Country/entity	Democratic Republic of Congo
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	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
Date	19 Jul 2025
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	Pre-negotiation/process

Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	DRC: the Doha Track for Eastern DRC
Parties	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
Third parties	-
Description	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.

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

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.

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)	**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.

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.

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	**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.

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 **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.

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	**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.

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.

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.