



REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY**  
**HIS EXCELLENCY**  
**AMBASSADOR FRANCISCO JOSÉ DA CRUZ**  
**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE**  
**OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**  
**DURING**  
**THE SECURITY COUNCIL BRIEFING**  
**ON THE SITUATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**  
**January 26, 2025**

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**STATEMENT FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING ON THE  
SITUATION IN THE DRC**

**VENUE: SECURITY COUNCIL CHAMBER**

**DATE: SUNDAY, January 26, 2025**

**TIME: 10:00 AM**

**Mr. President,**

His Excellency Ambassador **Amar Bendjama**, President of the United Nations Security Council for the month of January,

Distinguished Members of the Security Council,

Let us begin by congratulating the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria on its presidency and the stewardship of the Council, including for convening this important meeting on the prevailing situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

We acknowledge the participation of Her Excellency **Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner**, State Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie of the DRC, and His Excellency **Ambassador Ernest Raymucyo**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations.

We thank Ms. Bintou Keita, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the DRC and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC;

Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations;

and Ms. Joyce Msuya, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator for their comprehensive briefings.

We would like also to express our appreciation to the Members of Security Council and all speakers for supporting **H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola**, ongoing mediation efforts through the Luanda Process to achieve peace and stability in Eastern DRC.

We take this opportunity to reaffirm, once again, Angola's firm commitment to continue pursuing conflict prevention, management and resolution initiatives in the Great Lake Region.

**Mr. President,**

Today we have the honor to address this Council on three key points:

## **FIRST – THE CURRENT SITUATION IN DRC**

The increase of violence unfolding in Eastern DRC over the past few weeks is very **worrisome**.

On 25<sup>th</sup> January, His Excellency **João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço**, President of the Republic of Angola, who was mandated by the African Union to ensure mediation in the crisis between the DRC and Rwanda, expressed deep concern with the escalation of the conflict and the serious deterioration of the peace and security situation in Eastern DRC, particularly in the North Kivu and South Kivu provinces.

The resurgence of actions and attacks perpetrated by Movement 23 (M-23) and its recent illegal occupation of **Sake** and **Minova** reflect a dangerous escalation in this conflict, with enormous implications for the fragile humanitarian situation, particularly around the city of Goma, now besieged.

These actions, which we vehemently condemn and repudiate, represent a flagrant and unacceptable violation of the cease-fire in force since 4 August 2024, and jeopardize all the efforts and progress made under the Luanda Process towards a peaceful resolution of this conflict, which can have unforeseen consequences for regional security if not resolved now.

In line with UN Charter, the international law, and the principle of the sovereign equality of all Member States, the territorial integrity of the DRC must be respected and upheld.

The Republic of Angola calls on the parties to the conflict to respect human rights, international humanitarian laws, protect civilians and safeguard the integrity and security of personnel of the Reinforced Ad Hoc Verification Mechanism (MAVR) deployed in Goma, North Kivu, within the framework of the Angolan facilitation efforts.

We reiterate our steadfast support to MONUSCO and SAMIDRC and call on all armed groups to full respect of the United Nations mandated forces.

In this context, we take this opportunity to express our heartfelt condolences to the countries and families of the deceased MONUSCO and SAMIDRC soldiers who fell in the line of duty during an encounter with the M-23. We wish a speedy recovery to those injured.

We reiterate that parties must uphold and fully respect the cease-fire agreed upon by DRC and Rwanda on 30 July in Luanda, which entered into force on 4 August 2024.

We strongly urge all concerned parties and stakeholders to use their good offices to reinforce and maintain the cease-fire.

## **SECOND – THE LUANDA PROCESS**

We have made remarkable progress in the implementation of the Luanda Process.

It is important that we preserve the mediation and peace efforts undertaken by HE. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, which have contributed to:

- The declaration of a Ceasefire on 04 August 2024;
- The adoption of the Harmonized Plan for the Neutralization of the FDLR and the Disengagement of Forces/Lifting of Defensive Security Measures by Rwanda;
- The Operationalization of the Reinforced Ad hoc Verification Mechanism (RAVM) on the 05 November 2024;
- The adoption of the Concept of Operations (CONOPs); and
- The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Angola and MONUSCO, on 23 November 2024 towards supporting RAVM's ground operations.

The divergence regarding the resolution of the **M-23 issue** is the only pending matter to finalize and consolidate the Draft Peace Agreement.

This has caused the postponement of the Angola-DRC- Rwanda Summit that was scheduled to take place in Luanda, Angola, on 15 December, bringing together H.E. Félix Tshisekedi, President of the Republic of DRC, and H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda.

In his unwavering commitment to continue consultations to advance the Luanda Process, **His Excellency President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço** sent a message to **His Excellency President Paul Kagame** on 18 December, which was delivered by **His Excellency Ambassador Tété António**, Minister of External Relations of Angola.

We remain hopeful that the parties will be able to overcome any remaining differences, and reach an agreement to end of the conflict in the Eastern DRC.

We need to continue supporting and encouraging them to resolve this last challenge in this long and difficult peace process.



### THIRD – THE WAY FORWARD

His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço has reiterated, time and time again, that the conflict and security challenges in the Eastern DRC have no military solution, thus he urges the parties to return to the negotiating table immediately.

We need a **speedy and unconditional** de-escalation of the conflict and a **genuine and renewed engagement** of the parties to explore ways of overcoming the pending issue and reschedule the aforementioned Tripartite Summit.

It means that the concerned parties must cooperate, engage, respect, and comply with the decisions reached within the Luanda Process framework.

The strict observance of the ceasefire agreed upon between the parties and the immediate cessation of all hostilities are paramount to creating a political environment conducive to a peaceful solution under the Luanda and Nairobi processes.

We encourage all parties to avoid any actions or rhetoric that can further escalate tensions, including provocative language or inflammatory public statements, which is counterproductive to the diplomatic efforts to achieve a lasting solution to this conflict that has prevailed for so long.

Let's **conclude by** reiterating the firm commitment of His Excellency **João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço**, President of the Republic of Angola, as the Facilitator mandated by the African Union to assist in the quest for peace and security in the Eastern DRC.

**Thank you for your attention.**