## 4. The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

During the period under review, the Council held seven meetings, adopted two resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter and two presidential statements concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Four meetings took the form of briefings, while three were convened for the adoption of a decision.<sup>93</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is provided in the table below. In addition, the Council held one private meeting with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), pursuant to resolution <u>1353</u> (2001).<sup>94</sup> Council members also held informal consultations of the whole in connection with this item and conducted a mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 9 to 12 March.<sup>95</sup>

In 2023, further to the reports of the Secretary-General,<sup>96</sup> the Council heard quarterly briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Head of MONUSCO and by the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, as well as briefings by two representatives of civil society.<sup>97</sup> The Council also heard one briefing by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution <u>1533 (2004)</u>.<sup>98</sup> In addition to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in 2023, the representatives of Burundi and Rwanda also participated in the meetings held under this item.

In the quarterly briefings, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa focused on the security challenges and regional efforts to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>93</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>94</sup> The private meeting was held on 6 December 2023 under the item entitled "Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution <u>1353 (2001)</u>, annex II, sections A and B". See <u>S/PV.9496</u> and <u>A/78/2</u>, part II, chap. 20. E.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>95</sup> Informal consultations of the whole were held on 17 January, 29 March, 28 September, 21 November and 11 December 2023. See <u>A/78/2</u>, part II, chap. 11. For more information about the mission of the Council to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, see part I, sect. 8 and part VI, sect. II.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>96</sup> See <u>S/2023/208</u>, <u>S/2023/451</u>, <u>S/2023/691</u> and <u>S/2023/932</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>97</sup> See <u>S/PV.9298</u>, <u>S/PV.9358</u>, <u>S/PV.9427</u> and <u>S/PV.9500</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>98</sup> See <u>S/PV.9427</u>.

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address the situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, preparations for the general elections, which took place in December, and the planned withdrawal of MONUSCO.

On the security situation, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa drew the attention of the Council to the deteriorating conditions in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, with the intensification of the conflict with the Mouvement du 23 mars (M-23), particularly in North Kivu and Ituri, the persistent activity of other armed groups, and the emergence of new pockets of insecurity in other parts of the country.99 The M-23 continued to control large areas of the Masisi and Rutshuru and Nyiragongo territories in North Kivu, in violation of the Luanda communiqué,<sup>100</sup> while the withdrawal of the East African Community force troops resulted in a resumption of hostilities between the M-23 and the Congolese armed forces in October.<sup>101</sup> In Ituri, the Coopérative pour le développement du Congo (CODECO), the Zaire militia and the Allied Democratic Forces continued to fuel deteriorating conditions, with Djugu and Irumu reported as the main hotbeds of insecurity.<sup>102</sup> The worsening security conditions, which led to the killing of hundreds of civilians in the reporting period, continued to aggravate the humanitarian situation, further compounded by epidemics and natural disasters, resulting in displacement of millions of civilians, limited access to food, water and sanitation facilities and increased risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, with a particularly difficult situation for women.<sup>103</sup>

On the regional dimension, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General noted that tensions between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda continued to pose a risk for security throughout the year, with a reportedly further escalation towards the end of 2023, which was heightening the risk of a direct military confrontation that could have also drawn in Burundi.<sup>104</sup> She commended the holding of the third phase of Nairobi process consultations, which took place in December 2022, the Luanda process mini-summits of November 2022 and the successive holding of summit meetings by the East African Community

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>99</sup> See <u>S/PV.9298</u>; <u>S/PV.9358</u>; <u>S/PV.9427</u> and <u>S/PV.9500</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>100</sup> See <u>S/PV.9298</u>; <u>S/PV.9358</u> and <u>S/PV.9427</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>101</sup> See <u>S/PV.9500</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>102</sup> See <u>S/PV.9298</u>; <u>S/PV.9358</u>; <u>S/PV.9427</u> and <u>S/PV.9500</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>103</sup> See S/PV.9298; S/PV.9358; S/PV.9427 and S/PV.9500.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>104</sup> See <u>S/PV.9500</u>.

