

**Committee/Council:** Security Council

**Issue:** The question of DR Congo

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## Introduction



Picture 1: The insignia of the SC

Since its first meeting on 17 January 1946 in Methodist Central Hall Westminster in London, the Security Council of the United Nations (UNSC) has been responsible for issues threatening international peace and security. During all these decades the African Continent has been one of the most instable regions of the world, thus making it an area of great interest for the SC.

Africa is nowadays affected by various conflicts such as coup d'états, civil wars and tensions between States leading to a wide number of casualties and worsening the situation on the continent. The current situation is therefore termed "Africa's World War", the center of which is believed to be the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo). Since its independence, DR Congo has suffered from many problems, such as civil wars, making it one of the most corrupted and instable African States. It is the UNSC that has so far combated situations similar to that of the DR Congo, therefore making it the most suitable body of the UN to deal with this issue of paramount importance. The DR Congo, the second largest country of the African continent, located in the center of it, is currently suffering from a severe civil war, while the Security Council has put a great effort into combating it, having most importantly adopted a recent resolution ([S/RES/2098\(2013\)](#)).

This year's Security Council is called to find widely accepted solutions to the problem and improve the conditions under which people in DR Congo live. Was it wise of the

Security Council to lose its valid asset, its neutrality? In what other way can the UN restrict the war in DR Congo? What will its reaction be to the thousands of displaced people arising from the conflict? How could Congo's neighboring States assist the UN in its effort to stabilize the region?

## Definition of Key-Terms

### Coup d'état

A coup d'état or an overthrow is defined as the change in government by the use of violence by a powerful group within a State. Typically, and in the case of DR Congo, the military is the group that deposes the existing government and replaces it by one favorable to the group. A coup usually does not follow the constitution and legislation of the State concerning governmental changes and is totally based on the power that each group has. (Oxford University Dictionary)

### UN Peacekeeping mission

The peacekeeping mission of the UN is termed to be a group of soldiers, also called "Blue Helmets", hailing from the UN Member States which aims to terminate war in a nation, keep peace and support it on its way towards democratization and stability. There are currently 15 operating missions, one of which is in DR Congo. Its aims are to maintain peace and security, facilitate the political process, protect civilians and assist in the disarmament of armed groups. (UN Peacekeeping Missions' Site <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/peacekeeping.shtml>)

### Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR)

With the term FDLR we refer to the armed forces created by the displaced Hutu rebels after the Rwandan genocide. The organization is opposed to the Tutsi-led government of Rwanda and aims at overthrowing it and seizing power again. Rwanda throughout these decades has been trying to eliminate them and punish them as a revenge for their crimes during the well-known Genocide. The elimination of the rebels is also the main objective of the peacekeeping troops of the UN and the "Intervention Brigade" as well.

## Background Information

### General Information



Picture 2: DR Congo's flag



Picture 3: Map of DR Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) is a country located in Central Africa. It is traversed by the Equator and is situated 25 degrees eastern from the Greenwich Meridian. Having a total area of 2,344,858 sq km, DR Congo is the second largest African Country and the eleventh largest worldwide, while its population reaches the number of 75,507,308 people. Its capital has been Kinshasa since its independence, which is located near the country's western borders with the Republic of Congo. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of the richest African States since it possesses a wide range of resources such as but not limited to mines of gold and silver as well as diamonds. Its wealth is also considered to be the root of the conflict as it is not equally distributed among its citizens, leading to great poverty and low living standards of the people while the country's health and education systems are among the worst in the African continent.

