

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 559

Recognizing the urgent need for peace, stability, and reconciliation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and supporting diplomatic, economic, and humanitarian efforts to achieve lasting peace in the region.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2025

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. MCCORMICK, and Ms. SALAZAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the urgent need for peace, stability, and reconciliation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and supporting diplomatic, economic, and humanitarian efforts to achieve lasting peace in the region.

Whereas the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has endured decades of conflict, political instability, and humanitarian crises, causing immense suffering for its people;

Whereas eastern DRC and the broader African Great Lakes region continue to experience cycles of violence, displacement, and human rights violations that threaten regional stability;

Whereas since the resurgence of the March 23 Movement (M23) rebel group in 2021, there were about 6,800,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) by April 2025, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA);

Whereas more than 1,000,000 people were displaced in the first half of 2025 alone;

Whereas one in every four Congolese people face severe food insecurity, and more than 2,100,000 children under the age of 5 suffer from acute malnutrition, according to OCHA;

Whereas, according to OCHA, as of 2024, nearly 25,400,000 people in the DRC require humanitarian assistance, making it one of the largest and most complex humanitarian crises globally;

Whereas the European Parliament adopted a resolution on November 24, 2022 (2022/2957(RSP)), addressing forced displacement and escalating violence in the eastern DRC, calling for targeted humanitarian aid and termination of support to armed groups;

Whereas the European Union has enacted Regulation (EU) 2017/821 to establish supply chain obligations for importers of conflict minerals and to reaffirm its support for regional peace efforts through diplomatic and funding initiatives;

Whereas local and national efforts, including the “Pacte Social pour la Paix et le Bien-Vivre Ensemble” (Social Pact for Peace and Living Together), a joint effort by the National Episcopal Conference of Congo (CENCO, by its French acronym) and the Church of Christ in Congo

(ECC, by its French acronym), aim to promote reconciliation, civic engagement, and lasting peace in the region;

Whereas civil society organizations, religious leaders, and local communities actively support citizen workshops and national forums to form peace agreements;

Whereas regional diplomacy, including the Doha, Luanda, and Nairobi Processes, provides critical platforms for mediation and disarmament of rebel groups;

Whereas African-led peace initiatives, such as the Luanda and Nairobi processes facilitated by the East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC), provide essential frameworks for mediation, disarmament, and dialogue to resolve the conflict and promote regional cooperation;

Whereas, according to the African Union, coordinated peace frameworks such as the Luanda and Nairobi Processes remain critical tools in addressing transnational armed groups and enabling regional dialogue;

Whereas the United States has provided vital diplomatic and humanitarian support to the DRC;

Whereas illegal exploitation and trade in natural resources, particularly through the mining sector (exacerbated by illegal Chinese operations), finances armed groups and empowers corruption, violence, and child and forced labor within the region;

Whereas the DRC possesses immense natural and mineral wealth estimated in the trillions of dollars, including approximately 70 percent of the world's cobalt reserves and 40 percent of global coltan production;

Whereas militias exploit these resources, some of which is mined by children as young as four years old, to finance

their operations, perpetuating conflict and environmental degradation;

Whereas The Sentry has documented persistent shortcomings in supply chain transparency and accountability, particularly in Chinese-owned operations that fail to comply with labor and environmental standards;

Whereas M23, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), among other armed groups across eastern DRC, commit atrocities including mass murder, rape, torture, beheadings, burning, kidnapping, and forced conscription of children;

Whereas M23, the FDLR, the ADF, and other armed groups across eastern DRC, deliberately destroy and loot towns, churches, and religious schools to erase nonconforming cultural and religious communities;

Whereas these crimes have caused the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, rendering them vulnerable to exploitation and death;

Whereas crimes against humanity, as defined in the Nuremberg Charter and subsequent international instruments, including the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, include such atrocities, especially when committed on political, ethnic, or religious grounds;

Whereas the United States has designated the ADF as a Foreign Terrorist Organization and its leader, Seka Musa Baluku, as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist; and

Whereas the ADF operates as an ISIS affiliate: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the urgent need for peace, sta-
3 bility, and reconciliation in the Democratic Republic
4 of the Congo (DRC) and supports diplomatic, eco-
5 nomic, and humanitarian efforts to achieve lasting
6 peace in the region;

7 (2) recognizes the benefit of an inclusive na-
8 tional dialogue led and facilitated by CENCO and
9 ECC that includes all the actors of civil society
10 movements, religious confessions, political parties,
11 and armed groups to promote social cohesion, na-
12 tional unity and principles of good governance;

13 (3) urges the peaceful resolution of tensions be-
14 tween the DRC and Rwanda and encourages all re-
15 gional stakeholders to participate in African-led dia-
16 logues such as the Luanda and Nairobi Processes;

17 (4) calling for a stop to all state support for
18 non-state armed groups and respect for the DRC
19 Constitution, democratic principles, human rights,
20 and the cessation of arbitrary prosecutions, deten-
21 tions, and denial of official documents such as pass-
22 ports to political opponents and citizens;

23 (5) calls on the DRC government to combat
24 systemic corruption and implement transparent, ac-
25 countable governance and enforcement and adher-

1 ence to term limits contained in the DRC Constitu-
2 tion;

3 (6) endorses the establishment of critical min-
4 erals commercial agreements between the United
5 States and the DRC to promote mutual economic
6 and national security interests as well as the respon-
7 sible management of strategic mineral resources;

8 (7) encourages strengthened local and inter-
9 national implementation of supply chain traceability
10 and due diligence regulations targeting conflict min-
11 erals and supports reforms in the mining sector to
12 combat corruption and illicit financing;

13 (8) urges the President of the United States to
14 take measures to sanction corrupt actors, armed
15 groups, including the M23, the FDLR and the ADF
16 for atrocities, war crimes and crimes against human-
17 ity;

18 (9) encourages the use of targeted economic
19 sanctions and visa restrictions against individuals
20 and entities that are corrupt, obstructing peace, per-
21 petrating violence, or committing human rights
22 abuses; and

23 (10) reaffirms the commitment of the United
24 States to supporting peace, democracy, and eco-

- 1 nomic development in the DRC and the African
- 2 Great Lakes region.

