



MUNES

26

STUDY GUIDE

SPECPOL

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1. Welcoming Letters

1.1 Letter from the Secretariat

Dear Delegates, As Eskişehir's first and only official MUN, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to MUNES'26, a historic Model UN Conference. This conference is a special opportunity to promote cooperation, critical thinking, and diplomacy among young people in our city and beyond. In order to ensure that every aspect of this conference reflects excellence, dedication, and a commitment to providing a truly transformative experience, the Academy has brought together the most gifted students from all management teams of local MUNs. The Eskişehir Municipality and Governorship, along with the prestigious companies that have supported this event, are proud to support MUNES'26. Their contributions and trust demonstrate the importance of MUNES as a catalyst for civic engagement, youth leadership, and the advancement of global awareness in Eskişehir. We really care about setting the rules for talking working together and cooperating with other countries as the only Model United Nations that represents our city. We are the Model United Nations for our city and we want to make sure we do a good job of discussing things and working with other people from different countries. We think it is very important to have discussions, diplomacy, and international collaboration as the Model United Nations, for our city. This conference is an opportunity for you to think like world leaders. You get to discuss problems that affect the whole world and come up with new ideas to solve them. As a delegate, you are representing the country you were assigned to. You also need to show that you can work well with others respect each other and understand points of view which is what the United Nations is all about. I want each of you to take part fully in your committees. Listen to what other people have to say even if you do not agree with them.. When things get tough be brave and curious and try to find a way to make it work. The United Nations is, about people working together so let us make that happen at this conference. I want to wish every delegate the best of luck during their sessions on behalf of the organizing team. I hope your discussions are enlightening, your partnerships fruitful, and your MUNES'26 experiences motivating. Let this conference be a journey of self-improvement, deep connections, and a long-term dedication to changing the world and your communities for the better.

Best regards, MUNES Secretary General
Çağlar Baran Topaç

1.2 Letter from the Chairboard

Dear Delegates,

My name is Eren Keklik and I will be serving as your head chair in MUNES'26 SPECPOL committee. I am really excited to have this experience for myself and also that I will have the chance to meet and spend 3 days together with you.

Our agenda item is going to be "The issue of regional security in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the effect of foreign interference." Our focus will be on addressing the difficulties in a particular region.

I wish everybody a fruitful, fun, and educational conference. Be assured that as the chair-board, we will do our best to supply you with that experience. I honestly can't wait to see you in our committee debating and having fun. Please keep in mind that you can contact me or my beloved vice chair Melek if you need any help throughout your preparation process. Do not hesitate to contact us!

MainChair

ErenKeklik

kilkeknere@gmail.com

Deardelegates,

I am delighted to welcome you all to MUNES'26 as the Vice-Chair of the SPECPOL committee.

My name is Melek, and this will be my second chairboard experience.

This committee has a special place in my heart so being a part of the chairboard makes me a little emotional, I hope we can make it special for you too!

Please feel free to talk even though the agenda could be a little challenging, because debates are where the fun in diplomacy starts. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. I wish you all a productive and most importantly a fun conference, I can't wait to meet you all!

Last but not least, I hope you all love and enjoy SPECPOL as much as I do!!

With best wishes,

Vice-Chair

Nisa Melek GÜREŞ

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2. Introduction to the Committee and Topic

2.1 Overview of the Committee



The United Nations was established in 1945 to address the pressing need for decolonization after World War II, and this is where the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) got its start. The Fourth Committee's original purpose was to supervise non-self-governing regions and assist them in achieving independence and self-determination. The committee gave dozens of countries around the world escaping colonial rule an essential diplomatic platform, legal frameworks, and international oversight. It focused its efforts on a wider range of international issues after merging with the Special Political Committee in 1993, such as peacekeeping

missions, Palestinian refugees, mine action, and the peaceful uses of space. From the decolonization era to the intricate geopolitical issues that impact millions of people today, SPECPOL's mission has remained constant. The committee works to defend everyone's fundamental rights to security, peace, and self-determination, regardless of their identity or place of residence.

2.2 Introduction to the Agenda Item

The issue of regional security in the Democratic Republic of Congo still is a heavily concerning situation for the well-being of the continent of Africa. The problem started way before now, with its roots going back to Leopold III. Despite having an incredibly efficient resources, the area is now widely known for its instability. This instability is largely driven by the presence of armed groups, weak governance structures, and ongoing tensions between ethnic communities.

This agenda item invites delegates to critically examine the root causes of insecurity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with a particular focus on the impact of foreign interference. Delegates are encouraged to explore comprehensive and cooperative solutions that address both regional dynamics and internal governance issues, aiming to promote sustainable peace, protect civilian populations, and strengthen regional security frameworks.

