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DEENS' MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2024

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

AGENDA:

“Addressing the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo”

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Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

We extend our warmest greetings to everyone participating in the Deens Model United Nations 2024 conference. As the Executive Board of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), we would like to express our honest appreciation to the delegations for your enthusiasm and your dedication to finding solutions to pressing global issues. The agenda for the committee is "Addressing the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo".

The UNSC plays a crucial role in maintaining international peace and security. The veto power, granted to the five permanent members of the Security Council, has always been a topic of debate and scrutiny. Its vitality lies in understanding its effectiveness and limitations to explore ways to promote global peace. Through this conference, we aim to provide a platform for constructive dialogue where unique perspectives and innovative ideas are achieved. This may be done by debating with an open mind, and fostering an environment of respect, cooperation and diplomacy. The Executive Board therefore encourages all delegates to thoroughly research their assigned countries' positions on veto powers and understand the historical context surrounding the issue to help facilitate insightful and productive debate, as well as set an active precedent in shaping collective understanding of veto power and its impact on world peace. We further encourage active participation, effective communication, and finding common ground amidst diverse viewpoints to effectively collaborate in resolving global challenges.

Throughout the conference, the Executive Board will be available to provide guidance, address concerns, and ensure smooth functioning of the committee. We encourage you to reach out to us or the conference secretariat whenever needed. We wish you all the best in your preparations for Deens Model United Nations 2024. May this conference facilitate your intellectual growth, fruitful debate, and the forging of lifelong friendships.

Sincerely,

Ishaan Ghosh, Shivansh Ranjan Srivastava, Ishaan Singhal
Executive Board of United Nations Security Council

Rules of Procedure (RoP)

Rules of procedure refers to the set of rules and conduct that delegates are expected to follow and maintain during the entirety of the conference in order to ensure that decorum is maintained. This committee will be following the UNA-USA format of rules and procedure.

Flow of committee:

1. **Motion to begin formal session** - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to begin formal session.
2. **Motion to set agenda** - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to set the agenda of the committee.
3. **Motion to begin roll call** - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to begin roll call. During roll call the delegate can either say “Present” or “Present and Voting”.

Note - If a delegate chooses to say “Present and Voting” then the delegate cannot abstain from voting for the resolution at the end of the committee. If the delegate votes “Present in voting” on the first day, their stance cannot be changed to “Present” during the rest of the conference. Meanwhile if they choose to say “Present” on the first day, a delegate can choose to change their stance to “Present in voting” during the rest of the conference.

4. **Motion to open the GSL (General Speakers List)** - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) raises a motion to establish the General Speakers List.
5. **Motion to move into Moderated Caucus** - To put this motion in order, the delegate raises a motion to suspend formal debate/session and move into a Moderated Caucus on the topic “xyz” for a time period of “xyz” minutes allotting “xyz” minutes/seconds per speaker.

6. **Motion to move into Unmoderated Caucus** - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) raises a motion to suspend formal session and move into an unmoderated caucus for a time period of “xyz” minutes.
7. **Motion to adjourn committee** - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to adjourn committee session.
8. **Motion to resume committee** - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to resume committee session.
9. **Motion to present Draft Resolution (or any other documentation)** - To put this motion in order, the delegate of (portfolio) puts forward a motion to introduce “resolution name”.

Note - In order to introduce amendments, the delegate of (portfolio) raises a motion to move into amendments for the “resolution name”.

In order to vote on the resolution the delegate of (portfolio) raises a motion to table “resolution name” for the voting procedure. Delegates can either vote “Yes” or “No”, if their voting stance is “Present in Voting”. However if their voting stance is “Present”, delegates can choose to abstain from voting in the resolution.

General MUN Terms:

1. **Motions** – It is a call to take a decision by a delegate that will affect the entire committee.
2. **Points** – Used to bring something of non-substantive importance to notice in committee and ask questions.
3. **Yields** – Utilising extra speech time left after a GSL speech.
4. **Executive Board** – They will facilitate debate within the Committee and are usually seated at the very front.
5. **Blocs** - Different groups that have similar ideas and opinions about the topics. In the real UN, there are regional blocs, but delegates can choose to build their own blocs in the Model UN. These blocs will typically work together to create a draft resolution.

