IMUN 2026 Research Report

African Union Issue #2: The question of the instability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The ongoing instability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the result of protracted armed conflicts beginning in 2004 which are collectively referred to as the Kivu Conflicts. The latest resurgence of the conflicts began in early 2025, when fighting increased after an invasion of the DRC by the Rwandan-backed March 23 Movement (M23) paramilitary group against the *Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo* (FARDC), the Congolese security forces. Despite repeated peace talks, conflict is ongoing, with involvement from FARDC, M23, and more than 100 other active military groups in the Eastern DRC (Chinedu et al.).

The Kivu Conflicts are the result of a variety of economic, historical, and political factors. The conflicts are deeply rooted in the Rwandan Genocide, when more than 800,000 people, mostly part of the Tutsi ethnic group, were killed by Hutu ethnic extremists. In the aftermath of the genocide, an estimated one million Hutus fled to what is now the Eastern DRC in fear of reprisals. Following this mass migration, Rwanda invaded the Eastern DRC in the First and Second Congo War. Rwandan-backed groups claim their interventions in the region are to protect the Tutsi minority and go after groups which include those responsible for the Rwandan Genocide, such as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) (Zane and Chibelushi). Some argue, however, that the Kivu Conflicts are to a greater extent the result of economic considerations, with groups vying to get control over the resource-rich area ("Conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo"). The conflicts officially started soon after the Second Congo War, with military groups fighting to gain control over the Eastern DRC. Key players in

the ongoing conflict include: M23 and other groups backed by Rwanda and Uganda, FARDC, FDLR, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), a group of local defense groups called the Mai-Mai Militia, and the Allied Defense Forces (ADF) supported by the Islamic State.

With over 5 million internally displaced people in the Eastern DRC and severe risk of disease outbreak, the instability is an ongoing humanitarian crisis. In fact, the UN Special Representative in the DRC described the increase in the conflict as "coming on top of already one of the most protracted, complex, serious humanitarian crises on Earth" ("Battle for Goma"). Effects of the violence include attacks on civilians, the internal displacement of millions of people, increased food insecurity, and damaged infrastructure. Additionally, the Kivu Conflict is a threat to public health as treatment and containment of disease outbreaks have become nearly impossible. In response to an Ebola outbreak in May 2026, World Health Organization Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that "we cannot build community trust or isolate the sick while bombs are falling" (Mishra)

There have been many attempts to resolve the conflict. In June 2025 the United States facilitated a peace agreement between the DRC and Rwanda. The agreement had provisions on ending hostilities and addressing the role of non-state armed groups in the conflict, yet many Congolese viewed the deal as a way for the United States to gain control over the DRC's resources. The deal quickly fell apart and fighting resumed (Chinedu et al.). MONUSCO was created to monitor and implement a ceasefire in the region and support the DRC government's efforts of achieving stability and peace. Since 1999, the ceasefires established by MUNOSCU have saved 5 million lives ("MUNOSCO"). Still, MONUSCO has been unable to prevent the recent increase in hostility and instability. Delegates should therefore focus on long term

solutions, among other measures, which enforce long lasting peace, increase rights for minorities in the DRC, mitigate the humanitarian crisis due to instability,

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