

Country/entity	Democratic Republic of Congo Rwanda African Great Lakes
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Joint communiqué of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda on a common approach to ending the threat posted to peace and stability in both countries and the Great Lakes region
Date	9 Nov 2007
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

African Great Lakes Process (2004 - 2013)

The African Great Lakes process attempted to use a regional approach to address a set of inter-linked conflicts notably in Burundi, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and Uganda.

Close

African Great Lakes Process (2004 - 2013)

Stage	Framework/substantive - comprehensive
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	DRC: Eastern DRC processes
Parties	For the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo: (Signed) Antipas Mbusa Nyamwisi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs For the Government of the Republic of Rwanda: (Signed) Charles Murigande, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Third parties

For the United Nations
 (Signed) Haile Menkerios, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs

For the European Union,
 (Signed) Roeland van de Geer, Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region

For the United States of America
 (Signed) Timothy Shortley

Senior Adviser to the Assistant Secretary,
 Jendayi Frazer, for Conflict Resolution Department of State

Description

This is an agreement recognising that peace and security in DRC and the Great Lake region is only possible when the threats from armed national and foreign groups and their politico-military organisations are eliminated. This document deals with the ex-FAR/Interahamwe in particular. The two countries affirm their respect for each other's sovereignty and their willingness to cooperate in the dismantling of the threat posed by the ex-FAR/Interahamwe. They will not politically, materially or militarily support directly or indirectly any armed groups operating in DRC, they will exchange information and deal with common interest through the existing verification mechanisms and the tripartite commission. They affirm they will not use negative propaganda against each other. There are specifics for each governments on what they agree to do as well as specifics that they both agree to do. The document includes a call to their international partners witness to this joint communiqué and others.

Agreement document

[DRC_RW_AGL_071109_NairobiJointCommunique.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

Racial/ethnic/national group No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive
Page 4, Annex,
11. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda agree to:
... (e) Commit to take all necessary measures to encourage and enable refugees to return home;

Page 5, Annex,
12. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda call upon the international partners witnessing this communiqué, and other partners the two signatories to this communiqué may agree on:
... (b) To actively support the protection of civilians and the provision of humanitarian assistance to IDPs, refugees and those in need.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

**Independence/
secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/
unification** No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

**Cross-border
provision** No specific mention.

Governance

**Political
institutions (new or
reformed)** No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

**Electoral
commission** No specific mention.

**Political parties
reform** No specific mention.

Civil society Page 4, Annex,
11. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda agree to:
... (f) Commit to actively support and facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilians in need, irrespective of political and ethnic affiliation;
(g) Undertake to minimize the negative impact of the agreed operations against the ex-FAR/Interahamwe on civilian populations and take measures to ensure the protection of civilians, as well as compliance of their forces with international humanitarian and human rights law;

**Traditional/
religious leaders** No specific mention.

**Public
administration** No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general Page 4, Annex,
11. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda agree to:
... (d) Cooperate in bringing to justice those accused of having committed war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide;

Page 4, Annex,
11. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda agree to:
... (f) Commit to actively support and facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilians in need, irrespective of political and ethnic affiliation;
(g) Undertake to minimize the negative impact of the agreed operations against the ex-FAR/Interahamwe on civilian populations and take measures to ensure the protection of civilians, as well as compliance of their forces with international humanitarian and human rights law;

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	Page 4, Annex, 11. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda agree to: (a) Establish strict border controls and prevent illicit cross-border movement of combatants or recruits, arms, military material, food or medical support for any armed groups; (b) Refrain from aiding and abetting (arming, facilitating movement, allowing recruitment, financing, providing sanctuary, etc.) any armed group;
Protection measures	Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of civilians Page 4, Annex, 11. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda agree to: ... (f) Commit to actively support and facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilians in need, irrespective of political and ethnic affiliation; (g) Undertake to minimize the negative impact of the agreed operations against the ex-FAR/Interahamwe on civilian populations and take measures to ensure the protection of civilians, as well as compliance of their forces with international humanitarian and human rights law; 13. MONUC will protect civilians, in accordance with its mandate, against the negative impact of operations against the ex-FAR/Interahamwe and monitor compliance with recognized standards of international humanitarian and human rights law.
Other	Page 4, Annex, 11. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda agree to: ... (g) Undertake to minimize the negative impact of the agreed operations against the ex-FAR/Interahamwe on civilian populations and take measures to ensure the protection of civilians, as well as compliance of their forces with international humanitarian and human rights law; Page 5, Annex, 13. MONUC will protect civilians, in accordance with its mandate, against the negative impact of operations against the ex-FAR/Interahamwe and monitor compliance with recognized standards of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

**Water or riparian
rights or access** No specific mention.

Security sector

**Security
Guarantees** No specific mention.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces Page 3, Annex,
9. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo commits to:
... (b) Launch military operations, as a matter of urgency, to dismantle the ex-FAR/
Interahamwe as a genocidal military organization in the DRC. Such operations should be
simultaneously conducted with operations to dismantle illegal armed groups in North
and South Kivu;
(c) Identify and commit the necessary resources to implement the military components
of the plan;
(d) The plan shall include the following elements:
(d)(i) Reactivation and streamlining, in parallel with military pressure, existing efforts to
sensitize ex-FAR/Interahamwe elements to disarm and repatriate to Rwanda;

DDR

Security sector→DDR→DDR programmes

Page 3, Annex,

9. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo commits to:

(a) Prepare, by 1 December 2007, a detailed plan to disarm and address the threat posed by the ex-FAR/Interahamwe. MONUC will be requested to provide support to the planning and subsequent implementation consistent with its mandate and capacities. The plan will be shared with the Rwandan Government by 1 December 2007;

