Forum: General Assembly Fifth Committee

Issue: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO)

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Introduction

The UN had been at the forefront to support the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with its MONUSCO mission for around 20 years, serving as the UN’s longest standing multidimensional peacekeeping operation and largest involvement in a particular country. Recently, however, the United Nations (UN) is re-evaluating the effectiveness of the MONUSCO and has been planning an exit strategy. In addition to the UN’s intention for a withdrawal of the mission, the top financial contributor—the United States (US)—now takes a harder line on UN funding. As a result, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned that “almost $2 billion in contributions to the UN peacekeeping budget were unpaid” and “cash balances then covered less than two months of operations” back in January. Discussion on drawing down the mission pushed forward with the US resist to fund for peacekeeping initiatives, but uncertainty remains as the withdrawal of the mission is more than likely to impact the already unstable Congo.

Shortly after the new leader of the country is elected, a senior official of the mission said, “We are looking at a gradual process of adjusting the MONUSCO – probably downsize it. We have to work together with the Congolese on a path toward a gradual exit strategy.” President Félix Tshisekedi offered to cooperate with the UN on conducting the withdrawal plan, and further emphasized that the peacekeeping force must be “reduced and better armed and prepared” in order to maintain peace in DRC.

With the current MONUSCO mandate expiring on 20 December 2019, the UN Security Council is closely following the numerous ongoing situations taking place in respective parts of the DRC. The council expressed major concerns over the security (conflict in Ituri and North Kivu provinces) and humanitarian crisis (Ebola outbreak) in Congo. While the council members have united views of
president Tshisekedi’s positive impacts on the situation in DRC, views on the decision to renew the
mandate are likely to differ. For instance, the US and France has clearly expressed their hope for an exit
strategy of the MONUSCO once transition of the new government is completed. Other countries with
large troop contributions to the mission, such as Indonesia and South Africa, are also key actors of the
topic. Although the mission is facing drastic budget cuts from July onwards, the MONUSCO still needs to
be able to deal with unforeseen events. Despite the relatively peaceful transition in power and the
multiple approaches president Tshisekedi has taken to stabilize the country, the situation in Congo
remains tense and the balance of power is still unsettled.

Definition of Key Terms

MONUSCO

Initially, the mandate was established by the UN Security Council through resolution 1279 by the
name of United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC),
closely following the signing of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement (July 1999, explained in Background
Information section) on 30 November 1999. The mission was renamed as the United Nations
Organization Mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) on 1 July 2010, and is
designated to protect civilians, build sustainable institutions of governance and promote state authority.
Up till now, MONUSCO is the UN’s largest and most expensive mandate, where regular updates on the
conditions and terms are updated annually after the Security Council evaluates its effectiveness and
performance.

Hutu

The Hutu, also known as the Abahutu, Bahutu, or Wahutu, are Bantu-speaking people that mainly
live in Rwanda, Burundi, and the eastern DRC. The Hutu is the largest ethnic group in the region, making
up 84 percent of the population in Rwanda and 85 percent of the population in Burundi. Other principal
ethnic groups in the region include the Tutsi and Twa. The Hutu resettled at the African Great Lakes
region around the period of the Bantu expansion and found it inhabited by the Twa and Pygmy hunters.
Then after, in the 14th and 15th centuries, the Tutsi entered the region. On one hand, in Rwanda, the
Tutsi subjugated the Hutu and maintained a lord-vassal relationship. On the other hand, the Tutsi
remained a minority in Burundi but still managed to maintain control of the government and military. The
hostility between the two groups led to mass killings and struggles in both regions, most notably the
and brutality of these events alarmed the international community and forced the United Nations to
intervene. Though the violence between the Hutu and Tutsi has subsided, the enmity between the two
groups still periodically lead to problems in the region.

Tutsi

The Tutsi, also referred to as the Abatutsi, Batusi, Tussi, Watusi, or Watutsi, are the second
largest ethnic group residing in the region of Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Uganda, and Tanzania. The group
first penetrated the African Great Lakes region in the 14th and 15th centuries and slowly obtained
dominance over the Hutu. The amicable relations between the Hutu and the Tutsi remained until the
European colonial period of the late 19th century. As the animosity intensified, the Hutu dominated the
government in Rwanda and launched a genocidal massacre against the Tutsis in 1994. In Burundi, two
similar genocide took place. Up till today, the divide between the two ethnic groups still occasionally
sparks conflicts in regions such as North and South Kivu in the DRC.

