

SC
(Security Council)

“Taking measures regarding the Congo conflict to promote stability, peace, and human rights in the region “

1. General information:

The population of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the stability of the surrounding region have suffered greatly as a result of the long-lasting and intricate conflict that has engulfed the country. Peace and security in the Great Lakes area are still seriously threatened by the protracted situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is typified by armed group violence, humanitarian crises, and breaches of human rights. Recognizing this conflict's serious effects on civilian populations and its potential to destabilize the whole area, the United Nations Security Council has taken an active role in resolving it.

The Democratic Republic of Congo's central location in Africa and abundance of natural resources, especially minerals necessary for modern technology, make it a strategic asset. The war is a complicated regional problem with global ramifications since it has not only damaged the DRC but has also pulled in neighbouring nations. While the international community has been working to advance human rights, stability, and peace in the area, the process has been sluggish and full of obstacles.

The colonial era and the turbulent post-independence period that followed are the origins of the current conflict. Generations have seen a fragile state generated by the interaction of inadequate government, ethnic conflicts, outside involvement, and the battle for control over natural resources. It is essential to comprehend this convoluted past to create methods that effectively handle the current issue.

2. Background:

Significant changes have occurred in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo during the last few years, complicating the peace effort even more:

Resurgence of M23: The rebel organisation known as the March 23 Movement (M23), which was previously believed to have been vanquished in 2013, made a comeback in late 2021. It has now gained a large amount of territory in the province of North Kivu, which has escalated displacement and the need for humanitarian aid.

Regional Tensions: The M23's comeback has heightened hostilities between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with Rwanda refuting the DRC's accusation that it supports the rebel organisation. As a result, there is now more volatility and a decline in regional relations.

The East African Community (EAC) sent a regional force to the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2022 in an effort to assist pacify the area. But there have been doubts about this force's efficacy, and the DRC has lately requested that it be removed.

Political Transitions: The Democratic Republic of Congo successfully conducted its first peaceful transition of power in December 2018 with presidential elections. The continued unrest has presented difficulties for President Félix Tshisekedi's new administration in addressing it and putting reforms into place.

Impact of COVID-19: The global epidemic has made the DRC's already dire humanitarian situation worse, placing additional burden on the country's already frail healthcare system and harming its economy.

Escalating Violence: In addition to M23, other armed organisations have persisted in using violence against people, resulting in more displacement and breaches of human rights. These groups include the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), CODECO, and several Mai-Mai militias.

These latest events highlight how complicated the issue is and how the ongoing crisis in the DRC requires a thorough, multifaceted strategy to be addressed.

The pre-colonial and colonial periods are when the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo originated:

Prior to colonisation: The present-day Democratic Republic of the Congo was home to several kingdoms and ethnic groupings prior to European colonialism. The Kingdom of Kongo stood out due to its intricate governmental system and vast trading networks.

Colonial Era (1885–1960): In 1885, King Leopold II of Belgium created the Congo Free State as his personal property. Millions of Congolese people died as a result of

widespread atrocities, violent exploitation, and forced labour during this time. In 1908, the Congo Free State was annexed by Belgium as a colony due to external pressure.

Freedom and Initial Unrest (1960–1965): On June 30, 1960, the Democratic Republic of the Congo became independent. But the early years after independence were characterised by political unrest, which included the 1961 killing of Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba and the secession of the mineral-rich region of Katanga.

Mobutu Era (1965–1997): In 1965, Joseph-Désiré Mobutu overthrew the government and renamed the nation Zaire. His 32-year reign was marked by economic incompetence, corruption, and authoritarianism, all of which paved the way for more hostilities.

Transitional Phase and Persistent Disagreement (2003–present): The eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo has continued to see warfare despite a peace accord in 2003 and democratic elections in 2006. Numerous armed organisations, both foreign and local, are still active in the area, which feeds the cycle of instability and bloodshed.

The DRC's contemporary conflict dynamics, which include governance concerns, ethnic conflicts, and the battle for control over natural resources, have been formed by this historical background. Gaining an understanding of this past is essential to formulating solutions that can effectively handle the current issue and advance long-term peace and stability in the area.

3. Issues that are likely to arise:

- Persistent armed group violence and regional tensions
- Humanitarian crisis and internal displacement
- Human rights violations and impunity
- Weak governance and institutional capacity
- Illegal exploitation of natural resources
- Inter-communal conflicts and land disputes

4. Main Countries involved:

- DR Congo: the principally afflicted nation, battling demands from the outside world and internal divides.
- Rwanda: Accused of providing support to rebel organisations in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), especially M23, a claim it refutes. Rwanda has a history of participating in DRC wars, claiming security worries over the existence of the FDLR.
- South Africa: has sent soldiers to support Un peacekeeping operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and participates in diplomatic missions.

- Nations in the UN, EU and China: These superpowers have substantial political and economic ties to the area and have an impact on peace efforts even if they are not actively participating in the war.

5. List of questions delegates should ask themselves in regards to the topic:

- In what ways can the Security Council improve MONUSCO's ability to defend civilians and assist the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo?
- Think about possible adjustments to MONUSCO's resources, tactics, or mandate.
- Examine cutting-edge strategies for maintaining peace in settings of complicated conflict.
- What steps can be done to address the underlying causes of the conflict, such as disputes over governance and regional tensions?
- Analyse how attempts for economic growth could lessen the causes of violence
- Examine tactics to support effective governance and bolster democratic institutions.
- How can the international community help peace measures that are already in place, like the procedures in Nairobi and Luanda, be implemented more effectively?
- Examine strategies for improving the coordination of various peace projects.
- Think about procedures to guarantee responsibility for promises made in peace accords.

6. Key-terms and explanations:

- MONUSCO stands for the Stabilization Mission of the United Nations Organization in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- M23: March 23 Movement, an insurgent faction functioning in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR): a military organization in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Nairobi: A DRC government and armed group mediation effort spearheaded by the EAC.
- Luanda Process: DRC and Rwanda's interstate tensions are being addressed via an effort sponsored by the ICGLR.

7. Useful sources:

1. UN Security Council documents on DRC:

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/> ● Provides official UN resolutions, reports, and statements on the DRC situation.

2. MONUSCO website: <https://monusco.unmissions.org/en>

● Offers updates on peacekeeping operations and the current situation in DRC.

3. International Crisis Group reports on DRC:

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/central-africa/democratic-republic-congo>

● Provides in-depth analysis of the conflict and policy recommendations.

4. Human Rights Watch DRC page: <https://www.hrw.org/africa/democratic-republic-congo>

● Offers detailed reports on human rights violations and their impact.

5. CIA-Factbook, The World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/> ●

Good for research and statistics about your countries.