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and the African Union Peace and Security Council in February 2023.<sup>105</sup> She also commended former President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, as facilitator, for launching the preparations for the fourth stage of the Nairobi process, and President Joao Lourenço of Angola, as Chair of the International Conference on Great Lakes Region for deciding to deploy an Angolan contingent to support the ad hoc verification mechanism and the M-23 cantonment.<sup>106</sup> At the briefing held on 26 June, the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa saluted the commitment of the leaders and facilitators of the regional peace processes through their good offices, the regular holding of high-level summits and the decisions of Angola and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to deploy troops.<sup>107</sup> In that context, she reiterated the need to ensure that those regional initiatives were mutually reinforcing and coordinated with MONUSCO. At the briefing held on 11 December, the Special Representative indicated that, at the request of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the mandate of the East African Community regional force had not been extended beyond 8 December and that its withdrawal had begun.<sup>108</sup> Meanwhile, the SADC was preparing to deploy a new force with an offensive mandate.

On the general elections scheduled for 20 December, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General noted that, in the eastern part of the country, the violence and clashes in the areas under the control of the M-23 were serious obstacles to voter registration, while in the west, intercommunal violence in Mai-Ndombe province was also a hindrance to the process.<sup>109</sup> Moreover, the electoral process was marked by a worrying lack of trust between the main stakeholders in civil society and the opposition, and had even led to a call for a boycott of the voter registration by part of the opposition. On 28 September, the Special Representative announced that the country was entering the final stages of preparations for the general elections and noted the efforts made by the Congolese authorities and the Independent National Electoral Commission to adhere to the constitutional timeframe.<sup>110</sup> She called on the Government to ensure that democratic spaces were protected, that freedom of expression and freedom of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>105</sup> See <u>S/PV.9298</u>. See also <u>S/2023/208</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>106</sup> See <u>S/PV.9298</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>107</sup> See <u>S/PV.9358</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>108</sup> See <u>S/PV.9500</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>109</sup> See <u>S/PV.9298</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>110</sup> See <u>S/PV.9427</u>.

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press were guaranteed and that human rights were respected. In that context, the Special Representative also noted the significant improvement in the freedom of movement of opposition leaders but deplored and condemned the various attacks and intimidation that hindered women's participation in the elections. Furthermore, she noted that MONUSCO was actively supporting the Congolese National Police in securing the elections through training for the prevention of electoral violence, crowd management and respect for human rights. In her last briefing of the year on 11 December, the Special Representative informed the Council about the good progress in electoral preparations, despite significant logistical, financial and security challenges.<sup>111</sup> As requested by the Electoral Commission, and consistent with its mandate, MONUSCO had provided logistical support in the provinces where it was still operating.<sup>112</sup> While the electoral campaign had begun relatively peacefully, violent clashes between supporters of rival political parties were occurring in many provinces, while women political leaders and candidates continued to experience intimidation and physical and verbal misogynistic attacks. The Special Representative was also alarmed by the proliferation of mis- and disinformation, as well as hate speech, on- and offline in the context of electoral campaign.

Regarding the phased drawdown of MONUSCO, on 26 June, the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa noted the will of the Congolese authorities to accelerate the transition and underscored the importance of an orderly, gradual and responsible transition that would not jeopardize the protection of civilians.<sup>113</sup> She further noted that the Mission was drawing lessons from its withdrawal from Kasais and Tanganyika and had also initiated the formulation of transition plans for North and South Kivu and Ituri. On 28 September, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General called on the Council to make its position clear with regard to the recommendations set out in the report of the Secretary-General on options for adapting the configuration of MONUSCO and the future United Nations configuration in the country beyond

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>111</sup> See S/PV.9500.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>112</sup> See also letter dated 12 December 2023 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo addressed to the President of the Security Council (<u>S/2023/981</u>), indicating that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was thankful to the United Nations for supporting the electoral process by delivering election materials to the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu, and requesting the Council to authorize MONUSCO to extend such logistical support to other provinces of the country. <sup>113</sup> See S/PV.9358.

