



SOCHUM

# SOCHUM - 2024

**THE GENOCIDE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
OF THE CONGO**

---

**Chairs: Luciana León, Carolina  
Torres y Elena Campos**

# INDEX

Disclaimer: This SOCHUM study guide, on the topic of The Genocide in The Democratic Republic of the Congo and human violations, is merely a guide for your research, and it shall not replace it. This being said, the contents of the study guide include:

---

- 3 Letter from the chairs
- 6 Introduction to the committee
- 7 Glossary
- 9 Introduction to the topic
- 10 Historical background
- 11 Current situation
- 12 Delegates role
- 18 Possible solutions and previous attempts of solving the problem.
- 19 References



# LETTER FROM YOUR CHAIR:

---

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to this year's SPMUN Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee! My name is Luciana León, and I am truly honored to serve as your chair for this conference. Currently, I am in tenth grade, but my journey in SPMUN began long before this moment. Since seventh grade I have been in your shoes, sitting where you are now, filled with a mix of excitement, anticipation, and perhaps a bit of nervousness. Over the years, I have had the privilege of participating in numerous MUN conferences, representing various countries, and engaging in diverse committees. Each experience has been a stepping stone that has led me up to this point.

I understand firsthand that stepping into these roles can be intimidating, especially when you find yourself debating alongside students who might be older or more experienced. I've been there. I've felt those jitters and the thrill of making your voice heard in a room full of passionate minds. But let me assure you, this is where growth happens. This is where you push beyond the boundaries of your comfort zone, connect with people who will challenge your thinking, and discover skills you never knew you had.

My goal as your chair is to create an environment where each of you feels not only welcomed, but also empowered. I want this committee to be a space where your ideas are valued, where your contributions are respected, and where you feel encouraged to take risks in your thinking and debating. We are all here to learn from one another, and I believe that each one of you brings something unique to the table. Passionate debates are the heart of MUN, but they should always be carried out with mutual respect and a genuine desire to learn from one another.

The topic we will be tackling is one of great significance, both in terms of our global landscape today and the implications it holds for the future. I am incredibly passionate about this subject, and I hope my enthusiasm will resonate with you as we delve into our discussions. Remember, MUN is not just about winning debates, it's about understanding different perspectives, cultivating empathy, and finding common ground even in the midst of disagreement.

If you have any questions, concerns, or simply need someone to talk to, please know that I am here for you. My role is not just to guide the proceedings but to support you in every way I can. I am excited to see the incredible contributions you will all make and to witness the journey you'll embark upon during this committee. Thank you for being here, and let's make the most of this wonderful opportunity together.

Best regards, your chair.  
Luciana León

# LETTER FROM YOUR CO-CHAIR:

---

Dear Delegates,

I am honored to welcome all of you to the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee at SPMUN! My name is Carolina Torres, and as your co-chair it is my pleasure to guide you through this engaging and stimulating experience. I have participated in a few MUN's throughout the years, and I've been in different committees, representing different countries which have given me the opportunity to learn and enjoy this wonderful experience. In this case I have the opportunity to serve as a co-chair and I'm excited for this new experience to begin.

This year's topic focuses on "The genocide in the democratic republic of Congo". This topic is of great importance not just for human relations, but also in shaping the future of our global society. I encourage you to develop your research, considering different perspectives and approaching the debate with passion, respect and knowledge.

MUN is an opportunity for you to step into the shoes of world leaders, understand of global issues, and engage in a rigorous debate to find possible solutions to some of the world's most challenging issues. I expect each of you delegates to demonstrate respect, professionalism, and an open mind throughout these two days. I want you to remember, the goal is not only to represent your assigned country in the best way, but learn and enjoy in the best way possible.

I encourage each one of you to come well prepared with enough research, an open mind, and a willingness to engage respectfully with your fellow delegates. The success of our committee depends on your active participation, creativity and collaboration. Even though MUN can be frightening, especially when it's the first time alongside other students, this experience is one to remember. While you're learning and uncovering new skills and abilities you get to engage with other students, make connections and enjoy.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns as you prepare for the conference. Remember I was once a seventh grade student preparing for my first MUN. I am here to support you every step of the way, ensuring that MUN is both an enjoyable and enriching experience. Wishing you all the best in this process, and looking forward to seeing you in committee.

Kind regards, your co-chair  
Carolina Torres

# LETTER FROM YOUR CO-CHAIR:

---

Dear delegates,

As your co-chair I want to give you a warm welcome to this year's SPMUN. My name is Elena, and I have been participating in Model United Nations Conferences since I was a seventh grader, which makes me understand the excitement you may be feeling for participating in this high school experience. My objective as your chair is guiding through the committee and helping raise awareness regarding the current humanitarian state in the DRC.

