

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
20 December 2024
English
Original: French

Letter dated 17 December 2024 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you a letter dated 17 December 2024 from Ms. Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner, Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and la Francophonie, concerning the position of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the failure of the Luanda summit and its consequences (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Victoria **Liolocha Leita**
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 17 December 2024 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Kinshasa, 17 December 2024

The Democratic Republic of the Congo would like to bring to the attention of the illustrious members of the Security Council recent information on the grave situation of persistent insecurity in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo as a result of the failure by the Republic of Rwanda to honour the commitments made under the Luanda process. The Democratic Republic of the Congo wishes to thank, in advance, the members of the Council for their renewed attention to this alarming situation, which is of concern to that prestigious body.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo expresses its deep dismay at the cancellation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo-Rwanda-Angola tripartite summit, which was scheduled to be held on 15 December 2024 and was expected to mark a decisive step with the signing of a peace agreement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.

This failure is directly attributable to the refusal of Rwanda to participate, an act that constitutes an affront not only to the African Union-designated facilitator, but also to the regional framework established in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and supported by numerous Security Council resolutions.

Rwanda continues to set itself apart by placing stumbling blocks at every stage of the discussions. This time, at the ministerial meeting held on 14 December to validate a peace agreement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, it introduced the question of direct negotiations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) as a non-negotiable condition for the signing of an agreement. Such conduct, which jeopardizes the progress made in the Luanda process, poses an unprecedented risk of a worsening crisis that could once again engulf the entire Great Lakes region.

Yet, the purpose of the summit had been to consolidate the progress made so far, namely:

- the ceasefire that went into effect on 4 August 2024;
- the reinforced ad hoc verification mechanism launched in Goma on 5 November 2024
- the signing of the concept of operations by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, on 25 November 2024, providing for the disengagement of the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) from Congolese territory and the neutralization of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR).

However, despite this difficult but significant progress, it is worth pointing out in particular that the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF)-M23 coalition is still pursuing its policy of repeatedly violating international law and humanitarian law. It goes without saying that the legal and humanitarian consequences are incalculable, not only for the internally displaced persons, but also and above all, for the victims of this conflict.

Unlike Rwanda, which has repeatedly violated the human rights of the people of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo reiterates its support for the African Union-designated facilitator, President João Lourenço of Angola, and renews its commitment to the Luanda process, as evidenced

by the presence of its President, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, in Luanda on 15 December 2024, whereas, unexpectedly, the President of Rwanda simply boycotted the meeting.

Furthermore, with regard to the Rwanda-backed M23 terrorist movement, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has no objection to the movement, like all the other armed groups, returning to the Nairobi process, led by honorary President Uhuru Kenyatta, who demonstrated his availability by attending the tripartite summit in Luanda. In addition, it should be noted that the verification mechanism inspected, with satisfaction, the pre-cantonment and cantonment sites of the M23 combatants in August 2024.

To prevent an irreversible escalation of the crisis in the Great Lakes region, the Democratic Republic of the Congo calls on the Security Council to take firm action by imposing targeted sanctions on the leaders of the Rwanda Defence Force-M23 coalition, who are responsible for serious violations of international and humanitarian law, including attacks on peacekeepers of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). The mandate of MONUSCO must be strengthened to explicitly recognize the destabilizing role played by Rwanda, monitor and document cross-order violations and protect civilians and peacekeepers in the affected areas.

At the meeting held on 9 December on the mandate of MONUSCO, Council members clearly denounced these actions of Rwanda. At the current, critical juncture, empty words can no longer be an option – it is imperative that concrete measures be taken to address this threat to international peace and security.

(Signed) Thérèse **Kayikwamba Wagner**
