

<b>Country/entity</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>Region</b>	Africa (excl MENA)
<b>Agreement name</b>	Unilateral ceasefire agreement signed between the Forces de défense contre la balkanisation du Congo (FDBC) and the presidential delegation on 9 September 2020
<b>Date</b>	9 Sep 2020
<b>Agreement status</b>	Unilateral document
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes
<b>Agreement/conflict level</b>	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 -  
)

<b>Stage</b>	Ceasefire/related
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government/territory

<b>Peace process</b>	DRC: Eastern DRC processes
<b>Parties</b>	<p>President Tshisekedi's appointed delegation including former Ituri warlords</p> <p>Defence Forces Against Balkanisation of the Congo (FDBC) / Forces de défense contre la balkanisation du Congo Leadership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chief of the General Staff: Chui Mutambala</li> <li>- Spokesperson: Stalone Beby</li> <li>- Deputy Chief of the General Staff: Awilo Nichunga</li> </ul> <p>(see original language document for images of signatures)</p>
<b>Third parties</b>	<p>For the Delegation of the Head of State: Floribert Ngabu Njabu</p> <p>For the Village leaders: Lotima Tchfo-Germany, Muzikale Koli, Busjo Libbo, Dhetsina Burombi;</p> <p>Church leaders: Buki Mateso, Barongo Fabien, Malo Jisza Bienvenue, Buli Tsubu Etienne;</p> <p>Civil society and youth organizations: Nguna Ojubbu, Belo Busumani Aimé, K'Aulo Ngabu Timothee, Jacqui Sinzodza (w), Jeamine Ngabuzi (w), Rachel Tabo (w), Yvette Mave Lotsove (w)</p> <p>(see original language document for images of signatures)</p>
<b>Description</b>	<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 Defence Forces Against Balkanisation of the Congo (FDBC) group specifically in the Djugu territory of Ituri. The agreement calls for an immediate end to hostilities among armed groups including attacks against Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and Police Nationale Congolaise (PNC). The provisions address a DDR programme 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>

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**Agreement document** [CD\\_200909\\_Unilateral ceasefire agreement signed between the Forces de defense contre la balkanisation du Congo - TR.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

**Agreement document (original language)** [CD\\_200909\\_Unilateral ceasefire agreement signed between the Forces de defense contre la balkanisation du Congo \(FDBC\) and the presidential delegation on 9 September 2020.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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## 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 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.

**Social class** No specific mention.

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## Gender

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

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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**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.

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

The FDBC 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 members of the FDBC, 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.

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**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.

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## 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.

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## 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 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.

**Protection measures** No specific mention.

**Other** No specific mention.

## **Rights institutions**

**NHRI** No specific mention.

**Regional or international human rights institutions** No specific mention.

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## **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.

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

**Taxation** No specific mention.

**Banks** No specific mention.

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## 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.

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## 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;...  
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 I: Unilateral truce:  
The FDBC agree to put an end to hostilities in Ituri Province. The end of hostilities involves an end to attacks against FARDC, and the PNC

**Police** Page 3, Section I: Unilateral truce:  
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**Armed forces** Page 3, Section I: Unilateral truce:  
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Page 3, Section II: On free movement of person, goods, and humanitarian organisations:  
Article 5.  
... They also agree to allow free passage of security services with supplies and on various trips.

**DDR**

Security sector→DDR→DDR programmes

Page 3, Section III. Accommodation:

Article 6.

The FDBC 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 FDBC 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 FDBC agree to collaborate with the Congolese government on their disarmament, demobilisation and reinsertion.

Pag 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.

**Intelligence  
services**

No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel  
and opposition  
group forces**

Page 2, PREAMBLE

Whereas the Congolese head of state made multiple calls on various armed groups active in the eastern DRC to cease hostilities;...

Page 3, Section I: Unilateral truce

Section I: Unilateral truce

The FDBC agree to put an end to hostilities in Ituri Province.

The end of hostilities involves an end to attacks against FARDC, and the PNC.

Page 3, Article 2:

The FDBC 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.

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.

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Article 10.

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**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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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