

Country/entity	Democratic Republic of Congo
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Unilateral ceasefire agreement signed between Gutsi assailants and the presidential delegation on 9 September 2020
Date	9 Sep 2020
Agreement status	Unilateral document
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

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	Ceasefire/related
Conflict nature	Government

Peace process	DRC: Eastern DRC processes
Parties	<p>President Tshisekedi's appointed delegation including former Ituri warlords.</p> <p>Gutsi armed groups Leadership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commander: Ndrodza Konaju Germain - A certain Dhera Bura also signed the agreement. <p>(see original language document for images of signatures)</p>
Third parties	<p>For the Delegation Sent by the Head of State: Floribert Ngabu Njabu</p> <p>For the Village leaders: Tikpa Budza Badhebli, Lomena Butchu, Bura Songlo;</p> <p>For the Church leaders: Nyitchunoza-Kiza, Dzaringa Goba Germain, Isamba-Dhengo-Joel;</p> <p>For Civil society and youth organizations: Olivier Diaimbu, Maki Dz'naju, Andibori Kondungenda</p>
Description	<p>This agreement is part of a series of dialogues between a touring presidential delegation and local armed groups in Ituri province, focusing on the Gutsi group specifically. The agreement calls for an immediate end to violence and attacks against civilians and against Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and Police Nationale Congolaise (PNC). The provisions address DDR programmes as well as establishing a joint team to monitor ceasefire or 'truce'. The agreement also addresses the need for the armed group to support free movement of civilians and leave open humanitarian corridors.</p>

Agreement document	CD_200909_Unilateral ceasefire agreement signed between Gutsi assailants and the presidential delegation on 9 September - TR.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
Agreement document (original language)	CD_200909_Unilateral ceasefire agreement signed between Gutsi assailants and the presidential delegation on 9 September 2020.pdf (opens in new tab)

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 Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive
Page 3, Section II. On free movement of person, goods, and humanitarian organisations:
Article 5.
The assailants based in GUTSI agree to leave open a humanitarian corridor in order to assist displaced persons and populations in need of humanitarian aid. They also agree to allow free passage of security services with supplies and on their various trips.

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) No specific mention.

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 No specific mention.

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 3, Section II. On free movement of person, goods, and humanitarian organisations: Article 5.
The assailants based in GUTSI agree to leave open a humanitarian corridor in order to assist displaced persons and populations in need of humanitarian aid. They also agree to allow free passage of security services with supplies and on their various trips.

Page 4, Section V. Final provisions:
Article 10.

The assailants based in GUTSI invite the Congolese government to put in place a mechanism for overseeing performance of this truce agreement, which shall consist of a joint team, including negotiators sent by the Head of State, the Congolese government and civilian society.

**Traditional/
religious leaders** Page 2, PREAMBLE
...Whereas the Congolese Head of State has charged certain Ituri community leaders sent from Kinshasa with a peacekeeping mission in Ituri province;...

**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 Page 3, Section II. On free movement of person, goods, and humanitarian organisations: Article 3.
The assailants based in GUTSI agree to allow free movement of person and their property in Ituri Province.

Page 3, Section II. On free movement of person, goods, and humanitarian organisations: Article 4.
The assailants based in GUTSI agree to allow the civilian population to go about their business peacefully and freely in Ituri Province.

Page 3, Section II. On free movement of person, goods, and humanitarian organisations: Article 5.
The assailants based in GUTSI agree to leave open a humanitarian corridor in order to assist displaced persons and populations in need of humanitarian aid. They also agree to allow free passage of security services with supplies and on their various trips.

Protection measures Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of civilians
Page 3, Section 1: Unilateral truce
The assailants based in GUTSI agree to put an end to hostilities in Ituri Province. The end of hostilities involves an end to attacks against FARDC, the PNC and the civilian population.