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the mandate of the Mission,<sup>114</sup> bearing in mind the call by President Tshisekedi for the acceleration of the process of MONUSCO's progressive departure.<sup>115</sup> She further noted that the Congolese authorities had endorsed the revised transition plan for MONUSCO on 15 September, which was an important step towards accelerating the departure of the Mission, while ensuring that the process was conducted in a gradual and responsible manner. On 11 December, she informed the Council that a joint disengagement plan was signed between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and MONUSCO on 21 November and shared with the Council on 23 November.<sup>116</sup> She underlined that, throughout this process, MONUSCO would need to focus on its core mandated priorities, namely, the protection of civilians, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform, along with a surge of political engagement, and that, subject to the Council's authorization, the Mission also stood ready to support the operations of regional forces, in full compliance with the human rights and due diligence policy.

In addition to the Secretariat officials, two civil society representatives briefed the Council on the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At the meeting held on 28 September, the Executive Director and co-founder of AFIA MAMA informed Council members about the situation concerning conflict-related sexual violence, including among the displaced women and girls who were subjected to sexual exploitation and abuse, particularly in areas of intercommunal conflicts.<sup>117</sup> She underscored the importance of involving women and girls in peacebuilding efforts and provided several recommendations to the United Nations, including supporting awareness-raising programmes on positive masculinity for ex-combatants, facilitating access to water, hygiene and sanitation, supporting the construction of additional integrated multifunctional centres, supporting apprenticeship programmes for women and strengthening initiatives for women's meaningful participation in the Nairobi and Luanda peace processes. On 11 December, the National Coordinator of Solidarité féminine pour la paix et le développement intégral observed that civil society had received little information about the disengagement plan for MONUSCO and that the process of mapping out the protection activities

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>114</sup> See <u>S/2023/574</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>115</sup> See S/PV.9427.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>116</sup> See <u>S/PV.9500</u>. See also <u>S/2023/904</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>117</sup> See <u>S/PV.9427</u>.

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and capacities of the United Nations agencies, identified under the MONUSCO mandate, had not taken into account the contribution and participation of civil society, nor had it enabled the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and youth, as required by resolution 2594 (2021) regarding the transition processes for United Nations missions.<sup>118</sup> On MONUSCO's withdrawal, she identified several opportunities for civil society, including transferring of certain activities of the Mission's civil affairs section to local non-governmental organizations, such as those related to inter- and intra-community dialogues, child protection and combatting gender-based violence. Among the risks of the Mission's withdrawal, she pointed to a decline in the protection of civilians and internally displaced persons sites, absence of monitoring and reporting on human rights and increased risk of harassment of human rights defenders and peacebuilders, particularly women leaders, as well as the closure of Radio Okapi as an essential independent community platform. In that context, she recommended women to lead decision-making in all areas, including on the humanitarian front, developing specific indicators to measure the protection and promotion of women's human rights, integrating a human rights-based and survivor-centered approach throughout humanitarian action, ensuring that efforts to address climate crisis and manage natural resources were gender-sensitive and the international donor community to provide support to the Government to fulfil its protection responsibilities.

In 2023, the deliberations among Council members were focused primarily on the security challenges in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the wider region, regional efforts to resolve the crisis, the preparations for the general elections and the gradual withdrawal of MONUSCO.

With regard to the security situation, Council members addressed the deteriorating conditions in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the impact of insecurity on elections, as well as the broader regional dynamics, including the involvement of regional and sub-regional organizations, notably the African Union, the East African Community and the SADC, as well as the Nairobi and Luanda processes. Council members continued to call for the cessation of hostilities and to urge all armed groups to lay down their arms.<sup>119</sup> Some Council

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>118</sup> See <u>S/PV.9500</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>119</sup> See <u>S/PV.9298</u> (United Arab Emirates, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Mozambique), China, Japan, Russian Federation and Albania); <u>S/PV.9358</u> (China, Japan, Russian Federation, Brazil and United Arab Emirates);

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members called on Rwanda to end its support for the M-23 and to withdraw its forces from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and expressed concern over the connection between the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda.<sup>120</sup>

On the political front, discussions centred around the preparations for general elections which took place at the end of December. Specifically, Council members called for credible and peaceful elections, with some sharing their views on the voter registration process<sup>121</sup> and underscoring the importance of inclusivity and securing women's participation.<sup>122</sup>