M23 Rebels

The M23 rebels, also known by the name of Congolese Revolutionary Army, formed in early
2012. M23 is named from March 23, the date of a 2009 peace deal. The group is composed of former
members of the CNDP (National Congress for the Defence of the People), and is backed by the
Rwandan and Ugandan government. On 20 November 2012, the M23 rebels took control of Goma
(capital of Northern Kivu), forcing over 140,000 people to flee from the violence. The group later agreed
to withdraw in early December through rounds of negotiation with the government. On 18 March 2013,
Sultani Makenga— the leader of the M23 rebels— turned himself in to the US embassy in Rwanda, where
he would later on be transferred to the International Court of Criminal (ICC) in the Hague. To prevent
such cases from happening in the future, the Security Council has approved the creation of its first-ever
“offensive” combat force to “neutralize and disarm” M23 and other militia groups in the DRC in March
2013. Later on, the head of the UN peacekeeping mission also instructed peacekeepers to any kind of
"necessary action" to protect civilians and prevent armed groups from advancing in August 2013.

Allied Democratic Force (ADF)

The ADF (a rebel group based in both Uganda and the DRC), one of the oldest yet least
understood militant groups in Africa, has demonstrated growing virulence in the past few years. The
group operates in the DRC’s North Kivu region and near its border with Uganda since the late 1990s. For
more than two decades, regional security forces have fought against the ADF on the border of Uganda.
Even though the UN passed a resolution targeting the group back in 2013, the UN peacekeepers still
struggle to contain the ADF. In 2018, the number of violent events in connected to the ADF has tripled
from 38 (in 2017) to 132. Not to mention, the killings conducted by the group also doubled to 415 people in the same timeframe. The ADF has massacred hundreds of people, and commonly attack villages and security outposts overnight. As a matter of fact, the group has been held responsible for the death of an estimated 249 people back in 2018, and its actions may have also indirectly killed many more by hampering the already strained Ebola crisis in North Kivu. The group was also linked to the killing of UN peacekeepers from the MONUSCO back in 7 December 2017. Recently, the group is also suspected to have established certain links with the so-called Islamic State (IS).

Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR)

Currently, the most notorious armed group operating in the DRC is the FDLR, a Hutu power group tied to the perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide. The FDLR is one of the biggest perpetrators of sexual violence against women. However, the FDLR had voluntary surrendered back in 2 July 2014 to 2 January 2015, and the UN launched operations against the FDLR on 29 January 2015.

Conflict Minerals

Conflict minerals, also known as the 3TGs, refers to cassiterite, wolframite, coltan, and gold ore. One of the 3TGs, coltan, is a vital ingredient in the production of nearly all kinds of technological devices we own (mobile phones, laptops, MP3 players, etc.), and Congo has 80% of the world’s supply. The value of these minerals are often said to have created a "resource curse" in conflict in the DRC. Given that minerals are located mainly in Eastern DRC, it is to no surprise that the fight over gaining access to these materials is one of the root causes of the Kivu conflict.

Background Information

Sitting on vast mineral wealth and situated at the heart of the continent, the DRC could be the crossroads of Africa if it were peaceful and and functional. Yet, the country remains extremely undeveloped. Only one person in seven earns more than $1.25 a day. In addition, the life expectancy of the country is only 63 years. To date, the DRC still stands as one of the poorest countries resulting from its complicated politics, armed conflicts, and corruption. The root causes of the dire situation in the DRC resulted from the complex history of the country. Ever since independence was declared in the 1960s, discontent and fighting persisted in respective regions of the DRC from decades of dictatorship, conflict amongst ethnic groups, and the fight over control of the rich mineral resources of the country.
Historical Continental and Civil Wars

Genocide In Rwanda and the First Congo War

In 1994, groups of ethnic Hutus militias carried out a genocide against the ethnic Tutsi minority in Rwanda, killing an estimated 800,000 people in a hundred days. After the genocide, Hutu militia forces streamed west across the border into eastern Zaire (known as the DRC today), which at that time was still under the dictatorship of Mobutu Sese Seko. In 1997, the Rwandan government (then Tutsi controlled) backed the Congolese rebel group led by Laurent Désiré Kabila, out of fear for the return of the Hutu militia groups. With the Angolan, Rwandan, and Ugandan support, Kabila launched the First Congo War and successfully overthrew Mobutu’s government. Kabila then named himself president and renamed the country as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Second Congo War