3. Background of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

3.1 Political and Geographical Overview of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo is in the Sub-Saharan region of Africa and is the 9th biggest country in land area. The country lies on the equator. Most of the country lies within the vast hollow of the Congo River Basin. The vast, low-lying central area is a plateau-shaped basin sloping toward the west, covered by tropical rainforest and criss-crossed by rivers. The forest center is surrounded by mountainous terraces in the west, plateaus merging into savannas in the south and southwest. Dense grasslands extend beyond the Congo River in the north. The high mountains of the Ruwenzori Range are



found on the eastern borders with Rwanda and Uganda

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is, constitutionally, a semi-presidential republic in which the president is the head of state, elected by universal suffrage to a term of five years, while the prime minister is the head of government, appointed by the president with the support of the majority party or coalition of parties in the parliament.

The DRC's political system is considered to be authoritarian and scores low on rankings of democracy, political rights, and civil liberties. Despite the constitution providing for the separation of executive, legislative, and judicial powers, in practice the president and his associates have dominated the political system. Freedom House rates the country as "not free" in 2025, citing endemic corruption, the manipulation of the political system, and human rights abuses, including by security forces. *The Economist Democracy Index* described the DRC as an "authoritarian regime" in 2024, ranking it 156 out of the 167 countries that it evaluated. The DRC was also ranked 163 out of 180 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index for 2024. Administrative institutions remain weak, especially in rural areas, undermining the ability of the government to provide basic services to the population. The state has also struggled to extend its administration over the country's entire territory. The Fragile States Index ranked the DRC the 5th most fragile country in the world, out of 179 countries, as of 2024.

3.2 Historical Roots of the Conflict

3.2.1 The First Congo War

Delegates must urgently keep in mind that before the current regime, the country of the DRC was named Zaire until this war situation took place. The war started in 24 October 1996. By 1996, Zaire was in a situation of heavy economic hardship due to the 1994 Rwandan Genocide, which had led to an even bigger refugee crisis in West Zaire. Militant groups that are rooted back to the refugee population have been the backbone of the entrance to this bloody war. The war began when Rwanda invaded eastern Zaire in 1996 to target rebel groups that had sought refuge there. This invasion expanded as Uganda, Burundi, Angola, and Eritrea joined. Violence and ethnic killings were way more common than acceptable at that period of time. The instability caused by this war led to a heavier war called The Second Congo War.

3.2.2 The Second Congo War

War The conflict erupted on 2 August 1998 in DRC exactly one year after the First Congo War. The war initially erupted when Congolese president Laurent-Désiré Kabila turned against his former allies from Rwanda and Uganda, who had helped him seize power. The war ended in 2003 with the establishment of the Transitional Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Second Congo War has been the direct cause of the deaths of 5.4 million people. Making it the deadliest war after World War II.

3.2.3 Post-war Instability and Armed Groups

The Second Congo War ended in 2003. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was not okay. The country was in a bad situation.

The government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had a time keeping everything under control. They had trouble managing the parts of the country like North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri.

After the war a big problem was that many groups with guns showed up. A lot of these groups had fought in the war. They did not want to stop fighting. They just kept on fighting on their own. Some of these groups were the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, the Mai-Mai militias and the M23 rebel group. They said they were protecting their people but they also did some very bad things. They took things that did not belong to them like gold, coltan and cobalt.

Other countries got involved in the Democratic Republic of the Congo which made things worse. Countries like Rwanda and Uganda helped some of these groups because it was good for them. This help kept the groups with guns going. Made the violence, in the area keep happening. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was still very unstable.

4. Regional Security Challenges

4.1 Role of Neighboring Countries in the Conflict

Neighboring nations have played and now actively playing a crucial role in the ongoing conflict due to geographic and political reasons. For example, in the case of Rwanda, it has been justified in its actions due to the presence of hostile armed groups in eastern Congo, especially those linked to the perpetrators of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. In addition to that, Uganda has also cited security concerns over rebel groups that use DRC territory to launch attacks against Uganda. These security concerns have been cited as a way to justify military incursions into DRC territory.

However, aside from security concerns, economic interests have also been a major



(a photo showing the mass graves in Rwanda)

factor in the conflict in DRC. This is because eastern DRC is known to have large quantities of natural resources such as coltan, gold, and cobalt, which are considered valuable resources in the global market. It has been suggested that neighboring states have been in DRC to access these resources. This unwanted involvement has caused the trouble to be more concerning and “urgent agreement needed” for the SPECPOL. It can be successfully stated that the lack of trust and agreement between armed militant and ethnic guerilla groups has been the fuel behind this conflict. Delegates must acknowledge that the role of neighboring countries is therefore essential for addressing the root causes of instability in the DRC and for developing effective, cooperative regional security solutions. As it can be understood therefore, foreign interference has a great role behind nearly every single conflict taking place in the far eastern Great Lakes region of DRC (Zaire).

