

Country/entity	Democratic Republic of Congo
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Outcome Documents from the Conclusion of the Kampala Dialogue between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the M23
Date	12 Dec 2013
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	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Government

Peace process	DRC: Eastern DRC processes
Parties	1. Government of Democratic Republic of Congo 2. M23 Movement
Third parties	H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations H.E. Yoweri K. Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and Chairperson of the ICGLR; (Page 1, Untitled Preamble: H.E. Yoweri K. Museveni President of the Republic of Uganda and Chairperson of ICGLR H.E. Dr. Joyce Banda President of the Republic of Malawi and Chairperson of SADC 2. Formal dialogue started on 9th December 2012 and ended on 3rd November 2013. The facilitation of the dialogue was carried out on behalf of President Museveni by Uganda's Minister of Defense, Dr. Crispus W.C.B. Kiyonga, with the support of the ICGLR Secretariat and technical assistance from Mrs. Sahle-Work Zewde, Director General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi and from the United Nations, New York)
Description	The Parties agree on a ceasefire and set forth measures (including timetabled transitional security arrangements) aimed at achieving long term stability and reconciliation.

Agreement document [DRC_131212_DeclarationGovM23KampalaTalks_0.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→General IHRL, IHL and IL
Page 6, Annex 1. Declaration of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo at the End of the Kampala Talks, 1. Amnesty:
1.1 ... In accordance with national and international law, the Amnesty does not cover war crimes, crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity, including sexual violence, recruitment of child soldiers and other massive violations of human rights.

New institutions No specific mention.

Violence against women

Violence against women→Sexual violence

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Page 9, Annex 1. Declaration of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo at the End of the Kampala Talks, 8. National Reconciliation and Justice:

8.4 Given the atrocities and other massive violations of human rights perpetrated in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, and with a view to putting an end to impunity, the Government shall ensure that prosecutions for war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, sexual violence and recruitment of child soldiers are initiated against any presumed author thereof.

Page 14, Annex 2. DECLARATION OF COMMITMENTS BY THE MOVEMENT OF MARCH 23 AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE KAMPALA DIALOGUE, 8. National reconciliation and justice:

8.2. The M23 agrees that, given the atrocities and other massive violations of human rights perpetrated in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, and with a view to putting an end to impunity, prosecutions for war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, sexual violence and recruitment of child soldiers shall be initiated against any presumed author thereof.

Transitional justice Transitional justice→Past and gender

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Institutional reform Institutional reform→DDR, army, parastatal or rebel forces
Page 20, Annex A, TRANSITIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, II. DISENGAGEMENT, PRIMARY CANTONMENT AND DISARMAMENT OF M23, Phase Two: Cantonment: 28.
Planning of the cantonment shall take into consideration the desirable characteristics for a cantonment site, taking into account the specific needs of the M23's female combatants.

Development No specific mention.

Implementation No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.
