

Mobilization for the Safeguarding of Congolese Sovereignty and Autonomy (MOSSAC)
An ad hoc coalition of 80 Congolese organizations to express our concerns regarding the occupation and our demands for a lasting peace based on security, accountability, reparations and justice.

Don't give up the sovereignty of the DRC!

An urgent call to reject the hasty and ill-conceived peace and business agreement between the DRC, Rwanda, and the United States, concluded under the leadership of Donald Trump and without any input from the Congolese people or their elected deputies.

We, the undersigned civil society actors representing 80 organizations in the Democratic Republic of Congo, have formed an ad hoc coalition, *Mobilization for the Safeguarding of Congolese Sovereignty and Autonomy (MOSSAC)*, to share our concerns with the Congolese people and their elected officials and traditional leaders, as well as with the international community and decision-makers around the world.

This Declaration is addressed to the following entities and constituencies:

- the Congolese people and their elected officials and traditional leaders;
- the international community and decision-makers around the world; and
- parties involved in the current negotiation of an agreement for a ceasefire and business deal between the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and the United States.

According to the summary of the Peace and Business Deal between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, as published on the U.S. State Department's website on 18 June 2025, the "Agreement includes provisions on respect for territorial integrity and a prohibition of hostilities; disengagement, disarmament, and conditional integration of non-state armed groups; establishment of a Joint Security Coordination Mechanism that incorporates the CONOPS of October 31, 2024; facilitation of the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as humanitarian access; and a regional economic integration framework."

Since there has been no transparency about the actual wording of the draft agreement, we can only assess it based on what was published on this website.

We strenuously object to the following four dangerous provisions:

1. Disarmament and Conditional Integration of Non-State Armed Groups: This provision follows previous agreements that perpetuated betrayals and defections within the Congolese army. The integration of the M23 and other rebel groups into the FARDC, rather than bringing peace, will instead further disrupt the army's ability to maintain security.

2. Establishment of a joint security coordination mechanism: Rwandan forces will thus be able to remain in the DRC and operate under the guise of a “joint security mechanism.” This is a violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the DRC. We have observed several joint security coordination mechanisms in our country, and none of them have ever succeeded except as a means of authorizing foreign troops to come and exploit resources on Congolese soil, to create villages and pastures for foreign invaders, to sabotage and destroy world heritage sites and national parks, to continue raping Congolese women and girls, and to install parallel administrations in traditional and customary entities, granting themselves vast tracts of land and installing foreign subjects there by force and terror.

3. A framework for regional economic integration: Rwanda has a long history of illegally appropriating Congolese minerals and timber and reselling them as Rwandan products. “Regional economic integration” risks normalizing and legitimizing this illicit activity and rewards Rwanda for its armed invasion and occupation of the region by providing it with the resources it sought to appropriate during years of armed conflict. This amounts to simple economic exploitation of Congolese resources by Rwandan companies in collaboration with American companies, while the Congolese continue to serve as a source of raw materials, as in the days of King Leopold II.

4. Facilitating the return of refugees and internally displaced persons: This is an extremely complex process, as the land, homes, and resources left behind by refugees and displaced persons have been taken over by other parties to the conflict or by neighbors who have fled nearby communities. It is impossible to imagine that the modalities for the reintegration of returnees into their areas of origin have been properly defined, given the total lack of democratic participation of local communities in the development of this agreement.

Furthermore, there is every reason to believe that this Agreement will not lead to a meaningful ceasefire, let alone to real peace based on justice. The M23 and the AFC have already broken numerous ceasefires they had agreed to, and have declared on numerous occasions that they will not adhere to any peace agreement that would require them to withdraw and abandon the territories they have occupied. In late May, at a rally in the occupied city of Goma, Colonel Kanyami Bwalewa of [the M23 declared](#) that: “The war is not over because we have not yet achieved the objective.” This comes despite the fact that a [truce had recently been agreed on](#) between M23 and the RDC.

For these reasons, we urgently demand the following three conditions before any Agreement is signed by the DRC:

(1) We demand full transparency of the text that has been drafted and the process by which it was drafted. The Congolese people must see this draft document and know how and by whom it was developed.

(2) We demand democratic participation in the preparation of a genuine peace agreement by the Congolese people or by their elected representatives at the national and provincial levels. Deals made in back rooms by a small number of unidentified individuals are unlikely to protect the interests of the Congolese people, but are more likely to create business opportunities for those in the inner circles of the various governments involved.

(3) We demand a peace mechanism that incorporates binding procedures to establish accountability for systematic abuses against civilians, including massacres, sexual violence, and forced displacement. No agreement or treaty anywhere in the world can stand without addressing justice and reparations for victims. Transitional justice is a prerequisite for lasting peace. This will include truth-telling, full reparations for harm suffered, official recognition of the suffering endured, and effective punishment for perpetrators of violations.

As stated in our previous “Declaration of Concerns” about the peace process, we conclude that this secret agreement, which has not been shared with the Congolese people, will end up diminishing the sovereignty of the DRC over its own lands, resources, governance, economy and military. Based on the summary of the deal as published on the U.S. State Department’s website on 18 June 2025, we anticipate that it will provide a framework to normalize the current illicit resource and power grabs underway by Rwanda, the M23, the AFC and their other allies, including Western powers that covet the DRC’s minerals and support Rwanda with financial aid.

Again, we stress : This is an existential crisis for the DRC, and must be responded to as such.

#####

ANNEXES

1. List of MOSSAC organizational members (anonymized descriptions of the organization)