

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

MONUSCO and ICGLR have deployed a joint exploratory assessment mission to Uvira, DRC in support of ceasefire monitoring

KINSHASA, 24 February 2026 – The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) have deployed a joint exploratory and preliminary assessment mission to Uvira, South Kivu, from 23 to 27 February 2026, following consultation with the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and chairperson of the ICGLR, H.E Félix Tshisekedi.

This mission serves as a critical prelude to the future deployment of the joint ceasefire monitoring mechanism under the established ceasefire architecture. The primary objective is operational: to ensure that future monitoring and verification efforts are credible, safe, and operationally feasible. This initiative is focused on preparing the ground by assessing access, security, logistics, and engagement needs to ensure the effective functioning of the mechanism.

MONUSCO recalls that, under Security Council resolution 2808 (2025), the Mission is authorised to support the implementation of a permanent ceasefire. This includes support for the established Ceasefire Oversight and Verification Mechanism, and the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism Plus (EJVM+) created following the signing of the Doha Framework for Comprehensive Peace Agreement on 15th November 2025.

During the deployment, the joint team will assess political, security, logistical, and socio-environmental conditions in and around Uvira to inform comprehensive planning.

“Effective ceasefire monitoring is intended to reduce violence and create the necessary space for a durable political solution. Unlike in North Kivu and Ituri, MONUSCO's mandate in South Kivu is strictly focused on ceasefire monitoring and does not encompass Protection of Civilians (POC), according to Resolution 2808 (2025). Ms. Vivian van de Perre, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Head of Monusco ad interim says.

Regarding the scale of future operations, the Mission emphasises that this is an exploratory phase; the configuration of any subsequent deployment will be determined by agreed parameters, security guarantees, and operational requirements.

Dr. Mubita Luwabelwa, ICGLR Executive Secretary reiterates that “The Great Lakes region has vast potential for peace and prosperity. By uniting and cooperating, we can tackle challenges and create a brighter future for everyone”.

MONUSCO and ICGLR reaffirm that credible monitoring requires enabling conditions, including freedom of movement and predictable security guarantees, which remain central to the ongoing assessment.

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