

<b>Country/entity</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>Region</b>	Africa (excl MENA)
<b>Agreement name</b>	Global and Inclusive Agreement on Transition in the Democratic Republic of Congo ('The Pretoria Agreement')
<b>Date</b>	16 Dec 2002
<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>	Framework/substantive - partial
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government

<b>Peace process</b>	DRC: Second Congo war process
<b>Parties</b>	the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD), the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC), the political opposition, civil society, the Congolese Rally for Democracy/Liberation Movement (RDC/ML), the Congolese Rally for Democracy/National (RCD/N), the Mai-Mai;
<b>Third parties</b>	Page 2, PREAMBLE  CALLING on the following persons to bear witness: His Excellency Mr Ketumile MASIRE, neutral facilitator in the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, His Excellency Mr Koffi ANNAN, Secretary-General of the United Nations Organisation, represented by His Excellency Mr Moustapha NIASSE, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, His Excellency Mr Thabo MBEKI, President of the Republic of South Africa and current Chairman of the African Union;
<b>Description</b>	Parties commit to peaceful resolution of DRC crisis, creating restructured national army, disarming armed groups and withdrawing foreign forces,

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**Agreement document**      [DRC\\_021216\\_Global and Inclusive Agreement on Transition in DRC.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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## Women, girls and gender

<b>Participation</b>	Participation→Effective participation Page 4, III - TRANSITION PRINCIPLES: 1. To guarantee a peaceful transition, the Parties shall participate in the political administration of the country during the period of transition. The institutions that will be set up during the transition shall ensure appropriate representation of the eleven provinces of the country and of the different tendencies within the political and social forces. In particular, provision shall be made for appropriate representation of women at all levels of responsibility.
<b>Equality</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Particular groups of women</b>	No specific mention.
<b>International law</b>	No specific mention.
<b>New institutions</b>	New institutions→Institutions for women Page 15, ANNEX I: THE DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES, A. THE GOVERNMENT: 2. The transitional government shall be composed of the following Ministries: ...Women's and Family Affairs
<b>Violence against women</b>	No specific mention.

**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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