Deeply concerned about the security of his throne, Kabila later requested foreign military forces to be retracted from DRC. Tensions between the foreign backers and Kabila peaked after Kabila decided to replace his Rwandan chief of staff with a native Congolese on 14 July 1998. By alienating Rwanda, Uganda, other donor countries, and the UN, Rwanda and Uganda sent forces west across the border to back yet more Congolese rebels, launching the Second Congo War. In addition to the Ugandan and Rwandan forces, Angola, Zimbabwe, and Namibia also sent militias in defense of the Congolese government.

In the midst of the conflict, the Security Council called for a ceasefire and helped put an end to the conflict as the relevant member states signed on to the Lusaka Ceasefire agreement in July 1999. Additionally, the Security Council established the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) by its resolution 1279 in 30 November 1999. Initially, the mandate served as the “observation of the ceasefire and disengagement of forces and maintain liaison with all parties of the Ceasefire Agreement”. After a series of meetings took place, multiple resolutions were also issued, and at last the UN Security Council assigned the MONUC multiple related additional tasks to help maintain peace and stability in the DRC. Following the assassination of Mobutu in 2001, the country’s first fair and free election took place for the first time in 46 years. The newly elected president of the country is Joseph Kabila (son of Laurent Désiré Kabila), who won the elections with 58.05% of votes.
Current Situation of the Conflict in Congo

As mentioned in the Introduction section, the current situation in the DRC is dire, where many aspects of the issue still remains unresolved despite the efforts of president Félix Tshisekedi to strengthen the security and stability of the DRC. The DRC has been plagued by violence for decades from the country’s, and much of it is rooted from ethnic and political rivalries or the struggle to control the country’s vast natural resources (a mere extension from the country’s historical conflict explained in the previous paragraphs). Additional effort and attention must be put into resolving these issues as the expiration of the MONUSCO nears.

Insecurity in Eastern DRC: Threats of Armed Groups

In Eastern DRC there are currently over 130 armed groups actively operating. According to a report by the Human Rights Watch, armed groups in Eastern DRC (mainly the Kivu region) killed around 1,900 civilians and kidnapped over 3,300 people between June 2017 and June 2019. The report further noted that these acts of violence has mainly be between the Congolese security forces and militias from the ADF. The ADF is accused of being responsible for the death of several hundred civilians and a series of massacres since 2014.

Apart from the attacks the armed groups has committed against local citizens of the DRC, numerous cases of UN peacekeepers being targeted are also common. For instance, the M23 armed group has previously conducted attacks on UN helicopters soon after its taking of Goma (explained in the key terms section).

Conflict in Kivu

The conflict in Kivu is extremely complicated, for that it involves not only conflict of armed groups, but also other issues such as the question of conflicting minerals, child soldiers, and sexual violence.

Conflict minerals of the DRC is the most highly debated topic amongst other aspects of the conflict in Kivu, as many say that the illegal exploitation of the material and child labor is the main cause of the ongoing conflict. Since the mid 1990s, armed groups have used these minerals to fund a series of complicated and violent wars (those mentioned in the previous sections). To say that Congo’s rich natural resources have been more of a curse than cursing would be an understatement. Around five million people have died in the DRC (from mid 90's up until around 2007) as a result of the conflict in Kivu. The misfortune brought by the conflict minerals of the DRC dated back in the 1800s, where Belgian colonists stripped the country’s rich supplies of ivory and rubber, while killing nearly half the population in the process. Later in the 1960s, it was
the US that was after Congo’s cobalt for its Cold War fighter jets, leading to its support for Mobutu. At present time, it is the global demand for technology that is inadvertently fueling the conflict in Congo. On the other hand, the illicit trade of gold is used as a main income by numerous rebel groups in the country. For instance, the M23 is one of the groups that profited the most from the conflict gold trade in the Eastern DRC. The groups smuggles gold through Uganda and Burundi, then uses its earnings to benefit its members and to finance its military campaign. In addition, the M23 rebels are amongst the many other rebel groups that recruits children as active combatants.