4.2 Armed Rebel Groups in Eastern Congo

The current security landscape is controlled by a handful of prominent groups with their specific agendas:

The M23 (March 23 Movement): This is the best-equipped group in North Kivu Province. In recent years, the M23 has been involved in conventional war activities, including the deployment of tactical drones and sophisticated communication devices. This has maintained the existing diplomatic tensions between the DRC and Rwanda, with the latter often accused of direct support for the group.

The ADF (Allied Democratic Forces): This was originally a Ugandan rebel group that has evolved into a deadly branch of the Islamic State (ISCAP). This group has brought international terrorism to the region, exemplified by the deployment of IEDs and mass killings of civilians.



The FDLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda): This Hutu-dominated militia was formed during the 1994 genocide and has maintained a presence in the region, which has been used as an excuse for various interventions and ethnic divisions.

The Wazalendo (Patriots): This is a new entrant in the region, exemplified by loose alliances between youths and former militias who have been "deputized" by the government to fight against the M23, thus creating yet another layer of undisciplined weaponry in the region.

The armed rebel groups in Eastern Congo have become more than a byproduct of past wars they are the architects of a permanent state of instability in the region. A military solution will be inadequate to address their influence; it will require a total approach that touches on the economic lifeblood of the conflict, one that mandates global transparency in the region's mineral trade and settles the wider geopolitical rivalries of regional powers at stake in the Great Lakes.

5. Foreign Interference and Its Impact

However, the instability in Eastern Congo is not solely a local issue. It is a complicated situation where the interests of various countries are being prioritized over the sovereignty of the DRC. The countries whose interference is the most direct are Rwanda and Uganda. Although both countries claim to be protecting their borders from rebels, the international community claims otherwise.

Rwanda has been under immense pressure from the U.S. due to its support of rebels. It has been sanctioned by the U.S., bringing the region to the brink of a war between countries. However, Uganda is playing a double role. It is assisting the Congo army in the fight against terrorists, but Uganda is also accused of reaping the benefits of the illegal smuggling of gold.

The interference of foreign nations like Belgium and France also adds to the complexity. Being a colonial master over DRC, Belgium has a huge stake in mining in DRC and often finds it difficult to strike a balance between business and politics. Although the European Union provides the most humanitarian aid to DRC, the government often complains that Western nations are not taking a tough enough stance against nations that are fueling the war in DRC.

Due to all these complexities, DRC is now trying to forge new alliances. One of the major foreign nations that has emerged as a major player in the DRC in recent times is China. It not only buys the most minerals from DRC but also supplies it with military equipment. The sophisticated drones that China supplies to DRC have recently changed the dynamics of war in DRC.

Ultimately, it's foreign interference that destroys the DRC from within. Although nations like South Africa and Angola are trying to take a lead in bringing peace to the DRC, it's the global demand for minerals like cobalt that keeps the war going in the DRC.

6. International Organizations and Peacekeeping Efforts

6.1 The Role of the United Nations in the Conflict

The United Nations has the important duty of handling all affected people's needs by creating special funds according to all delegations' benefits.

The United Nations has been in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a long time. They have a lot of people working there to try and keep the peace. The main job of these people is to protect civilians who get caught in the fighting. The United Nations has sent thousands of people from countries to help stabilize the area make sure people get the help they need and watch out for human rights abuses in remote areas.

People are not sure if the United Nations is really helping. They have been able to help with elections and stay in areas where the government is not working. However many people in the Congo are frustrated with the United Nations. They think the peacekeepers are not doing enough to stop the violence. This has made people lose trust in the United Nations. They have started to protest. The United Nations has decided to leave the country, which's a big deal. Now the government of the Congo has to take care of security. They are not ready yet. This is making a lot of people worried about what will happen

The United Nations does more than just keep the peace. They also help with talks and take care of big refugee camps. These camps are where people can get food, water and medical care.. These camps are also where rebels can sneak in and recruit new members. If the United Nations leaves quickly the whole area could fall apart and that would be a disaster.

6.2 Regional Organizations and Peace Initiatives

Since the United Nations has had some problems other organizations in Africa have stepped in to help. Countries near the Congo have formed their own military groups to intervene. These groups are more willing to fight against the rebels. This is an example of " solutions for African problems " where African countries take care of their own problems.

