

briefing by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region on the activities of his office in support of the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region. The Special Envoy indicated that his office had focused on several critical areas, namely, inter alia, addressing the activities of armed groups in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, supporting the peaceful dialogue and electoral processes in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, tackling the root causes of conflict, including the continued illicit exploitation and trade in natural resources from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the human rights violations, and the humanitarian situation in the region. The Special Envoy also informed the Council about the efforts to dispel mistrust among the countries of the region and to find sustainable and regional solutions to the ongoing humanitarian crisis.⁵³

The representative of the Republic of the Congo also briefed the Council on behalf of the Chair of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework on the conclusions of the

⁵³ S/PV.8227, pp. 2–4.

most recent summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and high-level meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism, held in Brazzaville on 19 October 2017. In that regard, he informed the Council on the priorities identified. He emphasized the need to help to stabilize the Democratic Republic of the Congo so that it could serve as a vector for peace in the region and called upon the international community to mobilize around the efforts of the countries of the region – for the implementation of the Framework – with strengthened and coordinated cooperation.⁵⁴

During the discussion that ensued, Council members reflected on the status of the implementation of the Framework on the fifth anniversary of its signing and emphasized its importance for peace and stability in the region. Council members also discussed the upcoming elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the lack of progress in the inter-Burundian dialogue and the constitutional reform process in Burundi, the challenges posed by armed groups, in particular in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the humanitarian situation in the region and the illicit trafficking in natural resources.

⁵⁴ Ibid., pp. 4–7.

Meeting: 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>
S/PV.8227 10 April 2018	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 (S/2018/209)		Republic of the Congo	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region	All Council members, all invitees	

6. The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

During the period under review, the Security Council held nine meetings and adopted two resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter in relation to the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Two meetings were convened to adopt the

decisions of the Council; all others were briefings.⁵⁵ The Council also met once with countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of

⁵⁵ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

the Congo (MONUSCO), pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#).⁵⁶ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below. The Council also conducted a mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 5 to 7 October.⁵⁷

The Council was regularly briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO. Other briefers included the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, representatives of the Episcopal Conference of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and representatives of civil society organizations. The Council was also briefed by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1533 \(2004\)](#) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

During its briefings and deliberations in 2018, the Council focused mainly on the electoral process and the implementation of the Comprehensive and Inclusive Political Agreement of 31 December 2016, the continued occurrence of human rights violations in the context of a deteriorating security situation and the humanitarian situation in the country.

Regarding the electoral process and the implementation of the Comprehensive and Inclusive Political Agreement, Council members discussed and followed closely the preparations leading up to the presidential and national and provincial legislative elections scheduled for 23 December and subsequently postponed to 30 December 2018,⁵⁸ including the issuance of the electoral calendar and the voter and candidate registration processes and the provision of election security in areas of the country where armed groups were active. The readiness of MONUSCO to provide logistical support to the elections was also discussed.

During 2018, the Council also considered the overall deteriorating security situation, in particular the situation in Kasai Province and in the eastern side of the country, due to intercommunal violence and the activities of armed groups, including the attack on 7 December 2017 by the Allied Democratic Forces in Semuliki against civilians, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and MONUSCO, to which the Secretary-General responded with the appointment, on 5 January 2018, of a former Assistant Secretary-General to lead a special investigation into the incident.⁵⁹ The Council discussed the incidence of violence and human rights violations in those areas of the country where armed groups were active, including incidents of sexual and gender-based violence and other violent attacks against civilians. The deliberations in the Council also concerned human rights violations relating to political rights, namely, the continued restrictions on the political space, the suppression of peaceful demonstrations and arbitrary arrests, and the slow progress in the implementation of the confidence-building measures envisaged in the 31 December 2016 political agreement.

Regarding the humanitarian crisis affecting the country, Council members specifically addressed the issue of the 4.5 million internally displaced persons in need of humanitarian assistance and the more than 7.7 million people suffering from severe food insecurity. On 19 March, the Council held a meeting dedicated to the humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including an “epidemic” of sexual violence in the country and the security and humanitarian situation of women. At the meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, the coordinator of the organization *Encadrement des femmes indigènes et des ménages vulnérables* and the Secretary-General of the Episcopal Conference of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.⁶⁰ During 2018, Council members also discussed the two Ebola outbreaks that were declared in May and August in different parts of the country and their impact on the elections, the security situation in relation to the activities of armed groups in affected areas and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The effects of the Ebola outbreak on the humanitarian situation in the country were also considered by the Council under the item entitled “Peace and security in Africa”.⁶¹

⁵⁶ Held on 6 March 2018 under the item entitled “Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution [1353 \(2001\)](#), annex II, sections A and B”; see [S/PV.8196](#).

⁵⁷ For more information on the Council’s mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, see part I, sect. 33.

⁵⁸ On 22 December 2018, the Council issued a statement to the press in which Council members took note of the decision by the Independent National Electoral Commission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to delay the elections.

⁵⁹ [S/PV.8153](#), p. 4.

⁶⁰ [S/PV.8207](#).

⁶¹ For more information, see part I, sect. 12.

