

Country/entity	Democratic Republic of Congo
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Declaration of Murhesa II for a DDR, reintegration and community reconciliation process in South Kivu province
Date	16 Sep 2020
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
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/territory

Parties

Government Democratic Republic of Congo

Representatives from a coalition of around 70 armed groups from South Kivu province.

The agreement also describes those taking part in discussions as signing. The following are listed as attendees:

- The provincial authority represented by the Minister of the Interior
- The Commander of the 33rd Region military
- The Commander of the Sukola II North and South Kivu operational sector
- The provincial officer of the PNC, heads of various services, representatives of local communities, and actors from civil society.

Note - Most names were illegible on document. The following is a list of some of the organisations represented that were legible:

President of the Democratic Republic of Congo

APDC

ACN/EPDC

EPDC

FPP

BN-NR

CAP/EPDC

APCC

Kibalo-Kyetu

UCL

CNL/FAP

UVIRA

FNLD

MDP

UPCB

UCCB/BISHEMBUKE

Third parties The preamble described the meeting being held by the Minister for National Defense and states:

Page 1, Preamble:

... The meeting, organised by the Interprovincial Commission for Support of the Community Awareness, Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Process (CIAP-DDRC for short), in close partnership with SFCG – Consortium Maji ya Amani, the Initiative for Cohesive Leadership (ILC) and the Association for Integrated Community Development (ADCI) was officially opened by the Minister for Defense on Monday 14 September

Description The agreement describes the discussion held in a meeting between state representative ministers and representatives of armed groups from South Kivu. The discussions led to six points of agreement with the objective of disarmament within communities, demobilization, reintegration and community reconciliation with an emphasis on armed operations ceasing and a return of displaced persons. The agreement substantively provides for the formation of an oversight committee to establish insecure zones and identify breaches of ceasefire, with parties calling for head of state to hold future dialogue. The agreement also commits the members of armed groups to work with tribes to participate in restitution to populations growing crops.

Agreement document [CD_200916_Declaration of Murhesa II for a DDR, reintegration and community reconciliation process in South Kivu province.pdf \(opens in new tab\) | Download PDF](#)

Agreement document (original language) [CD_200916_Declaration of Murhesa II for a DDR, reintegration and community reconciliation process in South Kivu province.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** Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical
Page 1,
Because the aim of this approach mirrors the expectations of populations in the east of the DRC above and beyond just South Kivu: a national territory with regular, duly sworn forces, responsible for the safety of the territory but also public order, respect for fundamental rights of the person and citizens. By acting with unfailing impartiality, these same forces would also guarantee living space in which all tribes could feel at ease in the inter-dependence which has characterised them for centuries.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced
persons** Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Rhetorical
Page 3, First focal point:

All armed groups in South Kivu Province agree to cease hostilities and to inform their respective members of the same. They demand that the Armed Forces for the Democratic Republic of the Congo resume their state functions, and take all necessary measures to foster an environment for rebuilding trust, by ceasing operations and ensuring the voluntary return of displaced persons.

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:

... Because the aim of this approach mirrors the expectations of populations in the east of the DRC above and beyond just South Kivu: a national territory with regular, duly sworn forces, responsible for the safety of the territory but also public order, respect for fundamental rights of the person and citizens. By acting with unfailing impartiality, these same forces would also guarantee living space in which all tribes could feel at ease in the inter-dependence which has characterised them for centuries.

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 2, Preamble:

In the immediate short-term, this process must be approved by signature of this Joint Declaration. This must highlight the significant short-, medium- and long-term efforts which must be made by all parties concerned:

[...]

