



United Nations Operations in Democratic Republic of the Congo: A Brief Assessment Report

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ABSTRACT

This study evaluates the impact of UN peacekeeping operations on the political and social stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Since the 1960s, the UN has intervened through missions like ONUC, MONUC, and MONUSCO to stabilize the country. However, the DRC continues to face significant challenges, particularly in the eastern regions. The study addresses a critical gap in understanding how these interventions have affected economic development, diplomatic relations, and public perception of sovereignty consolidation. The primary aim of this study is to examine the economic consequences of UN peacekeeping operations, analyze how these missions have influenced the DRC's bi/multilateral diplomatic relations, and explore public opinion regarding the UN's role in reinforcing national sovereignty. The study seeks to provide insights into the long-term effects of peacekeeping on the DRC's stability. A mixed-methods approach was employed, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative data. A sample of 300 respondents, including local populations, government officials, and international actors, was surveyed. Data collection involved interviews, surveys, and document analysis. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS to examine patterns and relationships. The findings reveal that UN peacekeeping missions have had mixed outcomes. While they have contributed to reducing direct conflict, they have not significantly boosted economic development. Diplomatic relations remain complicated due to varying perceptions of the UN's extended presence. Public opinion is divided, with many questioning the overall effectiveness of the UN in restoring sovereignty. The study concludes that while UN interventions have been essential in mitigating conflict, their long-term economic and diplomatic impacts require further attention. Strengthening local governance and fostering economic development in collaboration with the UN are recommended. Future research should focus on the sustainability of peacekeeping missions and their potential role in driving economic growth in conflict-prone areas.

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1. Introduction

The principle of sovereignty implies recognition of the sovereign equality of States, the right of peoples to self-determination, and the rule of non-intervention in internal affairs (*Delcourt, 2005*). Peacekeeping is a United Nations (UN) military activity primarily focused on observing ceasefires and positioning itself between states in conflict. The use of force is strictly limited to the legitimate defense of Blue Helmets, who rely on the goodwill and cooperation of the conflicting parties to successfully deploy and execute their mission (*Coulon & Liegeois, 2010*).

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (called Zaire in 1971) is one of the largest countries in Africa, bounded by borders drawn at the time of the colonial partition (between 1885 and 1894). Initially the personal property of King Leopold II of Belgium, the Congo became a Belgian colony in 1908. It was granted independence by Belgium in 1960 (*Encyclopedia Britannica, 2024; FamilySearch, 2024; Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State, 2024*). Barely out of Belgian colonial rule, the country entered a whirlwind of secessions, rebellions, mutinies, and all manner of political uncertainties (*Bonzi, 2007*).

The United Nations has a long history of involvement in the DRC. In the 1960s, the United Nations established the United Nations Operations in the Congo (ONUC) with the mandate to supervise the withdrawal of Belgian forces and to assist the Congolese government in maintaining order and security. The mission's crowning achievement was the suppression of the rebellion in Katanga, in the midst of the crisis that led to the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, then Prime Minister of the young state (DRC). Lumumba's assassination marked Mobutu's accession to power in 1965.

In 1996, shortly after the genocidal events in Rwanda, Mobutu was forced to relinquish power in favour of Laurent-Désiré Kabila, at the end of what became known as the First Congo War (*Momodu, 2018*). Two years later, the **Second Congo War** broke out. The conflict was eventually addressed through the **Lusaka Agreement**, which facilitated the United Nations' return to the DRC. As a result, the **United Nations Organization Mission in the DRC (MONUC)** was established, as outlined in **Security Council Resolution 1291 (2000) of 24 February 2000**. The mission's mandate, defined in this resolution, was based on the **Secretary-General's recommendations** presented in his **report of 17 January 2000 (S/2000/30)**. (*Journal Officiel de la République Démocratique du Congo, 2002*). This mission was terminated on 28 May 2010 and has since been transformed into a stabilization mission. The new mission, MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo), took over with the same actors and the same structure, but with a new, modified mandate (*Gros-Jean, 2010*).

