruitment, conflict-related sexual violence and kidnapping, among other abuses. Since 20 June, the group has allegedly been involved in at least 44 human rights abuses and protection incidents affecting 89 victims, including 15 victims of summary executions.

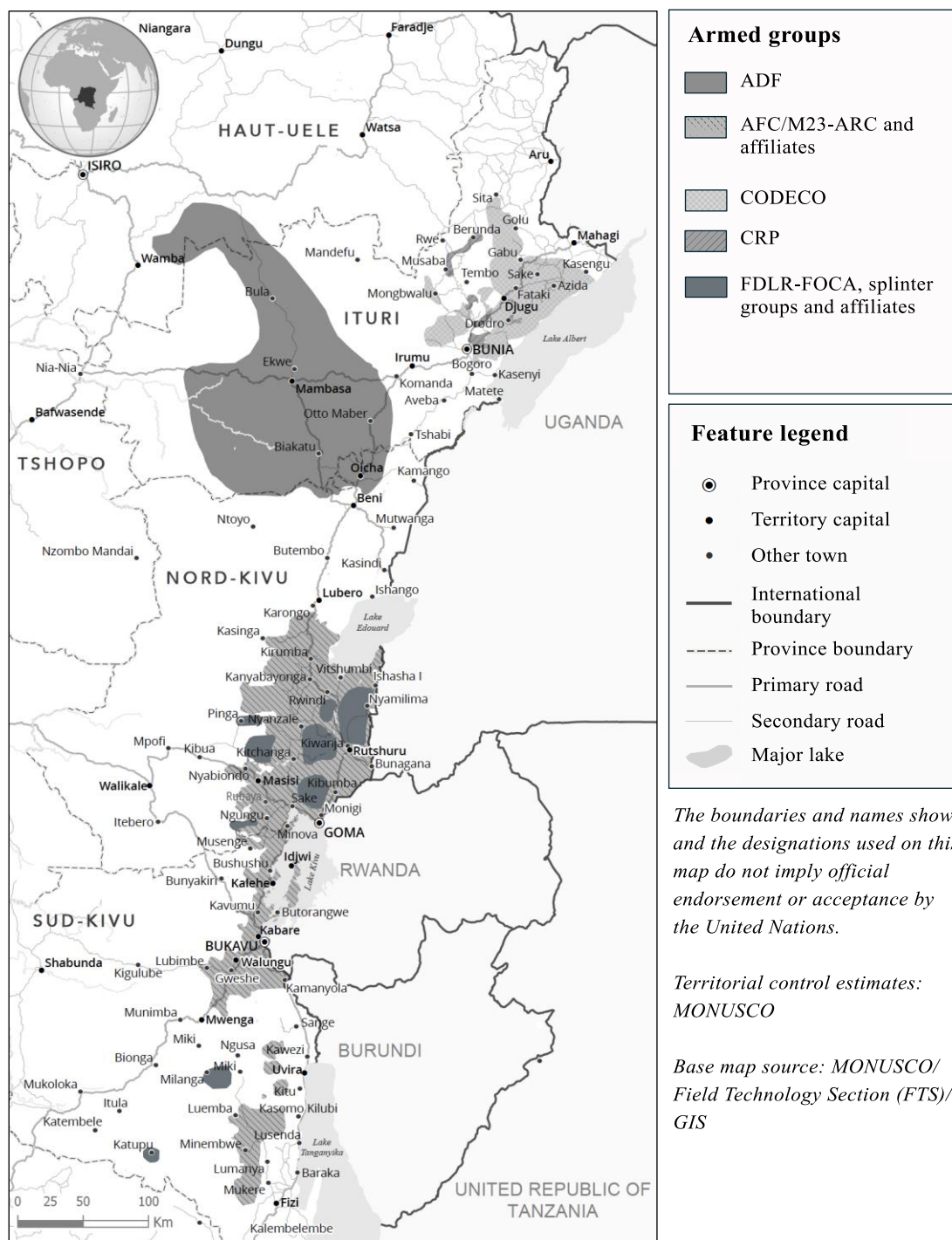
15. On 17 June, in Masisi territory, at least 60 bodies were reportedly discovered following AFC/M23 operations against FDLR and Nyatura elements, as counter-FDLR operations continued to systematically target civilians, resulting in deaths and displacement. Clashes between M23 and armed self-defence groups intensified in Masisi and Walikale in August and September.

16. The use of drone warfare and indiscriminate strikes by State and non-State actors has increased notably in Masisi, Walikale, Kalehe, Walungu, Mwenga, Uvira and Fizi territories of North and South Kivu, significantly escalating the risk to civilians.

