

FORUM: General Assembly 5

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

SUBMITTED BY: South Africa

CO-SUBMITTERS: Benin, The Republic of Congo, Sweden, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, The Netherlands, Tunisia, Guatemala, Tonga, Central African Republic, Cape Verde, Iran, Marshall Islands, Greece, South Sudan, Chile, Guyana, Tajikistan, League of Arab States, European Union, Germany, DR Congo, Liberia, Lao PDR, Germany

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

Recalling United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions S/RES/2502, extending the mandate of United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) until 20 December 2020, and S/RES/2478, renewing the Democratic Republic of Congo Sanctions Committee, and the Report of the Secretary-General, S/2019/905,

Further recalling the UNSC Presidential Statement S/PRST/2019/6, published following the declaration of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) by the World Health Organization (WHO) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on 17 July 2019,

Recognizes the importance of MONUSCO, especially UN Peacekeeping troops for achieving peace and security in the DRC and maintaining the security of Member States in the region and the necessity of international cooperation for ensuring the effective functioning of MONUSCO despite funding issues,

Aware of the requests for the withdrawal of UN Peacekeeping forces from the region,

Noting with concern the possible negative impacts of the aforementioned withdrawal of forces from the region without first achieving peace and security in the area and ensuring that necessary mechanisms are in place for the reduction of the presence of MONUSCO,

1. Calls for the WHO to establish a fund named the Democratic Republic of Congo Fund for Health (DRCFH), which will work with the Democratic Republic of Congo Health Cluster and other health institutions in the region to:
 - a) acquire funds through methods not limited to:
 - i. asking the Member States that wish to withdraw their financial support partially from UN Peacekeeping Budget to reallocate their funds to support the new organization
 - ii. requesting the setup of donations throughout several Member States for contributions from citizens
 - b) use the funding it receives only for providing aid on combating outbreaks and providing health equipment but will not provide funding to other military organizations such as MONUSCO, which will be ensured through:
 - i. creating a portal for the DRCFH similar to the United Nations Development Program Transparency Portal which publishes information on its actions in the DRC
 - ii. publishing reports of the allocation of funds, which will be reviewed by the UN, contributing partners and Member States
 - iii. working in collaboration with the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI);
2. Encourages the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) to evaluate the effect improving the training of the UN Peacekeepers may have on increasing effectiveness for smaller number of peacekeepers, consequently reducing costs through:
 - a) reviewing problems due to the inadequate training of the troops, and foreseeing the

possible impact of increasing troop training to the budget and the effectiveness of the mission

- b) using the information about the reasons for inadequate training, if this is concluded after the review, to:
 - i. change the criteria for troops that will participate in the operation and the training they will receive in their home countries
 - ii. ask for inspection of compulsory training troops receive in their home countries prior to being sent to the region
- c) asking the UNSC to reduce the number of troops and reallocate funds used for employment to the training of troops and experts, if advised by the ACABQ;

3. Recommends MONUSCO gradually reduce the number of UN personnel and replace them with local personnel or volunteers which will:

- a) be achieved through the establishment of an organization named the Democratic Republic of Congo Local Volunteers for Peace (DRCLVP) which will:
 - i. work in collaboration with MONUSCO in monitoring the organization and the personnel it provides and work to withdraw the corresponding number of international civilian personnel from the region slowly to ensure that the local personnel are competent in their fields
 - ii. ensure the integration of the volunteers to MONUSCO after their background checks are conducted by the United Nations Joint Investigation Unit (UNJIU) to preserve the neutrality of UN missions
 - iii. accept funding for DRCLVP from the citizens or organizations of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
- b) aim to transform the DRCLVP to an organization which will continue to function in the region after the mandate of MONUSCO ends to ensure a long-term solution in the DRC;

4. Suggests the establishment of a conference with Member States in which Member States will discuss the possible consequences of the withdrawal of MONUSCO troops from the conflict zone, which will:

