

United Nations  Nations Unies

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3 April 2018

Excellency,

I write to you, building on the excellent discussions with your Government during my visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 11 to 13 March 2018 and my letter to the acting Prime Minister, Mr. Jose Makila Sumanda, dated 15 March 2018.

Allow me to reiterate my view that the DRC has made considerable progress since my first visit to your country more than 15 years ago. There have been improvements in infrastructure; Kinshasa, as other cities, has become a modern African city; more children are going to school and have access to education; fewer children die and more mothers survive child birth; your government has almost doubled its investment in the public health system; and the immunization rate has drastically improved.

I was particularly encouraged by the constructive conversations with your Government on how to best implement the Humanitarian Response Plan, launched together with the Prime Minister on 18 January 2018.

I am writing particularly to let you know that we have listened carefully to your concerns about the L3 designation of the humanitarian crisis in the DRC. The United Nations will deactivate the L3 designation later this month. I will make a public announcement tomorrow, Wednesday, 4 April 2018, confirming that.

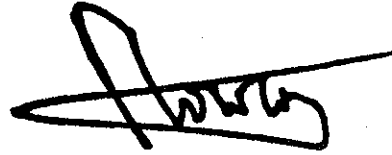
I understand that our colleagues are also working on the issue of numbers of people needing humanitarian assistance and those identified as displaced. I understand that it has been proposed to set up a technical commission to strengthen that the United Nations and Government analysis on IDP figures are appropriately reconciled moving forward.

During our discussions while I was in Kinshasa, we agreed that the single biggest obstacle to helping the Congolese people in need of humanitarian assistance is availability of resources. The core purpose of the conference the United Nations, together with The Netherlands, the European Union, and the United Arab Emirates are convening on 13 April in Geneva is to raise the resources necessary to assist millions of Congolese people in support of the Government's efforts.

H.E. Mr. Leonard She Okitundu
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Kinshasa

I understand that your Government has expressed reservations over its participation in Geneva. I hope that, based on my explanations above and the work between your Government and the United Nations over the past several months, you will feel able to participate. I strongly believe we have a shared interest in working together in meeting the essential humanitarian needs of the Congolese people, building on the important progress in many areas that you as the Government have overseen over recent years.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Mark Lowcock
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs
and Emergency Relief Coordinator