

<b>Country/entity</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>Region</b>	Africa (excl MENA)
<b>Agreement name</b>	Peace Agreement between the Government and Le Congres National pour la Défense du Peuple (CNDP)
<b>Date</b>	23 Mar 2009
<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 - comprehensive
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government

<b>Peace process</b>	DRC: Eastern DRC processes
<b>Parties</b>	The government and the Congrès National pour la Défense du Peuple (CNDP)
<b>Third parties</b>	-
<b>Description</b>	In this agreement the government and CNDP agree on the transformation of the latter into a political party and integration of its members into police and army, and political life (modalities will be agreed in a joint agreement), on the release of political prisoners and handing back their properties, on an amnesty acc to intl law and the examination of passed laws that the CNDP is concerned about, on national reconciliation mechanisms, on how to resolve local conflicts, on the details of the return of refugees and displaced people, on provisions for stricken zones (zones sinistrés), territorial administration, public administration, reform of army and security services, electoral reform to improve representation without harming the efficacy of institutions and including sanctions against those who incite hate and sectarianism in their electoral campaigns, on specific questions (incl. professional reinsertion, rehabilitation of invalids etc.), on economic reforms, on a national follow-up committee, and an international follow-up committee – each committee with a three months mandate.

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**Agreement document** [CD\\_090323\\_Accord de paix entre le gouvernement et le congres national pour la defense du peuple \(CNDP\) -tr.docx.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

**Agreement document (original language)** [CD\\_090323\\_Accord de paix entre le gouvernement et le congres national pour la defence du peuple \(CNDP\)\\_FR \(1\).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** Particular groups of women→Other  
Page 10, Article 12: Specific Issues 12.7. The Government undertakes to support former CNDP members wounded during the war, as well as their orphans and widows. The CNDP will compile a list.

**International law** No specific mention.

**New institutions** New institutions→Reconciliation and peace  
Page 5, Article 4: National Reconciliation Mechanism: 4.1.a. The Parties agree on the creation of a national mechanism in charge of defining and leading a policy of reconciliation between the men and women of the Congo, and to fight against xenophobia.

**Violence against women** No specific mention.

**Transitional justice** No specific mention.

**Institutional reform** No specific mention.

**Development** No specific mention.

**Implementation** Implementation→Other  
Page 6, Article 5: Resolution of Local Conflicts: 5.1. The Government undertakes to set up Permanent Local Arbitration Committees, falling within the local civil authority and made up of local wise men and women, to overcome inadequacies in the extrajudicial prevention and resolution of conflicts.

**Other** No specific mention.

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