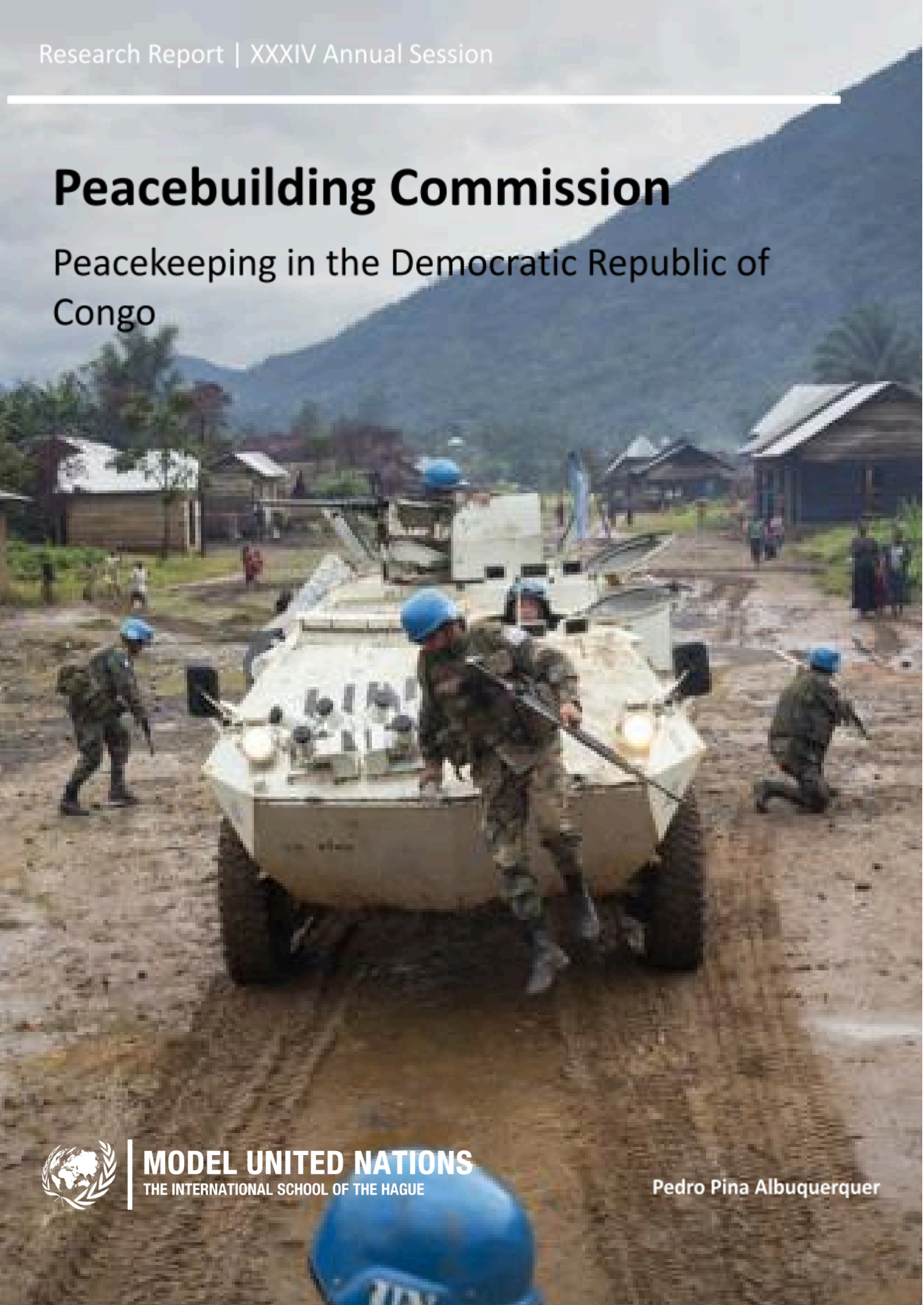


Peacebuilding Commission

Peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of Congo



Forum: Peacebuilding Commission

Issue: Peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of Congo

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Introduction

This report will cover the different countries, methods and events that have helped and slowed down the progress of peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The peacekeeping efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been supported by the United Nations and United Nations-supported organisations such as MONUSCO, which is the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and OHCHR, which is the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. There have been some improvements in peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of Congo but there have also been some low points which have damaged the support of the United Nations' member nations which have also supported the Democratic Republic of the Congo in their efforts to build a peaceful and prosperous nation.

