

Country/entity	Democratic Republic of Congo Uganda
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Agreement Between the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Uganda on Withdrawal of Ugandan Troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cooperation and Normalisation of Relations Between the Two Countries (Luanda Agreement)
Date	6 Sep 2002
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

Congo Civil Wars (1996 -)

The overthrow of the long-term dictator Mobutu Sese Seko by a rebel Tutsi army backed by Uganda and Rwanda in 1997 acted as a catalyst for a war with regional dimensions, mainly fought in the eastern Kivu provinces. The conflict escalated in 1998, when President Laurent Kabila, then backed by Zimbabwean and Angolan troops, ordered Rwanda and Uganda to leave. After Kabila's assassination in 2001, his son Joseph took over the presidency and won in the 2006 democratic elections.

In the eastern provinces, Tutsi-led militias, mainly organised in the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP), fought the remnants of the Rwandan Hutu force FDLR, with further involvement of Rwandan and Ugandan troops. Other regionally operating militia groups, like the Lord's Resistance Army from Northern Uganda, the so-called Mai Mai groups or guerrilla outfits like the March 23 Movement (M23) further contributed, and still contribute, to the complexity of the situation in eastern DRC.

Following Joseph Kabila's departure in 2019, his successor Félix Tshisekedi faced renewed instability as the M23 rebel group, dormant since 2013, resumed operations in late 2021 with substantial Rwandan support. In January 2025, M23 forces backed by Rwandan troops captured the regional capital Goma in the most serious escalation since the Second Congo War. This prompted U.S. mediation under President Trump, leading to talks in Qatar in March 2025 and a preliminary peace agreement signed in Washington on June 27, 2025. The Washington Accords were formally signed by Presidents Tshisekedi and Kagame on December 4, 2025, committing Rwanda to withdraw troops and cease M23 support while the DRC pledged to neutralize the FDLR and establish regional economic integration with significant U.S. commercial involvement. However, fighting continues as of late 2025, with both sides accused of violating commitments.

Close

Congo Civil Wars (1996 -

)

Stage	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	DRC: Second Congo war process
Parties	FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO, HE JOSPEH KABILA, PRESIDENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA, H E YOWERI K. MUSEVENI, PRESIDENT
Third parties	WITNESS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, H. E. JOSE EDUARDO DOS SANTOS PRESIDENT
Description	This agreement provides for the withdrawal of Ugandan Troops, and for agreement on a number of other issues. This is an amendment of the Luanda Agreement regarding the retreat of the Ugandan troops from RDC and the normalisation of the cooperation relations. The heads of states of RDC and Uganda agree to change the schedule for the implementation of the agreed framework for the pacification commission.

Agreement document	DRC_UG_020906_Luanda Agreement.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
---------------------------	--

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group** No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced
persons** No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

**Women, girls and
gender** No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general)

Page 1, Preamble

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereinafter referred to as "the DRC") and the Government of the Republic of Uganda (hereinafter referred to as "the GOU"), both hereinafter referred to as "the Parties", under the facilitation and auspices of the Government of the Republic of Angola;

REITERATING the principles of respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-use of force against each other, peaceful resolution of conflicts, and noninterference in the internal affairs of States, guided by the United Nations and the African Union (AU) Charters;

CONSIDERING that Article 52 of the United Nations (UN) Charter provides for the pursuit of regional initiatives, with a view to uphold these principles in enhancing relations among States and the establishment of a peaceful atmosphere of security and stability along common borders;

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/ secession No specific mention.

Accession/ unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision Page 3, ARTICLE 3 DIPLOMATIC COOPERATION

The Parties agree to cooperate in efforts to restore full diplomatic relations.

ARTICLE 4

LEGAL RELATIONS

The Parties agree to find a mutually acceptable formula of resolving any existing or arising legal issues between them.

Page 3, ARTICLE 7 CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The Parties agree to resolve any future differences between them through dialogue and any other peaceful means.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society Page 2, ARTICLE 1 WITHDRAWAL OF UGANDAN TROOPS

...