Some African leaders have also helped with talks between the government of the Congo and other countries. They want to stop the war, which is often fought over resources and political interests. They are trying to create a plan for securing the borders, sending fighters back home and sharing natural resources.. It is hard to make a deal that will last because many people are making money from the war and they do not want it to end.

6.3 Challenges in Maintaining Regional Security

It is very hard to keep the peace in Eastern Congo. The geography of the area makes it difficult. The region is full of rainforests, mountains and borders that are hard to control. Rebel groups use this to their advantage. They hide in the forests and mountains. They cross into other countries to escape. It is impossible for any security force to control the area.

The conflict is also very complicated. There are different groups fighting and they all have different reasons for fighting. Some groups are fighting over issues while others are fighting for money. When one group makes a peace deal another group might start fighting. This creates a cycle of violence that's hard to stop. The national army is not strong enough to hold on to territory. When they leave an area rebels come back. This means that the people in the area are always scared and they cannot develop their communities.

The biggest problem is that there is a lot of money to be made from the war. Rebel commanders can make millions of dollars from mining and smuggling minerals. As long as they can make this money they do not want to make peace. This means that security is not a military issue but also an economic one. If the flow of money to the rebels is not stopped any peacekeeping effort will not work. The United Nations and other organizations need to address the root cause of the conflict, not the symptoms.

6.4 Importance of WFP

WFP is a strongly valued cooperation under the cause of its precious humanitarian aid related works. WFP reached 4.5 million people, including internally displaced people, returnees, host communities and refugees, with cash and food between January and September 2025. Over 1 million young children and pregnant or breastfeeding women and girls have received treatment to address and prevent acute malnutrition in 2025. WFP invests in resilience activities to build skills and capacity amongst communities and improve their long-term food security. This included training 70,000 smallholder farmers in post-harvest loss management, literacy, business skills, and collective marketing in eastern DRC – Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, and Tanganyika – in 2024, and 131,000 in total across the country.



7. Humanitarian and Social Consequences

The ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo has triggered a severe humanitarian crisis, which has only gotten worse due to regional instability and foreign interference. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that over 25 million people in the Democratic Republic of Congo need

humanitarian aid, underscoring just how critical things have become.

Displacement is one of the major issues in this crisis. The UNHCR states that more than 6.9 million people are internally displaced, mainly in the eastern provinces like North Kivu and Ituri. Armed groups like the March 23 Movement (M23) are forcing many to abandon their homes, creating insecurity not just in the Democratic Republic of Congo but also in neighboring countries.

The crisis is further intensified by human rights violations. The United Nations human rights office (OHCHR) has documented many cases, including extrajudicial killings, sexual violence, child soldier recruitment, and attacks on civilians, with women and children bearing the brunt of it. The Democratic Republic of Congo has become one of the most dangerous places for conflict-related sexual violence.

The ongoing violence has also devastated essential infrastructure like schools and healthcare facilities, severely limiting access to education and health services for future generations.

Another significant issue stemming from this conflict is food insecurity. Disruption of food production due to violence and displacement has led to widespread hunger and starvation, with the UN warning of critical food shortages in the area.

Foreign interference plays a significant role in the conflict, often making matters worse as outside actors exploit the country's natural resources. This external involvement is a key factor in the humanitarian and social crises facing the Democratic Republic of Congo. To tackle these challenges effectively, a coordinated international response is essential.

7.1 Displacement and Refugee Crisis

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there are over 6.9 million people displaced within the country, with many concentrated in the eastern provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri. Armed groups are the primary drivers of this insecurity and conflict-induced displacement.

Groups like the March 23 Movement contribute to the dangerous environment, forcing many to flee. Villages frequently come under attack, making it harder for residents to stay. Many internally displaced individuals now find themselves living in camps under dire conditions, lacking basic necessities like food, clean water, and healthcare.

In addition to those displaced internally, many have sought refuge in neighboring countries like Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. OCHA has pointed out that this mass movement of people is destabilizing those regions as well.

The social and economic fallout from this displacement is profound. People are losing their homes, jobs, and access to education, and children face heightened risks of exploitation as soldiers.

Foreign involvement has worsened the situation, with external support for armed groups extending conflict duration. As a result, those who have been displaced often cannot return home and remain stuck in refugee status without any clear way forward.

6.2 Human Rights Violations

Civilians are suffering immensely due to the violence. The OHCHR has highlighted numerous unlawful killings, with armed groups raiding villages, leading to deaths, injuries, and destruction of property. This only compounds the crisis concerning displaced persons.