We specifically chose the topic of 'The Genocide in the Republic of Congo' because it is an issue that is time and time again ignored by worldwide media outlets. Therefore, by choosing it as this year's SOCHUM topic, our goal is to raise the awareness it deserves. I really encourage you as delegates to do a deep dive on this topic. We want you to really internalize how much of a social catastrophe this is, and to foster empathy towards the Congolese population.

Other than the actual topic, I really want you to completely enjoy this experience. MUN offers a safe space for people who love debating to show their best skills. I would like for you guys to participate as much as you can during the debate. Throughout the years, MUN has become one of my favorite of Saint Paul traditions, and I hope that at the end of this year's debate, it also becomes one of yours.

We need you delegates not only to respect us chairs, but also your fellow delegates in and out the debate. We wish for this committee to be a healthy space in which every single one of you delegates feel safe participating in.

If you have any questions or concerns at any point, whether before or during the conference, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to assist you and provide guidance throughout the entire process. Our goal is to ensure that you have all the resources and support necessary to excel in your role as a delegate. Your success is our priority, and we are committed to helping you navigate any challenges you might encounter.

I wish you all the best of luck in this wonderful journey you are about to start!

Kind regards, your co-chair  
Elena Campos

# INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE:

---

The United Nations General Assembly Third Committee (also known as the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee or SOCHUM or C3) deals with human rights, humanitarian affairs and social matters.

The Third Committee meets every year in early October and aims to finish its work by the end of November. All 193 member states of the UN can attend. As in previous sessions, an important part of the work of the committee will focus on the examination of human rights questions, including reports of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council which was established in 2006.

The Committee also discusses the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination. Furthermore, it addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, aging, people with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control.

SOCHUM derives its legitimacy from the original United Nations Charter and operates with the goal of designing peaceful settlements for issues within the large spectrum of social, humanitarian, and cultural complications in the international community. This body does so by initiating studies that encourage recommendations for the promotion of international cooperation and fundamental freedoms for all.



# GLOSSARY

---

THE GLOSSARY IS FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE TOPIC, HENCE IS NOT NECESSARY TO MEMORIZE.

- **Genocide:** the intentional and systematic destruction of an ethnic, racial, religious or national group.
- **Ethnic cleansing:** the deliberate removal or killing of a particular ethnic group from a region.
- **Militia:** armed groups that are not part of the official military, often with political or ethnic motivations
- **Refugee:** a person who flees their home country due to conflict, persecution, or violence.
- **Internally Displaced Person (IDP):** someone who is forced to flee their home but remains within their countries border.
- **Sexual violence as a weapon of war:** the use of sexual violence, including rape, to terrorize, dominate, and displace communities.
- **Crimes against humanity:** widespread or systematic attacks against civilians, including murder, enslavement and torture.
- **Humanitarian Crisis:** A situation in which a large number of people are in urgent need of assistance, such as food, shelter, or medical care.

- **Transitional justice:** Judicial and non-judicial measures implemented to address human rights violations after a conflict.
- **Impunity:** the lack of punishment or accountability for perpetrators of crimes.
- **Resource conflict:** a conflict driven by the competition for control over valuable natural resources
- **Child soldiers:** children under the age of 18 who are used in armed conflicts, either as combatants or in other roles.
- **Rwandan genocide:** the genocide in Rwanda, where an estimated 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu were killed
- **Humanitarian Aid:** Assistance provided to meet the immediate need of people affected by conflict, disaster, or other emergencies.
- **Conflict minerals:** Minerals mined in conditions of armed conflict and human rights abuses, the profits of which fuel further violence.
- **Ethnic tensions:** strained relations between different ethnic groups, often leading to conflict and violence.
- **MONUSCO:** The United Nations organization stabilization mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- **Allied Democratic Forces (ADF):** a rebel group originally based in Uganda but now active in the eastern DRC, known for committing acts of terror and violence against civilians.
- **Goma:** A city in eastern DRC, located near the Rwandan border, which has been a focal point of conflict and humanitarian efforts.
- **FARDC (armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo):** the official military of the Democratic republic of the Congo, responsible for defending the country and maintaining internal security.
- **Interahamwe:** A Hutu paramilitary organization that played a major role in the 1994 Rwandan Genocide and later fled to the DRC, where it continued to operate and cause instability.



# INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC:

---

After the violent and corrupt national elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in December 2023, severe clashes between the military and insurgent groups, particularly M23 and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), have intensified in eastern DRC. M23, an ethnically Tutsi rebel group, has ties to Rwanda and Uganda, while the ADF is an ISIS-affiliated militia. The conflict escalated sharply in February 2024, leading to international condemnation and worsening humanitarian conditions. By March 2024, the UN reported 7.2 million internally displaced people in the DRC, marking one of the largest displacement crises in the world.