... (ii) Temporary relocation of disarmed ex-FAR/Interahamwe elements to reception centres/cantonment sites in the DRC; registration by MONUC under the existing DRRRR

procedures and repatriation of those who choose to return to Rwanda;

(iii) With the help of relevant international organizations, moving of the disarmed ex-FAR/Interahamwe who do not wish to return to Rwanda and who are not wanted for genocide by Rwandan justice or the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), away from the border until their condition is normalized;

... (b) Launch military operations, as a matter of urgency, to dismantle the ex-FAR/Interahamwe as a genocidal military organization in the DRC. Such operations should be simultaneously conducted with operations to dismantle illegal armed groups in North and South Kivu;

(c) Identify and commit the necessary resources to implement the military components of the plan;

(d) The plan shall include the following elements:

(d)(i) Reactivation and streamlining, in parallel with military pressure, existing efforts to sensitize ex-FAR/Interahamwe elements to disarm and repatriate to Rwanda;

Page 4, Annex,

10. The Government of the Republic of Rwanda commits to:

... (d) Encourage, through appropriate programmes, ex-FAR/Interahamwe members and their dependents to return home and facilitate their effective socio-economic reintegration;

Page 4, Annex,

11. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda agree to:

... (c) Call upon all Congolese associated with the ex-FAR/Interahamwe to leave the group immediately and definitely; disarmed combatants that are found to be Congolese or are eligible to become Congolese in accordance with relevant national legislation, shall not be subject to repatriation; these will be registered, and a list identifying them will be shared with the Government of Rwanda;

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel
and opposition
group forces**

Page 2-3, Annex,

Have reiterated the following:

1. Peace and security in the DRC and the Great Lakes region can only be achieved once the threat posed by all foreign and national armed groups in the DRC and their politico-military organizations is addressed;
2. The ex-FAR/Interahamwe constitutes a major threat to peace and security of Rwanda, the DRC, and the countries in the Great Lakes region in general, as well as to the Congolese population;
3. The presence of irregular Congolese armed groups in eastern DRC equally poses a threat to peace and security in the DRC and the entire Great Lakes region;
4. We both reaffirm our commitment to respect and uphold each other's sovereignty, and reiterate our commitment to fully cooperate and implement a common approach to dismantle the ex-FAR/Interahamwe as a genocidal military organization operating in the territory of the DRC;
5. We fully commit to prevent the direct or indirect support — political, material or human — to any national and foreign armed group operating in the DRC;
6. We shall share information, and address issues of common concern through existing mechanisms, in particular the Joint Verification Mechanism and the Tripartite Plus Commission;
7. We shall immediately assign the members to the Joint Verification Teams in Goma and Gisenyi as well as in Bukavu and Cyangugu;
8. We commit to refrain from any negative propaganda against each other.
9. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo commits to:
 - (a) Prepare, by 1 December 2007, a detailed plan to disarm and address the threat posed by the ex-FAR/Interahamwe. MONUC will be requested to provide support to the planning and subsequent implementation consistent with its mandate and capacities. The plan will be shared with the Rwandan Government by 1 December 2007;
... (ii) Temporary relocation of disarmed ex-FAR/Interahamwe elements to reception centres/cantonment sites in the DRC; registration by MONUC under the existing DDRRR procedures and repatriation of those who choose to return to Rwanda;
 - (iii) With the help of relevant international organizations, moving of the disarmed ex-FAR/Interahamwe who do not wish to return to Rwanda and who are not wanted for genocide by Rwandan justice or the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), away from the border until their condition is normalized;
... (b) Launch military operations, as a matter of urgency, to dismantle the ex-FAR/Interahamwe as a genocidal military organization in the DRC. Such operations should be simultaneously conducted with operations to dismantle illegal armed groups in North and South Kivu;
 - (c) Identify and commit the necessary resources to implement the military components of the plan;
 - (d) The plan shall include the following elements:
 - (d)(i) Reactivation and streamlining, in parallel with military pressure, existing efforts to sensitize ex-FAR/Interahamwe elements to disarm and repatriate to Rwanda;

Page 4, Annex,

10. The Government of the Republic of Rwanda commits to:

- (a) Take all necessary measures to seal its border to prevent the entry into or exit from its territory of members of any armed group, renegade militia leaders, Nkunda's group in particular, and prevent any form of support — military, material or human — being provided to any armed group in the DRC;
- (b) Share with the Government of the DRC and MONUC a list of wanted génocidaires (all categories);
- (c) Refrain from statements in support of any armed group in the DRC;

11. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda agree to:

Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.

Courts	<p>Transitional justice→Courts→International courts</p> <p>Page 3, Annex,</p> <p>9. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo commits to:</p> <p>... (iii) With the help of relevant international organizations, moving of the disarmed ex-FAR/Interahamwe who do not wish to return to Rwanda and who are not wanted for genocide by Rwandan justice or the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), away from the border until their condition is normalized;</p> <p>(iv) Arrest and handing over to the ICTR and Rwanda of those indicted for crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes;</p> <p>Page 4, Annex,</p> <p>11. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda agree to:</p> <p>... (d) Cooperate in bringing to justice those accused of having committed war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide;</p>
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Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory Page 5, Annex,
For the United Nations
(Signed) Haile Menkerios, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs

Other international signatory Page 5, Annex,
For the European Union,
(Signed) Roeland van de Geer, Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region

For the United States of America
(Signed) Timothy Shortley
Senior Adviser to the Assistant Secretary, Jendayi Frazer, for Conflict Resolution
Department of State

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism Page 5, Annex,
15. The United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, the United States, South Africa and other partners the two signatories to this communiqué may agree on, together with representatives of the two parties, shall be invited to facilitate and monitor the implementation of this agreement.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source <http://peacemaker.un.org/>
