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

During the period under review, the Council held eight meetings and adopted three resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter and one presidential statement in relation to the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Three meetings were convened to adopt a decision of the Council and five took the form of briefings.<sup>104</sup> More details about the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, are provided in the table below. The Council also 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 (2001)</u>.<sup>105</sup> In addition, in 2022, Council members held informal consultations of the whole to discuss the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo.<sup>106</sup>

In 2022, further to the quarterly reports of the Secretary-General,<sup>107</sup> the Council heard regular briefings by the Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO, as well as briefings by representatives of civil society and subregional organizations.<sup>108</sup> The Council also heard briefings by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region and the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations.<sup>109</sup> Consistent with prior practice, the Council also heard briefings by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004).<sup>110</sup> In addition to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in 2022, the representatives of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda also participated in the meetings held under this item.

In her quarterly briefings to the Council, the Special Representative focused on the deteriorating security situation in the east of the country, following the resurgence of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>104</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>105</sup> The private meeting was held on 6 December 2022, 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.9209</u>. See also <u>A/77/2</u>, part II, chap. 21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>106</sup> For more information, see <u>A/77/2</u>, part II, chap. 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>107</sup> See <u>S/2022/252</u>, <u>S/2022/503</u>, <u>S/2022/709</u> and <u>S/2022/892</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>108</sup> See <u>S/PV.9007</u>, <u>S/PV.9081</u>, <u>S/PV.9142</u> and <u>S/PV.9215</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>109</sup> See <u>S/PV.9051</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>110</sup> See <u>S/PV.9142</u> and <u>S/PV.9215</u>.

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previously dormant Mouvement du 23 mars (M-23) and the continued attacks by other armed groups. She further provided updates on the regional initiatives aimed at defusing tensions and reported on the political developments, including the progress made on the preparation of elections scheduled for December 2023. Finally, the Special Representative continued to inform the Council about the phased drawdown of MONUSCO.

On the security situation, the Special Representative explained that in addition to the attacks perpetrated by the Allied Democratic Forces and the Coopérative pour le développement du Congo in North Kivu and Ituri, there had been an alarming increase in the activities by the M-23 in North Kivu, as well as violence against civilians in South Kivu carried out by the Mai-Mai groups.<sup>111</sup> In North Kivu, the situation was compounded by the disturbing use of improvised explosive devices by the Allied Democratic Forces. In June, the Special Representative stated that the escalation of the M-23 attacks and the resulting regional tensions had undermined the positive momentum between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda and reported that the resurgence of that group had had broad repercussions for security, human rights and the humanitarian situation in the eastern part of the country, including the possibility that MONUSCO could find itself dealing with a threat that went beyond its current capacities.<sup>112</sup> In her September briefing, the Special Representative reported that MONUSCO remained fully mobilized to address the persistent insecurity created by the criminal activities of armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.<sup>113</sup> However, the resurgence of the M-23 had contributed to disinformation about and stigmatization of MONUSCO, which had led to violent new protests and serious incidents that had claimed the lives of dozens of protesters and four Mission employees. In that context, the Special Representative implored the Congolese authorities and members of civil society to continue to focus on easing the tensions to enable MONUSCO's full and unimpeded resumption of operations in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. In her last quarterly briefing, the Special Representative stated that the country

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>111</sup> See <u>S/PV.9007</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>112</sup> See <u>S/PV.9081</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>113</sup> See <u>S/PV.9142</u>.

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continued to show resilience despite the immense challenges, notably with regard to the security situation in the eastern part of the country, which had deteriorated dramatically.<sup>114</sup>

On the regional dimension, the Special Representative underscored that the stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was tied to the support of its nine neighbouring countries, welcomed the efforts of President Tshisekedi Tshilombo in increasing regional cooperation and saluted the decision of the East African Community to admit the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a full member.<sup>115</sup> Following the signing of a status of forces agreement in September between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the East African Community secretariat for its regional force to be deployed in the eastern part of the country for an initial period of six months, the Special Representative stressed the vital importance of effective coordination with MONUSCO in order to enable the Mission to fully carry out its protection of civilians mandate.<sup>116</sup> She further welcomed the adoption of the Luanda road map on 6 July, through the mediation of the president of Angola as the current Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, aimed at de-escalating tensions between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. In response to increasing insecurity and tensions, regional initiatives had intensified, culminating in a mini-summit held on 23 November in Luanda to agree on measures to address the situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, including a timetable for the implementation of priority actions to achieve the cessation of hostilities, the immediate withdrawal of the M-23 from the occupied areas and the coordination of efforts under the Luanda and Nairobi processes.<sup>117</sup> The Special Representative welcomed the meeting among the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo, the East African Community regional force and MONUSCO on 29 and 30 November in Goma and reported that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had formally requested MONUSCO's active involvement in the implementation of the Luanda mini-summit communiqué, which envisioned an operational role for MONUSCO. The Special Representative reiterated the Mission's readiness to leverage its capabilities in support of the regional peace