6. **Lobbying** – Informal discussion with fellow delegates before and after the MUN sessions regarding the agenda, bloc positions, etc.
7. **Quorum** – The minimum number of delegates required to begin a committee session (1/5th of total strength).

Debate in MUN conference :

In a MUN conference, debate is of two types -

1. **Formal debate** - which consists of the General Speakers List (GSL)
2. **Informal debate** - which consists of Moderated Caucus and Unmoderated Caucus.

General Speakers List (GSL) :

- The GSL is a non exhaustive list, if it is exhausted the committee concludes.
- It has a default speaker time of 90 seconds
- It is generally an introductory speech in relation to the agenda, but with the flow of the committee it is recommended to shape the speech in accordance to what is being discussed in regards to the committee.
- Points of information (POI's) can be brought up during GSL speeches. (Points explained below)
- If the delegate finishes their speech before their speaker time ends, the delegate can yield the remaining time in four ways -
 - a. Yield to the Executive Board - In this case the Executive Board may decide on how the time can be used.
 - b. Yield to Questions - In order to allow questions from the committee.
 - c. Yield to Comments - In order to allow comments from the delegates present in committee.
 - d. Yield to another delegate - In this case the delegate can yield their remaining time to another delegate, for their own benefit.

Moderated Caucus :

- In a moderated caucus a more specific line of speeches is followed in relation to a sub agenda or subtopic.
- It is time sensitive, which means that it will elapse.
- Points of information and yielding will **not** be allowed in a moderated caucus.
- Points of orders will be entertained in a moderated caucus.
- These speeches made by delegates carry a high weightage compared to all the other speeches in committee.
- The time limit cannot be more than 2 minutes individual speakers time, and 20 minutes for total, but can be extended by half the time of the previous moderated caucus.
- If the delegate is not recognized to speak, a delegate can send in their points through substantive chits.

Format of substantive chits :

<p><u>Substantive Chit</u></p> <p>To : Executive Board</p> <p>From : The delegate of (portfolio)</p> <p>(Include points not being brought up in committee in the chit)</p>
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Unmoderated Caucus :

- Delegates engage in more informal discussions, usually get up and talk to each other and without chairperson intervention.
- Usually used for discussion regarding the Draft Resolution, Resolution, Working Paper or to come up with a road-map for the committee.
- Time sensitive, which implies that it also lapses.
- ‘The Delegate of XYZ would like to suspend formal debate and motions to move into an Unmoderated Caucus for a total time period of _____ minutes. (not more than 20 minutes)
- Can be extended by half the time of the previous Unmoderated Caucus.

Points :

- **Point of Information** – Used to ask questions on the speech that just ended. Follow-ups may be granted according to the discretion of the Executive Board. The delegate must present the question to the Executive board. For example, “The delegate of xyz stated quote ‘insert what the delegate said in their speech that you have a question on’. The delegate of (your portfolio) would like to ask the delegate of xyz ‘your question’.”
- **Points of Order** – Used to point out a flaw in a delegate’s speech. It will either be a Factual Inaccuracy or a Logical Fallacy. A Point of Order of Factual inaccuracy would be pointing out any factual flaws in the delegate's speech. These must also be raised to the Executive board. An example would be, “The delegate of (your portfolio) would like to raise a Point of Order, Factual Inaccuracy/Logical Fallacy. ‘State the incorrect fact stated or the flaw in logic’.”
- **Point of Personal Privilege** – Anything regarding yourself and the environment. (Going to the washroom, Switching off the fans, etc.) This is the only point that can trump anything else in committee, i.e. you can interrupt speeches, etc. if you are raising this point.
- **Point of Parliamentary Enquiry** – Questions regarding the flow of committee and rules of procedure.

