

**DASMUN XVI**



**March. 8-9, 2024**



# **SECURITY COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT**

*Topic: The Crisis in Congo*



## **Dear Delegates,**

It is a pleasure to welcome you to DASMUN 2024.

The following pages intend to guide you in the research of the topics that will be debated at 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.

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 DASMUN 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.



## Table of Contents

Message from Chairs	4
Committee Introduction	5
Topic Introduction	6
Definition of Key Terms	7
Major Parties and Organizations Involved	9
History and Timeline of Events	10
Previous Attempts to Solve this Issue	12
Possible Solutions	14
Questions to Consider	15
Bibliography	16



## **Message from the Chairs:**

*Hi everyone! I'm your chair, Sarah Alsulaim, a senior at Albassam School. As your chair, my goal is to make sure that you all leave this conference with a goal achieved and an unforgettable experience. I absolutely can't wait to work with and see you all in person!*

*Hello, I'm your co-chair Nouf Alqahtani. I look forward to chairing Security Council. I am also immensely excited to meet you all in the conference and see you take on the roles of delegates.*

*We are both delighted to welcome you to the United Nations Security Council (SC) at Dhahran Ahliyya's fifteenth annual Model United Nations Conference! As your chairs, it is our pleasure to guide you toward an appropriate solution to ongoing problems. To create change, we would like to hear how some of the brightest minds come up with ideas, refine their communication skills, and work together.*



## **Introduction to the Committee:**

As one of the UN's six principal organs, the Security Council is unique among the committees offered at NHSMUN in its membership, scope, and power. The UNSC has a unique, preventive, and reactionary role in the UN—it is meant to respond to international crises and maintain international peace. In response to such crises, the Council can mandate decisive actions such as peace talks, mediations, negotiations, and meetings.

The Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It consists of 15 members, 5 permanent members ( P5 ): China, France, Russian Federation, The United Kingdom, and the United States, and 10 non-permanent members which are elected by the General Assembly, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. They introduce solutions in order to ease the situation at hand and establish international peace.

In addition, the 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 the 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.

Some of the successful constitutes registered in the UN include over 30 sanctions regimes: Southern Rhodesia, South Africa, Yugoslavia, Haiti, Iraq, Angola, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Liberia, DRC, Ivory Coast, Sudan, Lebanon, DPRK, Iran, Libya, Guinea-Bissau, CAR, Yemen, Mali, South Sudan, ISIL, AL-Qaeda, and Taliban.



## **Introduction to the Topic:**

The conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo 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, 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.

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. 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.

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 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.



## **Definition of Key Terms:**

### **Chattel Slavery:**

- Chattel slavery refers to the ownership of individuals as property, giving owners the legal right to buy, sell, and inherit them. This form of slavery was historically prevalent, especially during transatlantic slave trade, but it is not a term commonly associated with the current situation in the DRC.

### **Armed Conflict:**

- Armed conflict involves the use of armed force between two or more organized groups, typically governments or rebel factions. In the context of the DRC, armed conflicts have been a significant aspect, with various rebel groups operating in different regions.

### **Humanitarian Crisis:**

- A humanitarian crisis refers to a situation where there is a widespread threat to health, safety, and well-being, often resulting from natural disasters, armed conflicts, or other emergencies. In the DRC, the humanitarian crisis is characterized by displacement, food insecurity, and limited access to basic services.

### **Forced Labor:**

- Forced labor involves compelling individuals to work against their will, often through coercion or threats. In the DRC, forced labor has been associated with certain economic activities, including those related to natural resource extraction.

### **Child Soldiers:**

- Child soldiers are individuals under the age of 18 who are recruited and used by armed forces or armed groups for various purposes, including combat or support roles. The use of child soldiers has been a concern in the DRC due to conflicts involving multiple armed groups.

### **Resource Exploitation:**

- Resource exploitation refers to the often-unsustainable use or extraction of natural resources, such as minerals, timber, or oil. In the DRC, the exploitation of



resources has been linked to conflict, as armed groups may finance their activities through control over resource-rich areas.

**Peacekeeping Mission (e.g., MONUSCO):**

- A peacekeeping mission involves the deployment of international military and/or civilian personnel to maintain peace and security in regions affected by conflict. MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) is one such mission operating in the DRC.

**Political Instability:**

- Political instability refers to a situation where a country experiences frequent changes in government, social unrest, or political uncertainty. The DRC has faced periods of political instability, including transitions of power, and contested elections.





