



# **European Commission United Nations Development Programme International IDEA**

***Joint Training on  
Effective Electoral Assistance***

**DAY 1**

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# The UN support to the DRC Electoral Process

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## **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

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## 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

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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”



## 2. Challenges

### A country like a ... continent







# UN's largest electoral assistance

**Country area: 2,344,885 km<sup>2</sup>**

**Population: 60,000,000**

**Voters: + 25,000,000**

**385 constituencies**

**22,500 candidates**

**64 compilation centers**

**50,000 polling stations**

**International community financial contribution:  
US \$500 million (without MONUC)**



## **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**

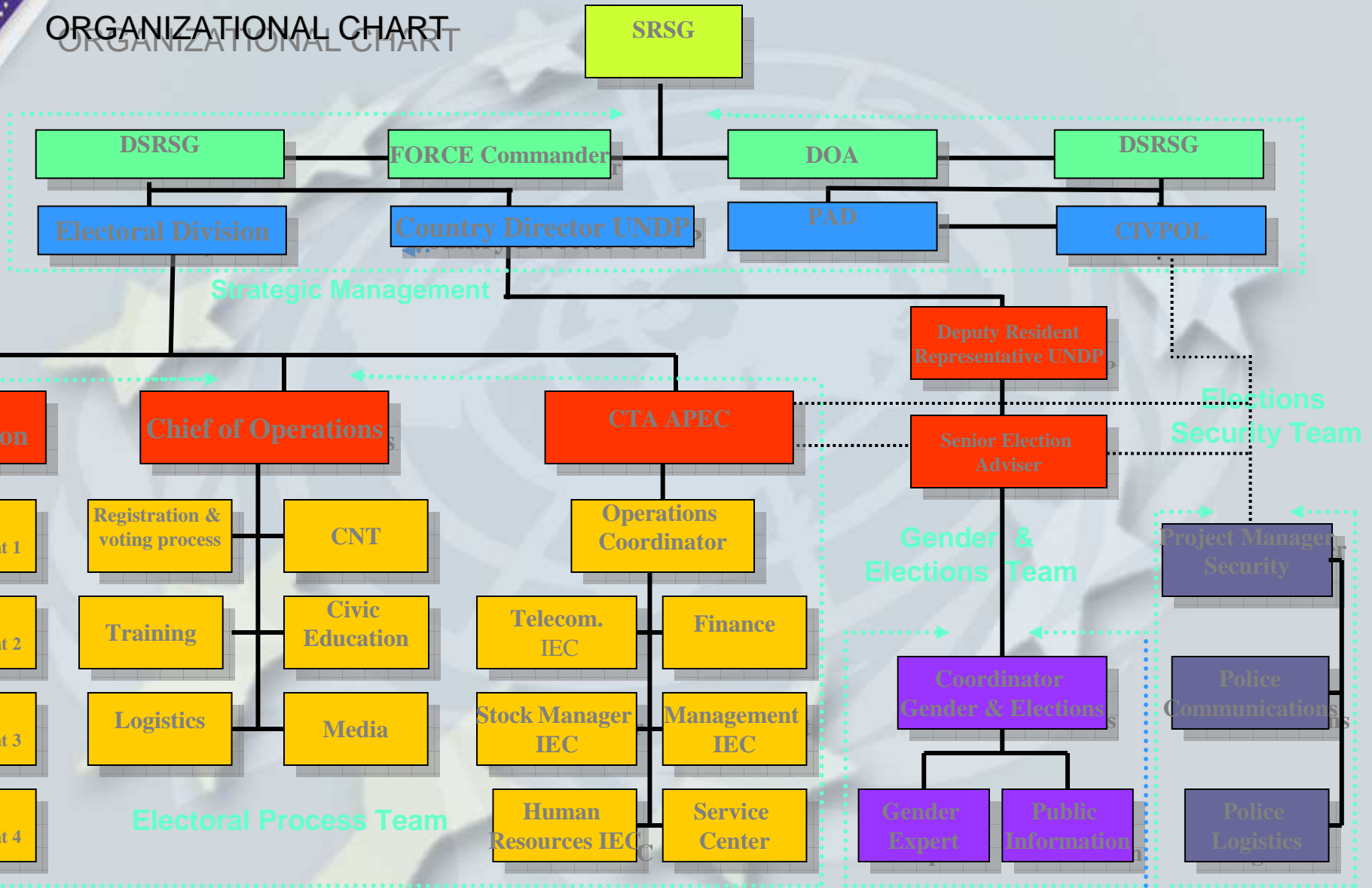
- Analyse security risks
- Provide security for UN personnel
- Support Congolese authorities (PNC and FARDC)

**In order to deliver consistent assistance, UN agencies were integrated in a single structure coordinated by the DSRSG/RC/HC.**



# UN Integrated Electoral Assistance

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





# MONUC Electoral Division (ED) & Assistance Project for the Elections in Congo (APEC)

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

National & Provincial elections	Local elections
385 constituencies	6,037 constituencies
22,500 candidates	200,000 candidates
64 compilation centers	91 compilations centers
50,000 polling stations	53,000 polling stations
US \$500 million	US \$160 million



## 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.**