The signing of several peace and ceasefire agreements and the presence of one of the largest United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions in the DRC have not succeeded in establishing lasting peace throughout the country (*Efole, 2014*). This raises the issue of sovereignty in the face of new forms of international administration of territories (*Barabara, 2005*). Therefore, this study seeks to analyse the positive or negative impact of UN interventions on the sovereignty of the DRC from 1999 to the present day, to understand the overall implications. Specifically, the study assesses the impact of UN peacekeeping operations on the political and social stability of the DRC. This includes an examination of the economic consequences of these interventions on the development of the DRC. Also, the diplomatic dynamics and bi/multilateral relations affected by the UN's presence in the DRC are of interest to the study. Additionally, the study explores the public perception of the UN and its role in consolidating the sovereignty of the DRC.

2. Theoretical Framework

To frame the study on the assessment of UN peacekeeping interventions in the DRC, it is essential to apply a theoretical framework that supports both the evaluation of peacekeeping operations and conflict resolution strategies. Two relevant models that can guide such an assessment are **Lederach's Conflict Transformation Theory** and the **Brahimi Report's Peacekeeping Framework**.

Lederach's Conflict Transformation Theory emphasizes a long-term, relationship-building approach to conflict resolution, focusing on addressing the underlying social and structural conditions that perpetuate conflict (Lederach, 1997). In the context of UN peacekeeping in the DRC, this theory assesses how interventions work towards not just immediate peace (ceasefire) but also social healing, rebuilding political institutions, and fostering relationships between conflicting groups. The theory encourages a shift from reactive peacekeeping to transformative peacebuilding aimed at long-term stabilization and reconciliation.

The Brahimi Report (2000) outlines principles and reforms for improving UN peacekeeping missions. It stresses clear and achievable mandates, well-resourced missions, and robust rules of engagement. Using this framework, the study can assess how well the UN's missions in the DRC—MONUC and MONUSCO—follow these principles. Key elements such as the protection of civilians, coordination with local governments, and the success of disarmament and stabilization efforts should be examined based on these criteria (United Nations, 2000).

In general, UN peacekeeping operates under three main principles: consent of the parties, impartiality, and the non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate (United Nations, 2015). These principles have evolved to meet the complex challenges faced in modern conflicts, such as those in the DRC. The "robust peacekeeping" concept has emerged to allow for more active protection of civilians and to ensure peace agreements are upheld in volatile environments.

Situating the study in these frameworks allows for a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping efforts in the DRC. The study can assess how well these operations align with peacekeeping principles, evaluate the evolution of mandates from MONUC to MONUSCO, and critique the efficacy of long-term peacebuilding strategies (Bellamy & Williams, 2010).

Using Lederach's Conflict Transformation Theory provides a lens to examine the long-term social and political impacts of peacekeeping interventions, while the Brahimi Report's Framework offers practical criteria for evaluating mission success. These models will help situate the study within recognized peacekeeping and conflict intervention frameworks, allowing for a thorough and structured analysis of the UN's impact on the political and social stability of the DRC.

For future research, it would be beneficial to explore how other peacekeeping models, like the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), could be applied to similar complex peacekeeping environments (Muggah, 2009).

3. Research Methodology

The methodology adopted in the study is based mainly on the analysis of existing literature and assesses the impact of United Nations peacekeeping interventions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. An exploratory research model was used, focusing on collecting and analysing academic sources, reports from international organizations,

and relevant case studies. This analysis based on qualitative data extracted from literature enables identification of local population perceptions and experiences associated with these interventions. The conclusions of this literature review guided the formulation of the conclusions and recommendations of the study. Although the methodology did not include primary data collection, it provided a comprehensive understanding of the effects of peacekeeping operations and adhered to ethical research standards (Creswell 2014, Flick 2018 and Tashakkori & Teddlie 2010).

4. UN intervention in the DRC

In this section, a brief review is conducted on the essentials of each UN peacekeeping mission in the DRC: the UN Operation in the Congo (ONUC), the United Nations Mission in the Congo (MONUC), and the UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO).