As important as the issue of conflict minerals in the DRC, the chaos and disorder in Kivu expands to a scope where around 500 to 700 cases of sexual abuses are being reported every month. These incidents involved rape and sexual abuses of both women and girls in the DRC, or in some cases girls are abducted by militia groups as sex slaves. In fact, in November 2012, the largest rape tribune of the DRC took place in Minova. The FARDC (Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo) troops conducted a systematic rape against both women and children of Minova over a period of three days. According to the American Bar Association, more than 1,000 potential victims has been identified, despite only having 126 names identified on the official list composed by the UN. In spite of having 56 courageous victims testified at the trial, only a few junior officers were convicted in the end. Up to the present time, sexual violence in the region has continued, attention and effort to protect civilians of the DRC from such atrocities must be made, yet funding had declined for sanctuaries for the women and protection since 2015.

Humanitarian Crisis: Ebola Outbreak in Kivu

Fighting Ebola in a warzone is an extremely difficult task to achieve, that it could be said that the DRC is up to fighting a war within a war. It is nearly impossible to vaccinate or educate those at risk when the medical team themselves are being targeted by militia groups in the region. Even with the best care that modern medicine offers, the 21st century science is beaten by old superstitions (of which many citizens do not know what is Ebola and chooses to ignore warnings from medical teams) and the endless cycle of violence, Ebola still prevails in the DRC and is spreading faster than ever. Often times, Ebola facilities set up by medical teams are destroyed by armed militias in the region. The fatal consequences of these comes from how all suspected and confirmed patients disappearing in the countryside in fear for their lives, where all of these patients would undoubtedly generate new cases in the community. While new vaccination methods and facilities are being brought into the DRC to fight the Ebola outbreak, the urgency to the situation still stands as the WHO now declares Ebola outbreak in the DRC as an
international health emergency, and calls for more attention and funding in order to contain the Ebola crisis.

**Tribal Conflict and Displaced Citizens**

Currently, 4.5 million people are displaced (either internally or to a country elsewhere) in the DRC, more than any other country in Africa. In spite of the numerous efforts to put an end to the chaotic situation in Congo, fighting has intensified and armed groups and continued to attack the civilian population. For the citizens, the only option is to flee the violence. As such, repeated displacement has left the population vulnerable to malaria and other kinds of disease as people lack access to the basic necessities of life (clean water, food, etc). According to the UN, an estimated 13 million people need humanitarian aid in the Kasai region alone. In addition, around 2.2 million children are displaced by the violence and separated from their family, with only a slight chance of ever reuniting again. There must be a negotiation between all the actors engaged in the conflict to bring an end to the violence, not just one or two of the armed groups.

**Major Countries and Organizations Involved**

**Rwanda and Uganda**

As neighboring countries of the DRC, Rwanda and Uganda has a strong belief that the MONUSCO is not by any means putting an end to the violence particularly the DRC.

President Yoweri Museveni of Rwanda referred to the MONUSCO as a “conservation of terrorism”, and backed his claim up by drawing attention to the case of the FDLR attacks on the UN peacekeeping troops back in December 2017 (mentioned in FDLR section of the Key Terms region). President Museveni talks about how “terrorists are weak, but they continue to have freedom of movement and space where the UN is on watch”. Furthermore, he also recommends that the people of the affected country must fight to defeat terrorism within their territory, or friendly forces like the Ugandan army should be allowed to enter and “clean up the mess”.

On the other hand, as Rwanda has commonly been accused of backing rebel groups in the DRC (such as the M23 rebel groups), president Paul Kagame expressed how he is sick of being asked about what could be done about the DRC. “My question always is, why doesn’t the country, the state of Congo, deal with the issues themselves? They should be the ones telling the world nothing is working, or what they think can work for them. I cannot be the one to keep being asked to answer what should work for Congo. This is a serious problem,” said Kagame. Regarding the Force Intervention Brigade the UN has...
created in response to the M23 rebellion, Kagame adds how he does not believe that they have done much to resolve the problem, and backed his claim up by pointing out to the amount of time they took before being able to reach a settlement.