Sexual violence remains a critical human rights issue in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The country is among the most affected by such violence in the context of conflict, predominantly impacting women and girls, although men and boys are also victimized. Here, sexual violence is tragically employed as a weapon of war to intimidate and control targeted populations. The long-term health consequences for victims are often worsened by

insufficient access to medical and legal assistance.

Another alarming issue is the recruitment of child soldiers. Armed groups enlist children to fight or assist in various roles, deeply affecting their mental health and development. Many are forcibly taken from their homes and schools, robbing them of their childhood.

Moreover, arbitrary arrests and detentions are not uncommon. In areas where government control is weak, accountability is minimal, making it hard to safeguard people's rights. The justice system in the Democratic Republic of Congo faces major challenges, complicating the ability to hold offenders accountable, leaving many to escape repercussions.

The involvement of foreign nations also hampers peace initiatives. Supporting armed groups makes it tough for local authorities to regain control, further prolonging the conflict.

Ultimately, the human rights violations occurring in the Democratic Republic of Congo are a global concern. It's vital to protect people's rights and ensure that justice is served to those who commit these crimes to improve the overall situation.

7.3 Impact on Women and Children

The ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has taken a serious toll on women and children, who are some of the most at-risk groups in the area. Violence, displacement, and insecurity have thrown daily life into chaos, making it hard for families to get basic services like education, healthcare, and safe shelter.

In these conflict zones, women face alarming rates of gender-based violence. Reports from organizations like the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) show that sexual assault, domestic violence, and exploitation are all too common. Armed groups often use these attacks to instill fear in communities. For survivors, finding medical help or emotional support is usually a struggle, which makes healing even tougher and impacts entire families.

Children are suffering too. Many are forced to flee their homes because of the violence, and some are taken by armed groups to serve as soldiers or porters. The United Nations Children's Fund points out that displaced kids often miss out on education, face malnutrition, and endure psychological trauma. Girls are especially vulnerable to sexual exploitation, early marriage, and forced labor, while boys can be pressured into combat roles. These harsh experiences can have lasting effects, making it hard for them to finish school and hindering their future prospects.

Moreover, when families are displaced, it only heightens their vulnerability. Overcrowded camps and makeshift settlements often mean women and children deal with unsanitary conditions, food scarcity, and insecurity. The lack of access to clean water and healthcare raises the chance of sickness and death, and with community structures falling apart, children often lack the care and protection they need.

Adding to this desperate situation is foreign involvement, which makes things worse. Support for armed groups from outside sources prolongs the conflict, preventing families from safely returning home. This extended turmoil keeps women and children stuck in dangerous conditions for years, continuing cycles of violence and poverty.

In summary, women and children in the DRC are shouldering the brunt of this humanitarian crisis. It's crucial to protect their rights, ensure they have access to necessary services, and create safe environments to alleviate their suffering and foster stability.

7.4 Long-Term Effects on Regional Stability

The conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) doesn't just impact the country itself; it also has serious repercussions for the overall stability of Central Africa. Ongoing violence, people being displaced, and foreign meddling create tensions that spill over into neighboring countries, undermining their security as well.

Reports from the United Nations Security Council highlight that armed groups like the March 23 Movement (M23) are operating close to the borders, which allows these conflicts to spread into places like Rwanda, Uganda, and Burundi. This cross-border activity raises the chances of clashes between these armed groups and national armies, making the region a lot more unstable. Additionally, the influx of refugees puts pressure on resources, housing, and social services in host nations, which can sometimes ignite local tensions. The instability also carries significant economic consequences. Trade routes get disrupted, managing natural resources becomes a challenge, and insecurity limits investment. This economic disruption doesn't just affect the DRC; it impacts neighboring countries that rely on regional trade. Ongoing conflict dampens development efforts, keeping the region stuck in a cycle of poverty and instability.

Social cohesion takes a hit too. Communities near the borders often find themselves hosting many displaced individuals, which can strain relationships between locals and these newcomers. Cultural tensions, competition for resources, and a lack of support from the government can spark localized conflicts. Moreover, children growing up in these tough conditions face interruptions in their education and exposure to violence, which only continues the cycle of insecurity.

The involvement of foreign parties exacerbates these long-term issues. External backing for armed groups can prolong the fighting and complicate diplomatic solutions. Consequently, peace agreements tend to be fragile, and areas that previously had minor issues can quickly become new conflict zones.

In short, the conflict in the DRC has lasting effects that extend beyond its borders. Strengthening regional cooperation, advancing conflict resolution, and minimizing external interference are crucial steps toward enhancing security and stability in Central Africa.

