

Country/entity	Burundi Democratic Republic of Congo
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Final statement on the Memorandum of Understanding on strengthening and maintaining peace and security along the common border between the Republic of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo
Date	5 Oct 2020
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	Framework/substantive - partial
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Conflict nature Territory

Peace process DRC: Eastern DRC processes

Parties Page 2:
(signatories)

For the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Congo

S.E. Mme Marie TUMBA NZEZA

Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the delegation of the republic of Burundi

S.E. Amb. Albert SHINGIRO

Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Third parties -

Description This is an agreement that attempts to deal with the cross-border implications of the fighting in South Kivu in DRC. Over 2019 and 2020, some Burundi military troops engaged in fighting in South Kivu, and while the agreement does not explicitly acknowledge the matter, the secondary sources suggest that this was what the cross-border provisions in this agreement were trying to regulate. This agreement aims to set up joint border patrols, support exchange of information, and support mobility and development in the border regions.

Agreement document [CD_BI_201005_Final statement on the Memorandum of Understanding on strengthening and maintaining peace and security along the common border between the Republic of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.pdf \(opens in new tab\) | Download PDF](#)

Agreement document (original language) [CD_BI_201005_Final statement on the Memorandum of Understanding on strengthening and maintaining peace and security along the common border between the Republic of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.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 2:

16. Relaunch the Tripartite Burundi-Democratic Republic of the Congo-High Commissary for Refugees in order to, amongst other things, relocate Burundi refugee camps in accordance with regulations required by the High Commissioner for Refugees of the United Nations, and encourage their voluntary return to their respective countries.

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 Page 2:

12. Re-launch the activities of the Mixed Technical Commission responsible for Demarcation and Materialisation of the shared border between the two countries;

Cross-border provision

Page 1:

1. Establish a Memorandum of Understanding on reinforcing and keeping Peace and Security along the shared border between the Republic of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Page 1:

2. Put in place an information exchange framework between the administrative authorities of the two countries at every level;

Page 1:

3. Initiate regular meetings with military, police and administrative authorities in the border provinces of Burundi and those in Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Page 1:

4. Put in place joint mechanisms to stabilise the Rusizi/Ruzizi plane which take into account long-term development, with the aim of making Lake Tanganyika our “mare nostrum”, our common heritage, and to make safe the space all around the borders;

Page 1:

5. To restore National Route No. 5 between Bukavu-Uvira of which 10km has already been tarmacked to facilitate the flow of goods and people between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Page 1:

6. To ask the two countries to accelerate works on the restoration of the bridge which links Cibitoke province in Burundi and South Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Page 1:

7. Regulate and increase cross-border business discussions in the interest of the economies of the two countries;

Page 2:

8. Put in place a joint plan to neutralize negative forces and other armed groups causing instability in our two countries, particularly in terms of organizing coordinated patrols at various points along our shared border;

Page 2:

9. Build a footbridge between Gihanga and Kagina in South Kivu;

Page 2:

10. Coordinate efforts to fight cross-border fraud and contraband as well as illegal trafficking of natural resources;

Page 2:

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 No specific mention.

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 Page 1:

5. To restore National Route No. 5 between Bukavu-Uvira of which 10km has already been tarmacked to facilitate the flow of goods and people between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

6. To ask the two countries to accelerate works on the restoration of the bridge which links Cibitoke province in Burundi and South Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Page 2:

[...]

9. Build a footbridge between Gihanga and Kagina in South Kivu;

[...]

17. Charge migration services in the two countries with studying the issue of juxtaposed border crossings;

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 1:

4. Put in place joint mechanisms to stabilise the Rusizi/Ruzizi plane which take into account long-term development, with the aim of making Lake Tanganyika our “mare nostrum”, our common heritage, and to make safe the space all around the borders;

Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Infrastructure and reconstruction

Page 1:

6. To ask the two countries to accelerate works on the restoration of the bridge which links Cibitoke province in Burundi and South Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business Page 1:

7. Regulate and increase cross-border business discussions in the interest of the economies of the two countries;

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 Page 2:

11. Put in place a joint mechanism to protect the environment along the length of the shared border, particularly the banks of Lake Tanganyika and the Rusizi/Ruzizi plain;

[...]

19. Harmonise and standardise tools and practices aimed at reducing the consequences of cross-border spread of illnesses through movement of people between the two countries.

**Water or riparian
rights or access** Page 1:

4. Put in place joint mechanisms to stabilise the Rusizi/Ruzizi plane which take into account long-term development, with the aim of making Lake Tanganyika our “mare nostrum”, our common heritage, and to make safe the space all around the borders;

[...]

14. Involve the Marine Forces of our two countries in the control of Lake Tanganyika through coordinated patrols, in order to prevent any activity by negative forces operating along Lake Tanganyika;

Page 2:

11. Put in place a joint mechanism to protect the environment along the length of the shared border, particularly the banks of Lake Tanganyika and the Rusizi/Ruzizi plain;

Security sector**Security
Guarantees**

Page 1:

1. Establish a Memorandum of Understanding on reinforcing and keeping Peace and Security along the shared border between the Republic of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
2. Put in place an information exchange framework between the administrative authorities of the two countries at every level;
3. Initiate regular meetings with military, police and administrative authorities in the border provinces of Burundi and those in Democratic Republic of the Congo;
4. Put in place joint mechanisms to stabilise the Rusizi/Ruzizi plane which take into account long-term development, with the aim of making Lake Tanganyika our “mare nostrum”, our common heritage, and to make safe the space all around the borders;

[...]

Page 2:

8. Put in place a joint plan to neutralize negative forces and other armed groups causing instability in our two countries, particularly in terms of organizing coordinated patrols at various points along our shared border;

[...]

13. Encourage exchange of information and details between Defense Forces and Security Services, particularly cross-border security;

14. Involve the Marine Forces of our two countries in the control of Lake Tanganyika through coordinated patrols, in order to prevent any activity by negative forces operating along Lake Tanganyika;

[...]

18. Put in place a Permanent Joint Commission in charge of Political, Defense and Security issues;

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	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	Page 2: 10. Coordinate efforts to fight cross-border fraud and contraband as well as illegal trafficking of natural resources;
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.