United States of America

As one of the major contributors to financing the MONUSCO (or rather, all missions of the UN), the US is extremely concerned about the progress that has been made by the MONUSCO in terms of alleviating the violence in the DRC. In the remarks the US representative gave at the UN back in 24 July 2019, the speaker first commented on how the US appreciates the efforts the DRC and the UN put in to resolve issues including the violence in eastern DRC, the illicit gold trade, and ebola outbreak. However, the speaker raised concerns about how "progress is slow on a number of issues, especially DDR and the Ebola response". With the current president Donald Trump in power, the US has been taking on harsher lines in regards of funding provided to the UN as a whole. Therefore, despite the US still offering additional support such as to “consider sanctions designations and visa restrictions for those who engage in or provide support for acts that undermine the peace, stability, and security of the DRC”, the US would most likely want a cut in budgeting of the MONUSCO or a complete withdrawal of the program once the transition of the government is completed. Therefore, while the US consistently pushes the UN to finalize and release its decision on the matter, it still does to some extent hope to offer support other than through the MONUSCO as it simply run under the policy of budget cuts toward the UN mission as a whole.

France

France has been one of the most active members on the issue of financing the MONUSCO, as the most recent meeting amongst the UN Security Council on the topic has been called by France, and have taken effort on submitting draft resolutions and requesting a strategic review on the MONUSCO. Just like the US, France also openly expressed its hope for the withdrawal or necessary modification of the mandate as the country completes its transition into a new government. In the remarks the French representative gave at the UN back in 18 March 2019, France also points out several concerns they have regarding the stability of the DRC (conflict in Eastern DRC, illicit exploitation of natural resources, etc), and further expressed how they would continue to fully support the efforts of president Tshisekedi to combat the challenges in the DRC. With the peaceful transition of the new government, France believes that the Security Council should now reconsider the position the UN would take in the DRC in the future, and emphasize that the MONUSCO is to be “adapted to the challenges of the years to come so that it
can eventually withdraw”. However, France still recognize that before the exit plan takes place, the UN must first ensure that the DRC is capable of dealing with possible unforeseen events.

### Timeline of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description of event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 1996-May 1997</td>
<td>First Congo War (explained in the Background Information section).</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17th, 1997</td>
<td>End of the Mobutu regime, Laurent Kabila took power after a successful rebellion in alliance with the Rwandan and Ugandan government.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2nd, 1998-July 18th, 2003</td>
<td>Second Congo War.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 21st-27th, 1999</td>
<td>Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 30th, 1999</td>
<td>First deployment of MONUC troops in the DRC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 30th, 2006</td>
<td>Joseph Kabila, DRC’s first democratically elected president, takes power after the Rwanda genocide and First Congo War comes to an end.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 4-5th, 2008</td>
<td>Killings in Kiwanja (Eastern DRC) led by the CNDP (National Congress for the Defense of the People), the worst killing sprees of the Kivu Conflict with a death toll of an estimated 150 people, despite the violence being only half a mile away from the UN peacekeeping forces.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1st, 2010</td>
<td>The UN Security Council renames the MONUC to MONUSCO.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November, 2012</td>
<td>M23 rebels seize Goma (explained in Key Terms section).</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 7th, 2013</td>
<td>Demise of the M23 rebels.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28th, 2013</td>
<td>Creation of a specialized Force Intervention Brigade (FIB, explained in Previous Attempt section)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31th, 2016</td>
<td>Political Agreement intended to govern the transitional period until the holding of elections (President Joseph Kabila refuses to step down at the end of his second term).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1st, 2018-present</td>
<td>The Kivu Ebola epidemic.</td>
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</table>
December 23rd, 2019  Proposed date by CENI for the presidential, national and provincial legislative elections.

January 24th, 2019  President Félix Tshisekedi officially in office.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Resolution 1279, 30 November 1999 (*S/RES/1279*)
- Resolution 1925, 28 May 2010 (*S/RES/1925*)
- Resolution 2021, 29 November 2011 (*S/RES/2021*)
- Resolution 2053, 27 June 2012 (*S/RES/2053*)
- Resolution 2076, 20 November 2012 (*S/RES/2076*)
- Resolution 2078, 28 November 2012 (*S/RES/2078*)
- Resolution 2098, 28 March 2013 (*S/RES/2098*)
- Resolution 2136, 30 January 2014 (*S/RES/2136*)
- Resolution 2147, 28 March 2014 (*S/RES/2147*)
- Resolution 2211, 26 March 2015 (*S/RES/2211*)
- Resolution 2277, 30 March 2016 (*S/RES/2277*)
- Resolution 2293, 23 June 2016 (*S/RES/2293*)
- Resolution 2348, 31 March 2017 (*S/RES/2348*)
- Resolution 2409, 27 March 2018 (*S/RES/2409*)
- Resolution 2463, 29 March 2019 (*S/RES/2463*)