8. Current Developments and Ongoing Security Threats

The security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains unstable, particularly in the east. In recent years, violence has increased due to various armed groups and weak government control. These groups continue to attack civilians, take over territory, and create fear in local communities. One key player is the March 23 Movement (M23). This group has stepped up its activities and taken control of certain areas in North Kivu. Reports from the United Nations Security Council show that M23's actions have raised tensions in the region and caused concerns about a possible wider conflict. Fighting between armed groups and government forces continues, making the situation unpredictable. Another major issue is the large number of armed groups in the area. These factions battle for control over land and resources. As a result, civilians often find themselves in the middle of these conflicts. Attacks on villages, kidnappings, and looting are still common. This creates a persistent sense of insecurity, making it hard for people to return to normal life. Displacement continues to be a problem. Many people are leaving their homes because of violence and fear. The United

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that new waves of displacement happen whenever clashes escalate.

Camps for displaced individuals are overcrowded and lack basic services, leading to very difficult living conditions. Humanitarian access is also a significant challenge. Aid organizations frequently find it hard to reach those in need due to insecurity. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) notes that attacks on aid workers and limited access slow down the delivery of food, water, and medical help. Foreign involvement is another factor in the conflict. There are ongoing claims that some neighboring countries support armed groups in the DRC. This increases tensions between states and complicates diplomatic solutions. Thus, the conflict is not just a national problem but also a regional security issue. Furthermore, the situation remains fragile despite peace efforts. Ceasefires are often broken, and trust among different parties is low. Without strong cooperation and effective international support, the risk of further escalation remains high. Overall, current developments in the DRC show that security threats are still present. Armed group activity, ongoing displacement, and foreign interference continue to hinder stability. Achieving long-term peace will require stronger security measures, regional cooperation, and consistent international involvement.

8.1 Relations Between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Neighboring States

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has complicated and frequently tense relations with its neighbors. Competition for natural resources, armed group activity, and security concerns all influence these relationships. Particularly crucial to comprehending the regional dynamics are nations like Rwanda, Uganda, and Burundi. Cross-border insecurity is one of the primary problems. Armed groups sometimes travel between nations and operate close to borders. Discussions in the UN Security Council indicate that this circumstance makes the DRC's neighbors less trusting of the country. For instance, the existence of organizations such as the March 23 Movement (M23) has led to significant tensions, particularly between Rwanda and the DRC. Rwanda has refuted accusations made by the DRC that it supports this group.

Additionally, Uganda has participated in security operations in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Uganda and the DRC have occasionally worked together on military operations against armed groups. But this cooperation isn't always steady, and issues like foreign presence and sovereignty continue to be significant.

One of the nearby countries impacted by the conflict is Burundi. Security concerns have been raised by border violence and the movement of armed groups. Burundi has occasionally stepped up its military presence close to the border to protect its territory. Another important aspect of regional relations is refugee movements. Many people have fled the DRC to neighboring countries, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(UNHCR). This strains the host nations and may result in social and economic difficulties. Cooperation between states and international organizations is also necessary.

Relationships are also influenced by economic factors. Natural resources like minerals, which are crucial for international markets, are abundant in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Competition for these resources has the potential to escalate international conflict and promote illicit cross-border trade. There are initiatives to enhance cooperation in spite of these obstacles. The goal of diplomatic efforts and regional organizations is to promote peace and ease tensions. The DRC and its neighbors are still encouraged to communicate and find peaceful solutions by the UN.

In general, both cooperation and conflict influence the DRC's relations with its neighbors. Long-term stability depends on regional cooperation and communication, even in the face of tension brought on by security risks and foreign intervention.

8.2 Future Risks for Regional Peace and Security

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) poses a number of threats to future peace and security in the region. The DRC and its neighbors are still at risk due to the instability in the eastern regions, despite continuous international efforts. The potential for conflict to escalate is one significant risk. Conflicts with government forces continue to happen, and armed groups like the March 23 Movement (M23) are still active. Discussions at the UN Security Council suggest that if neighboring nations get more directly involved in the fighting, it could escalate into a larger regional conflict. The continuation of cross-border tensions is another significant risk. Mistrust is fostered by accusations made between the DRC and nations like Rwanda and Uganda. Small incidents near the border could quickly escalate into larger conflicts if diplomatic relations deteriorate. This makes achieving long-term peace more challenging. Another major issue is the ongoing displacement crisis. More people might be compelled to flee their homes if the violence persists. Growing refugee flows could put more strain on nearby nations, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) cautions. Competition for resources, social unrest, and instability in host communities could result from this. The persistence of illegal armed groups and lax state oversight in some areas poses additional risks. These organizations frequently use the illicit trade in natural resources to fund their operations.