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>114</sup> See <u>S/PV.9215</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>115</sup> See <u>S/PV.9007</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>116</sup> See <u>S/PV.9142</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>117</sup> See <u>S/PV.9215</u>.

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initiatives under way, in line with its mandate. At the same meeting, the Secretary General of the East African Community outlined the political and military tracks of the Nairobi process and requested the Council to support the East African Community in securing a permanent solution in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, including through cooperation between MONUSCO, the Nairobi-led process and the East African Community regional force.<sup>118</sup>

With regard to political developments in 2022, the Special Representative reported that in June, the National Assembly and the Senate had enacted revisions to the electoral law, which were expected to increase the transparency of the electoral process and promote the participation of women as candidates.<sup>119</sup> However, the absence of the opposition from the parliamentary debate demonstrated that additional efforts were needed to create the conditions for an inclusive, transparent and peaceful electoral process. In September, the Special Representative reported on the significant progress made in the preparations for the general elections to be held by December 2023 and welcomed the efforts of the Government, the Parliament and the Independent National Electoral Commission to establish the legal framework and conditions for the proper conduct of the elections, while noting that major challenges remained, notably on reaching a broad consensus on the various aspects of the electoral process.<sup>120</sup> In her last quarterly briefing, welcoming the publication of the electoral calendar which set the presidential and legislative elections for 20 December 2023, the Special Representative reiterated the readiness of MONUSCO to promote a political environment conducive to a transparent, inclusive and peaceful electoral process.<sup>121</sup>

As regards the phased drawdown of MONUSCO, the Special Representative reported on the progress in the common efforts of the Mission, the United Nations country team and the Government, and added that the implementation of a progressive, responsible and sustainable transition also had advanced at field level.<sup>122</sup> In September, she expressed the Mission's readiness to work closely with the Government to re-evaluate the transition plan in order to step

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>118</sup> See <u>S/PV.9215</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>119</sup> See <u>S/PV.9081</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>120</sup> See <u>S/PV.9142</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>121</sup> See <u>S/PV.9215</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>122</sup> See <u>S/PV.9007</u>.

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up the pace of MONUSCO's withdrawal.<sup>123</sup> Concerning the Mission's withdrawal from the remaining provinces of South Kivu, North Kivu and Ituri, in her last briefing of the year, the Special Representative reiterated the United Nations readiness to work on the revision of the joint transition plan in order to define concrete actions for the effective implementation of priority benchmarks related to the creation of minimum security conditions for the responsible and sustainable withdrawal of MONUSCO.<sup>124</sup>

In addition to the briefings by the Special Representative and in light of the deteriorating situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, on 31 May, the Council heard briefings by the Assistant Secretary-General for Africa and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region.<sup>125</sup> The Assistant Secretary-General reported that the already dire situation was worsening, owing to the recent resurgence of the M-23 and its hostile activity in North Kivu against the Congolese armed forces and MONUSCO. The Assistant Secretary-General stressed that it was imperative for the Council to lend its full weight to the ongoing regional efforts to defuse the situation and bring an end to the M-23 insurgency. She reiterated the Secretary-General's call to local armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to participate in the political process without preconditions, and to all foreign armed groups to disarm unconditionally and immediately return to their countries of origin. The Assistant Secretary-General also underscored the importance of involving women, including civil society representatives and those affiliated with armed groups, in the ongoing efforts in the search for inclusive and durable solutions. The Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region called on all armed groups to stop the violence, immediately lay down their arms and engage resolutely in the Nairobi political dialogue process facilitated by Kenya.<sup>126</sup> He reiterated the importance of nonmilitary measures and encouraged the leaders of the region to continue their high-level dialogue on how to address the threat posed by the armed groups and prevent tensions from escalating between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its neighbours.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>123</sup> See <u>S/PV.9142</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>124</sup> See <u>S/PV.9215</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>125</sup> See <u>S/PV.9051</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>126</sup> For more information about the situation in the Great Lakes region, see part I, sect. 3.

