

**Nations unies - Syrie - RDC -
Remarques à la presse du
représentant permanent de la
France auprès des Nations unies
(New York, 07 mars 2018)**

(en anglais)

Q - [Inaudible] Question on the Security Council meeting on Syria.

A - It was an important meeting that we requested together with our British colleagues and friends. There were in-depth discussions this morning on the way forward, especially with regard to the commitment of three armed groups to respect the cessation of hostilities demanded by Resolution 2401 and to make sure that the terrorist groups leave Eastern Ghouta. And around these important commitments of the armed groups, that Staffan de Mistura underscored, the demanding dialogue with our colleagues has been initiated, which is potentially important. That's what we want to work on, together with the other key points I mentioned this morning regarding the humanitarian aid and regarding the evacuation of civilians.

On DRC, I will speak publicly in a minute. What I can say is that DRC is at a crossroads. The electoral sequence ahead of us is critically important for the future of the country and the whole region.

The objective is to hold credible, fair and transparent elections on time, so as to allow a peaceful and democratic transition of power in the country, which is necessary for the country to get back to stability.

In order to get there, we believe there are 3 important keys in this regard:

1) first key, to make sure that the Congolese people trust that the elections are going to be organized technically well and within the agreed timeframe. The CENI has a critical role in this regard.

2) second key, we need to get back to the spirit of consensus in the implementation of the December 31st agreement, including with the confidence building measures. There cannot be credible elections without a level playing field, where all candidates can campaign freely.

3) third key, in this delicate phase ahead of us, MONUSCO has a key role to play, both in

supporting the electoral process and in protecting civilians.

This is why we remain convinced that these 2 top priorities of MONUSCO must be preserved and reaffirmed this year. And that is why we also remain convinced, more than ever, that it is critically important for MONUSCO to get the means required to fulfill its mandate./.