

## BACKGROUND NOTE UN-IFI FACILITY

### UN-IFIs Facility Partner Visit October 2025 Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

#### I. Context

The UN-IFI Facility, managed by the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) in collaboration with UNOPS as the operational partner, is a global initiative designed to strengthen collaboration between the United Nations and international financial institutions (IFIs) such as the World Bank and other multilateral development banks (MDBs) such as the African Development Bank (ADB). By aligning peacebuilding priorities with financial, humanitarian and development strategies, the Facility helps bridge political engagement, technical expertise, and financial instruments in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Since its launch in 2019, it has supported UN Country Teams and governments in more than 40 contexts, providing catalytic resources to address the root causes of fragility and to leverage larger-scale investments for sustainable peace.

Through targeted grants, technical assistance, and joint analytical work, the Facility provides catalytic support to UN Country Teams and governments, enabling them to align national peacebuilding priorities with IFI instruments and to unlock larger, more sustainable financing for resilience and peace. During the Facility's first five years, this support has been delivered through two complementary tracks: a *Regular Track* for larger, strategic initiatives, and a *Fast Track* for rapid, flexible responses to emerging needs.

In 2025, in response to the recommendations of the independent evaluation of the Facility conducted in 2024, the Facility entered a new "reboot" phase where its delivery modalities have been updated into three new categories of support. As of April 2025, the Facility's offer to UN field leadership has been streamlined into a three-tier model with a reinforced feedback loop between practice and policy. The Facility is currently funded through 30 September 2026.

In the DRC, the Facility has been operating under the Regular Track through the deployment of a UN-IFI Partnership Advisor within the Resident Coordinator's Office since April 2024, providing dedicated support to strengthen the alignment between peacebuilding priorities, national strategies, and IFI instruments

This note will present the Facility's portfolio in the DRC through two complementary lenses: 1) strategic and 2) programmatic and operational engagement with IFIs.

## II. Strategic engagement

### a. IMF

In 2024, the Democratic Republic of the Congo concluded for the first time an Extended Credit Facility (ECF) with the International Monetary Fund. The ECF is the IMF's main tool for medium-term support to low-income countries, combining concessional financing with reforms to address balance-of-payments needs and promote stability.

This opened the way for a new ECF in 2025, complemented by a Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF). The RSF provides affordable longer-term financing to support reforms that reduce macro-critical risks linked to climate change and pandemic preparedness. Disbursements are phased in and tied to progress on agreed reforms, and the RSF is usually paired with an IMF program like the ECF to ensure policy consistency.

#### ➤ Support in preparing two new IMF programmes

In preparing the two new IMF programmes in 2025, the UN supported the process by facilitating technical workshops and policy dialogues. This engagement allowed the UN to provide technical and strategic input to the IMF on public policy priorities, including social spending (social protection, nutrition, food security, health, education), climate change, humanitarian action, and rule of law issues such as justice, anti-corruption, security sector reform, stabilization, and natural resource management.

These workshops contributed to the inclusion of specific elements in the design of programs conditionality and enriched the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP), the third core component of IMF-supported programmes. They also enabled the IMF to integrate a fragility-sensitive perspective into the formulation of the new arrangements

### b. WORLD BANK

The Prevention and Resilience Allocation (PRA) of the World Bank and the Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) are complementary instruments designed to address fragility. The PRA provides additional financing to eligible countries undertaking reforms to reduce conflict risks, while the RRA is the joint analytical tool used to identify key drivers of fragility and resilience. Disbursements under the PRA are phased and conditional on the government's progress in implementing agreed policy commitments.

#### ➤ PRA Extension

In April–May 2024, the United Nations supported the Government and the World Bank in preparing the request for an extension of the PRA through a series of technical workshops, bringing key UN expertise and ensuring that the evolving context — including the transition process — was fully reflected. MONUSCO sections also contributed to this effort, which resulted in the formulation of a specific milestone on the transition. Unfortunately, the lack of results led the WB Board to deny the PRA extension.

