

<b>Country/entity</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>Region</b>	Africa (excl MENA)
<b>Agreement name</b>	Declaration of Principles between the Representatives of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Representatives of Alliance Fleuve Congo/ March 23rd Movement (AFC/M23) (the Parties), in Support of a Pathway to a Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Facilitated by the State of Qatar
<b>Date</b>	19 Jul 2025
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes
<b>Agreement/conflict level</b>	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** Pre-negotiation/process

<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government/territory
<b>Peace process</b>	DRC: the Doha Track for Eastern DRC
<b>Parties</b>	For the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Mr. Sumbu Sita Mambu, Senior Representative of the President in charge of Luanda and Nairobi processes  For the Alliance Fleuve Congo/March 23rd Movement (AFC/M23): Mr. Benjamin MBONIMPA, Permanent Secretary of AFC/M23
<b>Third parties</b>	-
<b>Description</b>	This Declaration of Principles establishes a framework for peace negotiations between the DRC government and the M23 rebel movement, facilitated by Qatar. The parties commit to a permanent ceasefire, confidence-building measures including ICRC-facilitated prisoner releases, and restoration of government authority throughout DRC territory.

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**Agreement document** [CD\\_250719\\_Declaration of Principles between the Government of DRC and Alliance Fleuve Congo March 23rd Movement \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

**Source of document** <https://x.com/ktpressrwanda/status/1946677385388347660>

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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  
**7. PEACE AGREEMENT**

- The Parties recognize the importance of having a peace agreement that aim to guarantee security, sustainable development, social justice, and the protection of the human rights of the people of DRC, and the safe and dignified return of refugees while addressing the root causes of the conflict.

Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive

**5. RETURN OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND REFUGEES**

- The Parties commit to facilitating the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their areas or countries of origin, in accordance with the tripartite, the DRC-Country of exile-UNHCR.  
This process will be conducted in compliance with the international humanitarian law.

**Social class** No specific mention.

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**Gender**

**Women, girls and gender** No specific mention.

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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**State definition**

**Nature of state (general)** **1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

...

The Parties reaffirm their attachment to the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the DRC.

...

**4. RESTORING GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY**

- The Parties acknowledge that the restoration of government authority is the logical consequence of effectively addressing the reasons of the conflict through a peace agreement.
- The Parties recognize that the complete restoration of state authority on all national territories constitutes a key component for the peace agreement, which will include the modalities and process of such restoration.

**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.

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## **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** **3. CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES**

...

○ Establish a mechanism facilitated by ICRC, in the context of the Congolese law, to arrange for the release of prisoners/detainees of interest held by either Party.

**Traditional/  
religious leaders** No specific mention.

**Public  
administration** No specific mention.

**Constitution** No specific mention.

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**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.

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**Human rights and equality**

**Human rights/RoL general** **5. RETURN OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND REFUGEES**  
• The Parties commit to facilitating the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their areas or countries of origin, in accordance with the tripartite, the DRC-Country of exile-UNHCR.  
This process will be conducted in compliance with the international humanitarian law.  
...  
**7. PEACE AGREEMENT**  
• The Parties recognize the importance of having a peace agreement that aim to guarantee security, sustainable development, social justice, and the protection of the human rights of the people of DRC, and the safe and dignified return of refugees while addressing the root causes of the conflict.

**Bill of rights/similar** No specific mention.

**Treaty incorporation** **1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES**  
...  
• In reference to the fundamental principles of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Charter of the African Union, the Charter of the United Nations and its relevant resolutions, and the international law, the Parties reaffirm their commitment to resolving the conflict through peaceful means, in the interest of protecting the people of the DRC.

**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** Rights related issues→Media and communication→Other

### **1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

...

- The Parties commit to overcoming the divisions that weaken national unity, improving the living conditions of the population, and rejecting all forms of dehumanizing speech in order to promote peace and reconciliation.

...

### **2. PERMANENT CEASEFIRE**

...

- Hate propaganda;

**Mobility/access** No specific mention.

**Protection measures** Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of civilians

### **1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

...

- In reference to the fundamental principles of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Charter of the African Union, the Charter of the United Nations and its relevant resolutions, and the international law, the Parties reaffirm their commitment to resolving the conflict through peaceful means, in the interest of protecting the people of the DRC.
- The Parties commit to fully cooperate with international and regional organizations to ensure the ability to protect civilians and to advance the implementation of the present Declaration of Principles.

...

### **6. MONUSCO AND REGIONAL MECHANISMS**

- The Parties in principle commit to protecting, facilitating, and promoting the protection of civilian populations, as well as the implementation of the ceasefire with the support of MONUSCO and regional mechanisms where appropriate for an agreed verification mechanism.

**Other** No specific mention.

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## **Rights institutions**

**NHRI** No specific mention.

**Regional or international human rights institutions** No specific mention.

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## **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.

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## **Socio-economic reconstruction**

**Development or socio-economic reconstruction** Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development  
**7. PEACE AGREEMENT**

- The Parties recognize the importance of having a peace agreement that aim to guarantee security, sustainable development, social justice, and the protection of the human rights of the people of DRC, and the safe and dignified return of refugees while addressing the root causes of the conflict.

**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.

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## **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.

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## Security sector

### Security Guarantees

#### 7. PEACE AGREEMENT

• The Parties recognize the importance of having a peace agreement that aim to guarantee security, sustainable development, social justice, and the protection of the human rights of the people of DRC, and the safe and dignified return of refugees while addressing the root causes of the conflict.

### Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

#### 2. PERMANENT CEASEFIRE

...

• The Parties commit to uphold their commitment to a permanent ceasefire, that includes the following:

- Air, land, sea or lakes attacks, as well as all acts of sabotage;
- Hate propaganda;
- Any attempt to seize by force new positions on the ground;

• The Parties commit to ensure that the ceasefire applies to all forces engaged in the conflict.

An oversight and verification mechanism will be created to define the modalities of the ceasefire and insure its proper implementation.

• The Parties convene to refrain from any action that may hinder the normal progress of cease fire process.

...

#### 6. MONUSCO AND REGIONAL MECHANISMS

• The Parties in principle commit to protecting, facilitating, and promoting the protection of civilian populations, as well as the implementation of the ceasefire with the support of MONUSCO and regional mechanisms where appropriate for an agreed verification mechanism.

### 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

No specific mention.

**Drugs** No specific mention.

**Terrorism** No specific mention.

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**Transitional justice**

**Transitional justice general** No specific mention.

**Amnesty/pardon** No specific mention.

**Courts** No specific mention.

**Mechanism** No specific mention.

**Prisoner release** **3. CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES**

...

○ Establish a mechanism facilitated by ICRC, in the context of the Congolese law, to arrange for the release of prisoners/detainees of interest held by either Party.

**Vetting** No specific mention.

**Victims** No specific mention.

**Missing persons** No specific mention.

**Reparations** No specific mention.

**Reconciliation** No specific mention.

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**Implementation**

**UN signatory** No specific mention.

**Other international signatory** No specific mention.

**Referendum for agreement** No specific mention.

**International mission/force/similar**

**1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

...

- The Parties commit to fully cooperate with international and regional organizations to ensure the ability to protect civilians and to advance the implementation of the present Declaration of Principles.

...

**6. MONUSCO AND REGIONAL MECHANISMS**

- The Parties in principle commit to protecting, facilitating, and promoting the protection of civilian populations, as well as the implementation of the ceasefire with the support of MONUSCO and regional mechanisms where appropriate for an agreed verification mechanism.

**Enforcement mechanism**

No specific mention.

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