4.1. The United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC)

Following its independence, the DRC was faced with an unprecedented political crisis, characterized by mutinies and secession wars in Katanga under Moïse Tshombe and in Kasai under Albert Kalonji; in the eastern province, the Mulelist rebellion under Antoine Gizenga. Faced with this crisis, on 14 July 1960 the UN Security Council, by Resolution 143 (*Résolution n°143 du Conseil de Sécurité de l'ONU, 1960*), set up a mission known as the *United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC)*, whose mission was to ensure the withdrawal of foreign forces and to help the Congolese government re-establish law and order and maintain the country's territorial integrity and political independence. This operation ended on 30 June 1964.

4.2. The UN Mission in Congo (MONUC)

After the fall of the regime of the late Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Zabanga, then President of the Republic of Zaire, following the seizure of power by Laurent Désiré Kabila at the head of the troops of the *Alliance des Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération (AFDL)* on 17 May 1997, the latter proclaimed himself President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. One year after this seizure of power, there was a rift between Laurent Désiré Kabila and the allies who had brought him to power, in particular, the Rwandans; hence the outbreak on 02 August 1998 of the rebellion led by *Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie (RCD)*, and the *Mouvement de Libération du Congo (MLC)*, sponsored by Rwanda and Uganda (*Marriage, 2013*).

This so-called Rwandan-Ugandan war of aggression led to the signing of a ceasefire agreement in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, in July 1999 (<https://undocs.org/fr/RES/1279/>)

In 1998, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union played an important role in mediating the conflict from the outset of hostilities in the DRC. Their efforts also contributed to the signing of the ceasefire agreement between the belligerents in Lusaka in 1999 (*Parqué, 2000*). The aim was to draw up plans to obtain the Lusaka ceasefire signed in July 1999 between the DRC and 5 States in the region (Angola, Namibia, Uganda, Rwanda and Zimbabwe) and to disengage forces and

maintain liaison with all the parties to the agreement. The United Nations Mission for the Congo was created by Security Council Resolution 1279 on 30 November 1999 (*Résolution n° 2717 du Conseil de sécurité du 27 décembre 2023 prorogeant le mandat de la MONUSCO jusqu'au 19 Décembre 2024*).

MONUC's mandate is based on five points:

1. Establish contacts with the signatories of the ceasefire agreement at headquarters level and in the capitals of the signatory states of the Lusaka Agreement;
2. To liaise with and provide technical assistance to the Joint Military Commission in the exercise of its functions under the Ceasefire Agreement, including the investigation of ceasefire violations;
3. Provide information on the security situation in all areas of operations, including local conditions affecting future decisions on the introduction of UN personnel;
4. Develop plans for cease-fire monitoring and disengagement of forces;
5. Maintain liaison with all parties to the cease-fire agreement to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to displaced persons, children, and other affected persons and assistance in the defence of human rights, including the rights of the child

(<https://monusco.unmissions.org>).

However, the liberation war of Laurent-Désiré Kabila and his allies, which began in 1996, is not the only war that the DRC has experienced: the war of resistance against the Belgian invasion (1960), the war against the secessions organized by colonial force to empty independence of its content, the wars for 'Second Independence' against neo-colonial domination demanded by the Cold War (1963-1965), the war against the attempted usurpation of power by mercenaries led by Jean Schramme (1967), the wars against the Mobutist neo-colonial dictatorship (1967-1980; 1977-1978; 1992-1993; 1994-1995; 1996-1997); those against the expropriation of land by newcomers (1993-1996 in Masisi (*Wamba dia Wamba, 2005*).

MONUC and, more specifically, the UN Security Council are being criticized for not having sanctioned or at least recognized Rwanda's involvement in the Congolese conflict more quickly. The UN Security Council is the only body that can modify the mandate of a peacekeeping mission (<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/role-of-security-council>). The ambiguous relationship between Rwanda and certain permanent members of the Security Council, notably the United States and the United Kingdom, raises the question of why Rwanda has not been sanctioned more proactively and openly for its intrusions in the Congo. On the one hand, the United States and the United Kingdom were major donors to Rwanda and invested heavily in the military sector (*Reis, 2006*). On the other hand, aware of the Rwandan invasion of the Congo, the international community was guilty to a certain extent of the genocide, which prevented it from reprimanding Rwanda's actions (*Charles Onana, 2012*). The Security Council's lack of reaction to the various UN expert reports confirming the presence of Rwandan troops created a lack of confidence in the international community and MONUC among the Congolese population (*Marriage, 2013*) and led to questions about the legitimacy of the latter's

actions.

