



MARKING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDMARK UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 (2000) ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

As the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we acknowledge that our nation seeks stronger implementation regarding Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) criteria. Our National Action Plans (NAPs) are outdated and have failed to fulfill the four vital WPS pillars. Due to persistent conflict in the East, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) rates are rising rapidly. In February 2025, over 895 reports of rape were recorded by humanitarian workers (Panzi Foundation, 2025). The Democratic Republic of the Congo recognizes the urgency of holding perpetrators accountable, specifically groups such as the M23 that continue to terrorize and target women and children in the eastern regions (UN Security Council, n.d.).

Since United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security, the DRC recognizes that the objective of the resolution has been partially implemented. Resolution 1325 aims to strengthen the participation of women in political fields, reinforce protection, and lawfully address sexual violence. However, in the DRC, tangible changes have been limited. From October 21–23, 2025, a series of conferences were held to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Resolution 1325, discussing its impact through the lens of the WPS framework. Despina Kavugho, coordinator of the Collective of Women for Peace, Participation, and Representation in Decision-Making Bodies (CEFRID), stated: “Unfortunately, we still do not feel its impact which is why women remain largely absent from decision-making and peacebuilding spaces. True progress will only come with everyone’s involvement, including men, through the promotion of positive masculinity” (Kavugho, 2025, p. 12). This illustrates a broader conclusion that implementation has yet to translate into political inclusion.

The DRC recognizes that the objective of the resolution has not yet been fully integrated into social or political perspectives. The nation has faced immense challenges in introducing WPS core values into legal and societal practices. Although we advocate for holding perpetrators accountable, our legal system is fragmented and has a history of unjust verdicts, often favoring

the alleged abuser (The Conversation, 2025). Thus, we propose a detailed action plan to better enforce WPS principles.

Firstly, re-education. We will identify judges with the highest rates of dismissing cases despite strong evidence and conduct performance reviews to address unjust conclusions. Additionally, a training program will be initiated in which 500 female judges undergo specialized courses on WPS principles within the next 12 months. This solution connects to the **participation** pillar . Our next step is to request that MONUSCO increase protection measures in high-risk provinces by enhancing patrols and deploying additional officers. We also strongly urge MONUSCO to collaborate with other humanitarian organizations to establish victim support mechanisms. This solution connects to the **relief and recovery** and **prevention** pillars.

To further our initiatives, we will prioritize provinces with the highest rates of SGBV—North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri—due to continuous armed conflict. Finally, we plan to construct public education campaigns in 50 high-risk communities over the next 18 months, accompanied by regular evaluations to track progress.

If this action plan succeeds, the DRC could achieve long-term stability and fully integrate the four vital WPS pillars into its legal, political, and social systems.



ADDRESSING THE DISPROPORTIONATE EFFECTS OF ARMED CONFLICTS ON CHILDREN

Decades of genocide in our nation—driven by Rwandan-funded militias, political corruption, and rivalry over our mineral-rich land. Many international efforts, such as the Dodd-Frank Act and OECD, aimed to help our nation and cut funding for terrorist groups; however, their agendas often also included an increase in mining productions, which jeopardized children who were already vulnerable to exploitation. Various UN investigations reported mass atrocities, including child soldier recruitment, and extreme levels of GBV, which has increased approximately 300% in recent years ((The Conversation, 2025). Despite global recognition in small doses, the genocide persists, and children are the prime target.

Understanding these events in a historical context is vital for addressing present-day issues, so here's a short summary about the DRC's history of brutal conflict and children's involvement. The surplus of Rwandan refugees after the 1994 Rwandan genocide created high-tensioned interactions between them and the locals, leading to militia conflicts, disease outbreaks, and infrastructure damage. Key events included Laurent-Désiré Kabila's rebellion terminating Mobutu Sese Seko's 32-year rule and the attack on Lermara Hospital. Later on, the 1999 Lusaka Peace Agreement called for a withdrawal of foreign forces; however, tensions persisted nonetheless. Laurent-Désiré Kabila became president and was later assassinated. Joseph Kabila took his place and assumed power amidst conflict. Then the 2002 Sun City Agreement established a transitional government, but unauthorized militias still controlled mineral-rich regions in the East. Despite the first democratic election in 40 years, human rights abuses and child soldier recruitment persisted..

To ensure that no more children suffer from such tragedies, our delegation encourages the UN to cooperate with us and aid with the documentation of violence against children so we can better record these crimes and ensure that violent groups receive sanctions. By accomplishing this, we're able to put international pressure on the M23 and other Rwandan-backed forces; recognition is a powerful tool. We also request funding for child-focused humanitarian aid products, such as baby formula, diapers, and other necessities. That being said, we would also like to implement humanitarian corridors for temporary protection for children. Our delegation recognizes that our current financial position does not necessarily allow for ideal solutions such

as Child Protection Zones (CPZs). These would be monitored by UN peacekeepers and NGOs to ensure the areas receive humanitarian aid. Having MONUSCO monitor the area can also help reduce the risk of attack; it sends a message that we're able to put international pressure on the M23 and other Rwandan-backed forces. This has been previously accomplished; in eastern DRC, many corridors were assembled, which saved approximately 1,000 citizens.

To conclude, our nation remains insistent on protecting Congolese children from this horrid genocide. While our resources are limited, our determination is not. By working closely with the UN to improve documentation, increasing humanitarian assistance, and initiating realistic protection measures such as humanitarian corridors, we can establish a sense of security amidst the current conditions. International recognition and cooperation are vital for further steps. The horrors that Congolese children have witnessed are so brutal and demeaning. They refuse to simply be another static, lost to history.

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