Country/entity	Democratic Republic of Congo
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Report of the Meeting of the Joint Coordination Mechanism for the Implementation of Ceasefire and Withdraw of M23 in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
Date	2 Mar 2023
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

Peace process	DRC: EAC-led Nairobi process for Eastern DRC
Parties	Lieutenant General Silas Ntigurirwa Chairperson of the Technical Team and Advisor to the Facilitator of the EAC Led Nairobi Process Colonel Adelino Afonso Representative of the Ad Hoc Verification Mechanism Major General M Nyagah EAC Regional Force (EACRF) Commander Major General Ally Mzee Katimbe Military Advisor to EAC SG Representative of EAC Secretary General Colonel Rigobert Ibouanga Representative of the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism Commander
Third parties	-
Description	After the Mini-Summit on Peace and Security in Eastern DRC in February, 2023, representatives of the Eastern African Community (EAC) and the Verification Mechanisms for the peace process in the Eastern DRC issued a report on plans for the implementation of a ceasefire and the withdrawal of M23 forces from Eastern DRC.

Agreement document	CD_230302_Implementation of Ceasefire and Withdraw of M23 in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.pdf (opens in new tab) | Download PDF
Source of document	https://minbane.wordpress.com/2023/03/03/https-wp-me-p1xtjg-nmb-4/

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)	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	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	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	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	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	No specific mention.
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	**The Meeting;** ... **EMPHASIZED the need for the EAC Regional Force Contingents to deploy in the multinational sector within Eastern DRC and withdraw of M23 in phases as follow:** Phase 1: M23 withdraws from Kibumba, Rumangabo, Karenga, Kirolirwe and Kitchanga. Phase 2: M23 withdraws from Kishishe, Bambo, Kazaroho, Tongo and Mabenga. Phase 3: M23 withdrawas from Rutshuru, Kiwanja and Bunagana.
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	**The Meeting;** ... **The execution mechanism will be composed of;** ... Lieutenant General Silas Ntigurirwa Chairperson of the Technical Team and Advisor to the Facilitator of the EAC Led Nairobi Process ... Major General M Nyagah EAC Regional Force (EACRF) Commander Major General Ally Mzee Katimbe Military Advisor to EAC SG Representative of EAC Secretary General
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.

International mission/force/ similar	**The Meeting;** ... **EMPHASIZED the need for the EAC Regional Force Contingents to deploy in the multinational sector within Eastern DRC and withdraw of M23 in phases as follow:** ... ENCOURAGED the EAC troops contributing countries to deploy the contingents as agreed in the Heads of State Summit and further urged President of the Republic of Angola and the EAC Led Facilitator to communicate to M23 leadership of the Heads of State decisions. ... **The execution mechanism will be composed of;** ... Call upon the African Union (AU) Commission through the AU Peace Fund, MONUSCO and other partners to support the implementation processes towards restoration of peace, security and stability in Eastern DRC.
Enforcement mechanism	**The Meeting;** ... COMMITTED to contribute to the process of restoration of Peace and Stability in Eastern DRC by Monitoring, Verifying and Reporting on the progress of the implementation of all decisions regarding the restoration of Peace and Stability in Eastern DRC. DETERMINED to support the compliance of existing monitoring and verification mechanisms for the implementation of the Cease Fire and disengagement/Withdraw of M23. ... **The execution mechanism will be composed of;** Establishment of a Joint Bureau composed of AVM (Chair), EACRF (deputy Chair), EJVM (secretary) and EAC Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (EACMVM); The Bureau, within one week, to meet with warring parties and representative of DRC Government /FARDC to begin the implementation of ceasefire and withdraw of M23. The Bureau to come up with an action plan and a roadmap for the implementation of the ceasefire and withdraw of M23. ... The Bureau to report regularly to the Chairperson of the EAC Heads of State Summit on the progress of the implementation processes.