

**Nations unies - MONUSCO -
Remarques à la presse par le
représentant permanent de la
France auprès des Nations unies**
(New York, 31 mars 2017)

(En anglais et en français)

Just a few words - maybe in English first and then in French - on the important resolution that we are about to adopt.

If I had to summarize, I would say : tough negotiations and a good outcome for DRC and the UN in particular. This is a good resolution, which puts MONUSCO in capacity to tackle the major challenges that the DRC is facing this year.

The mandate now focuses on two clear key priorities : protection of civilians and support for the implementation of the December 31st agreement. These are two critical tasks, complementary tasks, to enable the DRC to get to the elections and guarantee the long-term stability of the country.

The troops ceiling is adjusted to bring it in line with the reality of the deployment of MONUSCO on the ground. The essential change is that the composition of the Force will be adapted, replacing certain troops by specialized units better trained for the Congolese context. This adaptation will enable the mission to be more mobile, more flexible and more reactive.

At the end of that process, we will have with this mandate a MONUSCO that is more reactive, more mobile, focused on the essential priorities that I just mentioned and able to provide the necessary support to the DRC in this critical phase.

Un mot en français pour dire qu'au terme de négociations qui ont été parfois serrées, nous avons aujourd'hui une bonne résolution. Bonne d'abord pour la République démocratique du Congo et sa stabilité, et bonne pour l'ensemble du système des Nations unies.

C'est une bonne résolution pour plusieurs raisons que je rappellerai dans mon explication de vote. La première c'est la capacité que nous avons eu, au terme encore une fois de négociations parfois rudes, à nous mettre d'accord sur un texte - et à le faire, je l'espère, dans l'unanimité.

Deuxièmement, nous avons pu clairement indiquer les deux priorités qui sont celles de la MONUSCO : la protection des civils d'une part, l'appui à la mise en oeuvre de l'accord du 31

décembre, d'autre part. Ce sont les tâches, d'ailleurs complémentaires l'une de l'autre, qui sont cruciales pour permettre à la République démocratique du Congo de passer le cap des élections, de préparer les élections et de garantir la stabilité du pays à long terme.

Au-delà de la révision ou de l'ajustement du plafond des troupes afin de l'adapter à la réalité du déploiement de la MONUSCO, l'essentiel c'est que la composition de la Force va être adaptée, en remplaçant certaines troupes par des unités spécialisées, mieux formées pour le contexte congolais. Et cette adaptation va permettre de répondre à notre objectif commun qui est de rendre la mission plus mobile, plus souple et plus réactive.

À l'arrivée, nous avons donc avec ce mandat une MONUSCO, je le disais, plus réactive, plus mobile, concentrée sur les priorités essentielles qui sont celles de ce pays aujourd'hui et en mesure d'apporter l'appui nécessaire à la République démocratique du Congo dans cette phase essentielle et critique de son histoire.

Q - Ambassador, do you think based on the negotiations that this is a positive sign on how the US plans to balance its desire to cut UN peacekeeping with the realities on the ground ?

R - I hope so. There is no winner or loser here. It's a win, win, win. Win for the key negotiators and the credibility of the Security Council, win for the DRC, win for the UN.

We have put everything on the table in good faith, honestly. The negotiations, as I said, have been from time to time tough, but I think the result is a good one for everybody. By nature every negotiation is specific. We'll 'see how things will go for the future negotiations on peacekeeping operations. But I must say that the spirit of the negotiation that we just had, the ability that we had, all of us, to put everything on the table to negotiate in good faith about the global picture but also the details of the negotiations, the fact that we were able to listen to each other, all of this, I would say, speaks positively about the spirit of the future negotiations on peacekeeping. We are aware of the necessity to reform, to reform seriously some of these operations. And we are no opponents to the reform, far from it. We are in favor of the reform, as is the SG himself. So I would say that I am cautiously confident that if we roll-up our sleeves and work in good faith, we can make it.

Q - Ambassador, does this save any money ? And does this address the American concern that the peacekeepers are essentially working with the government and have become a party to the conflict ?

R - On the first point yes : it saves some money.

Q - How much, do you have some numbers ?

R - Let me think about it and get back to you.

Q - On the American concern ?

Q - About the UN forces working alongside Congolese forces, supporting a regime that they believe the UN should not be supporting.

R- I understand the question, Somini, but again you have two priorities : protection of civilians, and also implementation of the December 31st agreement and preparation for the elections. So this second priority, I believe, speaks for itself. We are speaking about a political transition here, so I think in this respect too this is also a very good resolution that prepares for the coming elections./.