



Security Council

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Letter dated 17 February 2025 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the events reported to the Security Council at its meetings on 26 and 28 January 2025 by Ms. Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner, Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to my letter of 30 January 2025, concerning the invasion of the Congolese Provinces of North and South Kivu by Rwanda and its proxies from the terrorist movement Mouvement du 23 mars (M23), in general, and the brutal seizure of the town of Goma, in particular, on 27 January 2025.

Three weeks or almost a month later, my Government is outraged to note that the Security Council, paralysed by some unknown affliction, has been unable to reach a decision, despite the gravity of the situation. The Council's paralysis has given free rein to the continued illegal occupation of Congolese territories by the Rwandan Defence Forces (RDF) and their proxies from the M23 terrorist movement, in the knowledge that every day of inaction compromises regional and international peace and security, strengthens the aggressor and undermines the credibility of the United Nations.

Unsurprisingly, the Security Council's inaction and wait-and-see attitude have only perpetuated the worsening of the situation, culminating in the seizure of Bukavu, capital of South Kivu Province, on 14 February 2025, and in the strengthening of the aggressive troop presence on Sunday, 16 February 2025.

The human cost has been devastating. The daily images of the massacres of civilians in Goma, Minova, Sake and Bukavu, the rape of women and children, the targeted assassinations, the summary executions, the acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, the looting and the hundreds of thousands of displaced people deprived of their right to a peaceful existence are the acts of terror imposed by Rwanda, which has become the breeding ground for instability in the Great Lakes region.

In addition, it is inconceivable that in Goma the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), a peace mission duly mandated by your Council and whose peacekeepers were killed in cold blood, could be systematically prevented from carrying out its mandate to protect civilians and practically forced to submit to the dictates of Rwanda and M23, a group, incidentally, under sanctions.



This inaction is also costly in the sense that the immense legitimate resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo are being illegally exploited on a daily basis by Rwanda and the Alliance Fleuve Congo (AFC)/M23 and, unfortunately, are contributing towards financing this regional conflict and its international ramifications, which undermine international peace and security.

Lastly, the risks of the conflict spreading to the north-east and south-east parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and setting the whole region ablaze are becoming clearer, as Rwanda is no longer content to support terrorist groups: it has now spawned a rebellion, AFC, whose declared aim is to overthrow a legitimate Government by force and bloodshed.

For all these reasons, my Government urges the Security Council to meet as a matter of urgency and to assume its full responsibilities in order to act decisively and immediately, *inter alia*, to:

1. Demand that Rwanda and its M23 proxies immediately cease fighting and withdraw their troops from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
2. Impose targeted sanctions against identified members of the RDF chain of command overseeing M23 operations and against the political decision makers responsible for this aggression;
3. Impose an embargo on exports of natural resources from Rwanda;
4. Revoke Rwanda's status as a troop-contributing country, as the coordinated actions of RDF and M23 seriously violate international humanitarian law and compromise the integrity of United Nations peace missions;
5. Impose mandatory transparency on arms sales to Rwanda and establish a systematic notification system for all arms sales and transfers to Rwanda by Member States and private entities.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Zénon **Mukongo Ngay**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative