



## **Dear Delegates,**

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2016 Montessori Model United Nations Conference.

The following pages intend to guide you in the research of the topics that will be debated at MMUN 2016 in committee sessions. Please note this guide only provides the basis for your investigation. It is your responsibility to find as much information necessary on the topics and how they relate to the country you represent. Such information should help you write your Position Paper, where you need to cite the references in the text and finally list all references in the Modern Language Association (MLA) format.

The more information and understanding you acquire on the two topics, the more you will be able to influence the Resolution writing process through debates [formal and informal caucuses], and the MMUN experience as a whole. Please feel free to contact us if and when you face challenges in your research or formatting your Position Papers.

We encourage you to learn all you can about your topics first and then study your country with regard to the two selected topics. Please remember that both committee members need to be well versed and ready to debate both topics.

Enjoy researching and writing your Position Papers.

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

MMUN Secretariat Team  
[info@montessori-mun.org](mailto:info@montessori-mun.org)



## The Security Council

---

Under the Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security. The Security Council also recommends to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and the admission of new Members to the United Nations. And, together with the General Assembly, it elects the judges of the International Court of Justice.

Source: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>

Website: [www.montessori-mun.org](http://www.montessori-mun.org)  
Email: [info@montessori-mun.org](mailto:info@montessori-mun.org)

# The Situation in The Democratic Republic Of Congo

## Topic Background

---

The conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC, formerly known as Zaire) has involved seven nations and has been nicknamed “Africa’s first World War”. From the violent 1885 Belgian imposition of colonial rule by King Leopold II<sup>1</sup>, DR Congo’s history has been one of civil war and corruption. After independence in 1960, the country immediately faced an army rebellion and an attempt at separation by its mineral-rich province, Katanga. Following the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and the establishment of a new government there, some 1.2 million Rwandese Hutus (including those who carried out the genocide) fled to the neighboring Kivu regions of eastern DRC, an area inhabited by ethnic Tutsis and others.<sup>2</sup>

A rebellion began there in 1996, between the forces led by Laurent Désiré Kabila and the army of President Mobutu Sese Seko. Kabila’s forces, aided by Rwanda and Uganda, took the capital city of Kinshasa in 1997 and renamed the country the Democratic Republic of the Congo<sup>3</sup>. In 1998, a rebellion against the Kabila government started in the Kivu regions. Within weeks, the rebels had seized large areas of the country. Angola, Chad, Namibia and Zimbabwe promised President Kabila military support, but the rebels maintained their grip on the eastern regions. Rwanda and Uganda supported the rebel movement called the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD). The Security Council called for a ceasefire and the withdrawal of foreign forces, and urged states not to interfere in the country’s internal affairs.<sup>4</sup>

A UN report from 2015 estimates the total number of internally displaced persons in the DRC at 2.8 million, and states that approximately 6.5 million people are in a situation of acute food insecurity. The report also estimates that new internally displaced persons in the first quarter of 2015 was 337,000. Almost two thirds of this number are in North Kivu, partially as a result of the launch of military operations by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo-FARDC) against rebel FDLR (Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda) in late February 2015.<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile in North Kivu,

---

<sup>1</sup> The Democratic republic of Congo, Global Issues, <http://bit.ly/1NWDdjg>

<sup>2</sup> Background, MUNOSCO, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/monusco/background.shtml>

<sup>3</sup> Background, MUNOSCO, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/monusco/background.shtml>

<sup>4</sup> Background, MUNOSCO, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/monusco/background.shtml>

<sup>5</sup> Report of the Secretary-General on the MUNOSCO, United Nations, <http://bit.ly/1fFqUJT>

the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) continues to pose a significant threat to security in Beni, with increasingly deadly attacks against the civilian population, the FARDC and MONUSCO. The humanitarian situation deteriorated in several areas of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo as a result of significant increases in killings, sexual violence, and abductions, especially in Beni and Rutshuru territories.

## **Past International Actions**

---

In 1998, in response to the rebellion against the Kabila government, the Security Council called for a ceasefire and the withdrawal of foreign forces, and urged states not to interfere in the country's internal affairs. Following the signing of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement in July 1999 between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and five regional States (Angola, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe), the Security Council established the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) by its resolution 1279.<sup>6</sup> The initial role of MONUC was to observe the ceasefire and disengage forces and later with an expanded mandate to supervise the implementation of ceasefire agreements and other related tasks. In July 2010, the Security Council, by its resolution 1925, renamed MONUC the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to reflect the new phase of peacekeeping reached in the country. Since 2013, the United Nations has taken various actions that have been documented by the Security Council Report<sup>7</sup>. This includes the latest UN Security Council resolution renewing MONUSCO and its intervention brigade until 31 March 2016 and the report of the Secretary General on the work of the UN Mission in DRC. In March 2013, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2098, which created a specialized "intervention brigade" to strengthen the peacekeeping operation. That resolution strongly condemned the 23 March Movement (M23), the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), and all other armed groups and their continuing violence and abuses of human rights. Also in 2013 the UN secured a regional agreement to end the M23 rebellion in eastern areas, and the group's alleged founder Bosco Ntaganda surrendered to the International Criminal Court to face war-crimes charges<sup>8</sup>. MONUSCO has succeeded in helping with the decentralization process and helping the DRC government maintain relative economic stability. However, there was limited progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Declarations of December 12, 2013<sup>9</sup>. In that declaration, one of the rebel groups in DRC (the former M23) confirms that it has renounced the armed struggle and has placed its fighters at the disposal of the Government of the DRC for demobilization and reintegration and the Government of the DRC, in its declaration, takes note of the promise made

---

<sup>6</sup> MONUSCO, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/monusco/background.shtml>

<sup>7</sup> UN Documents for Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Security Council Report, <http://bit.ly/1LdPSIr>

<sup>8</sup> Democratic Republic of Congo-Country Profile, BBC, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13283212>

<sup>9</sup> Report of the Secretary-General on the MONUSCO, United Nations, <http://bit.ly/1fFqUJT>

by M23 and accepts to grant amnesty only to rebels who are not guilty of war crimes or crimes against humanity.<sup>10</sup>

The persistent threats in the Northern Kivu province of the DRC has given rise to significant activities by non-governmental Organizations like Action Kivu and CAMME. Action Kivu<sup>11</sup> invests in the women, children and communities of Congo through vocational training and education, creating paths toward peace and prosperity. It is focused on the volatile Kivu region of the DRC and their approach is in two areas: entrepreneurial programs for women and education assistance for children. CAMME<sup>12</sup> is a non-governmental organization with the aim to help the youth of DR Congo live a future free of exploitation, maximize their potential, and help themselves. CAMME is the French acronym for Centre d'Appui en faveur des Mineurs Marginalisés et Exploités (The Center to Support Marginalized and Exploited Youth).

## Possible Solutions

---

The UN Task Team on the Post- 2015 UN Development Agenda reports that fragile and conflict-affected countries account for more than 60 percent of the people living in severe underdevelopment<sup>13</sup>. This means that while many developing countries are experiencing progress, those worst-off risk being left further behind. Aside from claiming lives, causing tremendous physical pain and emotional suffering, conflict and armed violence disrupts markets, displaces populations, destroys schools, clinics and roads, and scar families, communities, and societies.<sup>14</sup>

Conflicts like those of the DRC hamper the achievement of all the MDGs, because protracted conflicts take the focus and resources away from the MDGs, and also diminish the human resource capacity of a state for planning policy, making decisions, and designing programs.<sup>15</sup> For instance, in 2011, the World bank<sup>16</sup> reports that the countries affected by violence account for: 60 percent of the world's undernourished; 61 percent of the world's impoverished; 77 percent of children not in primary school; 59 percent of children not in secondary school; 70 percent of infant deaths; 64 percent of unattended births; 71 percent of child under 5 deaths; 43 percent of persons living with HIV/AIDS and 65 percent of people without access to improved sanitation.