For many decades Congo was under the rule of the Belgian Kingdom and after the decision of the Belgian Parliament it was named the Belgian Congo. There had been many attempts by the Congolese government to achieve independence when Patrice Lumumba became the Prime Minister of the country. It was due to his effort that Congo finally gained its independence in May 1960 under the name "Republic of the Congo", later changed to "DR Congo". However, owing to the difficulties that the country had faced before, the independence was stigmatized by the ignition of the civil wars between the recently autonomous regions and ethnic groups. Affected by the Cold War and the conflict between USA and USSR, Lumumba was viewed by the Westerns as a communist. Therefore, he was overthrown and later killed by the anti-communist Joseph Mobutu backed by



Picture 4: Joseph Mobutu

USA and its allies. It is widely believed that, through Mobutu, USA eliminated USSR's influence and took control over Congo. Mobutu in response would provide them with cheaper resources, compared to their price under Lumumba's rule.

### Zaire (1971-1997)

Under Mobutu's rule many problems were theoretically solved, especially the numerous civil wars among the vast number of ethnic groups living in DR Congo. The new President of Congo took some actions in order to symbolize the beginning of a different period for Congo. In 1971, Mobutu decided to change the name of the country



Picture 5: The flag of Zaire

to "Zaire", while he later changed his name to Mobutu Sese Seko, translated as "the all-powerful warrior who, because of his endurance and inflexible will to win, shall go from conquest to conquest, leaving fire in his wake". During the rule of Mobutu, repeated human rights violations occurred while he was using the rich natural resources of the country for his interest leading people to great poverty. Therefore, Mobutu is currently viewed as Congo's dictator.

In 1994, while Mobutu was controlling Zaire, in the neighboring Rwanda the current Hutu-led government moved to the well-known Genocide of Rwanda murdering dozens of people originating from the Tutsi ethnic group. To take revenge, the remaining population of Tutsis moved to a successful coup d'état against the government. Being anxious and feared of Tutsis' rage and impending acts against them, a large number of Hutus fled to the neighboring countries, mainly to Zaire. More than 2 million people are thought to have been displaced from Rwanda and moved to Zaire. Supported by Mobutu, Hutus settled near the eastern borders of the country and started attacking the local Tutsi populations of Congo. It was obvious that Mobutu was not able to control the situation anymore.

### First Congo War (1996-1997)

The newly-established Tutsi-led government of Rwanda, backed by Uganda, invaded DR Congo to punish the Hutus having fled for their actions against Tutsis. Mobutu supported the defending Hutus, but the joint forces of Rwanda and rebels of Zaire against Mobutu, called Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (AFDL), defeated him, captured him and established a new government led by their Congolese rebel leader Laurent-Désiré Kabila. Kabila renamed the country to "DR Congo". Congolese people viewed this change positively, but things did not seem to be changing. After Kabila's failure to expel Hutus from the country and his demand towards Rwanda and Uganda to withdraw their troops, tensions between these three countries escalated and, one year later, lead to the famous and long Second Congo War or widely called the First World War of Africa.

### Second Congo War (1998-2003)

The Second Congo War was one of the longest and largest conflicts in the African Continent. The united forces of DR Congo, Angola, Chad, Namibia and Zimbabwe were fighting for six consecutive years with over 5 million casualties. Countries on their own or backed by the UN frequently attempted to terminate the war. The Lusaka Agreement in 1999 followed by the establishment of the UN peacekeeping force "MONUC" was thought to declare the end of the war. However, the war continued till the signing of the Pretoria Accords demanding the withdrawal of the Rwandan troops, the Luanda Agreement demanding the withdrawal of Ugandan forces and finally the establishment of the Transitional Government on 18 July 2003 led by Kabila's son Joseph since Laurent Kabila was assassinated during the war. Nevertheless, despite the fact that both parties have signed peace agreements and the war was officially terminated, proxy wars between these States still take place while many rebellions have been ignited since then, with the most important being the Kivu conflict that exists up to the present.