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Representatives of civil society also briefed the Council in 2022 with a focus on the deteriorating security situation and its impact on civilians, in particular women and children. In that regard, at the meeting held in June, the Director of the Fund for Congolese Women and the President of Female Solidarity for Integrated Peace and Development shared her views on the reasons for instability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the wider region, and recommended strengthening of actions and consultation mechanisms in order to make the protection of the civilian population more effective, especially in the eastern part of the country, as the elections approached.<sup>127</sup> She called for, inter alia, the establishment of international justice for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the provision of greater medical and psychological assistance to survivors and continuing efforts to address the global food insecurity caused by the war in Ukraine and its ramifications in Africa, especially its impact on women and children. In her briefing in December, a civil society activist and member of the Lutte pour le changement offered her insights into the security situation, the impact of the conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo on women and the crucial importance of women's political participation, as well as the role of MONUSCO.<sup>128</sup> She urged the Council to ensure that MONUSCO provided full protection to the civilians, especially women and girls; that all parties, including the Congolese armed forces, the East African Community regional force and MONUSCO, acted within a framework of strict respect for human rights and international humanitarian law; that women participated fully and equally in the electoral and peace processes; that MONUSCO's withdrawal was gradual, accountable and conditioned on respect for human rights and the protection of civilians; and further called on Council members to urge the Congolese authorities to begin reforming the security sector, particularly the army.

In 2022, the deliberations among Council members were focused primarily on the worsening security conditions in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the resulting violations of human rights, as well as the regional initiatives aimed at defusing tensions between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its neighbours. Council members also discussed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>127</sup> See S/PV.9081.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>128</sup> See <u>S/PV.9215</u>.

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political developments, including the preparations for the 2023 elections, as well as the phased drawdown of MONUSCO as set out in the joint transition plan.

With regard to the security situation, Council members expressed concern over the further deterioration of conditions and growing violence, notably in the light of the resurgence of the M-23 and the activities of other armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. In this context, several Council members referred to a press statement issued by the Council on 24 May, condemning the attacks by armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and urging them to lay down their arms.<sup>129</sup> Council members repeatedly called for cessation of hostilities,<sup>130</sup> requested that all support for armed groups, including external, be stopped,<sup>131</sup> and demanded that the armed groups, particularly the M-23, withdraw from any occupied areas.<sup>132</sup> Council members also underscored the importance of non-military measures for the stabilization of the eastern parts of the country and in that respect called for the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.<sup>133</sup> Concerning the deployment of the East African Community regional force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Council members urged it to coordinate its activities closely with MONUSCO and to ensure full respect of international law and human rights.<sup>134</sup> In addition, several Council members continued raising the issue of the human rights situation, including violations and abuses involving conflict-related sexual violence against women and children.<sup>135</sup>

As regards regional dynamics, Council members expressed support for the efforts of regional and subregional stakeholders aimed at defusing tensions, in particular between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, and jointly tackling challenges in the broader Great Lakes region. In this regard, Council members underscored the importance of the Nairobi

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>129</sup> See <u>S/PV.9051</u>, United Arab Emirates, Albania and China.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>130</sup> See <u>S/PV.9051</u>, Russian Federation; <u>S/PV.9081</u>, Ghana (also on behalf of Gabon and Kenya), India, Ireland and Russian Federation; <u>S/PV.9142</u>, India, United Arab Emirates and Russian Federation; <u>S/PV.9215</u>, France, United Kingdom, China and Albania.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>131</sup> See <u>S/PV.9215</u>, United States, United Kingdom, Albania and India.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>132</sup> See <u>S/PV.9215</u>, France, United States, United Kingdom, China, Kenya (also on behalf of Gabon and Ghana), Albania and Mexico.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>133</sup> See <u>S/PV.9007</u>, <u>S/PV.9051</u>, <u>S/PV.9081</u>, <u>S/PV.9142</u> and <u>S/PV.9215</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>134</sup> See <u>S/PV.9081</u>, <u>S/PV.9142</u> and <u>S/PV.9215</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>135</sup> See <u>S/PV.9007</u>, <u>S/PV.9051</u>, <u>S/PV.9081</u>, <u>S/PV.9142</u> and <u>S/PV.9215</u>.