Throughout the history of the Democratic Republic of the Congo they have been riddled with inter-nation wars as well as many internal conflicts and civil wars. The Democratic Republic of the Congo became a sovereign country on the 30th June 1960 and since then have struggled to maintain peace. This is what has led to the wide peacekeeping initiatives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since its formation as a country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been called Congo-Léopoldville (1960-1971), Zaïre (1971-1997) and finally the Democratic Republic of the Congo (since 1997). Under all of these different country names, they have faced around twenty different conflicts, rebellions and foreign conflict involvements. These have led to a large number of irreparable damages for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, specifically to the infrastructure of the county and more importantly to its leadership structure and its people. This instability has resulted in the need for peacekeeping initiatives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This research report will tackle the means of the peacekeeping initiatives, the history behind the conflicts and possible solutions to the issues in the future.



Definition of Key Terms

MONUSCO

MONUSCO is the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission within the Democratic Republic of the Congo. MONUSCO was established on the 1st July 2010 following the end of the Second Congolese War. It was established so as to monitor the peace process and stabilise the region. MONUSCO is one of the largest and most complex UN peacekeeping missions. It has been operational for around 15 years. It had also been called MONUC and that mission was around for around a decade.

Civilian Protection

Civilian Protection is one of the most important parts of MONUSCO and is in fact it is the primary mandate of MONUSCO. Civilian protection covers many different aspects however the key parts are the protection of civilians from violence, disarming armed groups, creating and upholding the rule of law and also supporting the democratic institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Force Intervention Brigade (FIB)

The Force Intervention Brigade, which is more commonly known as the FIB, is a key component of MONUSCO. The Force Intervention Brigade is the only member of the MONUSCO operation which is allowed to use aggressive force against specific rebel and armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The creation of the Force Intervention Brigade marked a significant shift in the way in which the United Nations completed their peacekeeping missions. This was a major shift because before the implementation of the Force Intervention Brigade the United Nations remained completely impartial and used a minimal amount to no force. However the Force Intervention Brigade changed this by being mandated and encouraged to use force against potentially threatening militias and armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



General Overview

Throughout the existence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo there have been large amounts of unrest and civil war and this eventually triggered the involvement of the United Nations into the peacekeeping process. Throughout their involvement the United Nations have maintained a significant presence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This presence has been held for over two decades and is primarily focused on addressing ongoing conflicts and instability.

Peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The main aspects of the UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are civilian protection, military operations, support for state authority, humanitarian aid and finally electoral support. Civilian protection and humanitarian aid focus on the need for safety and security of the population of the region. Whereas, support for state authority and electoral support focus on establishing a government and a country which can run and sustain itself.

MONUC/MONUSCO

The initial United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was called MONUC and was established in 1999 following the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. The primary focus of MONUC was to monitor the ceasefire which was established following the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, as well as facilitating the peace process. In 2010, MONUC was renamed MONUSCO and this was accompanied by the introduction of the FIB. Other changes to the mission affected its means and objectives.

There have been some recent developments in MONUSCO and the overall UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This has included plans for MONUSCO to reduce its presence to enable a gradual transition of power to the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Despite the overall success of the peacekeeping mission there are still many questions and doubts about the effect of the mission's actions on the long term future and stability of the region.



Major Parties Involved

United Nations (UN)

The United Nations have played a pivotal role in the peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as they are the leaders of most of the development and peacebuilding in the region. They have also played an important role in other key initiatives within the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They have played this important role through MONUSCO. The United Nations have attempted to put in place a successful peacekeeping operation following the Second Congolese War. This operation has been coupled with United Nations resolutions on the issue.

Troop Contributing Countries

In this case the Troop Contributing Countries that are discussed in this research report are the countries that contribute troops and other personnel to MONUSCO. The countries which contribute troops to MONUSCO are primarily: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, South Africa, and Uruguay. India is noted as the largest contributor of troops to MONUSCO. These forces are used for purposes such as the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB), civilian protection and other initiatives run by MONUSCO and the United Nations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo plays a large role in the peacekeeping process. The government works in harmony and partnership with the United Nations and other international actors on many different initiatives such as the implementation of peace agreements, reforming security sectors, and implementing state authority in conflict-affected areas. The government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's cooperation with the United Nations is crucial for the peacekeeping operations put in place because without their cooperation it would be impossible to achieve the same levels of success. They are also key in securing the eventual smooth transition of power over security responsibilities from the international peacekeepers to national forces.



