

<b>Country/entity</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>Region</b>	Africa (excl MENA)
<b>Agreement name</b>	Acte d'Engagement Gaborone
<b>Date</b>	24 Aug 2001
<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 - )

<b>Stage</b>	Pre-negotiation/process
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government

<b>Peace process</b>	DRC: Second Congo war process
<b>Parties</b>	Unsigned copy. The parties are defined in the agreement as: The Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Congo Liberation Movement (Mouvement pour la Libération du Congo, MLC), the Congolese Rally for Democracy (Rassemblement pour la Démocratie, RCD), the political opposition organisations and groups, and the “life-blood” of the nation.
<b>Third parties</b>	In the presence of Ketumile Masire (then President of Botswana) as the neutral facilitator of the inter-congolese political negotiations
<b>Description</b>	This agreement between the DRC Government, the MLC, the RCD and political opposition parties covers a range of issues including liberalisation of political life, human rights and humanitarian issues, political prisoner release and suspension of military court proceedings for civilian cases, and a range of security issues.

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**Agreement document** [CD\\_010824\\_Acted'EngagementGaberone-tr.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

**Agreement document (original language)** [CD\\_010824\\_Acted'engagementGaberone.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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### Women, girls and gender

**Participation** No specific mention.

**Equality** No specific mention.

**Particular groups of women** No specific mention.

**International law** No specific mention.

**New institutions** No specific mention.

**Violence against women** Violence against women→Sexual violence  
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We... - solemnly and unconditionally engage to implement, on the entire national territory, the following provisions:  
...  
7. guarantee to protect the civilian populations from raids, arbitrary arrests, requisitions, spoliations, forced labour, massacres, indiscriminate bombardments, torture, the rape of women, the mutilation of children, deportations and to guarantee the definitive end to collaborations with the genocidal forces;...

**Transitional justice** No specific mention.

**Institutional reform** No specific mention.

**Development** No specific mention.

**Implementation** No specific mention.

**Other** No specific mention.

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