## Major Parties and Organizations Involved:

- **Rwanda:** Rwanda has been implicated in supporting rebel groups in the eastern part of the DRC. The involvement of Rwanda has historical roots, and tensions between the two countries have been a contributing factor to the instability in the region.
- **Uganda:** Similar to Rwanda, Uganda has faced accusations of supporting rebel groups in the DRC. The involvement of neighboring countries in the conflict has added complexity to the situation.
- **United Nations (UN):** The United Nations, through the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), has played a significant role in addressing security challenges, protecting civilians, and promoting stability in the DRC.
- **African Union (AU):** The African Union has been involved in diplomatic efforts and peace initiatives aimed at resolving the conflicts in the DRC. The AU seeks to promote stability and address the root causes of the crisis.
- **Southern African Development Community (SADC):** SADC has been engaged in regional efforts to address political and security challenges in the Great Lakes region, including the DRC.
- **European Union (EU):** The European Union has provided financial and diplomatic support to peace and stabilization efforts in the DRC. The EU also plays a role in promoting governance and development.
- **United States:** The U.S. has shown interest in the DRC, supporting initiatives for peace and stability. Additionally, the U.S. has implemented sanctions against individuals and entities involved in human rights abuses and corruption in the region.
- **China:** China has economic interests in the DRC, particularly in the mining sector. Chinese companies have been involved in investments and infrastructure projects, contributing to the economic dynamics of the region.



## History and Timeline of Events:

Date	Description of event
<b>Pre-independence era:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Late 19th to mid-20th century: Belgian colonization of the Congo; exploitation of resources and oppression of the local population.</li></ul>
<b>1960s</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1960: DRC gains independence from Belgium; political instability and power struggles ensue.</li><li>• 1965: Mobutu Sese Seko takes power in a coup, beginning a long period of authoritarian rule</li></ul>
<b>1996-1997</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Internal conflicts escalate, leading to the First Congo War involving various African nations.</li><li>• Mobutu is ousted, and Laurent-Désiré Kabila comes to power.</li></ul>
<b>1998-2003</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A regional conflict involving multiple African countries.</li><li>• Kabila is assassinated in 2001, and his son, Joseph Kabila, takes over.</li><li>• The war officially ends in 2003, but violence and instability persist in the eastern regions.</li></ul>
<b>2003-2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transition period with efforts to establish a stable government.</li><li>• Elections in 2006 lead to Joseph Kabila becoming president. Various armed groups continue to operate in the eastern part of the country.</li></ul>



<b>2012-2013</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The M23 rebel group takes control of parts of eastern Congo.</li><li>● International pressure and military action force M23 to disband in 2013.</li></ul>
<b>2016-2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Protests and political tensions mount as Joseph Kabila delays elections.</li><li>● In 2019, Félix Tshisekedi is declared the winner of the presidential election.</li></ul>
<b>Humanitarian Challenges (now):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Safety concerns in the eastern provinces have surged, causing a notable rise in protection incidents, especially those related to sexual violence, and imposing severe limitations on humanitarian activities.</li><li>● DRC has faced various humanitarian challenges, including issues related to forced labor, child labor, and human trafficking</li></ul>



## Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue:

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. 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.

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. For instance, in 2011, the World bank 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.

In the specific example of Eastern DRC, as many as 70 percent of children do not have access to a school 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. 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. 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. 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) 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**.



## **Possible Solutions:**

### **1. Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution:**

- Facilitate inclusive peace talks and initiatives to address the root causes of conflicts.
- Strengthen peacebuilding initiatives to promote reconciliation and social cohesion within communities.

### **2. Governance and Rule of Law:**

- Strengthen democratic institutions, governance, and the rule of law to build political stability.

### **3. Resource Management:**

- Enforce responsible resource extraction practices and ensure fair revenue distribution.

### **4. Humanitarian Assistance:**

- Increase international support for immediate needs and collaborate on effective aid delivery.

### **5. Security Sector Reform:**

- Undertake comprehensive security sector reform to address issues of impunity.
- Address issues of impunity and hold perpetrators of human rights abuses accountable.



## Questions to Consider:

- 1. What are the key human rights issues in the DRC, including issues related to forced labor, child labor, and displacement?*
- 2. How have health crises, such as outbreaks of diseases like Ebola, intersected with the broader crisis?*
- 3. What are the prospects for stability and recovery in the DRC?*
- 4. What is the political landscape in the DRC, and how has it evolved over time?*
- 5. How can rebels be persuaded to lay down their arms without using violence to force them to surrender?*



## Bibliography (MLA):

Security Council Report. Democratic Republic of the Congo: Briefing and Consultations. 2022. Retrieved 29 January 2024 from: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2022/06/democratic-republic-of-the-congo-briefing-and-consultations-6.php>

Tsongo. Al Jazeera. What is the latest conflict in the DR Congo about? 2022. Retrieved 29 January 2024 from: <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2022/6/21/explainer-what-is-the-latest-conflict-in-the-dre#:text=On%20May%206%2C%202021%2C%20DRC,civilian%20areas%20are%20being%20targeted>

United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Background. 2022. Retrieved 3 July 2022 from: <https://monusco.unmissions.org/en/background>

United Nations Peacekeeping. MONUSCO Fact Sheet. n.d. Retrieved 29 January 2024 from: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/monusco>

United Nations Secretary General. Joint strategy on the progressive and phased drawdown of MONUSCO, October 2020 (S/2020/1041). 2020. Retrieved 29 January 2024 from: <https://undocs.org/en/S/2020/1041>

United Nations, Security Council. Resolution 2556 (S/RES/2556 (2020)). 2020. Retrieved 29 January 2024 from: <https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2556>

United Nations, Security Council. Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2022/503). 2022. Retrieved 29 January 2024 from: <https://undocs.org/en/S/2022/503>