

Country/entity	Democratic Republic of Congo
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Statement from NSC Spokesperson Adrienne Watson Welcoming the Two-Week Ceasefire Extension in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo
Date	12 Dec 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 short-lived guerrilla outfits like the March 23 Movement (M23) further contributed, and still contribute, to the complexity of the situation in eastern DRC.

Close
Congo Civil Wars (1996 -)

Stage	Ceasefire/related
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	DRC: Angola-led process for Eastern DRC
Parties	Government of DRC Government of Rwanda "Parties to the conflict" (specific groups not named in statement)

Third parties United States
Government of Angola

Description The United States welcomed a two-week ceasefire extension in eastern DRC that ran from December 14-28, which built on previous diplomatic efforts. The agreement included enforcement against FDLR rebels, troop withdrawals from specific areas, and Rwanda's commitment to secure M23's cooperation in halting offensive operations. Temporary inter-positional forces helped displaced civilians return home while the US monitored compliance and supported the resumption of regional peace processes.

Agreement document [CD_231215_Statement Welcoming the Two-Week Ceasefire Extension in Eastern DRC \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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
The Governments of DRC and Rwanda affirmed the importance of the temporary deployment of inter-positional forces to help facilitate the safe return of displaced civilians to their communities.

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

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

Further, it builds on the broad adherence to the previous 72-hour ceasefire brokered by the United States and the recent engagement by Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines with President Felix Tshisekedi of DRC and President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and her earlier travel to both capitals on 19-20 November.

The two-week ceasefire extension, which started on December 14 and will continue through December 28, commits the parties to the conflict to advance the implementation of the previous confidence-building measures, including ensuring enforcement of the DRC Government's November 21 directive against any form of support to the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) rebels as well as the continued withdrawal of forces occupying the locality of Mushaki, positions along the RP1030 road, and locations west of the N2 road.

The Governments of DRC and Rwanda affirmed the importance of the temporary deployment of inter-positional forces to help facilitate the safe return of displaced civilians to their communities.

In addition, the Government of Rwanda will coordinate with regional partners to secure M23's commitment to cease its offensive operations.

The United States commends the parties to the conflict, as well as regional governments, for their support for the ceasefire's extension and will continue to use U.S. intelligence and diplomatic resources to monitor compliance to the ceasefire by armed forces and non-state armed groups.

Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments

The United States welcomes the two-week extension of the ceasefire in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

This additional step toward peace is a testament to the commitment by the parties to the conflict, as well as regional neighbors, to lower tensions.

In addition, the United States reiterates its support for the resumption of the Nairobi and Luanda processes, which seek to address the current and historic factors perpetuating this longstanding conflict.

Police

No specific mention.

Armed forces

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DDR

No specific mention.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	<p>The two-week ceasefire extension, which started on December 14 and will continue through December 28, commits the parties to the conflict to advance the implementation of the previous confidence-building measures, including ensuring enforcement of the DRC Government's November 21 directive against any form of support to the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) rebels as well as the continued withdrawal of forces occupying the locality of Mushaki, positions along the RP1030 road, and locations west of the N2 road.</p> <p>In addition, the Government of Rwanda will coordinate with regional partners to secure M23's commitment to cease its offensive operations.</p>
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 United States commends the parties to the conflict, as well as regional governments, for their support for the ceasefire's extension and will continue to use U.S. intelligence and diplomatic resources to monitor compliance to the ceasefire by armed forces and non-state armed groups.
In addition, the United States reiterates its support for the resumption of the Nairobi and Luanda processes, which seek to address the current and historic factors perpetuating this longstanding conflict.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar The Governments of DRC and Rwanda affirmed the importance of the temporary deployment of inter-positional forces to help facilitate the safe return of displaced civilians to their communities.

Enforcement mechanism	The United States commends the parties to the conflict, as well as regional governments, for their support for the ceasefire's extension and will continue to use U.S. intelligence and diplomatic resources to monitor compliance to the ceasefire by armed forces and non-state armed groups.
Related cases	No specific mention.
Source	No specific mention.