4.2.1. Overall assessment of MONUC's actions

During the period from February 2000 to June 2001, the first phase of MONUC's activities, it certainly played an important role in de-escalating the conflict in certain parts of Congo, but overall, it was unable to stem the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, the exacerbation of the human rights situation, and the increase in the number of victims of the conflict, according to various UN official reports.

During the period from June 2001 to July 2003, which marked the second phase of its activities, MONUC faced significant skepticism regarding its ability to fulfill its mandate. Reports from international organizations, NGOs, and analysts highlighted MONUC's limited impact, citing operational constraints, slow troop deployment, and inadequate resources. Despite its presence, violence, particularly in eastern DRC, continued to escalate, and human rights violations multiplied, worsening the humanitarian crisis. The mission's inability to prevent atrocities and effectively stabilize conflict zones led to growing doubts about its efficacy. Additionally, internal political struggles, lack of cooperation from local actors, and tensions within the UN Security Council further hampered MONUC's efforts to succeed.

The Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration, and Resettlement (DDRRR) operations for foreign armed groups failed to achieve one-third (1/3) of the quantitative objectives set according to NGO and Human Rights Organization Reports. The Mission watched helplessly as intense fighting resumed in the east of the country, with a consequent deterioration in the human rights situation and the security conditions essential to the activities of humanitarian organisations. The overall picture is negative, even though the Mission has taken a number of positive steps, such as reopening the Congo River to navigation and demobilising more than 5,000 child soldiers.

Despite the fact that all the tasks assigned to MONUC during the first and second phases have been continued, in addition to new tasks, it can be considered that the Mission had three overriding tasks during the third phase, namely compliance with the embargo; support for security sector reform; and support for the organisation of elections. It should be noted that the results of this third phase are almost satisfactory.

The impact of the efforts made by the international community, represented mainly by MONUC/MONUSCO, a UN mission acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, has been mixed. The intensity of the crisis and the effectiveness of the measures taken to contain it have been uneven.

In short, MONUC has undeniably helped to bring about the first democratic elections in the DRC; it has also helped to reduce direct violence against the population and is implementing several initiatives to bring about lasting peace. However, this study of the mission also allows us to conclude that, despite factors beyond its control, MONUC and its 'experts' have failed to implement strategies that have made it possible to put a definitive end to the negative peace, and the strategies developed so far have not resolved the problems of deep-seated violence (*Bonzi, 2007*).

4.3. *The UN Mission for the Stabilisation of the Congo (MONUSCO)*

In 2010, the Security Council decreed that the DRC had entered a new phase and renamed MONUC as the UN Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO).

The main objectives of this renowned mission are to complete the military operations in the east of the country; to improve the government's ability to protect the population effectively, and to reinforce the authority of the State throughout the country (*Résolution n° 1925 du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU du 1er Juillet 2010*).

In March 2014, MONUSCO's mandate was renewed by the UN Security Council and consisted of the protection of civilians, stabilisation and support for the implementation of the Framework Agreement for Peace (*Résolution 2147 du conseil de sécurité, par 3; L'Accord-cadre pour la paix, la sécurité et la coopération pour la République Démocratique du Congo et la région*). MONUSCO was one of the UN's largest missions, with the highest number of personnel deployed and the largest budget (maximum personnel: 25,723, including 19,522 soldiers, and a budget of 1 456 378 300 USD (*Fiche Technique, 2014*)).