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and Luanda processes,<sup>136</sup> the continued implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the role played by regional and sub-regional organizations, including the African Union, the East African Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Southern African Development Community.<sup>137</sup>

On the political front, Council members welcomed the progress made towards the preparation of presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for December 2023.<sup>138</sup> In that regard, Council members underscored the importance of a free, fair, transparent and peaceful electoral process, with several speakers recalling the need for elections to be inclusive.<sup>139</sup> In addition, the representative of Ireland commended the efforts of MONUSCO and the Special Representative in engaging women and young people in electoral processes<sup>140</sup> and the representative of the United Arab Emirates stressed the importance of cooperation between the Mission and political stakeholders in creating an environment conducive to upcoming elections.<sup>141</sup>

Throughout the year, Council members also discussed the gradual withdrawal of MONUSCO and underlined the importance of a conditions-based, responsible and phased drawdown, guided by the situation on the ground and conducted in line with the joint transition plan.<sup>142</sup> The representative of Kenya, speaking also on behalf of Gabon and Ghana, expressed support for the call to MONUSCO by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to review the joint transition plan and ensure that the benchmarks encompassed strengthening key defence and security institutions, early-warning initiatives and preventive interventions that could mitigate any relapses into conflict.<sup>143</sup> Taking note of the request made by the Congolese authorities, the representative of Mexico asked for the review exercise to be carried out with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>136</sup> See <u>S/PV.9142</u> and <u>S/PV.9215</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>137</sup> See <u>S/PV.9007</u>, <u>S/PV.9051</u>, <u>S/PV.9081</u>, <u>S/PV.9142</u> and <u>S/PV.9215</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>138</sup> See <u>S/PV.9007</u>, <u>S/PV.9081</u>, <u>S/PV.9142</u> and <u>S/PV.9215</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>139</sup> See <u>S/PV.9007</u>, <u>S/PV.9081</u>, <u>S/PV.9142</u> and <u>S/PV.9215</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>140</sup> See <u>S/PV.9081</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>141</sup> See <u>S/PV.9081</u> and <u>S/PV.9215</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>142</sup> See <u>S/PV.9007</u>, <u>S/PV.9081</u>, <u>S/PV.9142</u> and <u>S/PV.9215</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>143</sup> See <u>S/PV.9142</u>.

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prudence, while the representative of India stated that the shortcomings reflected in the update on transition benchmarks needed to be addressed in coordination with the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Following the renewal of the mandate of MONUSCO, the representative of the United Kingdom expressed hope that resolution <u>2666 (2022)</u> provided a solid basis for constructive dialogue between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Mission, including on the review of the joint transition plan.<sup>144</sup>

In its decisions in 2022, the Council took action on the issues outlined above. With regard to the political developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, on 3 June, the Council adopted a presidential statement welcoming the commitment by the regional Heads of State to implement a two-track approach aimed at finding lasting peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the support provided by MONUSCO and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region to that process.<sup>145</sup> The Council also expressed concern over the increase of armed group activity in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and reiterated its condemnation of all armed groups operating in the country and of the recent attacks on the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo and MONUSCO.<sup>146</sup> The Council also expressed concern at the current humanitarian situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and remained deeply concerned by the high levels of violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law in parts of the country.<sup>147</sup> The Council encouraged further efforts to de-escalate tensions, to refrain from incendiary statements and incitement to violence and welcomed the engagement of existing regional mechanisms, including the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism, to bring light to alleged unauthorised cross-border military activity.<sup>148</sup>

On 20 December, by resolution <u>2666 (2022)</u>, adopted unanimously under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council extended the mandate of the Mission and the Force Intervention Brigade

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>144</sup> See <u>S/PV.9226</u>. See also resolution <u>2666 (2022)</u>, paras. 38-39, 42-44.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>145</sup> <u>S/PRST/2022/4</u>, first paragraph.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>146</sup> Ibid., second paragraph.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>147</sup> Ibid., fifth and sixth paragraphs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>148</sup> Ibid., seventh paragraph.