17. On 26 August, MONUSCO transported 16 civilians by helicopter who had sought protection at its Goma facilities since January 2025, from Goma to Beni, where they were received by Government authorities. The Mission continues to provide protection in Goma to 13 unarmed security actors.

18. Restrictions on some of the Mission's movements in areas controlled by AFC/M23, as well as risks faced by civilian partners engaging with MONUSCO, continue to affect the Mission's access and ability to engage effectively with partners. Nonetheless, through the Mission's good offices, advocacy and enhanced partner engagement, the Mine Action Service resumed explosive ordnance disposal operations in Goma, with more than 30 disposal operations conducted and over 40 explosive remnants of war destroyed.

Figure II
Areas of influence of selected armed groups as at 1 September 2026



C. Human rights situation

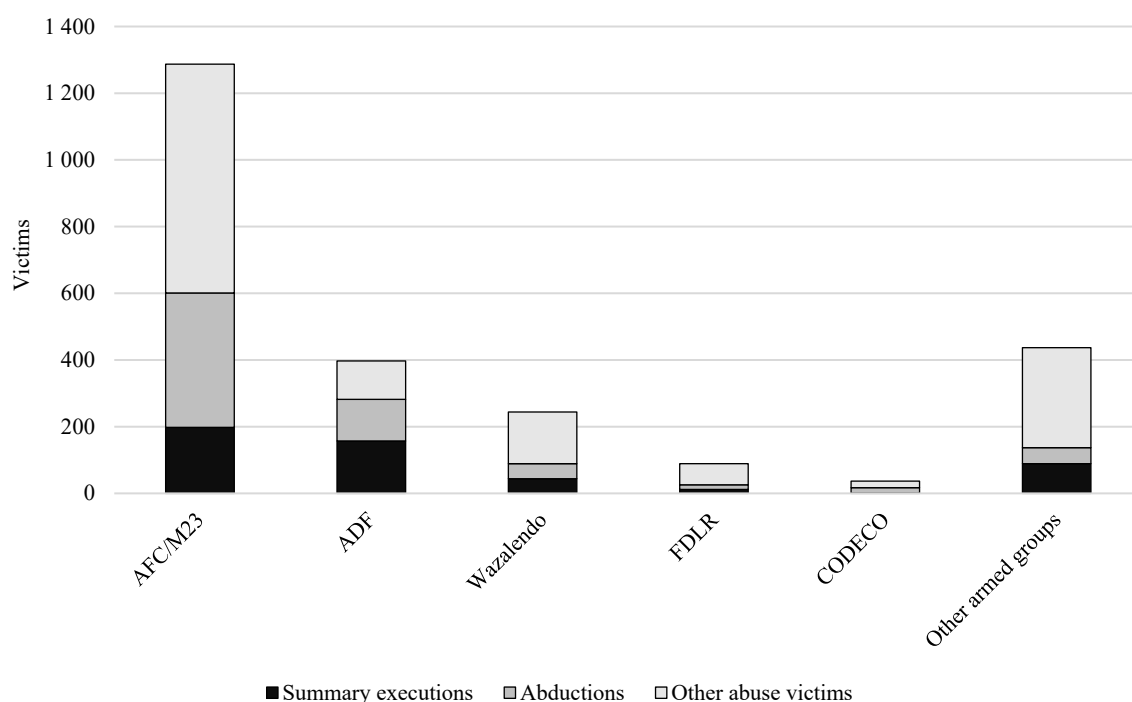
19. The United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo documented 1,359 human rights violations and abuses nationwide, a 10 per cent decrease compared with the previous reporting period, of which 86 per cent were

documented in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu. AFC/M23 remained the largest single perpetrator, responsible for 489 human rights abuses affecting 1,279 victims (752 men, 391 women, 125 children and 11 persons), followed by Wazalendo groups (143 abuses), ADF (98 abuses), FDLR (44 abuses) and the Coopérative pour le Développement du Congo (CODECO) (23 abuses). The Office also documented 40 cases of conflict-related sexual violence countrywide against 46 women and 23 girls; 57 instances were attributed to armed groups.¹ FARDC have committed most of the human rights violations registered among State agents (198 violations). Congolese National Police agents have been responsible for 107 human rights violations.

20. MONUSCO verified 366 grave violations affecting 276 children (80 girls and 196 boys), including 142 cases of recruitment and use, 111 cases of abduction and 69 cases of killing and maiming, with 269 cases in North Kivu and 97 in Ituri. MONUSCO, in close collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund, secured the release of 47 children detained by FARDC, including 11 girls, associated with two Wazalendo-affiliated armed groups.