Government of Rwanda

The Government of Rwanda plays and has played a very complex role in the peacekeeping in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Firstly, Rwanda has been a significant contributor to the United Nations peacekeeping missions. They have deployed 6,000 troops to the United Nations peacekeeping missions as of January 2024. Rwanda uses this contribution to leverage international influence and evade potential UN sanctions due to the allegations of its military involvement in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many reports indicate that Rwandan military forces have been directly involved in combat operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, supporting the M23 rebel group. This rebel group has raised regional instability and humanitarian crises.

Timeline of Key Events

This timeline shows the development of the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission over the years. It presents key dates about resolutions and agreements that have been important for this mission since its implementation.

July 10th 1999, Signing of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement

August 6th 1999, UN Security Council Resolution 1258 authorises deployment of up to 90 UN liaison officers

September 3rd 1999, First UN liaison officers arrive in the DRC

February 24th 2000, UN Security Council Resolution 1291 authorises deployment of up to 5,537 military personnel (MONUC)

April 4th 2000, Major General Mountaga Diallo (Senegal) appointed as MONUC force commander

June 2003, Transitional government established, including former rebel leaders as vice-presidents

July 2006, First free elections in four decades are held

July 1st 2010, MONUC renamed to MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC)

March 28th 2013, UN Security Council Resolution 2098 establishes the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) within MONUSCO and the FIB is authorised to use offensive force against rebel groups

March 29th 2029, UN Security Council Resolution 2463 extends MONUSCO's mandate and reduces troop ceiling

June 27th 2023, UN Security Council Resolution 2688 extends the 1533 DRC sanctions regime

December 19th 2023, UN Security Council Resolution 2717 extends MONUSCO's mandate until December 20, 2024

UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- Resolution 2717, 19 December 2023, UN Security Council
- Resolution 2463, 29 March 2019, UN Security Council



Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

The Sun City Agreement (2002)

The Sun City Agreement was a successful attempt to solve the issues in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Sun City Agreement was signed on April 19th 2002 in Sun City, South Africa. This agreement was a significant step towards ending the Second Congolese War and also set the ground for the first democratic elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in 2006. This agreement brought together the Democratic Republic of the Congo government, the rebel groups, the political opposition and civil society. It provided a framework for integrating former rebel fighters into the national army of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Goma Peace Agreement (2008)

The Goma Peace Agreement was an unsuccessful attempt to solve the issues in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Goma Peace Agreement was signed on January 23rd 2008 in Goma, North Kivu. This agreement aimed to end the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and it particularly focused on the issues in the regions of North Kivu and South Kivu. This agreement set out a ceasefire plan between the government and many other armed groups, but it was violated shortly after the treaty was signed. The Goma Peace Agreement proposed the disarmament of rebel groups and militias in the region. The Agreement covered the need to tackle the humanitarian crisis in the region by facilitating the return of refugees and internally-displaced

persons, as well as to tackle the root cause of the conflict by addressing ethnic tensions and control over natural resources.

Possible Solutions

Prioritise Civilian Protection

Prioritising civilian protection is one of the most important and implementable possible solutions for the peacekeeping issue in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This solution involves making the safety and security of civilians the highest priority, especially in the eastern provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu. This solution would not only help to ensure the protection of civilians, but also to build trust between the population of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the peacekeeping mission, MONUSCO.



Implement a Responsible Transition

Implementing a responsible transition is also a very important solution but it is more complicated to achieve. This solution includes developing a joint Democratic Republic of the Congo-United Nations conditions-based transition plan which addresses the key points essential for long-term stability in the region. The transition plan would ensure that the peacekeeping efforts are sustainable, and that eventually the Democratic Republic of the Congo and their government can take full responsibility for security.

Strengthen Regional Cooperation

Strengthening regional cooperation is crucial to making sure that peacekeeping efforts are long lasting, even after the United Nations have transferred full responsibility and control to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This solution can be put in place by encouraging member nations to uphold and continue their commitment to the peace processes. The peace processes include the Luanda and Nairobi agreements. Regional cooperation is crucial to tackling cross-border issues as well as to creating a secure and sustainable environment in the region around the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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