

# TOPIC SYNOPSIS

Advanced Security Council



# DR Congo Emergencies

## **POSITION PAPERS**

Position papers are due by midnight, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Please send to the email address below. Identify your committee and assignment on the subject line and in the text of the message. Include your position paper as an attachment in .PDF format. If you choose, you can also include it as a Google Doc, but remember go give access to the Secretariat.

The position paper format can be found [HERE](#).

Email your position paper and any questions you might have to: [whsmunadvancedsc19@gmail.com](mailto:whsmunadvancedsc19@gmail.com)

## **IMPORTANT COMMITTEE POLICIES TO BE AWARE OF**

- Speaking time for speeches will not be lowered to anything shorter than a minute-thirty seconds. Lowering a speaking time below this does nothing to facilitate debate;
- Comments on speeches cannot be lowered below 30-seconds;
- Moderated caucuses have a set time of 20-minutes. They can be extended for two extra 10-minutes sessions afterward;
- Unmoderated causes can be set for 10, 15, and 20 minutes with one 10-minute extension permitted;
- There is no yielding of speaking time to other delegates;
- No pre-written resolutions will be accepted;
- The use of national flags, pins, or any other national emblem in committee is discouraged, as the United Nations does not allow them either in committee;
- Handouts or briefing sheets are not allowed to be distributed in committee as gives an unfair advantage to delegates who don't have them and is in conflict with the spirit of no pre-written resolutions;
- Computers and phones are not permitted for non-committee related activities such as chatting, gaming, non-conference related web browsing, etc.
- All committee rooms are open to adult advisors including during voting blocs. Student advisors can be kept out during voting blocs;
- Recently, we have discovered that some delegations have been relying on chat groups with adult and student advisors writing speeches and comments for delegates in order to help them with committee awards that they could not on their own. The use of using chat to, in essence, cheat, is prohibited. This does not mean that advisors cannot send general advise to their delegates such as "get yourself on the speaker's list" or "raise your placard more." This is just to keep delegates being fed speeches or comments on information they did not research themselves.

Delegates found to be in violation of these restrictions will lose diplomacy points and may be excluded from any recognition. In addition, they will be reported to their advisors.

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## Background

The Democratic Republic of Congo, also known as the Congo-Kinshasa, is one of the areas of the African region where conflict is most prevalent, with severe human rights issues that continue to this day. Although the Congo Wars, Congo's first and second civil wars, spanned from 1996 to 2003, the nation's dangerously violent state of anarchy has continued, especially in its eastern regions like North Kivu where civilians must flee attacks from radical liberation forces to survive. As a result, an estimated 1.3 million people remain displaced in the Kasai region of the DR Congo in an ongoing humanitarian crisis<sup>1</sup> encompassing severe food insecurity and malnourishment, especially affecting children<sup>2</sup>. This has led to an economic downturn in the region.

Although abundant in natural resources and the world's largest producer of cobalt ore, the DR Congo has historically mismanaged these assets along with many others looking to the nation for its vast wealth of minerals<sup>3</sup>. Furthermore, Belgian colonial authorities left the nation and its approximate range of 200 ethnic groups in a state of internal instability. The national army has many subdivisions and varying loyalties, bringing about a series of violent outbreaks, theft and extortion, and human rights violations. The resulting rebel groups and internal chaos concentrated in the eastern region of the country have only left present conditions worse.

According to the United Nations Population Fund, the humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo has forced more than 2 million people to flee their homes in 2017 alone. This

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<sup>1</sup> "DR Congo: UN Experts to Investigate Kasai Region Violence." *Human Rights Watch*, 23 June 2017, [www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/23/dr-congo-un-experts-investigate-kasai-region-violence](http://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/23/dr-congo-un-experts-investigate-kasai-region-violence).

<sup>2</sup> "Humanitarian Crisis in Kasai Region, DR Congo/Crise Humanitaire Dans La Région Des Kasai | Topics." *ReliefWeb*, OCHA, 2018, <https://reliefweb.int/topics/humanitarian-crisis-kasai-region-dr-congocrise-humanitaire-dans-la-r-gion-des-kasa>

<sup>3</sup> "Causes of Conflict in DRC." All Answers Ltd. ukessays.com, November 2013. Web. 18 September 2018. <<https://www.ukessays.com/essays/international-studies/investigating-the-causes-of-conflict-in-democratic-republic-of-congo.php?vref=1>>.

increased the total number of people that have had to flee at more than 4.4 million, which higher than that of any other nation on the African Continent. This crisis has left nearly 13.10 million people in need and is a level 3 crisis (the highest level) according to the United Nations. These 13 million people include 4 million young children and 432,300 pregnant mothers.

