



Security Council

Distr.: General
14 February 2025
English
Original: French

Letter dated 10 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 conclusions of the statements delivered by Ms. Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner, Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie, to the Security Council at its emergency meetings held on 26 and 28 January 2025 concerning the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

As the Council prepares to draw conclusions from its deliberations, I would like to reiterate my Government's legitimate expectations concerning the urgency of immediate and decisive action by the Security Council. These expectations fortunately converge with the concerns expressed in turn by Bintou Keita, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), and Jean Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, as well as the great majority of Security Council members.

To this list must be added the recent statements by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, who, on 23 and 26 January and on 6 February, launched a vibrant appeal for peace in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and demanded the withdrawal of Rwanda and its Mouvement du 23 mars (M23)-Alliance Fleuve Congo (AFC) proxies from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In the same vein, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, reiterated the Secretary-General's appeal to the Rwandan Defence Force (RDF) to cease all support for the M23 armed group and to withdraw from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The High Commissioner recalled that, since 26 January 2025, nearly 3,000 people have been killed and 2,880 wounded. The real figures, he believes, are probably much higher. He also said that he was very concerned about the proliferation of weapons and the high risk of recruitment and forced conscription of children. He said that his team was verifying multiple allegations of rape and sexual slavery throughout the combat zones.

In this context, my Government reminds the Security Council that it has several political and diplomatic levers at its disposal to act effectively through a strongly-worded decision that reflects the gravity of the situation prevailing in the Congolese Provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu. These levers include:



1. The decisions adopted by Heads of State and Government at the Joint Summit of the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community, held in Dar es Salaam on 7 and 8 February 2025. On that occasion, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

2. The joint statement on the crisis in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo issued by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) at their meeting held in Malabo on Friday, 7 February, within the framework of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa. ECCAS leaders called for the immediate withdrawal of Rwandan troops from Congolese territory. They also stressed the need to normalize operations at Goma airport in order to enable the return of members of regional verification mechanisms, in particular the enhanced extended verification mechanism and that of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR);

3. In resolution [S-37/1](#) adopted at the thirty-seventh special session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on 7 February 2025, concerning the situation of human rights in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Council demanded that M23 immediately cease all hostile actions and withdraw from the occupied areas. It also demanded that RDF cease its support of M23 and urgently withdraw from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It also decided to urgently establish a fact-finding mission on the serious human rights violations and abuses and grave violations of international humanitarian law committed in the Provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu, in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo;

4. The various reports by the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which confirm the presence of almost 4,000 Rwandan soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Country with M23 units directly supervised by RDF Rwandan special forces.

For all these reasons, my Government urges the Security Council to fully assume its responsibilities as the United Nations organ responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security in order:

- To order the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Rwandan troops (RDF) and their M23-AFC proxies from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (evacuation of Goma and cessation of offensives towards Bukavu)
- To impose targeted sanctions, including asset freezes and travel bans, not only against identified members of the RDF chain of command overseeing M23 operations, but also against the political decision makers responsible for this aggression
- To immediately open humanitarian access routes and to allow the immediate reopening of Goma International Airport
- To implement targeted sanctions against the Government of Rwanda, the RDF chain of command and the M23 chain of command
- To impose a complete embargo on exports of all minerals labelled as Rwandan, in particular tin (cassiterite), tungsten, tantalum (coltan) and gold, to put an end to the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the financing of armed conflicts
- To immediately revoke Rwanda's status as a troop contributor to United Nations peace missions, as the coordinated actions of RDF and M23 seriously violate international humanitarian law and compromise the integrity of peace missions

- To establish a systematic notification system for all arms sales and transfers to Rwanda by Member States or private entities. This will ensure that such weapons are not used to equip armed groups subject to an embargo, such as M23

As the implementation of all these measures is a valuable contribution to efforts to restore the security and humanitarian situation in the devastated Provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu, my Government urges the Security Council to make full use of the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitutive Act of the African Union to impose peace in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I should be grateful if you could bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council and circulate it as a document of the Council.

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