This ongoing conflict is rooted in historical tensions. The First Congo War (1996–1997) was a direct consequence of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide, which drove nearly two million Hutu refugees, including extremists, into the Congo. Rwanda, with Uganda's support, waged war against Zaire (now DRC), leading to the overthrow of Mobutu Sese Seko (The president of Zaire). The Second Congo War followed in 1998 due to deteriorating relations between Rigali and Kinshasa, with unrest persisting in eastern DRC despite peace agreements.

The DRC's vast reserves of metals and rare earth minerals, crucial for advanced electronics, have drawn significant international interest. Chinese companies now control most of the foreign-owned mines, complicating access for the U.S. and other western countries seeking to help mitigate the conflict. The DRC government, backed by Chinese military equipment, continues to fight M23 rebels, while Uganda also employs Chinese arms within DRC's borders.

Recent developments have heightened fears of further regionalization of the conflict. By July 2023, M23 had seized large areas of North Kivu province, escalating tensions between Kinshasa and Kigali. Despite a U.S.-brokered peace agreement in November 2023, fighting has persisted, with Rwanda maintaining a significant military presence in the region. Attacks by the ADF and other militias continue, and the humanitarian situation remains dire, with over seven million displaced people and 23.4 million facing food insecurity.



# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

---

The Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) current conflict is deeply rooted in the region's turbulent history. The First Congo War (1996–1997) was triggered by the aftermath of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide, which saw nearly two million Hutu refugees, including extremist elements, flee into the Congo. This influx of refugees further destabilized the region and led to Rwanda, with support from Uganda and other African nations, waging war against Zaire (DRC), then under the rule of Mobutu Sese Seko. The war resulted in thousands of deaths and the eventual overthrow of Mobutu, but it left the region deeply scarred.

The Second Congo War, which began in 1998, stemmed from deteriorating relations between Rwanda and the new Congolese government in Kinshasa. This conflict drew in multiple African nations, earning it the nickname "Africa's World War." Despite various peace agreements, the eastern DRC has remained a hotbed of unrest, with numerous armed groups, including M23, continuing to operate in the region. Ethnic tensions, particularly between the Hutu and Tutsi populations, have persisted, further complicating efforts to achieve lasting peace.

The conflicts in the DRC have been exacerbated by the country's rich natural resources, including vast reserves of metals and rare earth minerals. These resources have attracted international attention and investment, but they have also fueled corruption, violence, and exploitation. Rebel groups, foreign governments, and multinational corporations have all played roles in the ongoing struggle for control over these valuable assets, prolonging the instability and suffering in the region.

# CURRENT SITUATION

---



According to an analysis conducted between July and December 2023, 25.4 million people, or 23 per cent of the population, face severe food insecurity (Phase 3 or higher according to the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Classification). This means that many are only marginally able to cover their basic food needs, having lost other essential means of subsistence. Lack of transport infrastructure, enclaved locations, climatic hazards, and a lack of tools and farming inputs, are crucial factors in worsening the food insecurity.

All of these things are currently going on in DRC, which is why this country requires urgent humanitarian aid.

The deadly clashes that have been raging for years in the provinces of South Kivu, North Kivu and Ituri have forced people to move several times. Everyday life is a succession of displacements.

In the city of Bule, Ituri, hundreds of displaced people leave their shelters built on the Plaine Savo and Lala sites every night to sleep in town, seeking refuge in classrooms, churches or on the street. They are fleeing night-time incursions by armed groups and acts of extreme violence that target the sites. This complex and long-lasting crisis is having a terrible impact on the youngest. 13.7 million children are in need of humanitarian assistance. In September 2023, there were 416 schools closed due to insecurity and because they were being used to shelter displaced people.

People no longer have access to basic services such as healthcare or safe drinking water. Children who have dropped out of school are exposed to increased protection risks, such as being recruited by armed groups or forced into child labour.

Cases of gender-based violence are endemic. Displaced women are victims of sexual assault and rape when they enter to forest to collect firewood that they can use to sell to feed their families.

# ROLE OF EACH DELEGATION:

---

## **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has long been at the heart of regional conflicts, largely due to its history of instability, weak governance, and abundant natural resources. These factors have made the DRC a focal point for both regional and international interests. The country has endured two major civil wars and ongoing conflicts, resulting in one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises, with millions of lives lost, widespread displacement, and rampant human rights violations. The Congolese government has faced significant challenges in exerting control over its vast and often remote territory, particularly in the eastern regions. These areas remain hotspots of instability, where numerous armed groups, including remnants of foreign militias and local rebel factions, continue to operate. This lack of control has fueled ongoing violence, including widespread sexual violence against women, and has allowed for the continued exploitation of the country's rich mineral resources. Under the leadership of President Félix Tshisekedi, the DRC government has been making efforts to strengthen state institutions, fight corruption, and enhance security. However, progress has been slow, and the government frequently relies on international assistance, particularly from the UN peacekeeping mission (MONUSCO), as well as support from neighboring countries, to manage and contain the conflict.

## **Rwanda**

Rwanda's involvement in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has played a crucial role in the region's conflicts. After the 1994 Rwandan genocide, many Hutu refugees, including genocidal militia members, fled to eastern Congo, destabilizing the area and prompting Rwanda, under the regime of Paul Kagame, to intervene militarily. Rwanda supported various rebel groups in both the First Congo War (1996-1997) and the Second Congo War (1998-2003), leading to widespread violence and millions of deaths. Rwanda's involvement has continued into the 21st century, with persistent accusations of backing the M23 rebel group, which has committed numerous human rights violations in eastern Congo. Rwanda justifies its actions as necessary for national security, citing the presence of the FDLR, a militant group formed by remnants of the genocidal forces. The international community faces significant challenges in addressing both Rwanda's security concerns and the need for peace in the DRC. Sustainable solutions would require disarming militant groups and improving governance in the DRC to manage its resources and reduce violence. Rwanda's role remains a contentious issue, with ongoing debates about its impact on regional stability.

# ROLE OF EACH DELEGATION:

---

## **Tutsis**

Tutsis have played a pivotal role in the conflicts that have engulfed both Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Following the 1994 Rwandan genocide, where Tutsis were the primary victims, Paul Kagame and the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) took control of Rwanda, leading to retaliatory actions against Hutus, many of whom fled to the neighboring DRC. In the DRC, Tutsis have been central to various rebel movements, most notably the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD) and later the M23, both of which have been instrumental in the region's prolonged instability. The presence of Tutsi communities in the DRC has exacerbated tensions, particularly with Hutu populations, resulting in recurrent cycles of violence and conflict. These Tutsi-led groups have participated in multiple peace negotiations, but these efforts have often fallen short of achieving lasting peace due to deep-seated mistrust, historical grievances, and ongoing power struggles. The international community continues to advocate for dialogue between the various ethnic groups in the region, yet the entrenched divisions and memories of past atrocities remain significant barriers to reconciliation and stability.

## **Hutus**

The Hutus population, particularly those involved in the 1994 Rwandan genocide, have profoundly impacted the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), shaping the region's conflict dynamics for decades. After the Rwandan genocide, many Hutus, including those directly responsible for the mass killings, fled across the border into the DRC, where they regrouped and formed armed factions such as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). These groups have been a major source of violence and instability in eastern DRC, contributing to the region's ongoing conflicts and humanitarian crises. The FDLR's continued presence in the region has not only perpetuated local violence but has also served as a justification for repeated military interventions by Rwanda, further entangling the DRC in a web of regional security challenges. Despite numerous efforts by the international community, including the United Nations, to disarm and repatriate these fighters, success has been limited. The complexity of the situation is compounded by deeply entrenched ethnic animosities, which hinder the effectiveness of peaceful disarmament and reintegration initiatives. This ongoing struggle underscores the need for a multifaceted approach that addresses both the security concerns and the underlying ethnic tensions to achieve lasting peace in the region.

# ROLE OF EACH DELEGATION:

---

## **M23 (March 23 movement)**

The March 23 Movement, or M23, is a notorious rebel group that emerged in 2012 from a mutiny by former members of the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP) within the DRC army. M23 has been responsible for significant violence and widespread human rights abuses in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, further exacerbating the region's instability. The group has been accused of receiving backing from Rwanda, though the Rwandan government has consistently denied these allegations. Despite international pressure resulting in temporary ceasefires and peace agreements, these efforts have frequently collapsed, leading to renewed violence and displacement. M23's continued activity in the region, including sporadic offensives, has made it a persistent threat to peace and security in the DRC. The Congolese government, supported by the United Nations peacekeeping mission (MONUSCO) and regional organizations, remains committed to finding a long-term solution to the conflict, but the group's resilience and ability to regroup after setbacks continue to pose significant challenges to achieving lasting stability in the region.