Picture 6: Joseph Kabila in the UN

### Kivu Conflict (2004-present)

Kivu is a large region in the eastern districts of DR Congo rich in all natural resources possessed by the DR Congo. It is believed to be the richest region of the country which is also the reason why the conflict began and takes place there. The Tutsi warlord Gen Nkunda leader of the

National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP), who was believed to be

backed by Rwanda, started a war against the Hutu rebels named Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). The government trying to eliminate the conflict was accused by Nkunda of protecting FDLR. Everything changed when joint forces coming from DR Congo and Rwanda, trying to terminate the war, fought against FDLR while they also arrested Nkunda who was sentenced to house arrest. After his arrest the renewed UN peacekeeping Mission MONUSC in cooperation with the government undertook to defeat the FDLR, but failed. During the Kivu conflict a hopeful event occurred: the first democratic elections after the war took place in 2006. After two rounds in June and October, Joseph Kabila was elected the first post-conflict President of the DR Congo. Despite the actions of the government and the UN, the war was once again not terminated.

### M23 Rebellion-Current Situation (2012-present)

Former CNDP members were provided with important positions in the Congolese armed forces while CNDP became one of the official political parties in DR Congo.

However, on 23 March 2012, some former loyalists of Nkunda under the rule of Bosco Ntaganda formed a new rebel group to replace CNDP and fight against the government. One of its major achievements was to overtake Goma, the capital of North Kivu, in November 2012, which was liberated in December, due to the successful diplomatic negotiations between Kabila and the leaders of M23. The UN has so far repeatedly accused Rwanda and Uganda of supporting the rebellion, while it backed the signing of a peace agreement between African States on 24 February 2013 declaring the beginning of the actions of Africa towards stabilizing the DR Congo. Unfortunately, none of these actions had any effective result so far leading the UN to break for the first time its own rules and send peacekeeping troops as a combat force called “Intervention Brigade”. This force is settled to fight against the numerous rebel groups operating in the region and suppress the conflict in order to for peace to be restored. For many decades, the UN has been deploying peacekeeping missions to deal with such issues while nowadays it delegates such missions to other organizations, such as NATO.

In conclusion, during the period of war in DR Congo, the lives of the people have been impoverished, millions of people have been murdered and raped, every human right has been violated and over 2.2 million people have been displaced to neighboring countries, such as but not limited to Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia according to the UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR). All this facts prove the need of actions to be taken as soon as possible.



Picture 7: Signing of the Peace Agreement by the African leaders and the UNSG

## Major Countries and Organizations Involved

### DR Congo

The Congolese government has many times failed to eliminate rebels. It has many often asked for the support of other African nations. As mentioned before, Congo suffers from extreme poverty and its population suffers under the attacks of the various rebel groups. Congo has frequently tried to compromise peacefully with the rebels as well as to urge them to cease from their casualties for the people's sake. In addition, it was DR Congo who initially blamed its neighbors for the severe condition of the State.

### Rwanda and Uganda

Rwanda and Uganda had for many years been Congo's major rivals during and after the two Congo wars. On the one hand, both States have many times been accused by the UN and other States of supporting the M23 Movement with troops, equipment, funds and resources. On the other hand, both countries deny having done so while having signed the peace agreement they proposed the creation of an African army to defeat rebels. Therefore they firmly supported the creation of the "Brigade".

### Russian Federation and China

When supporting the establishment of the "Brigade", both States expressed their concern about the deteriorating situation in DR Congo. Initially, the representative of China stated that it is one of China's aims to improve the living standards of the Congolese people, while Russia, applauding the potential punishment of Ntaganda, congratulated the UN for the establishment of the combat force.

### USA

The relationships between the USA and DR Congo are really strong as they are based on bilateral economic and diplomatic agreements as well as assistance from the US to Congo. It is also obvious that Congo is of great interest for the States since it was them who supported Mobutu to seize power. However, the USA had been accused of ignoring the situation and supporting Rwanda till 2012 when President Obama officially condemned Rwanda's actions.

### EU

The European Union is one of the most active parties on the issue of DR Congo. The Union is leading two major missions in DR Congo named "EUSEC DR Congo" and "EUPOL DR Congo" while it also supported every other mission in the region. As stated officially by the EU representatives in the UN, it is of great importance for the union to stabilize the "fragile post-conflict country" of the DR Congo. Therefore, it has launched many missions while it has also made donations to the country.

## Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
May 1960	Lumumba wins the elections and becomes Prime Minister of the Belgian Congo
30 June 1960	Independence of DR Congo from the Kingdom of Belgium under the name "Republic of the Congo"
1 August 1964	The name "Republic of the Congo" changes to "DR Congo"
24 November 1965	Joseph Mobutu seizes power and becomes the Congolese President
27 October 1971	Mobutu changes the name of the country from "DR Congo" to "Zaire"
1994	Genocide in Rwanda, Tutsis take control of Rwanda and Hutus flee to Zaire
November 1996- May 1997	First Congo War (Rwanda invades in Zaire, Mobutu was replaced by Laurent-Désiré Kabila, "Zaire" changed to "DR Congo")
2 August 1998	Ignition of the Second Congo war, Rwanda and Uganda fought against the united forces of DR Congo, Angola, Chad, Namibia and Zimbabwe
10 July 1999	Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement
30 November 1999	UN Security Council Resolution 1279 establishing a peacekeeping force called "the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo" (MONUC)
30 July 2002	Pretoria Accord (Rwanda withdrew its troops)
6 September 2002	Luanda Agreement (Uganda withdrew its troops)
18 July 2003	Transitional Government comes into force, Official end of the Second Congo War
2004	Ignition of the Kivu Conflict between DR Congo and CNDP

-June 2006 -October 2006	-First Democratic elections -Second Round, Joseph Kabila becomes the President of the DR Congo
22 January 2009	Laurent Nkunda under house arrest
1 July 2010	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)
23 May 2012	M23 Movement leading to M23 Rebellion
24 February 2013	UN Agreement of African States aiming at stabilizing DR Congo
28 March 2013	Adoption of the UNSC resolution 2098 (UN to send for the first time its troops into battle)

### Relevant UN Treaties, Resolutions and Events

Since the Congolese independence on 30 June 1960, the UN has many times tried through special reports, resolutions, meetings and treaties to find an effective and feasible solution to stabilize the region. It was the UN who backed the adoption of the peace agreement of the African States and, in order to terminate the problem as soon as possible, decided to start a mission against rebels. Here are some of the main documents of the UN on the issue:

[UN Security Council Resolution 1279 \(1999\)](#)

[UN Security Council Resolution 1925 \(2010\)](#)

[UN Security Council Resolution 2053 \(2012\)](#)

[UN Security Council Resolution 2076 \(2012\)](#)

[UN Security Council Resolution 2078 \(2012\)](#)

[UN Security Council Resolution 2098 \(2013\)](#)



Picture 8: UN peacekeepers

## Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

The UN in cooperation with all governments of Congo's neighboring countries and DR Congo itself have been trying for many decades to end the wars and conflicts in the region and tackle all the problems from which the Republic suffers. With the most important being the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and the Peace Agreement of the African States this year, the UN

tried to find a widely accepted solution. Furthermore, the Security Council adopted resolutions in which many solutions were proposed. The latest action made by the United Nations was of utmost importance, where a mission called "Intervention Brigade" was deployed in order to combat the various rebel groups operating in the area. In addition, the UN International Criminal Court (ICC) asked for the capture of Ntaganda to be punished for his crimes against local people made during the war.

## Possible Solutions

This year's Security Council is called to come up with solutions proposing feasible and effective measures. Delegates should propose clauses aiming at the elimination the power of the rebel groups while following the rules of the United Nations. The resolution must also include clauses dealing with the vast number of people displaced due to the conflict and punishing criminals who took advantage of the general instability in DR Congo. It is also believed that measures for the creation of friendly relations between DR Congo and its neighbors so as to prevent further wars between the Africa States in the future would be possible solutions for the problem. Another aspect of the issue that should be looked into in this year's SC is whether further offensive measures such as the "Intervention Brigade" have to be taken and whether the recent action of the UNSC is going to have a positive impact on the situation.



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