4.4. *UN Military Personnel and Forces in the DRC (from MONUC to MONUSCO)*

According to Hammarskjöld "Peacekeeping is not typically the job of soldiers, but only soldiers possess the necessary skills and discipline to carry it out effectively." (2nd Secretary General of the UN in the DRC from 10 April 1953 to 18 September 1961). Therefore, the military component is the largest within MONUC. Of MONUC's total personnel strength of around 20,930 at the end of 2006, the military component comprised 17,400 soldiers, or 83% (<https://peacekeeping.un.org/mission/past/monuc/background.shtml>).

The essential elements of MONUC's mandate for its military component are to maintain a presence in the main areas of potential instability to deter violence; to ensure the protection of civilians, humanitarian personnel, United Nations personnel, facilities, installations, and equipment; to monitor compliance with the arms embargo; to assist the Transitional Government in security sector reform and in securing electoral operations (<https://monuc.unmissions.org/en/security-sector-reform>). MONUC's 17,416 military personnel (as of 31/08/2006) include 592 military observers and 183 staff officers from 48 countries, as well as 16,641 soldiers from contingents provided mainly by South Africa, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Uruguay (*Bonzi, 2007*).

According to Resolution 2666 adopted by the Security Council at its 9226th meeting on 20 December 2022, which decided to extend MONUSCO's mandate until 20 December 2023, MONUSCO should continue to maintain a maximum authorised strength of 13,500 military personnel, 660 military observers, and staff officers, 591 police officers and 1,410 members of formed police units until the gradual withdrawal scheduled for 20 December 2024 (<https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/resolution-2666-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-s-res-2666/>).

4.5. *Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General in the DRC*

The following persons have been appointed by the Secretary-General of the

United Nations to lead the peace and security mission in the DRC:

- Kamel Morjane (Tunisia): 1999- 2001;
- Amos Namanga Ngongi (Cameroon): 2001 - 2003;
- Maman SIDIKOU (Nigeria): January 2012;
- Ms Leila Zerrougui (Algeria); February 2017;
- Ms Bintou KEITA (Guinea): January 2021
(<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/personnel-appointments/2021-01-14/ms-bintou-keita-of-guinea-special-representative-of-the-secretary-general-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-and-head-of-the-un-organization>).

4.6. UN Security Council Resolutions for the DRC (2000 to 2023)

To effectively assess the impact of the numerous UN Security Council resolutions regarding the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on the country's peace and security, it is essential to analyze both their content and implementation. Given the frequency and variety of these resolutions, a systematic evaluation can reveal insights into their effectiveness and the challenges faced in fostering lasting stability in the region.

Years	N° Resolutions
2000	1291; 1304; 1316; 1323; 1332.
2001	1341; 1355; 1376.
2002	1399; 1417; 1445.
2003	1457; 1468; 1484; 1489; 1493; 1501.
2004	1522; 1533; 1552; 1555; 1565.
2005	1596; 1612; 1616; 1621; 1635; 1649.
2006	1654; 1669; 1671; 1674; 1692; 1693; 1698; 1711; 1736.
2007	1742; 1751; 1756; 1768; 1771; 1794.
2008	1856
2009	1906
2010	1925
2014	2147
2017	2348; 2388;
2018	2409
2020	2502; 2556;
2021	2612
2022	2641
2023	2666; 2717 ^[13] .

4.7. Sexual abuse by UN Peacekeepers in the DRC

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), sexual abuse and exploitation by United Nations peacekeepers have become pressing issues, particularly in the context of ongoing conflicts and humanitarian crises. Reports indicate that cases of sexual misconduct have been a recurring problem within the UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), with numerous allegations surfacing over the years.

A **2018 report** from the **United Nations Joint Human Rights Office** documented several instances of sexual abuse by MONUSCO personnel, illustrating a troubling pattern of exploitation in vulnerable communities. The report highlighted the challenges faced by survivors in coming forward due to fear of retaliation and the stigma associated with sexual violence. Additionally, a **2020 Human Rights Watch report** revealed that incidents of sexual abuse were often inadequately investigated, leaving victims without justice and perpetuating a culture of impunity.

In the context of the DRC, economic disparities and the prevailing humanitarian crisis create an environment where local populations are particularly vulnerable to exploitation by UN personnel. Many civilians live in extreme poverty, which exacerbates their susceptibility to abuse from those in positions of power. This dynamic was further examined in a **2021 report** by **Amnesty International**, which criticized the UN for failing to implement effective measures to prevent and address sexual abuse within its missions.