Moreover, Council members discussed the adjustment of the configuration of MONUSCO and its activities in line with the Mission's priority mandates of protecting civilians and supporting the implementation of the 31 December 2016 political agreement and the electoral process, and discussed its mandate to protect United Nations personnel. At the meetings, reference was made to the Mission's "protection through projection" strategy for carrying out its protection mandates in accordance with the Secretary-General's strategic review of MONUSCO of 2017.⁶² In that regard, by its resolution 2409 (2018), the Council extended the mandate of MONUSCO for a period of one year, until 31 March 2019, and authorized MONUSCO to take all necessary measures to carry out its mandate.⁶³

In addition, during 2018, the Council focused on the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004). On 20 May 2018, the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo submitted, for the Council's attention, its final report,

in which it concluded that the security situation had not improved and raised two major factors of concern, namely, that peacekeepers were facing serious attacks and that armed actors were continuously using the delay in the electoral process to promote acts of violence.⁶⁴ In that connection, by its resolution 2424 (2018), the Council renewed the sanctions measures and extended the mandate of the Group of Experts.⁶⁵ At a meeting in July, the Chair of the Committee gave a briefing on its activities during the first six months of 2018, including the addition of four individuals to its sanctions list.⁶⁶ Further to the renewal of its mandate, on 18 December 2018, the Group of Experts transmitted to the Council its midterm report pursuant to resolution 2424 (2018), in which it focused on the four territories in the North and South Kivu Provinces, where it had documented findings relevant to its mandate, while also confirming that the overall security situation in the country remained volatile.⁶⁷

⁶² See [S/2017/826](#).

⁶³ Resolution 2409 (2018), paras. 29 and 35. For more information on the mandate of MONUSCO, see part X, sect. I. For more information concerning the decisions of the Council related to measures to maintain or restore international peace and security in accordance with Article 42 of the Charter during the period under review, see part VII, sect. IV.A.

⁶⁴ [S/2018/531](#).

⁶⁵ Resolution 2424 (2018), paras. 1 and 3. For more information on the sanctions measures concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, see part VII, sect. III. For more information on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) and the mandate of the Group of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.B.

⁶⁶ [S/PV.8318](#), p. 4.

⁶⁷ [S/2018/1133](#).

Meetings: the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

<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>
S/PV.8153 9 January 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2018/16)		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations	Nine Council members, ^a all invitees	S/PV.8153 9 January 2018
S/PV.8198 7 March 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the 31 December 2016 political agreement (S/2018/128) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization	All Council members, all invitees ^b	S/PV.8198 7 March 2018

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<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>
S/PV.8207 19 March 2018	Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2018/174)		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, coordinator of Encadrement des femmes indigènes et des ménages vulnérables, Secretary-General of the Episcopal Conference of the Democratic Republic of the Congo	All Council members, all invitees	S/PV.8207 19 March 2018
S/PV.8216 27 March 2018	Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the 31 December 2016 political agreement (S/2018/128) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2018/174)	Draft resolution submitted by France (S/2018/260)	Democratic Republic of the Congo		Seven Council members, ^c all invitees	S/PV.8216 27 March 2018
S/PV.8300 29 June 2018	Letter dated 20 May 2018 from the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/531)	Draft resolution submitted by France (S/2018/643)				S/PV.8300 29 June 2018

**Part I. Consideration of questions under the responsibility of
the Security Council for the maintenance of
international peace and security**

<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>
S/PV.8318 26 July 2018	<p>Letter dated 1 June 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/528)</p> <p>Letter dated 20 May 2018 from the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/531)</p> <p>Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2018/655)</p> <p>Letter dated 18 July 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/727)</p>		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, President of the Board of Directors of Synergy of Women for Victims of Sexual Violence	All Council members, ^d all invitees ^e	S/PV.8318 26 July 2018
S/PV.8331 27 August 2018	<p>Letter dated 7 August 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/762)</p>		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, President of the Episcopal Conference of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, spokesperson for Rien sans les femmes	13 Council members, ^f all invitees ^g	S/PV.8331 27 August 2018
S/PV.8370 11 October 2018	<p>Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2018/882)</p>		Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Special Envoy of the Secretary-	All Council members, all invitees ^h	S/PV.8370 11 October 2018

<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>
	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 (S/2018/886)			General for the Great Lakes Region		
S/PV.8397 13 November 2018			Democratic Republic of the Congo	Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Representative of the Congolese Association for Access to Justice	All Council members, all invitees ⁱ	S/PV.8397 13 November 2018

^a Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, France, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland and Sweden.

^b The Democratic Republic of the Congo was represented by its Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration.

^c China, France, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States. The Netherlands (President of the Council) was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs.

^d The representative of Kuwait spoke twice: once in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo and once in his national capacity.

^e The Special Representative of the Secretary-General participated in the meeting via videoconference from Kinshasa.

^f Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Equatorial Guinea, France, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States. The representative of Equatorial Guinea spoke also on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia.

^g The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the spokesperson for Rien sans les femmes participated in the meeting via videoconference from Kinshasa and the President of the Episcopal Conference of the Democratic Republic of the Congo from Kisangani.

^h The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region participated in the meeting from Kinshasa and Addis Ababa, respectively.

ⁱ The representative of the Congolese Association for Access to Justice participated in the meeting via videoconference from Kinshasa.

7. The situation in the Central African Republic

During the period under review, the Security Council held seven meetings, adopted three resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter and issued one presidential statement in connection with the situation in the Central African Republic. Except for three meetings convened to adopt a decision of the Council, all meetings held in 2018 took the form of briefings.⁶⁸ The Council also held one meeting with countries contributing troops and police to the United

Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001).⁶⁹ More information on meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is given in the table below.

During 2018, the Council heard regular briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary General

⁶⁸ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

⁶⁹ Held on 17 October 2018 under the item entitled "Meeting of the Security Council with the troop- and police-contributing countries pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B"; see S/PV.8374.