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for one year until 20 December 2023.<sup>149</sup> In addition to reiterating the strategic priorities of MONUSCO concerning the protection of civilians and the support to the stabilization and strengthening of State institutions and key governance and security reforms,<sup>150</sup> the Council also tasked MONUSCO with the support for the 2023 electoral process in the three provinces where the Mission was still deployed.<sup>151</sup> The Council also authorized MONUSCO to take all necessary measures to carry out its mandate, in line with the basic principles of peacekeeping.<sup>152</sup>

Regarding the Mission's exit strategy, the Council took note of the call by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to review the transition plan and encouraged the United Nations and the Government, in liaison with civil society, to identify the concrete and realistic steps to be undertaken, as a matter of priority, to create the minimum security conditions to enable the responsible and sustainable exit of MONUSCO.<sup>153</sup> The Council further requested the Secretary-General to provide options for adapting MONUSCO's configuration of its civilian, police and military components and on the United Nations future configuration in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, once the joint review of the transition plan for MONUSCO was concluded and no later than July 2023.<sup>154</sup>

In 2022, 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 10 June, the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo submitted its final report concluding that the security and humanitarian situation in the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri had deteriorated despite a state of siege that had been in force for 11 months in those provinces and despite military operations by the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo, the Uganda People's Defence Forces and MONUSCO.<sup>155</sup> On 30 June,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>149</sup> Resolution 2666 (2022), para. 19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>150</sup> Ibid., para. 21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>151</sup> Ibid., para. 26 (a). For more information concerning the mandate of MONUSCO, see part X, sect. I. For further information on past mandates of MONUSCO, see previous supplements covering the period 2010-2021. <sup>152</sup> Resolution 2666 (2022), para. 21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>153</sup> Ibid., para. 38.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>154</sup> Ibid., para. 44.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>155</sup> See letter dated 10 June 2022 from the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo addressed to the President of the Security Council ( $\frac{S/2022/479}{D}$ ).

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acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council adopted, with 10 votes in favour and five abstentions,<sup>156</sup> resolution <u>2641 (2022)</u>, renewing until 1 July 2023 the sanctions measures as set out in resolution <u>2293 (2016)</u> and extending until 1 August 2023 the mandate of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo as set forth in resolution <u>2360 (2017)</u>.<sup>157</sup> By the same resolution, the Council decided that the financial and travel measures should also apply to individuals and entities as designated by the Committee for involvement in the production, manufacture or use in the Democratic Republic of the Congo of improvised explosive devices, or in the commission, planning, ordering, aiding, abetting or otherwise assistance of attacks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with improvised explosive devices.<sup>158</sup>

In the briefing of 30 September, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) gave an overview of the work of that body covering the period of the previous 12 months. He informed the Council about the planned visit of a delegation of Committee members to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, whose purpose was to gather first-hand accounts concerning the effective implementation of the sanctions measures imposed by resolution 2360 (2017), as reaffirmed by resolution 2641 (2022).<sup>159</sup> Further to the Chair's briefing, the Director of the Angaza Institute called on the Council to impose sanctions on Member States whose support for armed groups operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had been documented and urged that sanctions be imposed with a view to preventing the sale of wood, protected animals and other natural resources by armed rebel groups and governments. The representative of the United States noted that the M-23 remained designated under the sanctions regime concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo and that Member States were required to freeze the assets of that armed group and ensure that no funds or economic resources were made available to it. In addition, the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo called on the Council to strengthen sanctions against the mafia networks inside and outside the country that illegally exploited its natural resources and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>156</sup> *For*: Albania, Brazil, France, India, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States; *against*: none; *abstaining*: China, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya and Russian Federation (see <u>S/PV.9084</u>). For further detail on the discussion following the vote, see part VII, sect. III. B, case 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>157</sup> Resolution <u>2641 (2022)</u>, paras. 1 and 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>158</sup> Ibid., para. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>159</sup> See <u>S/PV.9142</u>.

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called on the Council to fully lift the prior notification requirements concerning the shipments of arms or related materiel for the country's armed forces.

At the meeting held on 9 December, the Council heard another briefing by the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution <u>1533 (2004)</u>, during which he provided an overview of his visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda from 7 to 18 November. In the briefing, the Chair reported that during the discussions in Kinshasa, he mainly emphasized that the arms embargo had applied only to armed groups since 2008 and that the notification requirement was binding only on supplier States.<sup>160</sup> Other topics of discussion during the visit included the security situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the activities of armed groups, the alleged links between the Allied Democratic Forces sanctioned armed group and Da'esh, the illegal exploitation of natural resources and human rights violations, including conflict-related sexual violence.