3. The Parties agree to put in place, with the assistance of the United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), a Joint Pacification Committee on Ituri consisting of the Parties, political, military, economic and social forces active in the Bunia area, and the inhabitant grassroots communities. In addition thereto, Uganda re-affirms her readiness to withdraw her troops from Bunia as stipulated in Annex "A".

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
Page 3, ARTICLE 6 SOCIAL/ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The Parties agree to re-establish the Joint Ministerial Commission for cooperation in the various areas, including trade and investment, infrastructure, transport, communications and cultural exchange.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Promotion
Page 3, ARTICLE 6 SOCIAL/ECONOMIC COOPERATION
The Parties agree to re-establish the Joint Ministerial Commission for cooperation in the various areas, including trade and investment, infrastructure, transport, communications and cultural exchange.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees Page 1, PREAMBLE

CONSIDERING that Article 52 of the United Nations (UN) Charter provides for the pursuit of regional initiatives, with a view to uphold these principles in enhancing relations among States and the establishment of a peaceful atmosphere of security and stability along common borders;

CONSCIOUS of the potential their joint action can contribute towards removing obstacles to the full normalisation of relations between the two countries;

CONVINCED that peace, security and stability of the Parties constitute essential factors for their development;

Page 3, ARTICLE 5 DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION

The Parties agree to cooperate in the areas of defence and security including training, coordinated border patrols, exchange of intelligence and liaison work.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces No specific mention.

Withdrawal of foreign forces

Page 2, ARTICLE 1 WITHDRAWAL OF UGANDAN TROOPS:

1. The GOU commits itself to the continued withdrawal of its forces from the DRC in accordance with the Implementation Plan marked Annex "A" and attached hereto.
2. The GOU has unilaterally and unconditionally issued orders to her troops in Gbadolite, Beni and their vicinities to immediately withdraw from DRC.
3. The Parties agree to put in place, with the assistance of the United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), a Joint Pacification Committee on Ituri consisting of the Parties, political, military, economic and social forces active in the Bunia area, and the inhabitant grassroots communities. In addition thereto, Uganda re-affirms her readiness to withdraw her troops from Bunia as stipulated in Annex "A".
4. The Parties agree that the Ugandan troops shall remain on the slopes of Mt. Ruwenzori until the Parties put in place security mechanisms guaranteeing Uganda's security, including training and coordinated patrol of the common border.
5. The DRC and the GOU undertake to keep the Government of the Republic of Angola informed on the progress of the withdrawal of Ugandan troops.

Page 2, ARTICLE 2 SECURITY CONCERNS

In order to respect national sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence as well as international borders, the parties agree as follows:

1. To work towards the restoration of the dignity and sovereignty of the DRC as well as address Uganda's security concerns.
2. To refrain from all types of military and logistical support including the provision of bases and sanctuary to the armed groups, inter-ethnic militia, subversive organisations and all rebel movements against the interests of the Parties.
3. To work closely together in order to expedite the pacification of the DRC territories currently under the Uganda control and the normalisation of the situation along the common border.
4. To exchange intelligence on all matters of security interest among them.

Corruption No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism Article 1. Parties agree to put in place, with MONUC assistance, a Joint Pacification Committee on Ituri consisting of the Parties, political, military, economic, economic and social forces active in the Bunia area, and the inhabitant grassroots communities; Article 6. Parties agree to reestablish Joint Ministerial Commission for cooperation in the various socio-economic areas, including trade and investment, transport, communications and cultural exchange;

Page 3, ARTICLE 8 IMPLEMENTATION/REVIEW MECHANISM

1. The Parties will, among others, implement this Agreement as stipulated in Annex "A".
2. The Parties in collaboration with the Republic of Angola, agree to have regular reviews for the effective implementation of this Agreement.

Page 4. ARTICLE 10 COMMENCEMENT

This Agreement shall come into force upon signature.

Page 5-6, "ANNEX A PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF UGANDAN TROOPS FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, COOPERATION AND NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES", includes a detailed plan of the implementation of the agreement. It specifies the date for, 'event', and actors responsible for the implemenetation.