## **Uganda**

Uganda has played a significant and complex role in the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) conflicts, with its involvement dating back to the civil wars and continuing through the ongoing instability in the region. Alongside Rwanda, Uganda has been accused of supporting various rebel groups in the DRC, particularly during the Second Congo War, driven by a mix of security concerns and economic interests, especially the desire to access the DRC's rich resources. Today, Uganda remains a key player in the region, actively participating in both military operations and diplomatic initiatives aimed at stabilizing eastern DRC. Notably, Uganda has engaged in joint military efforts with the DRC government against armed groups like the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a notorious militant organization. Additionally, Uganda has been involved in regional peace initiatives, such as those spearheaded by the East African Community (EAC). However, Uganda's dual role as both a mediator and an entity accused of aggression complicates its ability to effectively contribute to a sustainable resolution, as its involvement is often viewed with suspicion by other stakeholders in the conflict.

# ROLE OF EACH DELEGATION:

---

## **Angola**

Angola has played a pivotal role in the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) conflicts, particularly during the Second Congo War, where it supported the DRC government against rebel factions backed by Rwanda and Uganda. Angola's involvement was driven by its own security concerns, especially the need to ensure stability along its northern borders. In the post-war period, Angola has shifted its focus to diplomatic engagement, often acting as a mediator in peace negotiations aimed at resolving the ongoing instability in the region. Angola's extensive experience in the conflict gives it a unique and influential perspective, making it a key player in various regional initiatives designed to stabilize the DRC. Notably, Angola has been an active participant in regional peacebuilding efforts through platforms like the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), advocating for diplomatic solutions and enhanced regional cooperation. Angola's approach emphasizes addressing the underlying causes of conflict in the DRC through sustained dialogue and collaboration among neighboring countries.

## **United States**

The United States has played a significant role in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through a combination of diplomatic, economic, and military support aimed at promoting stability, human rights, and economic development. Over the years, the U.S. has provided substantial humanitarian aid to help alleviate the ongoing crisis in the DRC, addressing the needs of millions affected by conflict, displacement, and poverty. Currently, the U.S. remains actively engaged with the DRC government, advocating for critical reforms and supporting various peace initiatives designed to bring long-term stability to the region. In addition to diplomatic efforts, the U.S. has imposed targeted sanctions on individuals and entities that contribute to the violence and instability in the DRC, aiming to hold accountable those responsible for human rights abuses. The United States also strongly supports democratic governance, the rule of law, and respect for human rights in the DRC, providing significant aid to bolster humanitarian relief, health care programs, and initiatives to combat sexual violence and human trafficking. Through these efforts, the U.S. seeks to help build a more stable, prosperous, and just society in the DRC.

# ROLE OF EACH DELEGATION:

---

## **China**

China has significantly increased its involvement in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), primarily through substantial economic investments, particularly in the mining sector. Driven by its vast need for natural resources, especially cobalt and copper, which are plentiful in the DRC, China has become one of the largest investors in the country. Chinese investments have focused heavily on infrastructure and mining, contributing to economic growth and development in the DRC. However, this involvement has also sparked concerns regarding labor rights, environmental degradation, and the adverse impact on local communities. While China's primary focus remains on economic development and securing a steady supply of critical resources, it has also shown support for peacekeeping efforts by contributing to the United Nations mission in the DRC. China's broader strategy includes advocating for stability in the region, which is crucial for protecting its investments and ensuring the continued flow of resources essential to its economy.

## **United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom, with its historical ties to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) rooted in its colonial past in Africa, continues to play a significant role in the country through its support for humanitarian efforts, development, and governance reforms. Today, the UK is actively involved in providing aid and backing various development programs, with a particular focus on critical areas such as health, education, and governance. In addition to its development initiatives, the UK is deeply committed to combating sexual violence and promoting women's rights in the DRC, recognizing the severe challenges faced by women and girls in conflict-affected regions. The UK also advocates for improved governance, human rights, and sustainable development as part of its broader strategy to help stabilize the DRC. As a key donor to humanitarian programs, the UK supports efforts to address the root causes of conflict, aiming to create conditions that foster lasting peace and development in the country.



# ROLE OF EACH DELEGATION:

---

## **Belgium**

Belgium, as the former colonial power in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), maintains a unique and complex historical relationship with the country, marked by its significant involvement in the DRC's post-colonial history. This involvement has manifested through diplomatic engagement and substantial development aid aimed at supporting the country's growth and stability. Belgium continues to play an active role in the DRC, focusing on governance reforms and addressing the enduring legacy of colonialism. As part of its commitment to reconciliation, Belgium works to acknowledge and address the historical injustices of its colonial past, promoting dialogue and healing between the two nations. Moreover, Belgium is a strong advocate for democratic governance, human rights, and sustainable development in the DRC.