- a) be attended by single representatives of respective Member States, several representatives of the DRC, designated representatives of MONUSCO, and NGOs
- b) be funded by the regular UN budget and accept voluntary funding from Member States for the organization of the conference
- c) include bilateral meetings between the DRC and Member States on topics such as but not limited to:
 - i. their positions on whether MONUSCO should withdraw from the region, including any concerns for national security
 - ii. alternative mechanisms to ensure peace in the DRC and their national security if withdrawal takes place
 - iii. additional funding, assistance and cooperation they may provide to the DRC for the stabilization of the country, such as but not limited to trade and economy
- d) include the issue of funding and effectiveness of the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) to decrease costs and enhance the effectiveness of the operation in which:
 - i. Member States will discuss the possible consequences of withdrawing the FIB on the military and rebel groups in the region and whether the withdrawal of FIB would result in increasing the actions of these forces violating the human rights of citizens and options provided by Member States on alternative equipment with the condition that they do not decrease the quality or the efficiency of the mission
 - ii. Member States and representatives working for MONUSCO will discuss a possible reduction of troops and the position of Member States on the withdrawal, such as but not limited to the protection FIB offers to the UN Peacekeeping troops and the concerns Member States may have with keeping their peacekeepers in the region without the protection FIB provides and alternative strategies;

5. Asks for the formation of funds separate from the UN Peacekeeping budget to fund infrastructure projects and rebuild the disarmed regions of the DRC and ensure:
 - a) these funds are separate from MONUSCO and the UN Peacekeeping Budget to gather the voluntary financial support of countries that are reluctant to make their contributions through the UN Peacekeeping Budget
 - b) cooperation between the UNDP and the DRC to decide the usage of these funds, such as but not limited to:
 - i. projects the acquired funds will be used for, and allocation of the budget for each project
 - ii. ensuring transparency of these funds, including that they are not used for military operations of MONUSCO
6. Further recommends enhancing the role MONUSCO takes in implementing the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) strategy in order to contribute to disarmament in the DRC and to cooperate with officials to reallocate or decrease the funds depending on the results of this process by:
 - a) communicating with United Nations Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (UNDDR) and the authorities and peacekeepers working for the DDR Section of the Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) in order to:
 - i. ask the UNSC to reallocate experienced Peacekeepers from more stable regions to less stable regions, or reduce their numbers
 - ii. reallocate funds for the establishment of an organization for monitoring the situation in a disarmed region or use the funds for supporting the efforts of OROLSI and UNDDR in the reintegration step in the region that is widely disarmed or for the DDR process in other regions
 - b) allowing individuals who have previously been involved with armed groups to be integrated back to society through the DDR process to support MONUSCO as civilians by:
 - i. working as volunteers in the DRCLVP
 - ii. working as employees in rebuilding projects for the regions that are disarmed;
7. Further encourages MONUSCO to establish an organization that will aim to systemize and ease the cooperation and information exchange between the DRC and inter-governmental organizations, such as but not limited to the African Union (AU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), which will communicate with MONUSCO on the support they may provide both politically and financially, such as but not limited to:
 - a) providing funding to MONUSCO, NGOs and UN organs working in the DRC to provide humanitarian aid and other local initiatives
 - b) supporting the activities of MONUSCO in the region by providing assistance to the government of the DRC on trade and economic development, if the DRC accepts, through:
 - i. organizing bilateral and multilateral meetings between the regional partners of these organizations, in which the Member States will discuss supporting the stabilization of the country through strengthening trade, the economic support they can provide to the country and possible trade agreements following the disarmament of the DRC, which will decrease the amount of economic support needed from MONUSCO for stabilization
 - ii. supporting local businesses in the disarmed regions of the DRC which will promote sustainable solutions in these areas, with minimum funding from MONUSCO;
8. Supports the establishment of an organization which will work under the supervision of the UN Democratic Republic of Congo Sanctions Committee established pursuant to UNSC resolution S/RES/1533, which will include representatives from neighboring Member States, other willing Member States in Sub-Saharan Africa and the intergovernmental organizations mentioned in clause

8, which will work in cooperation with the Sanctions Committee in order to:

- a) devise monitoring mechanisms they can implement in the region to ensure the implementation of the sanctions with the minimum number of UN Peacekeeping troops which will:
 - i. be conducted in cooperation with the UNSC and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) on the arms embargo
 - ii. include actions such as but not limited to increased border patrols, monitoring mechanisms and cooperating with the government of the DRC on possible cases of smuggling
 - iii. aim to decrease the number of UN Peacekeeping troops, equipment and personnel required for monitoring and preventing the smuggling of arms to armed groups, after the implemented mechanisms are determined to be effective by the Sanctions Committee and MONUSCO, and consequently decrease the funding allocated for monitoring the sanctions and reallocate it to infrastructure projects for rebuilding,
- b) prevent the smuggling and trade of Conflict Minerals (3TGs), with the aim of decreasing the funding of armed groups in the region.