3. a major, decisive effort by security infrastructure of the Congolese state to offer humble and determined public service, in order to ensure constant and impartial protection of property, persons, and borders;

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)	Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references Page 4, Fourth focal point: The undersigned parties encourage the head of state to engage all state institutions in incorporating structures responsible for Community Demobilisation, Disarmament, Reinsertion, Reintegration and Reconciliation (CIAP-DDRC) into institutional and budget plans, in order to facilitate the process.
Elections	No specific mention.
Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	No specific mention.
Traditional/religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	Page 2, Preamble: In the immediate short-term, this process must be approved by signature of this Joint Declaration. This must highlight the significant short-, medium- and long-term efforts which must be made by all parties concerned: [...] 3. a major, decisive effort by security infrastructure of the Congolese state to offer humble and determined public service, in order to ensure constant and impartial protection of property, persons, and borders;
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 Page 1,
Because the aim of this approach mirrors the expectations of populations in the east of the DRC above and beyond just South Kivu: a national territory with regular, duly sworn forces, responsible for the safety of the territory but also public order, respect for fundamental rights of the person and citizens. By acting with unfailing impartiality, these same forces would also guarantee living space in which all tribes could feel at ease in the inter-dependence which has characterised them for centuries.

Page 3, Third focal point:

To guide those acting on the Oversight Committees mentioned in the second focal point above, the undersigned parties agree to produce maps of insecure zones, for confidential use. These maps are intended to hold all those involved in respecting the ceasefire responsible, and to permit accurate identification of possible breaches. Because this Murhesa II process does not allow for any form of breach, particularly in terms of respecting fundamental human rights.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights

Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Life
Page 2, Preamble:

In the immediate short-term, this process must be approved by signature of this Joint Declaration. This must highlight the significant short-, medium- and long-term efforts which must be made by all parties concerned:

[...]

3. a major, decisive effort by security infrastructure of the Congolese state to offer humble and determined public service, in order to ensure constant and impartial protection of property, persons, and borders;

Socio-economic rights

Human rights and equality→Socio-economic rights→Property
Page 2, Preamble:

In the immediate short-term, this process must be approved by signature of this Joint Declaration. This must highlight the significant short-, medium- and long-term efforts which must be made by all parties concerned:

[...]

3. a major, decisive effort by security infrastructure of the Congolese state to offer humble and determined public service, in order to ensure constant and impartial protection of property, persons, and borders;

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 Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of civilians
Page 2, Preamble:

In the immediate short-term, this process must be approved by signature of this Joint Declaration. This must highlight the significant short-, medium- and long-term efforts which must be made by all parties concerned:

[...]

3. a major, decisive effort by security infrastructure of the Congolese state to offer humble and determined public service, in order to ensure constant and impartial protection of property, persons, and borders;

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 No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Property return and restitution
Page 4, Fifth focal point:

Members of armed groups and several tribes agree to make joint restitutions, as far as they are able to do so, in order to save the upcoming growing season.

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:

In the immediate short-term, this process must be approved by signature of this Joint Declaration. This must highlight the significant short-, medium- and long-term efforts which must be made by all parties concerned:

[...]

3. a major, decisive effort by security infrastructure of the Congolese state to offer humble and determined public service, in order to ensure constant and impartial protection of property, persons, and borders;

Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
Page 3, Second focal point:

The undersigned parties agree to communicate on respecting the present Declaration of Murhesa II. This will be possible thanks to the creation of an informal Oversight Committee, on a sector-bysector basis, which will communicate on a weekly or even daily basis, if necessary, and by analysing methods of respecting cessation of incidents and hostilities.

Third focal point:

To guide those acting on the Oversight Committees mentioned in the second focal point above, the undersigned parties agree to produce maps of insecure zones, for confidential use. These maps are intended to hold all those involved in respecting the ceasefire responsible, and to permit accurate identification of possible breaches. Because this Murhesa II process does not allow for any form of breach, particularly in terms of respecting fundamental human rights.

Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments
Page 3, First focal point:

All armed groups in South Kivu Province agree to cease hostilities and to inform their respective members of the same. They demand that the Armed Forces for the Democratic Republic of the Congo resume their state functions, and take all necessary measures to foster an environment for rebuilding trust, by ceasing operations and ensuring the voluntary return of displaced persons.

Police

No specific mention.