## **Germany**

Germany is actively involved in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through a multifaceted approach that includes development cooperation, humanitarian aid, and support for peace and security initiatives. This engagement reflects Germany's commitment to advancing human rights, fostering development, and promoting international peace. In the DRC, Germany provides substantial aid and supports various development programs, with a focus on critical areas such as health, education, and governance. Additionally, Germany plays a significant role in efforts aimed at enhancing peace and stability in the region. The country advocates for the protection of human rights, democratic governance, and sustainable development, and is particularly active in supporting initiatives to combat sexual violence and enhance overall peace and security. Through these efforts, Germany aims to contribute to long-term stability and progress in the DRC.

## **Russian Federation**

Russia's involvement in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been relatively modest compared to Western nations but has been growing in recent years, particularly through military cooperation and diplomatic engagement. Russia has provided military assistance to the DRC government, helping to bolster its capacity to combat armed groups and address ongoing instability. Alongside its military support, Russia has actively engaged in diplomatic efforts to strengthen bilateral relations with the DRC, viewing its involvement as part of a broader strategy to enhance its influence across Africa. Russia's approach emphasizes respect for state sovereignty and non-interference, advocating for solutions to the DRC's conflicts that are led by African nations themselves. Through this stance, Russia aims to support the DRC's efforts to stabilize the country while reinforcing its own role in the region's geopolitical landscape.

# ROLE OF EACH DELEGATION:

---

## **Burundi:**

Burundi, sharing a border with the DRC, has been involved in the Congolese conflict due to its own internal strife. Hutu rebel groups from Burundi, such as the National Forces of Liberation (FNL), crossed into eastern Congo, contributing to the violence and instability. Burundi's government has occasionally intervened in the DRC to suppress these rebel groups, contributing to the chaos in the region.

## **ICC:**

The ICC has played a key role in seeking justice for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the DRC. Several key figures have been prosecuted, including Congolese militia leader Thomas Lubanga and warlord Bosco Ntaganda. These prosecutions focus on atrocities such as child soldier recruitment, mass killings, and sexual violence, though the broader genocide-like conditions in the Congo have yet to be fully addressed.

## **Zimbabwe:**

Zimbabwe played a significant role in the Second Congo War (1998-2003) by supporting the government of Laurent-Désiré Kabila. Zimbabwe, under President Robert Mugabe, sent troops and resources to back Kabila's government against various rebel groups and foreign armies. Zimbabwe's involvement was largely driven by political and economic interests, including control over Congolese resources like diamonds.

## **African Union:**

The African Union has been involved in peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and humanitarian efforts in the DRC. However, its role has been criticized as insufficient in addressing the scale of the atrocities. The AU has supported diplomatic efforts for peace agreements and, more recently, has worked with regional organizations like the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to promote stability in the Great Lakes region.

## **Sudan:**

Sudan's involvement in the DRC conflict is tied to its regional alliances and its own internal conflicts. Sudan supported various rebel groups in the DRC, including the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which has committed atrocities in both Sudan and Congo. Sudan's role in the conflict has been indirect but has contributed to the broader regional instability.

# ROLE OF EACH DELEGATION:

---

## **SADC:**

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has played a critical role in addressing the conflict in the DRC. During the Second Congo War (1998-2003), SADC countries, particularly Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Angola, intervened militarily to support the DRC government against rebel groups and foreign invaders. More recently, SADC has been involved in diplomatic efforts to bring peace and stability to the Great Lakes region. SADC has coordinated peacekeeping efforts and supported initiatives to stabilize the eastern Congo, though challenges remain due to the scale of the conflict and the number of armed groups still operating in the area.

## **India:**

India's involvement in the DRC conflict has largely been through its contributions to United Nations peacekeeping missions. Indian soldiers have played a significant role in the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), one of the largest peacekeeping forces in the world. India has consistently contributed troops to protect civilians, disarm rebel groups, and stabilize the region. India's economic involvement in the region is relatively minor, with some Indian companies participating in the mining industry, though not in a direct way linked to the conflict.

## **Qatar:**

Qatar has not had a significant direct involvement in the conflict or genocide in the DRC. Its involvement in Africa generally focuses on diplomatic relationships, investment, and mediation in conflicts, especially in the Arab world or the Sahel region. Qatar may play a humanitarian role through charitable organizations but does not have a prominent position in the DRC's historical conflict.

## **Israel:**

Israel has not played a direct role in the DRC's conflict. However, there have been reports over the years of Israeli individuals or companies being involved in the mining sector in the DRC, particularly in the extraction of diamonds and other resources, though not directly related to the conflict or genocidal violence. The larger geopolitical role of Israel in Africa focuses more on diplomatic and economic ties with several African nations but not specifically in relation to the DRC's conflicts.

