



Security Council

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Letter dated 4 February 2026 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to a serious and deliberate further violation by the Government of Rwanda of the spirit and the letter of Security Council resolution [2773 \(2025\)](#), the Washington Accords of 27 June 2025 and the fundamental principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

On 22 January 2026, in a written statement submitted to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives United States of America, the Government of the Republic of Rwanda officially stated that it engaged in “security coordination with AFC/M23” in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This statement, signed by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Rwanda to the United States of America, Mathilde Mukantabana, comes as no surprise to the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Democratic Republic of the Congo considers this statement – which is fully attributable to the Government of Rwanda, since it was made before a foreign Government institution by a duly authorized and accredited representative – to constitute not only an explicit and avowed acknowledgement of the existence of strategically planned and implemented collaboration with a non-State armed group, but also proof of the existence of a functional link that the Member State had previously denied.

In a context where this negative force known as Alliance Fleuve Congo (AFC)/Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) operates with total impunity, seriously undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of Congo, such an acknowledgement cannot be considered insignificant. It effectively means that Rwanda has admitted to having a relationship with an armed actor involved in serious and repeated violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, as documented in various reports by United Nations groups of experts.

Furthermore, and even more worryingly, this public recognition by the Rwandan Government constitutes an affront of a severity that goes beyond the scope of a bilateral dispute and directly undermines the integrity of the collective security system established by the Charter of the United Nations. It entails major legal consequences under international law and amounts to an admission of participation in internationally wrongful acts that give rise to the international responsibility of the State making the admission. It also raises serious questions about respect for the principles of sovereignty, non-intervention and the non-use of force. The argument of



defence cannot be upheld in this case, as self-defence within the meaning of the Charter presupposes the existence of an armed attack attributable to a State.

Lastly, far from being insignificant, the acknowledgement is part of a pattern of normalizing and trivializing a model of interaction between States and non-State armed groups which, if it were to become established, would set a precedent with serious consequences for international peace and security, extending well beyond the Great Lakes region.

In light of this situation, the Democratic Republic of Congo respectfully requests that the Security Council:

- Remind all parties to strictly comply with resolution [2773 \(2025\)](#)
- Formally take note of this public acknowledgement and treat it as one of the pieces of evidence of the Rwandan criminal enterprise in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ensure that the relevant United Nations mechanisms examine the implications of the acknowledgement, particularly with regard to the sanctions regimes in place
- Reaffirm the key role of the Council in preventing any erosion of norms relating to sovereignty and non-intervention

The Democratic Republic of the Congo remains convinced that a clear, coherent response grounded in international law is essential to preserve the authority of the Council's decisions and prevent the establishment of precedents that would be detrimental to international peace and security.

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

(Signed) Zénon **Mukongo Ngay**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
