

## 6. The situation in the Great Lakes region

### Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held one meeting and adopted one presidential statement in connection with the situation in the Great Lakes region. On 24 February 2013, in Addis Ababa, 11 countries<sup>113</sup> of the region signed the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region. On 28 March 2013, by resolution [2098 \(2013\)](#), the Council welcomed the Framework and stressed its importance for the long-term stability of the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.<sup>114</sup>

### Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework

On 25 July 2013, the Secretary-General, the President of the World Bank, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, and the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union briefed the Council on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region. The Secretary-General stated that the Framework provided a clear road map for leaders to work together and define a common agenda for lasting peace and prosperity in the region. Expressing his deep concern about hostilities between the Mouvement du 23 mars and the Congolese armed forces, he called on all parties to achieve progress on the political track by returning to the Kampala talks. He also appealed to the Framework signatories to work constructively with each other and with the Special Envoy to develop benchmarks for their commitments; and called on the international community to use all the tools at its disposal, from international criminal prosecution and sanctions regimes to development assistance. In the

context of the prospects for durable peace in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, he mentioned the Intervention Brigade under the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) as an important tool, but as only one part of a comprehensive approach that embraced security and development.<sup>115</sup>

The President of the World Bank, speaking via videoconference from Washington D.C., informed the Council about his recent trip with the Secretary-General to the Great Lakes region. He stressed the strong link between development and peace, and the commitment of the United Nations and the World Bank group to collaborate and bring tangible benefits to the people of the Great Lakes region in pursuance of peace, stability and development. He announced that the World Bank group would provide an additional \$1 billion for cross-border development issues, in particular for hydroelectric power projects, transport linkages and border management, and agriculture and rural livelihoods targeted at refugees and internally displaced persons.<sup>116</sup>

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General drew the attention of the Council to the high number of cases of killings, rape, sexual assault and the displacement of people in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, and stressed that zero tolerance of gender-based violence needed to be implemented as a fundamental value of the Framework. She also reported that the first meeting of the regional oversight mechanism for the Framework was held in Addis Ababa on 26 May, and welcomed the progress made by the technical support committee of the mechanism in the development of benchmarks and indicators of progress for the implementation of the Framework.<sup>117</sup>

The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union commended the quality of the working relationship that the Special Envoy had established with the Special Representative of the African Union for the Great Lakes Region. He expressed the view of the African Union that the dynamic set in motion by

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<sup>113</sup> Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The following four intergovernmental organizations act as guarantors for the Framework: African Union, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, Southern African Development Community and United Nations.

<sup>114</sup> For more information on the situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, see part I, sect. 7, “The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo”.

<sup>115</sup> [S/PV.7011](#), p. 5.

<sup>116</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7.

<sup>117</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 8-9.

the Framework and by resolution [2098 \(2013\)](#) would pave the way for the peace, security and development that the region needed.<sup>118</sup>

Most speakers expressed their hope that the Framework would signify an important step towards peace, but also cautioned that efforts now had to be focused on implementation.<sup>119</sup> Still in the context of the implementation of the Framework, many speakers stressed the importance of the strengthening of the

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<sup>118</sup> Ibid., p. 11-12.

<sup>119</sup> Ibid., p. 3 (United States); p. 13 (Uganda); p. 19 (Luxembourg); p. 22 (France); p. 23 (Togo); p. 24 (Azerbaijan); pp. 25-26 (China); p. 27 (Pakistan); p. 29 (United Kingdom); pp. 29-30 (Russian Federation); p. 31 (Morocco); pp. 32-33 (Australia); and [S/PV.7011 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 4 (South Africa), p. 5 (European Union); pp. 6-7 (Belgium); and p. 7 (United Republic of Tanzania).

mandate of MONUSCO by the creation, by resolution [2098 \(2013\)](#), of the Intervention Brigade.<sup>120</sup>

At the same meeting, the Council adopted a statement by the President by which it, inter alia, reiterated its support for the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region and called on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the countries of the region to implement their respective commitments. The Council condemned the widespread incidents of sexual and gender-based violence and expressed grave concern about the ongoing humanitarian crisis.<sup>121</sup>