## **France:**

France has a complex role in the region. Historically, France supported the Rwandan government during the Rwandan genocide in 1994, which had ripple effects in the Congo. After the genocide, members of the genocidal Hutu regime fled into the DRC, sparking the First Congo War. France's involvement in the region, especially through its connections with Francophone Africa, has been controversial. While it has provided military and humanitarian aid in various conflicts, France's role has also been criticized for being selective and tied to post-colonial interests. France has supported peace efforts, including sending troops as part of UN peacekeeping missions, but its policies are often seen as complex and politically motivated.

# POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND PREVIOUS ATTEMPT TO SOLVE IT

---

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has faced severe violence, often described as genocide, driven by ethnic tensions, resource competition, and armed groups.

Previous attempts to address the conflict include UN peacekeeping missions like (MONUC and MONUSCO-United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo). Other peace agreements include the Lusaka Ceasefire agreement which aimed to end the Second Congo War by bringing together the DRC government, rebel groups, and neighboring countries involved in the conflict. Furthermore, the Sun City Agreement aimed to end the civil war and establish a transitional government that included both the government and rebel factions. The International Criminal Court (ICC), which prosecuted and tried war criminals such as Thomas Lubanga and Bosco Ntaganda, DDR programs that sought to disarm combatants, humanitarian and refugee aid provided by numerous international organizations, and regional and international diplomatic efforts all aimed to establish lasting peace within the region, addressing the root causes of conflict, promoting justice, and supporting the reconstruction and development of affected communities.

Potential solutions involve strengthening peacekeeping and security, by enhancing UN mandates and increasing regional security. Besides promoting justice, by promoting ICC involvement and developing national justice reforms, these efforts aimed to strengthen the rule of law, deter future atrocities, and build a foundation for lasting peace and stability in the region. Additionally, economic development can be done by advancing resource management reforms and investing in infrastructure and education. Lastly, humanitarian support can be enhanced to improve the conditions in the country. These efforts aim to protect civilians, address the root causes of violence, and promote long-term stability.

# BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:

---



AfricaNews. (2023). Angola reiterates call for peace in DRC. <https://www.africanews.com/2023/06/21/angola-reiterates-call-for-peace-in-drc/>

AfricaNews. (2021). Uganda's army enters Congo to fight rebels. <https://www.africanews.com/2021/11/25/uganda-s-army-enters-congo-to-fight-rebels/>

Al Jazeera. (2022). Angola: Peace diplomacy in the DRC. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/6/angola-peace-diplomacy-drc>

Al Jazeera. (2024). As Rwanda votes, tensions with neighboring DR Congo deepen over M23. <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2024/7/15/as-rwanda-votes-tensions-with-neighbouring-dr-congo-deepen-over-m23>

Al Jazeera. (2024). A guide to the decades-long conflict in DR Congo. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/2/21/a-guide-to-the-decades-long-conflict-in-dr-congo>

Al Jazeera. (2018). Russia: Military cooperation with Congo is non-negotiable. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/7/24/russia-military-cooperation-with-congo-is-non-negotiable>

BBC News. (2013). Rwanda and the Congo: The Tutsi-Hutu conflict. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa>

TASS. (2021). Russia and DRC strengthen military ties amid rising instability. <https://tass.com/world/1315675>

BBC News. (2020). Belgium to return Congo artifacts, acknowledges colonial abuses. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52972097>

BBC News. (2013). UK aid to Congo to be reviewed. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-22846542>

Brookings Institution. (2019). Russia in Africa. <https://www.brookings.edu/research/russia-in-africa/>

# BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:

---



Brussels Times. (2020). Belgium pledges €25 million for development in the Democratic Republic of Congo. <https://www.brusselstimes.com/158882/belgium-pledges-25-million-for-development-in-the-democratic-republic-of-congo>

Burke, J. (2020). Uganda and Congo: Struggles with history of conflict. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/aug/30/uganda-and-congo-struggles-with-history-of-conflict>

China Dialogue. (2016). Chinese investments in DR Congo under scrutiny. <https://www.chinadialogue.net/article/show/single/en/9028-Chinese-investments-in-DR-Congo-under-scrutiny>

Council on Foreign Relations. (2015). China and Congo's coltan conundrum. <https://www.cfr.org/article/china-and-congos-coltan-conundrum>

Council on Foreign Relations. (n.d.). DRC stability. <https://www.cfr.org/drc-stability>

Council on Foreign Relations. (n.d.). Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Global Conflict Tracker. <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/violence-democratic-republic-congo>

Crisis Group. (n.d.). Democratic Republic of the Congo. <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/central-africa/democratic-republic-congo>

