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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. P.O. Box: 3243 Tel.: (251-11) 5513 822 Fax: (251-11) 5519 321
Email: situationroom@africanunion.org

PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
1374TH MEETING

27 OCTOBER 2026
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

PSC/PR/COMM.1374 (2026)

COMMUNIQUÉ

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Adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 1374th meeting held on 26 October 2026 on Briefing by the Panel of Facilitators on the Situation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The Peace and Security Council,

Recalling all its previous decisions and pronouncements on the situation in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), particularly Communiqué [PSC/PR/COMM. 1323 (2025)] adopted at its 1323rd meeting held at Ministerial level on 29 December 2025; Communique [PSC/HoSG/COMM.1261.2 (2025)], adopted at its 1261st meeting held at the level of Heads of State and Government on 14 February 2025; as well as Communique [PSC/MIN/COMM.1222 (2024)] adopted at its 1222nd meeting held at Ministerial level on 15 July 2024;

Underscoring the AU principles as stipulated in Article 4 of both, the Constitutive Act, and of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, in particular, the principles of non-interference by any Member State in the internal affairs of another; peaceful coexistence of Member States and their right to live in peace and security;

Reaffirming the solidarity of the AU with the people and the Government of the DRC in their aspirations for durable peace, security, and sustainable development, as well as the continued commitment of the AU to respect the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of the DRC;

Taking note of the opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Churchill Ewumbue-Monono, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon to the AU as the Chairperson of the PSC for October 2026; the Introductory Statement by H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security; and ***also taking note*** of the briefings by H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairperson of the Panel of Facilitators; by H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde, former President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Deputy Chairperson of the Panel of Facilitators; as well as by H.E. Catherine Samba-Panza, Former President of the Central African Republic and Member of the Panel of Facilitators; and

Acting under Article 7 of its Protocol, the Peace and Security Council:

1. ***Commends*** the AU Mediator and the Panel of Facilitators for their sustained engagements, including the recent consultations in Lomé, the High-Level Harmonization Meeting of July 2026 in Gaborone, as well as the field mission to Goma, Kigali and Kinshasa conducted during the month of October 2026; and ***welcomes*** the roadmap and implementation workplan agreed in Gaborone and underscores the importance of coordinated follow-up to translate these engagements into concrete progress towards lasting peace;

2. ***Reaffirms*** its full support for the AU-led mediation efforts under the leadership of the AU Mediator and the integral role of the Panel of Facilitators within this architecture; and ***urges*** the parties to demonstrate political will, flexibility and spirit of compromise required to resolve expeditiously the outstanding differences, honour their commitments and cooperate fully with the Mediator and the Panel of Facilitators;

3. ***Encourages*** the AU Mediator and the Panel of Facilitators, with the support of the Commission and in consultation with the relevant Congolese stakeholders, to strengthen structured engagement with communities and grassroots actors, notably women and youth, with a view to ensuring that their

concerns and aspirations inform the peace process***; further emphasizes*** the importance of community-level dialogue and confidence-building initiatives in promoting reconciliation, preventing hate speech, and strengthening trust among communities;

4. ***Reaffirms*** the centrality of the African-led mediation architecture, under the leadership of the AU Mediator and with the support of the Panel of Facilitators, in advancing a coherent and sustainable solution to the conflict in eastern DRC; ***commends*** the contributions of regional and international partners, including the United Nations, the East African Community (EAC), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the United States of America, the State of Qatar and Switzerland; and ***underscores*** the need for continued coordination and complementarity among the African-led, Washington and Doha processes, in support of the implementation of commitments undertaken by the respective parties;

5. ***Expresses deep concern over*** the limited implementation of commitments under the Washington DC and Doha processes, as highlighted in the Commission's briefing, and over continued fighting, allegations of ceasefire violations, and reports of the persistent use of drones, which aggravate civilian suffering and undermine mutual trust and confidence building efforts; and ***strongly urges*** the parties to engage constructively in the existing peace processes;

6. ***Reaffirms*** its unwavering commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the DRC; ***reiterates its call*** for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all uninvited foreign forces and armed groups operating in the DRC, and for the cessation of support to armed groups; and calls upon all stakeholders/those implicated to address legitimate regional security concerns through agreed arrangements, consistent with international law, and to implement the peace commitments;

