

## SITUATION IN THE DRC

### PRESS RELEASE

#### Presidency of the Republic – Angola

(NON-OFFICIAL TRANSLATION)

1. His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola and Mediator designated by the African Union to mediate the political, diplomatic and security crisis between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Rwanda, notes with great concern the serious developments in the East of the DRC, which culminated in the occupation by the March 23 Movement (M23) of the city of Goma, capital of the Province of North Kivu.

2. This action represents a serious violation of the Luanda Process, which we restarted, following separate bilateral meetings with His Excellency Félix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, in February and March 2024, respectively, in which both agreed to prioritize: the Ceasefire; the Neutralization of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and the Disengagement of Forces/Lifting of Security Measures adopted by Rwanda, that is, the withdrawal of the Rwandan Defense Forces from the territory of the DRC.

3. Accordingly, after a difficult negotiation process at the level of the respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs, supported by the Chiefs of Intelligence Services of the three countries, it was possible to declare a ceasefire, which came into effect on 4 August 2024, with the DRC and Rwanda having undertaken the commitment to Neutralise the FDLR and Disengage Forces/Lift the Security Measures adopted by Rwanda, through the adoption of the Concept of Operations (CONOPs), and the Strengthening of the Ad-hoc Verification Mechanism with liaison officers from the DRC and Rwanda.

4. As an integral part of the Draft Peace Agreement submitted to the parties in August 2024, the issue relating to the M23, always presented by Rwanda as an internal issue of the DRC, would be dealt with within the framework of the Nairobi Process, a platform for the promotion of inter-Congolese dialogue. In this context, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, former President of the Republic of Kenya and Facilitator appointed by the East African Community (EAC), on 15 December 2024, in Luanda, Angola, committed to expediting consultations with the M23 with immediate effect.

5. In view of the above, the Mediator:

(I) Deplores the occupation of the city of Goma and calls for the immediate withdrawal of the M23 from the illegally occupied territories;

(II) Also calls for the immediate withdrawal of the Rwandan Defence Forces from Congolese territory so that conditions can be urgently created to stabilise the lives of the populations, including the normalisation of the operation of the airport in the city of Goma under safe conditions, with a view to facilitating the safe return of members of the Enhanced Ad hoc Verification Mechanism (ERVM) and the Expanded Verification Mechanism of the ICGLR, and for the entry of humanitarian aid for the displaced and refugee populations;

(III) Reiterates that discussions on the issue of M23, and all other armed groups operating in the territory of the DRC, must be resumed urgently within the framework of the Nairobi Process;

(IV) Urges the DRC and Rwanda to respect the commitments made under the Luanda Process, allowing the necessary conditions to be created for the convening of a Tripartite Summit in Luanda, as a matter of urgency, on a date to be announced in due course.

Done in Luanda, on 29 January 2025.