As a result, establishing long-term security is more difficult, and government authority is diminished. Future humanitarian conditions may also deteriorate. Suffering among civilians may be exacerbated by food insecurity, continued violence, and restricted access for relief organizations. Humanitarian needs will only increase in the absence of better access and stability, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). One major risk factor is still foreign meddling. The likelihood of successful peace talks can be diminished and the conflict prolonged by outside support for armed groups. Building trust within the region and between states becomes more difficult as

a result. A lack of accountability and shoddy institutions may continue to postpone peace. It is challenging to stop future violence in the absence of robust legal systems, strong governance, and efficient security forces. In conclusion, there is still uncertainty regarding the future of regional security and peace in and around the DRC.

Serious risks are created by ongoing conflict, displacement, foreign involvement, and weak institutions. Strong regional cooperation, steady international assistance, and sustained peacebuilding initiatives are all necessary to address these issues.

9. Policy Approaches and Possible Solutions

The situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) demands a balanced, coordinated approach that integrates security, humanitarian, and political solutions. Due to the conflict's complexity and regional dimensions, only comprehensive collaborative efforts will prove effective. One important approach is strengthening security and reducing the power of armed groups. The United Nations Security Council has emphasized the need to support peacekeeping efforts and improve cooperation between the DRC government and international forces. Disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programs can help former fighters return to civilian life and reduce violence. Another key solution is improving regional cooperation. Neighboring countries need to work together instead of acting separately. Dialogue and diplomatic efforts can reduce tensions and prevent their escalation. The United Nations encourages peaceful negotiations and confidence-building measures between states in the region.

Humanitarian assistance must also be increased. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) highlights the need for better access to affected populations in the DRC. Providing food, clean water, healthcare, and shelter is essential for improving living conditions and reducing the suffering of the affected population. Protecting human rights is another major priority. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) supports monitoring and reporting of abuses. Strengthening the justice system in the DRC can help ensure accountability and reduce impunity for crimes such as sexual violence and the use of child soldiers in the future. Special attention should be given to women and children. Programs supported by organizations such as the United Nations Children's Fund focus on education, child protection, and psychosocial support. Simultaneously, efforts to prevent gender-based violence and support survivors are necessary.

Economic development is also important for long-term peace. Creating jobs, supporting agriculture, and improving infrastructure can reduce poverty and limit the influence of armed groups on the population. The legal management of natural resources can also reduce illegal trade and conflict over minerals. Another important step is to address foreign interference. The international community should work to stop external support for armed groups in the DRC. This includes stronger monitoring, sanctions where necessary, and the promotion of

respect for national sovereignty.

Long-term peacebuilding requires the establishment of strong institutions. Improving governance, fighting corruption, and building trust between the government and citizens are essential. Without stable institutions, security improvements may not be permanent.

9.1 Reducing Foreign Interference

Cutting down on foreign interference is crucial if the Democratic Republic of the Congo

(DRC) wants to move past its current conflict. Outside involvement has only tangled things further and dragged out the violence in the east. The best shot at lasting peace starts with stopping external support for armed groups and making sure everyone respects the DRC's sovereignty. Monitoring plays a big role here. The UN Security Council backs investigations into what's crossing the borders and how outsiders get involved. They've set up ways to keep tabs on illegal aid whether that's guns flowing in or shady money changing hands. Diplomatic pressure helps too. The UN pushes for real conversations between the DRC and its neighbors, hoping this will dial down tensions and build at least some mutual trust. When countries sit down and talk things out, it's a lot harder for problems to spiral out of control. Sanctions also have their place.

The Security Council has used targeted sanctions like travel bans, freezing assets, and blocking arms deals to put the squeeze on anyone backing violent groups. This doesn't solve everything, but it's another way to make foreign meddling less attractive. Then there's border security. When countries work together to tighten up their borders, they make it harder for fighters, weapons, and stolen goods to flow back and forth. Joint border patrols and shared security efforts can really make a difference. You can't ignore the resource angle, either. A lot of these armed groups fund themselves through illegal mining. By enforcing the law and keeping a closer eye on supply chains, the DRC can chip away at the cash that draws outside actors into the mess. Regional teamwork matters, too. It's up to the countries in the area to talk to each other and find common ground on security. The UN pushes for this kind of cooperation, backing efforts that aim for shared stability and trust. Last but definitely not least: the DRC needs strong institutions.

9.2 Improving Peacekeeping Strategies

Making peacekeeping work better is really important for solving the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Even though the United Nations has peacekeepers in the country, lots of areas especially in the east are still unsafe. This shows that what's being done right now just isn't enough, and things have to change so they fit the real problems on the ground.