---

<sup>10</sup> Letter of permanent representative of DRC to the UN, <http://bit.ly/1KzdCw9>

<sup>11</sup> Action-Kivu, <http://www.actionkivu.org/about-us/>

<sup>12</sup> CAMME, <http://cammedrcongo.org/>

<sup>13</sup> UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, Peace and security thematic think piece (2012), <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/mdg.shtml>

<sup>14</sup> Geneva Declaration, Armed Violence Prevention And Reduction Challenge For Achieving The MillenniumDevelopment Goals (2008), <http://www.refworld.org/docid/494a4b952.html>

<sup>15</sup> 'Violent Crime as an Impediment to the Achievement Of Millennium Development Goals in Africa' Igwe, Dickson, Journal of Military Strategic Studies vol 13.2 (2011), <http://bit.ly/1ISii8Z>

<sup>16</sup> World Bank, World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development (2011), <http://bit.ly/1j17idG>

In the specific example of Eastern DRC, as many as 70 percent of children do not have access to a school<sup>17</sup> due to the instability.

Over the years, the presence of MONUSCO has celebrated a couple of successes which include the continuous engagement of conflicting parties and the monitoring of a ceasefire agreements between government forces and rebel groups. However, the occasional attacks by small rebel groups and the responses by government forces have sometimes reversed such progress. The international partners (the UN, EU, AU, etc.) seem to be comfortable with the amnesty principle (as used in the case of M23) as long as amnesty does not apply to the worst crimes under international law<sup>18</sup>. There are doubts as to how this is effective in bringing lasting peace. There is a disagreement as to whether political dialogue or military means is best to address the problem of armed rebellion in eastern DRC. Some argue for a mix of both: “neutralizing” armed groups while engaging in security sector and institutional reforms.<sup>19</sup> It is therefore important for delegates to provide a clear position about this key issue.

Aside this, the UN thinks that achieving durable peace and stability will require the root causes of conflict to be addressed, including the extension of State authority, the finding of sustainable solutions for former combatants and development<sup>20</sup>. Delegates therefore need to consider how the root cause of the conflict can be addressed such as equitably distributing power, ensuring adequate representation of minority groups in DRC and effective management of mineral resources for the benefit of all. As the world works towards adopting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>21</sup> this year, the member states of the UN should be mindful that achieving SDG 16 which seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels would require resolving protracted conflicts like the one in the DRC. Hence the time to act and find a sustainable solution is now!

## Further Research

---

### *Guiding Questions*

1. How can rebels be persuaded to lay down their arms without using violence to force them to surrender?
2. How can government and international actors ensure that those who commit war crimes do not use amnesty as an excuse to avoid being prosecuted?
3. What needs to be done to rebuild trust and unity in the country?

---

<sup>17</sup> The Impact Of Armed Violence On Poverty And Development(2005), Centre For International Cooperation And Security, <http://bit.ly/1KzdaOD>

<sup>18</sup> Making sense of the DRC declarations on M23, IRIN, <http://bit.ly/1g4ddnd>

<sup>19</sup> Making sense of the DRC declarations on M23, IRIN, <http://bit.ly/1g4ddnd>

<sup>20</sup> Report of the Secretary-General on the MUNOSCO, United Nations, <http://bit.ly/1fFqUJT>

<sup>21</sup> Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1565>

### *Research Sources*

- [The Security Council Reports](#)
- [United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)
- [Saferworld Issue Paper 1: The Impact of conflict and violence on achieving development](#)
- [Action Kivu](#)

### *Questions*

1. Name the seven countries involved in the DRC conflict
2. What is the name of the UN Mission in the DRC?
3. Which of the MDGs are affected by the conflict in the DRC?
4. Mention two major ways through which the DRC conflict hinders the achievement of the MDGs
5. Name two NGOs that are working in DRC to lessen the effect of the conflict on citizens

### *Answers*

1. DRC, Angola, Chad, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Rwanda
2. United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo
3. All the MDGs (1-8)
4. It prevents the development of human resource and it disrupts the implementation of development policies
5. Action Kivu and CAMME