Country/entity	Democratic Republic of Congo
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Communiqué of the 1140th meeting of the PSC
Date	17 Feb 2023
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	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Government/territory

Peace process	DRC: Eastern DRC processes
Parties	Document not signed but understood to have been created by the African Union
Third parties	-
Description	The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) convened its 1140th meeting on February 17, 2023, assessing the security conditions in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The meeting expressed significant concern regarding the ongoing insecurity, humanitarian crisis, and socio-economic decline due to violence by armed groups and heightened tensions between the DRC and Rwanda. The Council called for the immediate cessation of hostilities, revitalization of the Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework for the DRC, and the deployment of the East African Community (EAC) Regional Force to promote regional peace, and urged the international community for financial and technical support.

Agreement document	CD_230217_Communiqué of the 1140th meeting of the PSC.pdf (opens in new tab) | Download PDF
Source of document	https://www.peaceau.org/en/article/communique-of-the-1140th-meeting-of-the-psc-held-at-the-level-of-the-heads-of-state-and-government-on-17-february-2023-on-the-situation-in-the-eastern-democratic-republic-of-congo-peace-security-and-cooperation-framework-for-the-drc-and-the-region-and-t

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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→Rhetorical **Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:** ... 8. Underscores the need to engage in rehabilitation and community development plans to address the issue of ex-combatants and voluntary return of the IDPs and refugees, among others;
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)	**The Peace and Security Council,** ... Reaffirming the unwavering commitment of the AU to respect the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the DRC and further reaffirming the solidarity of the AU with the people and the Government of the DRC in their legitimate aspirations for peace, stability and socio-economic development;
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	**Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:** ... reiterates its strong condemnation of the human rights abuses committed by the M23, as well as the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR) and other armed groups;
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	**Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:** ... 10. Strongly condemns the recent attacks against MONUSCO, which resulted in casualties amongst peacekeepers and civilians, the obstruction of access to humanitarian assistance to populations in dire need, and expresses its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and the respective Governments;
Protection measures	Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of civilians **Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:** ... 11. Welcomes the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2667 (2022) that lifted the arms embargo on DRC, which enhances its capacity in the fight against armed groups and protection of its citizens;
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 **The Peace and Security Council,** ... Reaffirming the unwavering commitment of the AU to respect the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the DRC and further reaffirming the solidarity of the AU with the people and the Government of the DRC in their legitimate aspirations for peace, stability and socio-economic development;
National economic plan	No specific mention.
Natural resources	No specific mention.
International funds	**Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:** ... in this regard, authorizes the Council in collaboration with the Commission and the Governance Structures of the AU Peace Fund, to immediately work out modalities for the utilization of the Fund and report back to the PSC within six weeks; calls upon the United Nations and other partners to support peace-making efforts in the DRC through the provision of financial and technical expertise;
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	Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions **Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:** ... calls for cantonment and disarmament of M23 under the control of the DRC authorities, and the supervision of EAC Regional Force and the Ad Hoc Verification Mechanism, with the collaboration of United the Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO); 8. Underscores the need to engage in rehabilitation and community development plans to address the issue of ex-combatants and voluntary return of the IDPs and refugees, among others;
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	**Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:** 1. Expresses grave concern over the prevailing insecurity and deterioration of the humanitarian and socio-economic development due to violence and human rights abuses committed by the armed groups and negative forces in the eastern DRC; reiterates its strong condemnation of the human rights abuses committed by the M23, as well as the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR) and other armed groups; ... 5. Demands that all armed groups, particularly the M23, as well as the ADF, and FDLR to immediately cease hostilities and unconditionally withdraw from the eastern DRC; ... calls for cantonment and disarmament of M23 under the control of the DRC authorities, and the supervision of EAC Regional Force and the Ad Hoc Verification Mechanism, with the collaboration of United the Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO); ... 11. Welcomes the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2667 (2022) that lifted the arms embargo on DRC, which enhances its capacity in the fight against armed groups and protection of its citizens;
Withdrawal of foreign forces	**Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:** ... 5. Demands that all armed groups, particularly the M23, as well as the ADF, and FDLR to immediately cease hostilities and unconditionally withdraw from the eastern DRC;

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→Relief of other sanctions **Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:** ... 11. Welcomes the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2667 (2022) that lifted the arms embargo on DRC, which enhances its capacity in the fight against armed groups and protection of its citizens;
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	**Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:** ... 7. Emphasizes the need to support the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM); calls for cantonment and disarmament of M23 under the control of the DRC authorities, and the supervision of EAC Regional Force and the Ad Hoc Verification Mechanism, with the collaboration of United the Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO); ... 9. Welcomes the deployment of the EAC Regional Force to the eastern DRC and pays tribute to the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) to the EAC Regional Force for their commitment to the promotion of regional peace and security; and decides to support its deployment and operations; ... reiterates its call for cooperation, coordination and complementarity of efforts between MONUSCO, Forces armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) and the EAC Regional Force;
Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.