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<sup>120</sup> [S/PV.7011](#), p. 4 (United States); p. 12 (Uganda); p. 16 (Democratic Republic of the Congo); p. 18 (Rwanda); p. 20 (Luxembourg); p. 24 (Togo); p. 25 (Azerbaijan); p. 27 (Pakistan); p. 29 (United Kingdom); p. 30 (Russian Federation); p. 32 (Argentina); p. 33 (Australia); and [S/PV.7011 \(Resumption 1\)](#), p. 2 (Mozambique, on behalf of the Southern African Development Community); p. 4 (South Africa), p. 5 (European Union); p. 6 (Belgium); p. 8 (United Republic of Tanzania); and p. 9 (Congo).

<sup>121</sup> [S/PRST/2013/11](#).

## Meetings: the situation in the Great Lakes region

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against- abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV.7011</a> and <a href="#">S/PV.7011</a> (Resumption 1) 25 July 2013	Supporting the Great Lakes Framework  Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region ( <a href="#">S/2013/387</a> )  Letter dated 3 July 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ( <a href="#">S/2013/394</a> )		Belgium, Burundi, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania	President of the World Bank,  Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union,  Executive Secretary General of the European External Action Service	Secretary-General, all Council members, all invitees	<a href="#">S/PRST/2013/11</a>

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

### Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held 13 meetings and adopted four resolutions and two statements by the President on the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. No debates were held on the item, and invitations under rule 37 were limited to the representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. The meetings consisted mainly of briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), one briefing by the Secretary-General and one by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region. After initially considering the elections held in November 2011, the Council turned its attention to the violence in the eastern part of the country, which led to the appointment of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, and to the installation of an Intervention Brigade in MONUSCO. Security sector reform and the transfer of tasks to the United Nations country team were discussed in close connection with the events in the eastern part of the country.

In 2012 and 2013, the Council renewed and modified the mandate of MONUSCO twice, by resolutions 2053 (2012) and 2098 (2013).<sup>122</sup> The sanctions regime and the mandate of the Group of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) were renewed by resolution 2078 (2012) until February 2014.<sup>123</sup>

<sup>122</sup> For more information on MONUSCO, see part X, sect. I, "Peacekeeping operations".

<sup>123</sup> For more information on the sanctions measures concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, see part VII, sect. III, "Measures not involving the use of armed force in accordance with Article 41 of the Charter". For more information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the mandate of the Group of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.B.

### Developments between two elections

On 7 February 2012, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO briefed the Council on the national presidential and legislative elections of 28 November 2011. He reported that the campaign period had been increasingly marked by political and inter-community tensions in some areas of the country, including Kinshasa. On 26 November, those tensions culminated in violent incidents resulting in the deaths of several Congolese. The Special Representative announced a thorough investigation of all reports of electoral violence as well as the issuance of a detailed report in the near future. He also enumerated various logistical problems that had arisen during and in the immediate aftermath of the elections and stressed the need to address the electoral process in a thorough and open review. He added that MONUSCO had provided all support possible to the electoral process consistent with its mandate.<sup>124</sup>

The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo expressed regret for the negative consequences of election-related violence for the security of individuals and their property, but said that the country was resolutely determined to follow a process of returning to normality and peace. She quoted the Head of State, Joseph Kabila Kabange, in saying that, for the first time in the history of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a presidential term of office had ended without an institutional crisis, with 95 per cent of electoral costs funded by the Republic's own resources.<sup>125</sup>

In his briefing to the Council on 12 June 2012, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General expressed concern about the challenges ahead for ensuring the successful conduct of future provincial and local elections. He anticipated that a review and recommendations by the Independent National Electoral Commission, together with recommendations by the National Assembly, would be critical to an assessment by donors, the Council and other partners in terms of engagement with, and support for, the future provincial and local elections. He stressed that the Government would need to do everything possible

<sup>124</sup> S/PV.6712, pp. 2-3.

<sup>125</sup> Ibid., pp. 6-7.