On 20 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution <u>2667 (2022)</u> under Chapter VII of the Charter, by which it lifted the notification requirements for arms embargo set out in paragraph 5 of resolution <u>1807 (2008)</u> and requested the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide a confidential report to the Council no later than 31 May 2023 detailing its efforts to ensure the safe and effective management, storage, marking, monitoring and security of the national stockpiles of weapons and ammunition, as well as the efforts to fight arms trafficking and diversion.<sup>161</sup>

Meeting record and date	Sub-item	Other documents	Rule 37 invitations	Rule 39 and other invitations	Speakers	Decisions and vote (for- against-abstaining)
<u>S/PV.9007</u> 29 March 2022	Report of th Secretary- General on F United Nations Organizatio Stabilization Mission in t Democratic	the n 1 he	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Representative of the Secretary- General and Head of MONUSCO, civil society briefer <sup>a</sup>	13 Council members, <sup>b</sup> invitees <sup>c</sup>	

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<sup>160</sup> See S/PV.9215.

<sup>161</sup> Resolution <u>2667 (2022)</u>, paras. 2 and 3.

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	Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) ( <u>S/2022/252</u> )				
<u>S/PV.9051</u> 31 May 2022		Democratic Republic of the Congo, <sup>d</sup> Rwanda, Uganda	Assistant Secretary- General for Africa, Special Envoy of the Secretary- General for the Great Lakes region	13 Council members, <sup>e</sup> all invitees <sup>f</sup>	
<u>S/PV.9055</u> 3 June 2022					<u>S/PRST/2022/4</u>
<u>S/PV.9081</u> 29 June 2022	Report of the Secretary- General on MONUSCO ( <u>S/2022/503</u> )	Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda	Special Representative of the Secretary- General and Head of MONUSCO, President of Female Solidarity for Integrated Peace and Development		
<u>S/PV.9084</u> 30 June 2022	Letter dated Draft 10 June 2022 resolution from the submitted by Group of France Experts on the ( <u>S/2022/523</u> ) Democratic Republic of the Congo ( <u>S/2022/479</u> )			Eight Council members <sup>i</sup>	Resolution <u>2641 (2022)</u> 10-0-5 <sup><i>j</i></sup> (adopted under Chapter VII)
S/PV.9142 30 September 2022	Report of the Secretary- General on MONUSCO ( <u>S/2022/709</u> )	Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda	Special Representative of the Secretary- General and Head of MONUSCO, Director of the Angaza Institute	invitees <sup>1</sup>	
<u>S/PV.9215</u> 9 December 2022	Report of the Secretary- General on MONUSCO ( <u>S/2022/892</u> )	Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda	Special Representative of the Secretary- General and Head of MONUSCO, Secretary General of the		_

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			East African Community, activist and member of Lutte pour le changement	e	_
<u>S/PV.9226</u> 20 December 2022	Report of the Secretary- General on MONUSCO ( <u>S/2022/892</u> )	Draft resolution submitted by France ( <u>S/2022/960</u> )		10 Council members <sup>o</sup>	Resolution <u>2666 (2022)</u> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
		Draft resolution submitted by France ( <u>S/2022/964</u> )			Resolution <u>2667 (2022)</u> 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)

<sup>a</sup> The civil society briefer was unable to deliver remarks at the meeting due to technical difficulties.

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

<sup>c</sup> The Special Representative participated in the meeting by videoconference from Kinshasa.

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

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

<sup>f</sup>The Special Envoy participated in the meeting by videoconference from Nairobi.

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

<sup>h</sup> President of Female Solidarity for Integrated Peace and Development participated in the meeting by videoconference.

<sup>i</sup> Brazil, China, France, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Russian Federation and United Arab Emirates.

<sup>j</sup> For: Albania, Brazil, France, India, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States; against:

none; abstaining: China, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya and Russian Federation.

<sup>*k*</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 Kenya made a statement also on behalf of Gabon and Ghana.

<sup>1</sup>Director of the Angaza Institute participated in the meeting by videoconference from Bukavu.

<sup>*m*</sup> The representative of Gabon made a statement in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004); the representative of Kenya made a statement also on behalf of Gabon and Ghana.

<sup>n</sup> Democratic Republic of the Congo was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs who

participated in the meeting by videoconference. The Secretary General of the East African Community and the member of Lutte pour le changement also participated in the meeting by videoconference.

<sup>o</sup> China, Gabon, Ghana, Ireland, Kenya, Norway, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States.