Efforts to address these issues have been made, including the establishment of protocols aimed at preventing sexual exploitation and abuse; however, these measures often fall short in practice. There is a pressing need for more stringent oversight and accountability mechanisms to ensure that peacekeepers are held responsible for their actions, thereby protecting vulnerable populations from exploitation.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a troubling number of sexual abuse cases were documented over a period from late 2004 to mid-2006. Additionally, between early February and April of 2011, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office reported numerous instances of sexual violence and many victims. However, it is important to note that many cases likely went unreported, highlighting the significant issue of underreporting in the region. Various reports, including those from Human Rights Watch and the UN, emphasize the urgent need to address sexual violence and improve the reporting mechanisms to capture the full extent of the problem (<https://www.msf.org/sexual-violence-democratic-republic-congo>). 66 trials were held during this period, of which 53 people were convicted of rape and other acts of sexual violence (Molamoyi, 2011). Other cases, especially between 2008 and 2014, have also been reported. Despite the implementation of a zero-tolerance policy, various UN missions have continued to face allegations of misconduct. This persistent issue highlights the complexities involved in ensuring accountability and ethical behavior within peacekeeping operations. Notably, missions in Eritrea, Burundi, Sudan, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Central African Republic have encountered similar accusations. Such incidents emphasize the urgent need for more effective oversight and remedial actions to uphold the integrity of peacekeeping efforts (*Rapport de la MONUSCO sur les abus sexuels impliquant les casques bleus du 24 juillet 2009, consulté 29 Février 2024*).

The UN's involvement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has had profound implications for political stability, economic development, diplomatic relations, and public perception. A 2019 evaluation report by Dr. Alexandra Novosseloff from the International Peace Institute and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs assessed the effectiveness of the United Nations Mission in the DRC (MONUC-MONUSCO) on behalf of the Effectiveness of Peace Operations Network (EPON). This report delineated the Mission's intervention into four distinct phases: the initial deployment during the crisis; support for the transitional government and the organization of the 2006 elections; the post-transition phase leading to a stabilization mission; and the establishment of the Intervention Brigade (FIB) to combat armed groups like the M23 and advocate for new presidential elections following President Kabila's final term.

The year 2019 can be seen as the beginning of a fifth phase, wherein the Mission supports the contested presidential mandate of Félix Tshisekedi. His authority is challenged by the coalition of the two primary political forces, the FCC and CACH, which represent outgoing President Joseph Kabila and incoming President Tshisekedi, respectively. Over two decades, UN peacekeeping efforts in the DRC have witnessed four presidential elections and the appointment of eight Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General. However, the effectiveness of MONUSCO in providing protection has fluctuated, resulting in mixed outcomes. This evidence suggests that the UN Mission has not fully realized its objectives, aligning with the Congolese Government's position, as articulated by Ms. Bintou Keita, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, who advocates for the gradual withdrawal of UN troops by December 20, 2024.

5. Conclusion

The assessment of United Nations operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) reveals both achievements and persistent challenges in promoting stability and security in the region. To enhance the effectiveness of UN missions, several concrete recommendations should be considered. Firstly, it is essential to strengthen collaboration between UN peacekeeping forces and local security institutions to ensure a more sustainable approach to security sector reform. Additionally, the UN should prioritize community engagement initiatives that empower local populations and foster trust between peacekeepers and civilians, thereby reducing incidents of sexual abuse and increasing accountability. Furthermore, a phased withdrawal plan for UN troops should be accompanied by comprehensive support for the Congolese army, focusing on training and capacity-building to enable them to assume full responsibility for security. Finally, ongoing monitoring and evaluation of peacekeeping strategies should be implemented to adapt to evolving contexts and ensure that the Mission's objectives align with the realities on the ground. Such actions will be critical in reinforcing the sovereignty of the DRC while effectively addressing the multifaceted challenges faced in the pursuit of lasting peace.

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