Throughout the year, Council members also discussed the gradual withdrawal of MONUSCO and in that regard continued to underline the importance of ensuring the protection of civilians throughout an orderly and responsible drawdown process. At the meeting held on 28 September, Council members discussed the options for the withdrawal of MONUSCO submitted by the Secretary-General,<sup>123</sup> as well as the request of the Democratic Republic of the Congo authorities to proceed with the withdrawal without delay.<sup>124</sup> In the context of the renewal of the Mission's mandate, on 11 December, Council members took note of the disengagement plan agreed upon between the United Nations and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and exchanged views on the next steps, including the role of the host country's authorities, as well as regional and subregional organizations.<sup>125</sup>

With regard to decisions, following its mission to Kinshasa and Goma from 9 to 12 March,<sup>126</sup> the Council adopted a presidential statement on 29 March, strongly condemning the increase in attacks by the M-23 in North Kivu, demanding the immediate and full

<sup>&</sup>lt;u>S/PV.9427</u> (United Arab Emirates, Russian Federation, Ghana (also on behalf of Gabon and Mozambique), China and Albania); <u>S/PV.9500</u>, (Ghana (also on behalf of Gabon and Mozambique), Brazil, China, Japan, United Arab Emirates and Russian Federation).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>120</sup> See <u>S/PV.9298</u> (United States and Switzerland); <u>S/PV.9358</u> (France and United States); <u>S/PV.9427</u> (France and United States); <u>S/PV.9500</u> (France, United States and Albania).

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>121</sup> See <u>S/PV.9298</u> (France, Ecuador, United States and Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Mozambique));
<u>S/PV.9358</u> (China, Albania, Switzerland, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Mozambique), Ecuador and Malta);
<sup>122</sup> See <u>S/PV.9298</u> (Ecuador, United Arab Emirates, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Mozambique), Malta, Albania and Switzerland); <u>S/PV.9358</u>, Gabon (also on behalf of Ghana and Mozambique) and Ecuador; <u>S/PV.9427</u> (United Arab Emirates, Ecuador and Albania); <u>S/PV.9500</u> (United States, Malta, United Arab Emirates and Ecuador).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>123</sup> See <u>S/2023/574</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>124</sup> See <u>S/PV.9427</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>125</sup> See <u>S/PV.9500</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>126</sup> For more information about the mission, see also S/2023/430.

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implementation of commitments on the cessation of hostilities, the end of any further advances by the M-23 and its withdrawal from all occupied areas as agreed through the African Unionendorsed Luanda process.<sup>127</sup> The Council further demanded that all external parties immediately cease their support to Council-sanctioned M-23 and withdraw from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.<sup>128</sup> The Council expressed concern over the tensions between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda and encouraged them to prioritize peaceful means of addressing the challenges between them and reaffirmed the importance of building confidence and trust in the region, in line with the objectives and commitments of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region.<sup>129</sup> The Council reiterated its support to regional efforts through the East African Community-led Nairobi process and the Luanda process and welcomed efforts to advance the two-track approach of the Nairobi process.<sup>130</sup> The Council acknowledged the deployment of the East African Community regional force to the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and called for complementary efforts to ensure that those initiatives were mutually reinforcing, including with support from the Secretary-General, MONUSCO and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region.<sup>131</sup> Furthermore, the Council strongly condemned the increased attacks by the Allied Democratic Forces and the Cooperative pour le development du Congo against civilians in Ituri and North Kivu and the activities of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, underlined the importance of a political resolution of the current crisis and urged all Congolese armed groups to participate unconditionally in the East African Community-led Nairobi process to seek political conditions in preparation for the disarmament, demobilisation, community recovery and stabilisation programme.<sup>132</sup> With regard to the electoral process, the Council encouraged the Democratic Republic of the Congo authorities to continue to work, with the support of MONUSCO, toward peaceful, transparent, inclusive and credible processes for the presidential and legislative elections scheduled in 2023, to facilitate free and fair elections, to ensure the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women at all

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>127</sup> <u>S/PRST/2023/3</u>, second and third paragraphs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>128</sup> Ibid., third paragraph.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>129</sup> Ibid., fourth paragraph.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>130</sup> Ibid., sixth and seventh paragraphs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>131</sup> Ibid., seventh paragraph.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>132</sup> Ibid., fifth and eighth paragraphs.