7. ***Further calls*** for an immediate cessation of hostilities and full respect for existing ceasefire commitments; ***and urges*** all parties to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, ensure the protection of civilians, civilian infrastructure and humanitarian personnel, and facilitate medical evacuations;

8. ***Demands safe***, rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access to populations in need, including through humanitarian corridors and the removal of administrative and movement restrictions impeding the delivery of humanitarian assistance; and ***stresses*** that humanitarian action must be guided by the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and remain free from political and military interference;

9. ***Appeals*** to AU Member States and international partners to strengthen humanitarian solidarity with the affected populations and urgently mobilize additional financial and material resources to address humanitarian funding gaps;

10. ***Also urges*** the parties to fully cooperate with the relevant verification mechanisms and the impartial examination and follow-up of alleged violations, including incidents involving drones;

11. ***Welcomes the readiness*** of the AU Commission to participate in the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism Plus (EJVM+), in close cooperation with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR); and ***requests*** the AU Commission to pursue the necessary consultations with the ICGLR as AU's Regional Partner and the parties concerned on the modalities of such participation and to report to Council, as soon as practicably possible;

12. ***Also expresses deep concern over*** the impact and implications of public health emergencies of international concern, including the Ebola Virus outbreak on affected communities; ***calls for***

strengthened regional cooperation in epidemic prevention and control, medical referrals and cross-border access to care, in accordance with applicable health safeguards; and ***stresses the need*** to address malnutrition, protect children from recruitment and use by armed groups, and safeguard access to education and essential health services;

13. ***Condemns*** all human rights violations, including sexual violence against women and girls in blatant violation of international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL); ***calls*** for strengthened investigations and accountability measures to combat impunity and promote justice for victims; and ***stresses*** the need to hold perpetrators accountable;

14. ***Reiterates the essence*** of creating conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons, including security and access to essential public services; and ***calls upon*** the parties and relevant authorities to facilitate the implementation of agreed arrangements in this regard;

15. ***Requests*** the Commission, working with the EAC and SADC and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), through the Independent Joint Secretariat, to continue providing the technical, analytical, administrative and logistical support required to sustain the Panel's engagements and follow-up activities;

16. ***Emphasizes*** that there can be no viable military solution to the conflict in eastern DRC and that sustainable peace requires an inclusive, nationally owned political process, accompanied by the implementation of regional security commitments and constructive cooperation among members of the Great Lakes region;

17. ***Emphasizes*** that the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region remains one of the key mechanisms for addressing the root causes of the conflict in the Eastern DRC;

18. ***Expresses support*** for an inclusive, nationally owned dialogue and reconciliation process in the DRC, aimed at addressing political differences, rebuilding confidence and consolidating lasting peace; ***calls for*** the meaningful participation of women, youth, civil society, traditional and religious leaders in these efforts; and ***stresses*** that such participation should inform both the decisions taken and their implementation;

19. ***Further requests*** the Commission, in consultation with the AU Mediator, the Panel of Facilitators, the EAC and SADC, through the IJS, to develop a comprehensive and consolidated overview of implementation of relevant peace commitments, drawing on existing plans and reporting mechanisms, with a view to identifying progress, outstanding challenges and areas requiring coordinated follow-up; and to report periodically to the council, including on matters requiring its political guidance and action;

20. ***Calls for*** strengthened regional cooperation to combat the illicit exploitation and trafficking of natural and mineral resources in eastern DRC; ***encourages*** the countries concerned to strengthen the implementation of the Regional Certification Mechanism of the ICGLR, including through enhanced information-sharing and coordinated border controls, to prevent the illicit exploitation and trade in natural resources from financing armed groups;

21. ***Further calls*** for the mobilization of predictable and coordinated resources to support peace implementation and recovery in eastern DRC; ***encourages*** the AU Commission, regional organizations, international financial institutions and development partners to coordinate their support for ceasefire monitoring, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security-sector reform, and the restoration of public services, in consultation with the Government of the DRC and in support of

national ownership; and ***further calls*** for increased humanitarian funding, consistent with the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence;

22. ***Also expresses support*** for continued consultations, under the leadership of the AU Mediator and in consultation with the countries concerned, on the convening of a regional summit to build consensus on lasting peace and security in eastern DRC and the region;

23. ***Decides*** to institutionalize and regularize the briefing by the AU Mediator and the Panel of Facilitators to the Council every six months, and whenever the situation requires; and

24. ***Decides*** to remain actively seized of the matter.