Protecting regular people needs to be the top priority. Peacekeeping teams should work harder to stop attacks on villages, since these attacks make everyone scared and force them to leave their homes. The United Nations Security Council even says protecting civilians is one of their main goals. To actually do this, peacekeepers need to react faster, work together better, and talk more with the people who live there. Another thing that matters is teamwork with the Congolese army. The UN peacekeepers and local soldiers have to cooperate, but they also have to respect human rights while doing it. Training the national forces helps them get better at their jobs and lowers the chance that they'll hurt innocent people. Still, there should be clear rules and someone to make sure people follow them. Getting around is really tough, too. Bad roads and constant violence make it hard for peacekeepers to reach people who need help. If they had better trucks, roads, and radios, they could do their jobs much better. It's also important for peacekeepers to connect with local communities. When peacekeepers build trust with people, they get better information about what's happening, which helps them know what the community needs. When locals trust peacekeepers, it's easier to calm things down and stop problems before they get worse. Technology is another tool that could help peacekeepers do more. Tools like surveillance cameras, warning systems, and data trackers can help them spot danger early and act before things get worse. This lets them prevent violence instead of just reacting after something bad happened. But honestly, even the best peacekeeping can't fix everything. The real reasons for conflict like poverty, weak leaders, and fights over resources also need attention. Peacekeeping must work alongside development projects and political solutions to fix the bigger problems.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs also says it's important for peacekeepers and humanitarian teams to work closely. When they do, aid actually gets to the people who need it and things stay safer.

In the end, checking how peacekeeping missions are doing is really important. Regular reviews help find weaknesses and show what can be improved. Learning from what worked or didn't work makes peacekeeping stronger next time. In short, to really stop the conflict in the DRC, peacekeeping has to be more flexible and focused on people. Protecting civilians, working together, using new technology, and dealing with root problems are the real keys to long-lasting peace.

9.3 Long-Term Security and Stability Strategies

Getting real stability and security in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is tough. The conflict isn't just about guns and fighting, it's about weak government, money problems, and issues with neighbors. If you want things to get better, you need more than soldiers. You need a strong and stable government. One big step is making state institutions stronger. In a lot of places, especially in the east, the government isn't really in charge. That lets armed groups do whatever they want. To fix this, the government has to be better at managing things, fight corruption, and make people trust them. The United Nations Security Council says you can't have real peace without working institutions. Fixing the security forces is important too. The army and police need better training and more resources. They also need to be honest and professional. If they're not, it's hard to keep people safe. If we help the army and police get better at their jobs, the country will be safer. Disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) matter as well. Lots of fighters join armed groups because they're poor or don't have good options. DDR programs help these people get back into normal life with education, job training, and some support. This makes it less likely they'll go back to fighting. Getting the economy to work is also crucial. The DRC has lots of

natural resources, but bad management and illegal trade just add to the mess. If the country sets up fair ways to handle resources and invests in local businesses, it helps calm things down. Giving young people real jobs keeps them from joining armed groups. The DRC's problems don't stop at its borders. Neighboring countries have a big impact, and things like armed groups moving around or refugees crossing borders make it even harder. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) says countries need to work together diplomatic relations and joint actions help make things less tense.

Justice matters, too. Tons of crimes happened during the conflict, and most haven't been punished. If the legal system gets stronger and international justice groups help out, it can stop people from acting with impunity. This makes people trust the government more and helps healing. You can't ignore social development either. People need access to schools, hospitals, and basic stuff. Communities with these things are more stable and less likely to slip back into violence. Women and young people are especially important; they're key to rebuilding the country. For all this to work, international support needs to continue. Peacekeeping, aid, and development programs have to work together. The United Nations and other organizations have a big part in helping reforms and keeping things stable. In summary, if the DRC wants to be stable and safe for the long run, it needs to do a lot of things at once: build up its institutions, fix its security forces, get the economy moving forward, and cooperate with neighbors. Without these efforts, any peace won't last.

10. Questions to Ponder

- 1- How can post-war instability and armed ethnic militant groups be addressed in the region?
- 2- How can the UN objectively take action to address war crimes and human rights violations in the East Democratic Republic of Congo?
- 3- How can we form a union on the matter of International Organizations and Peacekeeping ?
- 4- How can we construct a sound environment for future relations in the area ?
- 5- How can the international communities and regional countries reduce the humanitarian crisis while ensuring the protection of displaced people?
- 6- What steps can we take to reduce the ongoing security threats in the Democratic Republic of Congo?
- 7- What actions can be taken to ensure long-term security and stability in the Democratic Republic of Congo?

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