Joint Training on
Effective Electoral Assistance

DAY 1
Brussels, 22-26 October 2007
The UN support to the DRC Electoral Process

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Day 1
Introduction: Election events

A. OPERATIONS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL
1. Background and Mandate
2. Challenges
3. UN System Response

B. OPERATIONS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL
1. Mandate and new challenge
2. Role within the UN system

Conclusion
Election Events

Voter Registration
Between June 2005 and February 2006

Referendum 18-19 December 2005
Promulgation of:
- Constitution: 18 February 2006
- Electoral law: 9 March 2006

National and provincial elections
Direct
Presidential (July 2006)
National Assembly (July 2006)
Provincial Assemblies (29.10.2006)

Indirect
Senate
Governor & Vice Governors

Local elections
(in preparation, envisaged for 2008)
Direct
Local Community Councilors
Municipal Councilors

Indirect
Sector Chiefs and Deputy Sector Chiefs
Burgomasters and Deputy Burgomasters
City Councilors
Mayors and Deputy Mayors

5 elections with direct universal suffrage and 6 elections with indirect suffrage
A. OPERATIONS - NATIONAL LEVEL

1. Background & Mandate

Global and All-Inclusive Agreement (17 Dec 2002)
- Call for elections to be held to end the transitional period
- The Congolese Independent Election Commission (IEC), with the support of the international community, is responsible for the conduct of these elections.

UN Security Council Resolutions 1493 (2003) & 1565 (2004), mandating the UN System “to provide assistance and to coordinate international support to the electoral process”
A country like a ... continent

- 213 times greater than Kosovo;
- 86 times greater than Burundi;
- 24 times greater than Liberia;
- Or surface of: Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, Suisse, Belgium, Luxembourg, Pays-Bas, Deutschland, Denmark, Austria & Poland ...combined
## UN’s largest electoral assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country area: 2,344,885 km²</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population: 60,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voters: + 25,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>385 constituencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>22,500 candidates</td>
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<tr>
<td>64 compilation centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>50,000 polling stations</td>
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<tr>
<td>International community financial contribution: US $500 million (without MONUC)</td>
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Further challenges

- Large country with a lack of basic infrastructure
- Insecurity in some regions of the country
- Transition from parties in conflict to parties competing in a clearly defined political setting
- No electoral experience in 45 years
3. UN System Response

The UN system provided technical assistance to the electoral authorities in three main areas of electoral assistance, both at the central level and in the provinces.

(1) Political environment and strategy: Support for creating appropriate political and administrative conditions
- Analyse and influence the environment
- Supporting the resolution of electoral disputes
- Monitoring the respect of human rights
(2) Operation: Support the organization of the elections
- Support civic education and electoral communication
- Provide logistical support
- Support electoral operations

(3) Security: Ensure UN personnel’s safety and support the security for the elections
- Analyse security risks
- Provide security for UN personnel
- Support Congolese authorities (PNC and FARDC)

In order to deliver consistent assistance, UN agencies were integrated in a single structure coordinated by the DSRSG/RC/HC.
Together, both entities covered the following aspects of the electoral mandate:

The MONUC ED and APEC worked on the following aspects of the electoral mandate:

- Technical assistance to IEC
- UN system electoral assistance coordination
- International coordination mechanism (Steering and Technical Committee)
- Coordination of the donors’ contributions
- Electoral logistics
Electoral Assistance Division (EAD)

• EAD supported the organization of the DRC electoral process through its **substantive backstopping to both** the MONUC Electoral Division and the UNDP-managed APEC project.

• EAD has also supported both structures by **nominating potential recruits** to fill over 150 international adviser posts.

• EAD undertook several field mission to the DRC to enhance the **coordination mechanisms between HQ and the field** (to support the operational planning and to monitor progress of the preparation of the electoral operations.)
B. OPERATIONS - LOCAL LEVEL
Mandate and new challenge

- Security Council’s Resolution, 15 May 2007: MONUC in coordination with donors and UN country team:
  ✓ Contribute to establish a stable political environment
  ✓ Contribute to establish a secure environment
  ✓ Provide preliminary support to the preparation and holding of local elections, including technical assistance and logistics

- Positive response of SG to the DRC Prime Minister request for support
### New challenge

<table>
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<tr>
<th>National &amp; Provincial elections</th>
<th>Local elections</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>385 constituencies</td>
<td>6,037 constituencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22,500 candidates</td>
<td>200,000 candidates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64 compilation centers</td>
<td>91 compilations centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 polling stations</td>
<td>53,000 polling stations</td>
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<tr>
<td>US $500 million</td>
<td>US $160 million</td>
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</table>
Roles within the UN System

- **MONUC**
  - Political context and essential legislations (political will, human rights, rule of law, civil affairs, gender, etc)
  - Security (risk analysis, escort, UN military and UN police actions, etc)
  - Electoral operations

- **UNDP**
  - Included in the PACE, and as part of long term Good Governance Programme 2007-2011
  - Long term technical assistance for Electoral Cycle
  - Financial assistance
  - Long term training centre
  - New technology awareness

- **IEC/NIEC**
  - Organize and supervise all the electoral process
  - Updating of the voter’s list
  - Technical preparations (civic education, training, communication, etc.)
  - Logistics
  - Budget
  - Polls
Conclusion

• The DRC experience proves that even facing the most difficult challenges, credible elections can be organized.

• The credibility of the Electoral Commission and his president was a key element for the credibility of the whole process.

• The electoral support in DRC was successful as it gave legitimacy to the government. Legitimacy only cannot provide the basis for good governance.