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 No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business	Page 3, Section II. On free movement of person, goods, and humanitarian organisations: Article 3. The assailants based in GUTSI agree to allow free movement of person and their property in Ituri Province.
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 No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

**Water or riparian
rights or access** No specific mention.

Security sector

**Security
Guarantees** Page 2, PREAMBLE
Whereas the Congolese head of state made multiple calls on various armed groups active in the eastern DRC to cease hostilities;
Whereas the Congolese head of State called for an end to violence in Ituri during his visit to the Djugu territory in July 2019;
Whereas the Congolese head of state wishes and is committed to restoring the authority of the State in Ituri province;...
Whereas it is necessary to restore peace and security to entities controlled by assailants based in Gutsi in Ituri Province;...
Being eager to participate and contribute to efforts to restore peace, security and restore the authority of the State in Ituri Province;

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
Page 3, Section 1: Unilateral truce
The assailants based in GUTSI agree to put an end to hostilities in Ituri Province. The end of hostilities involves an end to attacks against FARDC, the PNC and the civilian population.

Police	<p>Page 3, Section 1: Unilateral truce</p> <p>The assailants based in GUTSI agree to put an end to hostilities in Ituri Province. The end of hostilities involves an end to attacks against FARDC, the PNC and the civilian population.</p>
Armed forces	<p>Page 3, Section 1: Unilateral truce</p> <p>The assailants based in GUTSI agree to put an end to hostilities in Ituri Province. The end of hostilities involves an end to attacks against FARDC, the PNC and the civilian population.</p> <p>Page 3, Section II. On free movement of person, goods, and humanitarian organisations: Article 5.</p> <p>... They also agree to allow free passage of security services with supplies and on their various trips.</p>
DDR	<p>Security sector→DDR→DDR programmes</p> <p>Page 3, Section III. Accommodation</p> <p>Article 6.</p> <p>The assailants based in GUTSI agree to gather their fighters at the sites provided by Congolese government technical services and/or their partners.</p> <p>Page 3, Section III. Accommodation</p> <p>Article 7.</p> <p>During the accommodation period, the assailants based in GUTSI not having the means to support themselves, agree to accept food and non-food provisions from the Congolese government and/or its partners to ensure the survival of their fighters.</p> <p>Page 4, Section IV. Community DDR Process:</p> <p>Article 8.</p> <p>The assailants based in GUTSI agree to collaborate with the Congolese government on their disarmament, demobilization and reinsertion.</p> <p>Page 4, Section IV. Community DDR Process:</p> <p>Article 9.</p> <p>The collaboration mentioned in Article 8 above shall depend on the outcome of talks which will be held in accordance with Article 2 of this Agreement.</p>
Intelligence services	<p>No specific mention.</p>

**Parastatal/rebel
and opposition
group forces**

Page 3, Article 2:

The assailants based in GUTSI agree to enter into talks with the Congolese government regarding the demands made in the specifications given to the delegation sent from Kinshasa by the Congolese Head of State within 72 hours.

Page 3, Section II. On free movement of person, goods, and humanitarian organisations.
Article 3.

The FDBC agree to allow free movement of person and their property in Ituri Province.

Page 3, Section II. On free movement of person, goods, and humanitarian organisations.
Article 4.

The FDBC agree to allow the civilian population to go about their business peacefully and freely in Ituri Province.

Page 3, Section II. On free movement of person, goods, and humanitarian organisations.
Article 5.

The FDBC agree to leave open a humanitarian corridor in order to assist displaced persons and populations in need of humanitarian aid.

They also agree to allow free passage of security services with supplies and on various trips.

Page 3, Section III. Accommodation

Article 6.

The assailants based in GUTSI agree to gather their fighters at the sites provided by Congolese government technical services and/or their partners.

Page 3, Section III. Accommodation

Article 7.

During the accommodation period, the assailants based in GUTSI not having the means to support themselves, agree to accept food and non-food provisions from the Congolese government and/or its partners to ensure the survival of their fighters.

Page 4, Section IV. Community DDR Process:

Article 8.

The assailants based in GUTSI agree to collaborate with the Congolese government on their disarmament, demobilization and reinsertion.

Page 4, Section IV. Community DDR Process:

Article 9.

The collaboration mentioned in Article 8 above shall depend on the outcome of talks which will be held in accordance with Article 2 of this Agreement.

**Withdrawal of
foreign forces**

No specific mention.

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 No specific mention.