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

The Physical Protection Strategy

In the past, the strategy the MONUSCO use to achieve physical protection of civilians through deploying static positions on ground (UN peacekeeping stations). At a certain point, the UN had around one hundred bases operating in the DRC to provide security for communities surrounding the stations. However, this approach limits the UN’s ability to respond to threats, especially when conflict arises in
regions out of reach for the peacekeeping stations. To address this shortcoming, the UN has taken the strategy of the “protection through projection”, where the MONUSCO increased mobility and proactive bodies to particularly facilitate in regions without UN bases. Since the approach involved both military forces and civilian personnel, the MONUSCO was able to respond more efficiently and was consequently able to arrange more surrender of the armed groups. Other steps the MONUSCO took to respond to uprising situations more immediately includes its early warning system. Nonetheless, with so many conflicts yet to be resolved in the DRC, questions on the effectiveness of the MONUSCO still persists.

Creation of the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB)

The FIB, as mentioned in previous sections, is authorized by the UN Security Council through resolution 2098 on 28 March 2013 in response to the M23 rebellion. The FIB’s implements the counterinsurgency peacekeeping approach to “neutralize” the armed groups. Responses to the creation of the brigade fueled debate regarding the righteousness of using military force to maintain peace in a specific region. While the opposing argued that the FIB would violate the longstanding principles of peacekeeping (to not use any offensive forces), others believe that it is “inevitable” for the UN to take such measures “amidst chaotic situations of war”. Additionally, the UN also argues that “hostile forces do not understand a language other than force”. Still and all, the success of the FIB is questionable. Whilst the UN celebrates its “success” of its campaign against the ADF, the inability of eradicating the FIB up till now proves the FIB a failing mission. Apart from sparking deadly attacks on UN peacekeepers (attacks from the ADF as mentioned in previous sections), the FIB was unable to prevent the violence in DRC from reaching a new high. Moreover, the situation in the DRC under the predecessor of president Tshisekedi exacerbated. As the FIB could potentially resolve security threats from armed groups outside of the state with military forces, but couldn’t properly deal with the other complicated relationship of corrupt government networking that supports armed groups. Henceforth, there ought to be a new approach taken to resolve the issue, with more sophisticated intelligent capabilities other than simply responding to violence with force.

Possible Solutions

Indeed, the MONUSCO has not maximize its function and often failed to most effectively help combat numerous issues arising in the DRC. Yet, stepping down on financing the MONUSCO simply because the MEDCs are reluctant to provide support is simply not the best we can do to support the DRC. Undeniably, like President Tshisekedi mentions, there must be better training and armed soldiers if the UN hopes to withdraw from the DRC. Currently, the top UN peacekeeping contributors are among
the poorest (Ethiopia, Rwanda, Nepal, etc). In fact, many of these nations send such large numbers of
UN troops to aid for the purpose of earning its GDP and government expenses from the fee UN pays the
peacekeepers (1,800 Canadian dollars per peacekeeper). As a result, UN peacekeepers are often poorly
trained and equipped when facing complicated conflicts such as those in the DRC. Thus, measures must
be taken to improve the training of troops in the DRC and better arms must be provided so that the DRC
would be able to independently respond to future conflicts.

In regards to resolving the armed conflict in Eastern DRC, it would be best to approach it by
expanding on the demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration process (DDR) that already shows
positive results as numerous armed groups already willingly disarmed and agreed on being reintegrated
back into society (more cases has occurred after president Tshisekedi took power). On top of the DDR,
initiatives to minimize and reduce the illicit exploitation of conflict minerals to cut down the main financial
income of armed groups is also crucial.

To address the humanitarian crisis in the DRC, the UN should work in cooperation with the WHO
and other relevant organizations to finalize the required funds to combat the situation (ebola outbreak,
etc) so the support offered to the DRC would last regardless of whether the MONUSCO remains.
Besides, nations such as the US and France who wishes to put an end to the MONUSCO already
expressed their will to fully support the effort to combat the humanitarian crisis, and would most likely be
willing to contribute to additional funding (but not through the MONUSCO).

By tackling and hopefully resolving these issues address above, the budgeting of the MONUSCO
would undoubtedly be cut down. Last but not least, efforts on assessing the situation in the DRC must
continue in order to address the issue of financing the MONUSCO most effectively.

Bibliography

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