Figure III

Victims of human rights abuses by alleged armed groups confirmed by the Mission during the reporting period



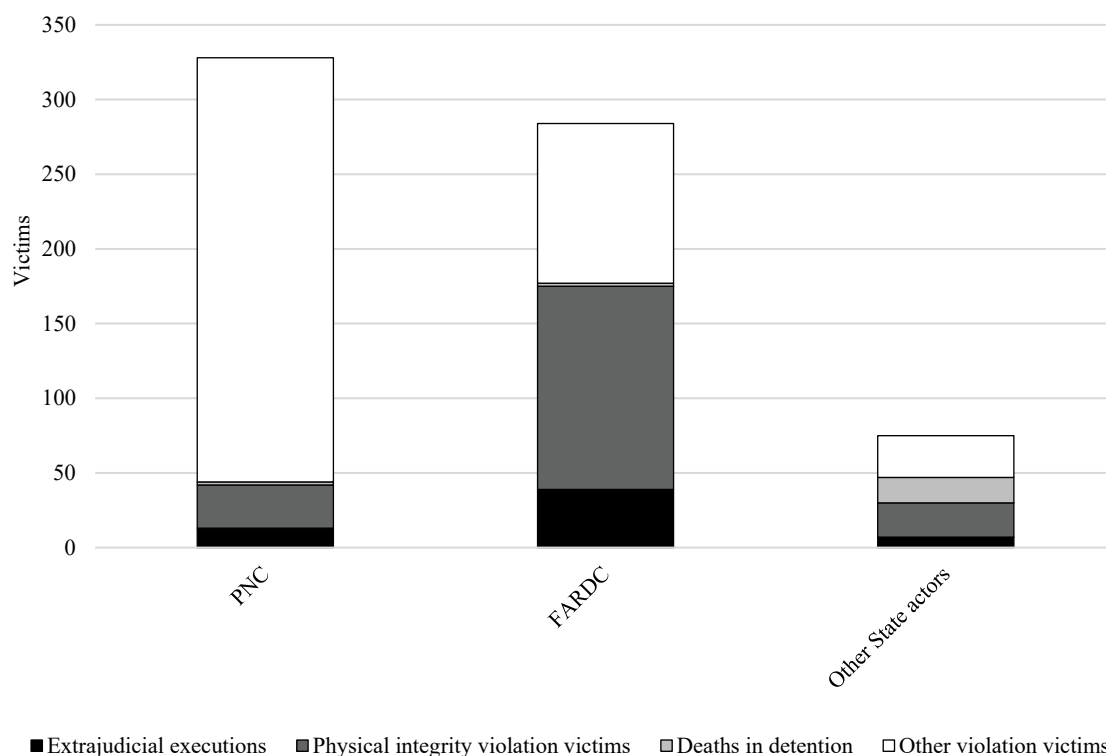
Source: MONUSCO/Joint Human Rights Office (JHRO).

Note: Victim counts likely underreported due to restrictions on investigations in North Kivu.

Abbreviations: ADF, Allied Democratic Forces; CODECO, Coopérative pour le développement du Congo; FDLR, Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, M23, Mouvement du 23 mars.

¹ Movement restrictions associated with preventive measures adopted since the declaration of the Ebola outbreak, as well as ongoing insecurity in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces negatively affected the capacity of MONUSCO to document human rights violations and abuses.

Figure IV
Victims of human rights violations by State forces confirmed by the Mission during the reporting period



Source: MONUSCO/Joint Human Rights Office (JHRO).

Abbreviations: FARDC, Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; PNC, Congolese National Police.

D. Humanitarian challenges and response

21. The rapid expansion of the Ebola outbreak significantly increased humanitarian needs and placed additional pressure on already fragile health systems and humanitarian operations. As at 15 September, national authorities reported 7,258 confirmed Ebola cases, including 3,510 deaths, representing a 48.4 per cent fatality rate, across seven provinces and 62 health zones (see [S/2026/507](#), para. 43). The current Ebola outbreak is the most severe of the 17 outbreaks recorded in the country, with Ituri accounting for 78 per cent of the confirmed deaths and with a gradually increasing proportion of cases in North Kivu.

22. As at 30 June, more than 6.1 million people were internally displaced by violence and insecurity, while 26.5 million faced acute food insecurity and 4.2 million children suffered from acute malnutrition. The revised Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for 2026, endorsed on 15 July, estimates that 18.5 million people require humanitarian assistance, an increase largely driven by the Ebola outbreak. The Plan aims to assist 10.7 million people and requires \$2.13 billion, including \$313 million for the Ebola response, which alone accounts for 8 million people in need. As at 15 September, only 49.4 per cent of the total financial requirements have been mobilized.

E. Support for peace processes and implementation of a permanent ceasefire

23. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General continued his good offices with key stakeholders in support for the ongoing peace processes, including engagements with the authorities of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, together with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region. MONUSCO continued to provide technical and logistical support to the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism Plus, including infrastructure and equipment in Goma. MONUSCO also conducted a reconnaissance mission and positioned air assets at Goma airport, enabling the first ceasefire monitoring and verification mission in Minembwe, South Kivu, on 24 and 25 August. The Mission similarly supported the second Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism Plus mission to Masisi, North Kivu, from 10 to 12 September, including the conduct of another reconnaissance mission on 4 September and the provision of ground and aviation support to the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism Plus operation.

24. MONUSCO participated in the sixth and seventh meetings of the Joint Security Coordination Mechanism under the Washington Agreement in July and August, sharing its experience in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, including the processing and repatriation of FDLR ex-combatants.

25. On 8 September, 120 FDLR and other foreign ex-combatants and dependents who remained at the MONUSCO transit camp since 14 May 2026 were repatriated to Rwanda. The resumption of the repatriation operations followed sustained efforts by the Mission, including intensive engagement with the relevant Rwandan authorities and public health measures, amid Ebola-related restrictions imposed by the Government of Rwanda.

F. Support to stabilization and strengthening of State institutions

26. In July, MONUSCO launched two community violence reduction projects in Masisi territory to help create conditions conducive to FDLR disengagement. A community violence reduction project in Rutshuru territory, completed on 20 August, delivered community stabilization and economic recovery activities benefitting 5,683 people, including 910 women and 1,341 young people.

27. In Ituri, MONUSCO supported community reinsertion and strengthened livelihood through vocational training in farming and livestock activities. In Beni, North Kivu, two community recovery projects supported social cohesion and economic recovery, generating temporary employment for 120 beneficiaries, including 45 women and 70 young people.

28. MONUSCO supported the National Security Council on institutional arrangements for the National Security Sector Reform Commission and the launch of a United Nations system-wide security sector reform coordination mechanism. In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Mission advanced digital knowledge management systems for FARDC and Congolese National Police and facilitated dialogue between FARDC and the Congolese National Police and civil society on democratic oversight of the security sector.

29. To reduce pretrial detention and strengthen access to justice, MONUSCO supported judicial inspections and mobile court hearings in Walikale, Beni and Bunia, resulting in the release of 45 individuals (including 3 women, and 2 boys). The Mission also supported investigative missions in Bunia into international crimes and strengthened the capacity of judicial actors to identify, collect and preserve electronic

evidence. With WHO, the Mission also trained 42 detainees (2 women) and 15 prison medical personnel (5 women) on Ebola prevention measures and organized a workshop on prison reforms for 30 participants, including 20 women.

G. Mission effectiveness and safety and security of United Nations personnel

30. MONUSCO deployed 7,577 troops (505 women) and 283 United Nations military experts (58 women), against an authorized strength of 11,500 troops and 600 military experts, a decrease from 7,940 troops following the withdrawal of South African troops from the Force Intervention Brigade. The Mission adjusted its posture in Ituri and North Kivu to protect civilians and secure internally displaced persons sites and evaluated two military units, producing tailored performance improvement plans. Operational readiness remained high across 863 deployed police personnel, a modest increase from 855 (S/2026/507, para. 67), with women comprising 38 per cent of individual police officers and 16 per cent of formed police unit personnel. By 15 September, 1,432 civilian personnel (25.3 per cent women), including 167 United Nations Volunteers (49.1 per cent women), and 30 Government-provided personnel (30 per cent women), were serving with MONUSCO.

31. In total, 139 security incidents affecting United Nations security management system personnel and premises were recorded, 18 of which affected women. The incidents included stone-pelting of MONUSCO vehicles, disruptions to staff and operations due to ongoing armed conflict, ambushes and robberies targeting United Nations vehicles, civil unrest, armed conflict and criminal acts affecting Ebola response operations, and the unlawful detention of United Nations personnel by AFC/M23.

H. Transition

32. The Joint Programme to Support Justice Reform, comprising MONUSCO and five United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, validated its gender strategy on 3 September. Meanwhile, the institutionalization of the Ituri permanent dialogue mechanism by the Ministry of Interior, jointly supported by MONUSCO and UNDP, could establish a sustainable body for conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution.

