

**DRC 2006 ELECTIONS****MONUC AND THE ELECTIONS
JULY 2006****1. MONUC****Personnel**

- Established in November 1999, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) is currently the largest UN peacekeeping mission in the world with more than 17,600 uniformed personnel from 58 countries.
- The Head of MONUC is William Lacy Swing of the United States. He has been the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the DRC since July 2003.
- Eighty percent of MONUC's military and police personnel are deployed in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where Congolese and foreign militias continue to fight, more than three years after the civil war ended.
- MONUC has suffered one of the highest numbers of casualties from hostile acts among the current peacekeeping missions, with 22 lives lost in the past 18 months alone. As of 30 June 2006, a total number of 92 peacekeepers have lost their lives while serving with MONUC.

[Note: The overall UN peacekeeping budget for 2006-2007 is approximately \$4.7 billion. The largest contributor is the United States which is paying about 26.7 percent of the approved budget, according to a formula agreed by UN Member States.]

Budget

- MONUC's approved budget for 2006-2007 is about \$1.1 billion. The total cost of MONUC's operations over the last seven years is approximately \$3.8 billion. Since it was established in 1999, MONUC's major activities have included the provision of security, protection of civilians, political assistance during the transitional period, disarming and integrating combatants into society, training the police force, monitoring human rights, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and assisting with the organization of national elections.

Security

- MONUC, like some other UN peacekeeping missions in dangerous areas, is authorized to use all necessary means to carry out its tasks.
- In support of the transitional government, MONUC contributes to the protection of institutions and government officials, to the improvement of the security conditions for humanitarian assistance, and assists in the voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons.
- MONUC deploys and maintains a presence in the key areas of potential volatility, works to promote the re-establishment of confidence, to discourage violence, and allow UN personnel to operate freely, particularly in the eastern part of the DRC.
- MONUC is mandated to ensure the protection of civilians, including humanitarian personnel, under imminent threat of physical violence.
- MONUC monitors the implementation of the arms embargo and seizes and disposes arms whose presence in the DRC is forbidden.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

- Part of MONUC's mandate is to give its support to the transitional government for the disarmament and demobilization of combatants. As of June 2006, more than 123,200 combatants



have been disarmed. Of these, about 9,700 have reintegrated into civilian life and 38,300 have joined the army since the start of the transitional process.

Facilitation of humanitarian assistance

- There are currently at least 1.6 million internally displaced persons in the DRC.
- More than 450,000 people fled DRC as refugees during the recent conflicts. Out of these, 60,000 have since returned.
- The UN and partners have assisted approximately 499,000 new internally displaced persons with their Rapid Response Mechanism since the beginning of 2006.
- MONUC integrates its peacekeeping work in DRC with that of all of the 18 UN agencies, funds and programmes operating in the country.

Protection of human rights

- In accordance with its mandate, MONUC's Human Rights Division assists the transitional government in the promotion and protection of human rights, with particular attention to women, children and vulnerable persons.
- MONUC has the largest Child Protection Section of any United Nations peacekeeping mission.
- As a result of joint efforts at the national and international levels to fight impunity for perpetrators of serious human rights violations, in March 2006, Jean Pierre Biyoyo, ex-commander of an armed group, was sentenced by a military tribunal to five years' imprisonment for recruitment, of child soldiers committed in South Kivu in April 2004. The same month, Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, a former leader of the "Union des patriotes congolais" active in Ituri district, was transferred by the Congolese authorities into the custody of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, accused of the war crimes, including the recruitment and use of children under the age of 15.

Aviation

- With 105 aircraft, MONUC is currently the largest UN aircraft operator in the world.
- MONUC's aviation budget represents a quarter of the Mission's annual budget. MONUC operates in about 60 airports and airfields, supports 150 landing sites across the country and employs more than 1,600 aviation staff of different nationalities.

MONUC and the media

- MONUC aims to provide the widest possible access to impartial, reliable information to the local population. In collaboration with Foundation Hirondelle, a Swiss NGO, MONUC operates Radio Okapi, the largest national radio network in the DRC. It broadcasts in five languages on both FM and shortwave transmission, reaching an estimated 80 percent of the population.

2. The 2006 ELECTIONS

- On 30 July 2006, the Congolese electorate will cast their votes in some 53,000 polling stations for 33 presidential and over 9,647 national legislative candidates.
- These will be the first elections in DRC for more than 40 years.
- 25.7 million people have registered as voters, out of an estimated voting population of 28 million.
- 267 political parties have registered to participate in the electoral process.
- The electoral process is the largest ever conducted with UN support.
- The elections are being organized by the country's Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) in accordance with the Constitution of the DRC and the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement.



- The UN Development Programme's Electoral Assistance Project (APEC) and a number of international partners are providing essential technical and logistical support to the IEC.
- MONUC is supporting the DRC authorities in providing security for the elections through direct assistance and through the training of the national police force. In addition, MONUC is undertaking a number of other activities for the elections, including transporting voting material and electoral personnel to the approximately 53,000 polling sites around the country.
- There are 169 different types of ballots weighing together about 1,800 tons and requiring many flights to deliver to the polling stations across the country.
- The international community has organized personnel training for 300,000 poll workers and 50,000 police officers.
- Over 45,000 police officers have been trained; 37,000 of whom were trained by MONUC. 80,000 police officers will be deployed to provide security during the electoral period.
- Approximately 70 percent of the MONUC's 17,600-strong military contingent will take part in election-related duties involving public protection, safety and escorts.
- Some 40,000 domestic observers and about 1,500 international observers are expected to monitor the vote.

Major contributors

- The international community has contributed more than \$432 million in support of the elections with \$320 million coming from the European Union.
- Fifty-eight nations are contributing troops to MONUC's operations as of 30 June 2006. The top five troop-contributing nations are Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Uruguay and Nepal. Troops also come from Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chad, China, Côte d'Ivoire, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Indonesia, Ireland, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Vanuatu, Yemen and Zambia.
- In addition, 2,000 European Union troops are on standby to provide additional support to MONUC during the electoral period.

3. CHALLENGES

Logistics

- DRC is almost the size of Western Europe, but with few roads and little infrastructure.
- The lack of infrastructure makes DRC one of the most challenging and expensive places in the world to deliver humanitarian assistance.

Security

- About 10,000 foreign armed elements remain in eastern Congo, where MONUC has deployed 13 of its 15 battalions.
- The disarmament and demobilization of militias is still ongoing.
- Much work still needs to be done to complete security sector reforms, including army and police integration.

Election campaign



- The overwhelming majority of the voters have no previous experience of participating in national elections.
- There are political tensions among the 267 political parties participating in the electoral process.
- Ensuring that, as far as possible, the elections are conducted in a peaceful climate free of intimidation, fear and the use of derogatory language.

Post election period:

- Ensuring that, to the extent possible, the establishment of an inclusive government helps lay the foundation for national reconciliation and allows a concerted approach towards the challenges being faced by the country.
- Ensuring concerted and sustained international support to allow DRC to focus on the reconstruction and development process, including improving security and the daily living conditions of the people.
- Ensuring that security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration continue after the elections.

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