

## FOREWORD

Five years after the start of the second rebellion, the transition from war to peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has reached a crossroads. With a transitional government in place since July 2003, the international community has redefined its engagement in the country. The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) felt that the time was ripe for hosting an experts' workshop to take stock of the peace process. The aim of the workshop was to provide an up-to-date assessment of the two main initiatives resulting from the Lusaka Cease Fire Agreement for the DRC: the United Nations' Mission in the DRC (MONUC) and the Inter-Congolese Dialogue (ICD). The idea was to bring together a multidisciplinary panel composed of practitioners on the ground, government officials, academics and analysts, to debate the challenges of peace implementation via these two mechanisms. Specifically, the workshop aimed to provide a technical assessment and broader understanding of ongoing peacekeeping and peace-building activities in the DRC with a view to highlighting the challenges lying ahead.

From 17 to 19 September 2003, some 60 high-ranking representatives from UN Headquarters, MONUC, and key UN agencies and NGOs operating in the DRC, as well as various governments concerned with the Congolese peace process joined the ISS for a constructive dialogue in Pretoria, South Africa. The event was hosted by the Training for Peace and the African Security Analysis Programmes at ISS, with sponsorship from the governments of Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

Participants were informed that the presentations of the panellists, as well as the essence of the ensuing discussions, would be captured, edited and published for the purpose of providing a much wider audience with a better understanding of the challenges of implementing peace in the DRC. The intention was not to produce lists of recommendations to the "International Community", to MONUC, to the government of the DRC or to neighbouring countries. It was decided that the purpose of such a publication would be to rather gather as much of the information shared during the workshop as possible, retaining the richness and diversity of the various presentations, and to disseminate this widely and accurately, leaving the reader to decide on the veracity of the conclusions made by the panellists and the ideas advanced by the other participants.

This book is therefore a compilation of the edited texts of the formal presentations made during the workshop followed by short summaries of the discussions that ensued, in addition to chapters specially commissioned for the purposes of this publication. As a consequence, the seventeen chapters to follow are of uneven length, differing in terms of depth, scope and format in the analysis conducted on the respective topics. For example, the opening chapter by Emeric Rogier on the Inter-Congolese Dialogue was submitted after the

workshop, and was included because it provides a very informative, if critical, prelude to the interests at play and the process of negotiations that led to the establishment of a transitional government. On the other hand, Ambassador William Swing's keynote address is published exactly as it was delivered, as the only unedited contribution, because it represents the best possible preface to the book.

Above all, the diversity of the chapters in this book reflects, unequivocally, the complexity of the challenges faced by those who live and work for peace in the DRC. The result, we feel, is a remarkably detailed and readable exposition of the status of the peace process, presented in four sections dealing respectively with: the politics of transition: from war to peace in the DRC; human security in the DRC; MONUC's contribution to general security, and, finally, the ongoing challenges in eastern DRC.

The editors take immense pleasure in acknowledging the many persons and organisations that made this publication, and the preceding workshop, a reality. First and foremost, our deepest gratitude to all at the United Nations' Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for taking time off from very busy schedules to come to Pretoria and share with us their views and experiences. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Ambassador William Swing, Elisabeth Sancery, Alpha Sow, Roberto Ricci, Peter Swarbrick, Lawrence Smith, Jerome Ngongo Taunya and Amy Smythe.

We would also like to thank all those participants who travelled long distances to attend and make presentations at this three day expert workshop. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the contribution of the United Nations' Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which through the participation of Tim Cornett and Antero Lopes provided us with a birds-eye-view of the complexities involved in peace support operations at that level. We would also like to thank Michel Kassa (OCHA); Anneke van Woudenberg (HRW); Mahamane Cisse-Gouro (OHCHR); François Grignon (International Crisis Group) and Hans Romkema (Life and Peace Institute) for their excellent presentations during the workshop and for taking time to write individual chapters for this book. Our very special appreciation to Emeric Rogier, Research Fellow at the Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael', for contributing with the introductory chapter as well as a faithful, comprehensive and concise account of the proceedings of the workshop.

Our sincere thanks must finally go to all those at the Institute for Security Studies who were involved in the organisation of the workshop and the presentation of papers. Many thanks to Vanessa Kent and Natasha Vorholter (Training for Peace Programme); Henri Boshoff, Jean-Marie Gasana and Noma Sokupa (African Security Analysis Programme) and Uli Mans (consultant/rapporteur).

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