Terrorism caused by several rebel groups has been an ongoing stigma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including rebel groups such as the Allied Democratic Force (AFD), which began its operations in 1996 in Uganda, the same year as the beginning of the first civil war, and has since spread in influence and operations into the DR Congo. These terrorist groups have caused intense humanitarian issues and have led to the unfortunate death of much of the country's population. <sup>4</sup>The Congo has also been barraged by several armed groups, who have been responsible for several cases of gruesome crimes such as massacre, pillage, and rape. Since the beginning of these toxic massacres in 2014, over 680 people have been killed. In addition, 2200 houses have been burned down, and hundreds of people are kidnapped for ransom every year.

### **UN Involvement**

The United Nations has been heavily influential throughout the emergencies and slight advances within the violent instabilities within DR Congo. Specifically, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), has aided the nation in recovering not only from its civil war but also to suppress the rebellious activities and bring order to nation's civil justice system<sup>5</sup>. In response to the violent uprisings since 2008 in the eastern areas of the country, the nation hastily

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<sup>4</sup> "World Report 2017: Rights Trends in Democratic Republic of Congo." *Human Rights Watch*, 12 Jan. 2017, [www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/democratic-republic-congo](http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/democratic-republic-congo).

<sup>5</sup> MONUSCO. "Strengthening the Rule of Law and Protection of Civilians in the Democratic Republic of the Congo." *MONUSCO*, United Nations, 11 Sept. 2018, <https://monusco.unmissions.org/en/strengthening-rule-law-and-protection-civilians-democratic-republic-congo>

brought together its armed forces, Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC). Unfortunately, due to the lack of a vetting process, many humanitarian rights were violated against civilians by not only by the rebellious armed groups but also the Congolese army itself, but the with MONUC and the military justice protocols, a certain level of justice has been restored with 963 convicted of the 1,200 accused (from all offenders). Furthermore, MONUC has begun work to transition the military system to a civilian justice system and increased talks with the Congolese Ministry of Justice in order to establish a stronger foundation upon the country.

However, many of these fragile advancements are still far from being implemented and enforced. The UN Security Council recognized the present detrimental state of DR Congo in its situation of humanitarian and violent emergencies and cites the deaths and losses of December, 2017<sup>6</sup>. Furthermore, the Security Council specifically asked for the United Nations, the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes region, the Southern Africa Development Community, the European Union, and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie to support the Agreement of December 2016 and the upcoming electoral process. However, its recent extension of sanctions<sup>7</sup> demonstrates the need for the reestablishment and organization of its Group of Experts, which works under the Security Council to implement sanctions and mandates<sup>8</sup>. It also requires the DR Congo government to do a complete investigation of the two killings within the Expert Group. With numerous

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<sup>6</sup> MONUSCO. "Security Council Press Statement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo." *MONUSCO*, United Nations, 17 Jan. 2018, <https://monusco.unmissions.org/en/security-council-press-statement-democratic-republic-congo>

<sup>7</sup> UN Security Council. "Extending Sanctions on Democratic Republic of Congo, Mandate of Expert Group, Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2424 (2018) | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." *United Nations*, United Nations, 29 June 2018, [www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13402.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13402.doc.htm).

<sup>8</sup> UN. "Panel of Experts Security Council Subsidiary Organs." *United Nations*, United Nations, [www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/sanctions/2374/panel-of-experts/work-mandate](http://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/sanctions/2374/panel-of-experts/work-mandate).

conflicts and infringements of rights within the nation, the United Nations requires support to help the Democratic Republic of the Congo advance.

### **Bloc Positions**

*Western Bloc:* The Western bloc has prioritized humanitarian aid in the DRC, the USA having previously donated nearly \$67 million to the Congo in 2018. The Western bloc has placed pressures on industries in the Congo in exchange for this financing and aid.

*European Bloc:* The European bloc has also prioritized humanitarian aid, similarly to the Western bloc, mostly taking form in food, water, and medical aid for displaced peoples.

*Asian Bloc:* The Asian bloc receives a large portion of the resources exported from the DR Congo. China specifically has created a “win-win” relationship with the DRC, by its economic activities with the DRC but lack of involvement with internal affairs.

*Latin Bloc:* Many of the Latin American countries have accredited embassies with DR Congo, going both ways. The countries acknowledge the Congolese resources in precious minerals used in technology, but also keep in mind the imposing dangers with DRC’s instability.

*African Bloc:* The DR Congo is one of the worst conflict displacement affected countries in the world. Thus, many internally displaced people are forced to flee eastward to countries such as Burundi and Tanzania. Some of the conflicts themselves also have the potential to spill into the neighboring countries specifically including Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda.

### Questions to Consider

1. What is the most pressing issue in the DR Congo today?
2. How can nations address the humanitarian concerns in the DR Congo?
3. How can the international community ensure that humanitarian rights in the region are protected?
4. Should nations address the political conflicts within the DR Congo? If so, how?
5. How can refugees live in a safe environment?