Deutsche Welle. (2021). Germany's role in development assistance to the DRC. <https://www.dw.com/en/germanys-role-in-development-assistance-to-the-drc/a-56108719>

Euractiv. (2021). Belgium to help DRC improve governance. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/africa/news/belgium-to-help-drc-improve-governance/>

GlobalSecurity.org. (n.d.). Democratic Republic of the Congo: FDLR. <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/para/fdlr.htm>

# BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:

---



Human Rights Watch. (2012). Rwanda's involvement in the Congo conflict. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2012/06/03/rwandas-involvement-congo-conflict>

Human Rights Watch. (2012). DR Congo: M23 rebels committing war crimes. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2012/11/21/dr-congo-m23-rebels-committing-war-crimes>

International Crisis Group. (n.d.). Democratic Republic of the Congo. <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/central-africa/democratic-republic-congo>

Le Monde. (2024). In eastern DRC, the wounds of the genocide in Rwanda are still raw. [https://www.lemonde.fr/en/le-monde-africa/article/2024/04/11/in-eastern-drc-the-wounds-of-the-genocide-in-rwanda-are-still-raw\\_6668067\\_124.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/en/le-monde-africa/article/2024/04/11/in-eastern-drc-the-wounds-of-the-genocide-in-rwanda-are-still-raw_6668067_124.html)

Monitor. (2022). Uganda, Congo need to mend fences. <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/uganda-congo-need-to-mend-fences-3764494>

National Public Radio. (2024). Rwanda genocide's lasting impact: Refugees and war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. <https://www.npr.org/2024/04/05/1242321321/rwanda-genocide-democratic-republic-of-congo-refugees-war>

Norwegian Refugee Council. (2024). What's happening in the Democratic Republic of the Congo? <https://www.nrc.no/perspectives/2024/whats-happening-in-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo/#:~:text=Since%20the%20beginning%20of%202024,land%20disputes%20and%20natural%20disasters>

Ratcliffe, R. (2021). UK government slashes funding for Congo. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/nov/11/uk-government-slashes-funding-congo>

Refugees International. (2019). Tutsi ethnic tensions in DRC. <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/2019/10/3/tutsi-ethnic-tensions-in-drc>

# BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:

---



ReliefWeb. (n.d.). DRC and M23 rebel group. <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/drc-and-m23-rebel-group>

ReliefWeb. (n.d.). FDLR: Dangers persist. <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/fdlr-dangers-persist>

ReliefWeb. (2021). Germany increases humanitarian aid to DRC. <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/germany-increases-humanitarian-aid-drc>

Reuters. (2018). U.S. expands sanctions on DR Congo figures. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-congo/u-s-expands-sanctions-on-dr-congo-figures-idUSKCN1M12PX>

Reuters. (2020). Germany urges democratic reforms in Congo. <https://www.reuters.com/article/germany-congo/germany-urges-democratic-reforms-in-congo-idUSL8N2G233N>

Roth, K. (2012). Rwanda and the DRC: Consequences of war. Brookings Institution. <https://www.brookings.edu/research/rwanda-and-the-drc-consequences-of-war/>

Searcey, D. (2023). In Congo, elections loom as instability grows. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/17/world/africa/democratic-republic-of-congo-elections.html>

TASS. (2021). Russia and DRC strengthen military ties amid rising instability. <https://tass.com/world/1315675>

The East African. (2022). Angola calls for calm in DRC. <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/angola-calls-for-calm-in-drc-3698896>

UK Government. (2022). UK announces major new support for Democratic Republic of Congo. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-major-new-support-for-democratic-republic-of-congo>



# BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:

---



United Nations. (2021). Security Council urges parties to end fighting in DR Congo, uphold human rights in Eastern Region. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sc14615.doc.htm>

United Nations. (2024). Security Council discusses ongoing crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15646.doc.htm>

United Nations. (2013). UN Security Council demands end to hostilities in DR Congo, condemns M23 rebellion. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2013/af1101.doc.htm>

United Nations. (2019). UN Security Council highlights need for transparency in Congo's mining sector. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13791.doc.htm>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (n.d.). Background on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) crisis. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/49ba7a2719.html>

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. (n.d.). Democratic Republic of the Congo: 1996–present. <https://www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/countries/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/1996-present>

USAID. (2022). Democratic Republic of Congo. <https://www.usaid.gov/democratic-republic-congo>

U.S. Department of State. (2023). U.S. relations with Democratic Republic of the Congo. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-democratic-republic-of-the-congo/>

World Without Genocide. (n.d.). Genocides and conflicts: Congo. <https://worldwithoutgenocide.org/genocides-and-conflicts/congo>