II. Analysis

33. Political polarization intensified around the National Dialogue, constitutional review and concerns over shrinking political space. Engagement by regional and religious actors helped reduce the risk of immediate tensions, but political differences remain.

34. Persistent clashes between FARDC and M23, and their respective allies continued to drive insecurity, civilian casualties and displacement in North and South Kivu, exposing civilians to grave protection risks, including targeted and other killings, abductions, conflict-related sexual violence, forced displacement, restrictions on freedom of movement and destruction of livelihoods. From mid-August, intensified clashes between M23 and various factions of armed self-defence forces in Walikale and Masisi territories resulted in widespread violence and drove the displacement of 70,800 civilians, according to humanitarian reports. In South Kivu, Twirwaneho and M23 pushed back FARDC outside of the general

Minembwe area, and regained control of Point Zero on 4 July, effectively restoring the frontline to its late January 2026 configuration.

35. The deployment of the first Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism Plus verification missions to Minembwe and Masisi points to an increased willingness among the parties to operationalize agreed commitments and use established mechanisms to address differences. However, the unabated continuation of the fighting, mutual accusations of ceasefire violations and competing narratives regarding developments on the ground highlight the fragility of these gains and underscore the need for sustained political engagement, adherence to agreed arrangements, achieving agreement on remaining areas of divergence and continued regional support.

III. Implications

36. An inclusive and meaningful national dialogue could provide an important opportunity to address political divisions. Unresolved differences on constitutional reform and on the parameters for a national dialogue, however, could affect stakeholders' confidence and deepen polarization if not managed in an inclusive and transparent manner.

37. Continued clashes between FARDC and AFC/M23 and their respective allies risks undermining the ceasefire and confidence-building measures, including the deployment of monitoring and verification missions to some of the affected areas. Continued efforts at confidence-building between the parties to advance the Doha process, including the ceasefire monitoring and verification arrangements, will be essential.

38. The spread of Ebola across seven provinces, including outside the Mission's area of operations, is likely to increase operational challenges for humanitarian actors and MONUSCO alike.

39. Certain continued restrictions on the Mission's freedom of movement in areas controlled by AFC/M23, including prior notification and authorization requirements, are likely to continue affecting the ability of the Mission to implement certain mandated activities.

40. Both of these factors intersect in North Kivu and limit access to vulnerable populations. This underscores the importance of coordinated political, humanitarian, public health and protection responses, including to mitigate the wider consequences of the Ebola outbreak

IV. Observations

41. I welcome the parties' commitment under the Doha Framework to commence the ceasefire monitoring and urge them to accelerate the deployment of further verification missions to ensure impartial monitoring and investigation of alleged violations. I call upon all parties to continue to work with the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism Plus, and to engage constructively with its findings through the Ceasefire Oversight and Verification Mechanism to advance towards a permanent ceasefire, build mutual trust and create the conditions for a lasting political solution to the protracted conflict.

42. The resumption of regular meetings under the Washington process, together with the agreement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda on a sequenced road map, provides a basis for tangible progress. I urge the parties to

sustain this engagement and deliver on their commitments, including full compliance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

43. Despite these encouraging developments, I remain deeply concerned by the unabated violence to which civilians are subjected across North Kivu and South Kivu, through persistent clashes between FARDC and AFC/M23 and their respective allies. This underscores the urgency of translating the commitments made under the ongoing peace processes into tangible protection gains for civilians.

44. The decision to convene a national dialogue presents an important opportunity to build national consensus on key issues, including governance and preparations for the next electoral cycle. I encourage all stakeholders to engage constructively and ensure that the process is inclusive, credible and transparent, with the meaningful participation of women and youth. I commend the African Union for its continued leadership in support of this process.

45. I am deeply concerned about the ongoing Ebola outbreak, which has disrupted humanitarian assistance in conflict-affected communities. I urge Member States and partners to provide adequate and timely resources for the revised Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for 2026 and call upon all parties to the conflict to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian and health personnel and to facilitate rapid, safe and unimpeded access for the Ebola response, in accordance with international humanitarian law. I call upon neighbouring countries to facilitate the transit of personnel and supplies required for the response.

46. I express my appreciation to the Special Representative and all United Nations personnel for their dedication under challenging circumstances, including those engaged in supporting the peace process and assisting the Congolese authorities in addressing multiple and complex protection and humanitarian challenges, including the Ebola outbreak.