Armed forces

Page 1,

Because the aim of this approach mirrors the expectations of populations in the east of the DRC above and beyond just South Kivu: a national territory with regular, duly sworn forces, responsible for the safety of the territory but also public order, respect for fundamental rights of the person and citizens. By acting with unfailing impartiality, these same forces would also guarantee living space in which all tribes could feel at ease in the inter-dependence which has characterised them for centuries.

Page 3, First focal point:

All armed groups in South Kivu Province agree to cease hostilities and to inform their respective members of the same. They demand that the Armed Forces for the Democratic Republic of the Congo resume their state functions, and take all necessary measures to foster an environment for rebuilding trust, by ceasing operations and ensuring the voluntary return of displaced persons.

DDR

Security sector→DDR→DDR programmes

Page 2, Preamble:

In the immediate short-term, this process must be approved by signature of this Joint Declaration. This must highlight the significant short-, medium- and long-term efforts which must be made by all parties concerned:

[...]

2. an effort by all militia groups which have not committed serious crimes to find a way to rebuild their lives in the bosom of society via viable and lasting reintegration pathways, with the help of public and private partners, in the Congo and abroad;

Page 4, Fourth focal point:

The undersigned parties encourage the head of state to engage all state institutions in incorporating structures responsible for Community Demobilisation, Disarmament, Reinsertion, Reintegration and Reconciliation (CIAP-DDRC) into institutional and budget plans, in order to facilitate the process.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces

Page 2, Preamble:
In the immediate short-term, this process must be approved by signature of this Joint Declaration. This must highlight the significant short-, medium- and long-term efforts which must be made by all parties concerned:

[...]

2. an effort by all militia groups which have not committed serious crimes to find a way to rebuild their lives in the bosom of society via viable and lasting reintegration pathways, with the help of public and private partners, in the Congo and abroad;

Page 4, Fifth focal point:

Members of armed groups and several tribes agree to make joint restitutions, as far as they are able to do so, in order to save the upcoming growing season.

Page 4, Sixth and final focal point:

Heads of coalitions of armed groups have expressed the desire to be able to express directly to the Head of State, in a location of his choosing, their original motivations and their desire to see the central state take issues in hand in a lasting manner.

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 Transitional justice→Amnesty/pardon→Amnesty prohibition
Page 2, Preamble:

This attentive presence was accompanied by an extremely clear guideline, based on the refusal to grant amnesty to perpetrators of imprescriptible crimes, and an individual invitation to take part in standard selection for any candidate joining national security forces.

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	Transitional justice→Reparations→Material reparations Page 4, Fifth focal point: Members of armed groups and several tribes agree to make joint restitutions, as far as they are able to do so, in order to save the upcoming growing season.
Reconciliation	Page 3, Preamble: ... The days were devoted to very specific topics, related to the implementation of all phases of a DDR process: Community Demobilisation, Disarmament, Reinsertion, Reintegration and Reconciliation. Yes, reconciliation, because above and beyond simple technical considerations, this was about restoring bonds of trust destroyed by years of extreme violence and worsened by manipulation and movement of money by big players and diaspora, who fueled hatred out of self-interest, ignorance and failure to listen to local sages - these men and women, compasses of peace and social harmony, who are to be found in every tribe on the African continent. Page 4, Fourth focal point: The undersigned parties encourage the head of state to engage all state institutions in incorporating structures responsible for Community Demobilisation, Disarmament, Reinsertion, Reintegration and Reconciliation (CIAP-DDRC) into institutional and budget plans, in order to facilitate the process.

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

Page 3, Second focal point:

The undersigned parties agree to communicate on respecting the present Declaration of Murhesa II. This will be possible thanks to the creation of an informal Oversight Committee, on a sector-bysector basis, which will communicate on a weekly or even daily basis, if necessary, and by analysing methods of respecting cessation of incidents and hostilities.

Page 3, Third focal point:

To guide those acting on the Oversight Committees mentioned in the second focal point above, the undersigned parties agree to produce maps of insecure zones, for confidential use. These maps are intended to hold all those involved in respecting the ceasefire responsible, and to permit accurate identification of possible breaches. Because this Murhesa II process does not allow for any form of breach, particularly in terms of respecting fundamental human rights.