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stages, as both candidates and voters, and reaffirmed the important role of youth in electoral processes.<sup>133</sup>

In the presidential statement adopted on 16 October, the Council took full note of the report of the Secretary-General of 2 August and the letter of 1 September from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and la Francophonie of the Democratic Republic of the Congo<sup>134</sup> on the accelerated withdrawal of MONUSCO from the end of 2023 and expressed its readiness to decide by the end of 2023 on the future of MONUSCO, its gradual, responsible and sustainable withdrawal.<sup>135</sup> On regional dynamics, the Council called for calm and increased dialogue between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, underscored the importance of coordination and complementarity between political and military initiatives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and welcomed the ongoing efforts to harmonize and coordinate the existing peace initiatives.<sup>136</sup> Concerning the armed groups, the Council demanded the end of any further advances by the M-23 and the immediate and full implementation of commitments made on the withdrawal from all occupied areas and its cantonment and condemned support to sanctioned groups, including the M-23 and the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda.<sup>137</sup>

On 19 December, by resolution <u>2717 (2023)</u>, adopted unanimously under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council extended the mandate of MONUSCO and the Force Intervention Brigade for one year until 20 December 2024.<sup>138</sup> In the resolution, the Council reiterated the two strategic priorities of MONUSCO, namely, to protect civilians and to support the stabilization and strengthening of State institutions and key governance and security reforms.<sup>139</sup> The Council further decided to reduce the authorized troop ceiling from 1 July 2024 onwards from 13,500 military personnel, 660 military observers and staff officers, 591 police personnel and 1,410 personnel of formed police units to 11,500 military personnel, 600 military observers and staff

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>133</sup> Ibid., last paragraph.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>134</sup> See <u>S/2023/574</u> and <u>S/2023/648</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>135</sup> <u>S/PRST/2023/5</u>, fourth and fifth paragraphs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>136</sup> Ibid., seventh, ninth and tenth paragraphs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>137</sup> Ibid, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth paragraphs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>138</sup> Resolution <u>2717 (2023)</u>, para. 29.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>139</sup> Ibid., paras. 31 and 34.

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officers, 443 police personnel, and 1,270 personnel of formed police units.<sup>140</sup> Regarding the withdrawal of MONUSCO, the Council took full note of the comprehensive disengagement plan submitted by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations in line with its presidential statement of 16 October,<sup>141</sup> acknowledged the Mission's plan to begin the withdrawal of its force from South Kivu before the end of 2023, and decided to initiate the gradual, responsible and sustainable withdrawal of the Mission from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and implement the gradual handover of responsibilities to the Government.<sup>142</sup> The Council also encouraged support to regional forces, as appropriate, and expressed its intention to consider, upon clear and detailed request from the host country and the organization concerned, the conditions under which limited logistical and operational support may be provided by MONUSCO to an African Union mandated regional force deployed within MONUSCO's area of deployment and in furtherance of its mandate.<sup>143</sup> The Council further recalled that any such support should be in strict compliance with the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.<sup>144</sup>

In 2023, Council members also deliberated on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution <u>1533 (2004)</u> and took action on the Democratic Republic of the Congo sanctions regime. On 13 June, the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo submitted its final report concluding that the political situation had remained tense in the run-up to general elections and that the security and humanitarian situation in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu provinces had continued to deteriorate significantly, despite the deployment of multiple uniformed actors and the state of siege in North Kivu and Ituri that had been in place for two years.<sup>145</sup> On 27 June, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council unanimously adopted resolution <u>2688 (2023)</u>, renewing until 1 July 2024 the sanctions measures as set out in resolution <u>2293 (2016)</u>, consisting of arms embargo, asset freeze and travel ban and the related exemptions, and extending until 1 August 2024 the mandate of the Group of Experts on the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>140</sup> Ibid., para. 30.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>141</sup> See <u>S/PRST/2023/5</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>142</sup> Resolution 2717 (2023), para. 22. For further details, see part X, sect. I.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>143</sup> Resolution <u>2717 (2023)</u>, para. 20.

