Country/entity	Democratic Republic of Congo
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Ceasefire Agreement (Lusaka Agreement)
Date	10 Jul 1999
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	Ceasefire/related
Conflict nature	Government

Peace process	DRC: Second Congo war process
Parties	The Republic of Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Republic of Namibia, The Republic of Rwanda, The Republic of Uganda, The Republic of Zimbabwe. Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (signed on 01/08/1999). Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) (signed on 31/08/1999)
Third parties	AS WITNESSES: The Republic of Zambia, the Organization for African Unity (OAU), the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community (SADC)
Description	Provided for cessation of hostilities. Parties expressed their commitment to addressing security concerns of DRC and neighbouring countries and to the exchange of prisoners of war and release of other detainees. Provision was also made for the facilitation of humanitarian assistance; a UN peacekeeping force; a Joint Military Commission; the final withdrawal of foreign forces; re-establishment of state administration and open dialogue; formation of a national, integrated army; and a mechanism for disarmament and measures to facilitate repatriation of militias. Reaffirmed the sovereignty and territorial integrity of DRC and acceptance of the idea of equal rights for all citizens. Annexes gave further details on the implementation of various parts of the agreement and provided a timetable for implementation. Cessation of hostilities within 24 hs of signing the Agreement; agreed terms for inter-Congolese political negotiations; agreed calender for implementation.

Agreement document	CD_990710_LusakaAgreement.pdf (opens in new tab) | Download PDF

Women, girls and gender

Participation	No specific mention.
Equality	No specific mention.
Particular groups of women	No specific mention.
International law	International law→International human rights standards Page 4-5, ARTICLE I, THE CEASE-FIRE 2. The cease-fire shall mean: ... c. all acts of violence against the civilian population by respecting and protection human rights. The acts of violence include summary executions, torture, harassment, detention and execution of civilians based on their ethnic origin; propaganda, inciting ethnic and tribal hatred; arming civilians; recruitment and use of child soldiers; sexual violence; training and use of terrorists; massacres, downing of civilian aircraft; and bombing the civilian populations:

New institutions	No specific mention.
Violence against women	Violence against women→Sexual violence Page 4, ARTICLE I, THE CEASE-FIRE: 3. The Ceasefire shall entail the cessation of: ...c. all acts of violence against the civilian population by respecting and protection human rights. The acts of violence include summary executions, torture, harassment, detention and execution of civilians based on their ethnic origin; propaganda, inciting ethnic and tribal hatred; arming civilians; recruitment and use of child soldiers; sexual violence; training and use of terrorists; massacres, downing of civilian aircraft; and bombing the civilian populations;
Transitional justice	No specific mention.
Institutional reform	No specific mention.
Development	No specific mention.
Implementation	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.