#### ➤ Joint analysis: RRA update

A joint workshop between the World Bank and the UN, with the participation of MONUSCO components, was organized to enrich the RRA analysis of conflict drivers. In preparation, a background paper was jointly

developed by the WB Senior Operations Officer/FCV Country Coordinator and the UN/IFI Partnership Advisor from the RCO. Its objective was to compare the UN's 'Gordian knots' analysis—defined as deeply rooted and interconnected obstacles to peace and development, such as state capture, corruption, illicit financial flows, land disputes, and natural resource management—with the conflict drivers identified by the Bank. Using the OECD's six peacebuilding pillars as a common framework, the exercise helped align language and approaches. As a result, the World Bank updated its conflict analysis, which will also feed into the forthcoming update of the UN's Common Country Analysis (CCA).

### **III. Programmatic and operational engagement**

#### **a. IMF**

##### ➤ Support in preparing evaluation mission under article IV

Article IV consultations are the IMF's annual economic health check of each member country, assessing macroeconomic and financial policies and offering policy advice to promote stability and growth. When a country has active IMF programmes such as an ECF or RSF, the Article IV consultation is usually combined with programme reviews, allowing IMF staff to assess both overall economic performance and progress against the commitments set out in the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies.

The implementation of the two IMF programmes has given rise to a new UN–IMF partnership, under which the United Nations prepares dedicated briefings for IMF missions drawing on UN expertise. The UN serves as the central body for briefings on the security situation, particularly in the East, and beyond these contributions also provides recommendations to help shape discussions on policy priorities.

#### **b. African Development Bank**

##### ➤ Transition Support Facility- Call for proposal under Pillar III

To prepare the AfDB call for proposals under TSF Pillar III—dedicated to targeted support for countries facing situations of fragility and transition—a preparatory process was carried out with the Government, through the Ministry of Planning, to identify priority areas of support. Emphasis was placed on ensuring complementarity with ongoing PBF projects. A subsequent workshop with all UN agencies was organized to define themes aligned both with the call's requirements and with government guidance. Once themes were agreed, a selection of AFPs was made based on their mandates and comparative advantages, resulting in four proposals being submitted. However, these were not endorsed by the Ministry of Finance, a challenge that will be addressed in the final section of this note.

##### ➤ Joint planning under the strategy for the returnees and displaced people in Eastern DRC

Since April, under the leadership of the RCO and OCHA, a Protection and Resilience Strategy for returnees and displaced persons has been under development, following a Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus approach. For the peace (P) component, the PBF is preparing a project to ensure this pillar is adequately addressed. In parallel, and in close coordination, the AfDB is finalizing the PROMAPAC project between the DRC and Burundi, amounting to USD 34 million, under the Crisis Response window of the TSF. The two

initiatives are designed to complement each other, with the PBF providing catalytic and flexible support while PROMAPAC brings larger-scale investment, both directly contributing to the implementation of the joint strategy.

**c. World Bank**

➤ UN/WB Operations study on Efficiency and Efficacy

The United Nations and the World Bank have agreed to conduct a joint study on the effectiveness and efficiency of operations carried out under Third Party Implementation (TPI). TPI refers to government projects financed by the World Bank that rely on UN agencies to implement part of the activities. The study aims to capture perceptions, identify strengths and weaknesses, and agree on the way forward to improve how joint operations are designed and delivered.

➤ Land Governance

The World Bank implemented the PIRE project, a USD 30 million initiative essentially focused on the establishment of REDD+, which also included a component addressing specific land governance issues. Building on this, a new PBF project will draw from the good practices developed under PIRE and consolidate its achievements by institutionalizing the land governance processes initiated through the project. This will take place primarily in Maï-Ndombe and serves as a way to secure future foreign investments and foster private sector development.

**d. Joint initiatives**

➤ UN/WB Joint initiative for the peace agenda

The World Bank and the United Nations are seeking to think out of the box in their cooperation, joining forces while using their respective comparative advantages to support the Government of the DRC in advancing its peace agenda. This joint approach combines financial, technical, and political levers: the World Bank's Prevention and Resilience Allocation (PRA), a PBF peace governance project, the technical expertise of MONUSCO sections, and the good offices of the SRSB. Among the expected results, this initiative will help the Government define clear priorities for its conflict prevention and peace consolidation agenda. Around these priorities, coalitions of actors can then be created to provide stronger and more coordinated support, including through the AfDB's TSF Pillar I on prevention.