<sup>144</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>145</sup> See letter dated 13 June 2023 from the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo addressed to the President of the Security Council ( $\frac{S}{2023}/431$ ).

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Democratic Republic of the Congo as set forth in resolution <u>2360 (2017)</u>.<sup>146</sup> By the same resolution, the Council reaffirmed the designation criteria for the financial and travel measures, recalled paragraph 1 of resolution <u>2664 (2022)</u> concerning the standing humanitarian exemption and reiterated that the arms embargo measures continued to apply to all non-governmental entities and individuals operating in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.<sup>147</sup> In his briefing to the Council on 28 September, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution <u>1533 (2004)</u> provided an overview of the work of that body covering the period of the previous 12 months.<sup>148</sup>

Meeting record and date	Sub-item	Other documents	Rule 37 invitations	Rule 39 and othe invitations	<sup>er</sup> Speakers	Decisions and vote (for- against-abstaining)
<u>S/PV.9298</u> 29 March 2023	Report of the Secretary- General on th United Natior Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of th Congo (MONUSCO) (S/2023/208)	ns e ne	Burundi, Democratic Republic of th Congo, Rwanda	Special Representative of nethe Secretary- General and Hea of the Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)	invitees	<u>S/PRST/2023/3</u>
<u>S/PV.9358</u> 26 June 2023			Democratic Republic of th Congo, Rwanda	Assistant neSecretary- General for Africa in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations	13 Council members, <sup><i>a</i></sup> all invitees	
<u>S/PV.9360</u> 27 June 2023	Letter dated 1 June 2023 from the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of th Congo (S/2023/431)	resolution submitted by France e ( <u>S/2023/469</u> )	Democratic Republic of th Congo	•	Two Council members (Gabon <sup><i>a</i></sup> and Russian Federation), invitee	Resolution <u>2688 (2023)</u> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

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<sup>146</sup> Resolution <u>2688 (2023)</u>, paras. 1 and 5.

<sup>147</sup> Ibid., paras. 2 and 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>148</sup> See <u>S/PV.9427</u>.

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<u>S/PV.9427</u> 28 September 2023	Report of the Secretary- General on MONUSCO ( <u>S/2023/691</u> )		Democratic Republic of th Congo, Rwanda	Special eRepresentative o the Secretary- General and Hea of MONUSCO, Executive Director and co- founder of AFIA MAMA	invitees <sup>c</sup> d	
S/PV.9437			Democratic		Democratic	S/PRST/2023/5
16 October 2023			Republic of the		Republic of the	
10 000000 2025			Congo		Congo	
S/PV.9500	Report of the		Democratic	Special	13 Council	
11 December 2023	Secretary-		Republic of the Representative of members, <sup>d</sup> all			
11 2	General on		Congo,	the Secretary-	invitees e	
	MONUSCO		Rwanda	General and Hea		
	( <u>S/2023/932</u> )		rewanda	of MONUSCO,	u	
	( <u>B/2023/732</u> )			National		
				Coordinator of		
				Solidarité		
				féminine pour la paix et le		
				développement		
				intégral		
S/PV.9512	Report of the	Draft	Democratic	mograi	Three Council	Resolution 2717 (2023)
19 December 2023	Secretary-	resolution	Republic of th	A	members	15-0-0
1) December 2025	General on	submitted by	Congo		(Ghana, <sup>d</sup>	(adopted under Chapter
	MONUSCO	France	Congo		United States,	
	(S/2023/932)	(S/2023/1000)			Brazil), invited	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	( <u>5/2025/752</u> )	( <u>5/2025/1000</u> )			Diazii), ilivitee	

<sup>a</sup> The representative of Gabon made a statement also on behalf of Ghana and Mozambique.

<sup>*b*</sup> The representative of Gabon made a statement in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution  $\underline{1533}$  (2004); the representative of Ghana made a statement also on behalf of Gabon and Mozambique.

<sup>c</sup> The Democratic Republic of the Congo was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

<sup>d</sup> The representative of Ghana made a statement also on behalf of Gabon and Mozambique.

<sup>e</sup> National Coordinator of Solidarité féminine pour la paix et le développement intégral participated in the meeting by videoconference.