Documentation :

- Working Paper (Draft Resolution but not in format)
- Draft Resolution
- Substantive chits

Resolution :

- A resolution can contain only the solutions which are being brought about during committee sessions.
- Sponsors – Usually the authors of the DR/R. Must vote in favour of the document when put up for a vote. They CANNOT become a signatory to any other resolution.
- Signatories – Neither support nor agree with the document, but would like to see it presented in committee. Have no obligation to vote for the document and one delegate can be a signatory to multiple resolutions. Every DR/R must have at least 1/3rd of the total members of committee as signatories to even be presented.
- Clauses – Preambulatory and Operative Amendments – Non-Substantive and Substantive → Friendly and Unfriendly and additions, Modifications or Deletions
- Voting → Yes, Yes with Rights, No, No with Rights, Abstention.

How a Double Delegation Works

In a double delegation, two delegates will represent the same portfolio, i.e. two individuals 'A' and 'B' will both together represent, for example, China. They will both work and research together such that they can function together in committee as a single unit.

Note: Any disagreements between both individuals should be resolved amicably, so as not negatively impact committee proceedings. In case of extreme circumstances, delegates are highly advised to approach the dias to get it resolved.

Introduction to The Committee

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is a crucial organ of the United Nations (UN) responsible for maintaining international peace and security. Established in 1945, the UNSC holds the authority to make binding decisions and enforce resolutions on member states.

The UNSC consists of 15 member states, with five permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and ten non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms. This power has been a subject of debate, as it can either impede or facilitate the Council's decision-making process.

The primary objectives of the UNSC include the prevention and resolution of conflicts, the promotion of peaceful settlements, and the protection of international security. It addresses a wide range of issues, such as armed conflicts, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, humanitarian crises, and violations of human rights.

The Security Council operates through various mechanisms, including formal meetings, consultations, and the establishment of subsidiary bodies such as sanctions committees and peacekeeping missions. Resolutions adopted by the Council are legally binding on all UN member states, and non-compliance can result in sanctions or other measures.

Effective participation in the UNSC requires thorough understanding of international relations, global challenges, and the specific interests and policies of the countries you represent. You will be tasked with analyzing complex issues, negotiating with fellow delegates, and proposing solutions that promote peace and security.

Introduction to The Agenda

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the horrifying echoes of the past reverberate through a nation that has been shattered by relentless conflict and violence. December 2023 marked a turning point, plunging the DRC into yet another battle as flawed and violent national elections unleashed waves of chaos, deepening the agony of a people already trapped in an unending cycle of bloodshed. The elections, marred by corruption and unrest, have fueled the fires of a conflict that has raged for decades, a conflict that has killed millions and will only continue to take lives unless you, delegates, take this opportunity to turn the tide.

In the eastern regions of the DRC, the violence has reached catastrophic levels. The military is locked in brutal clashes with insurgent groups, the most fearsome among them being M23, a rebel force primarily composed of Tutsi fighters with ties to Rwanda and Uganda, and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a militia with allegiance to ISIS. But they are far from alone. Over a hundred non-state armed groups roam the land, each one a purveyor of death and destruction. February 2024 saw an explosion of violence, an inferno that has drawn international condemnation and pushed the DRC to the brink of a humanitarian disaster. By March, the UN reported that 7.2 million people had been displaced within the country, making it one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world. The scale of human suffering is almost incomprehensible, as the Congo's wounds grow deeper with each passing day.

The origins of this streak trace back to the year 1994 when the DRC was drawn into a conflict which trickled down from the impact of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide. As the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) claimed victory in Rwanda, nearly two million Hutus fled across the border into Zaire, now the DRC. Among them were genocidal extremists who quickly organized into militias, sowing the seeds of future wars. Tutsi militias, supported by Rwandan troops, began their own campaigns, determined to eradicate the Hutu threat that had taken root in the DRC.

The First Congo War (1996-1997) erupted as these tensions reached a boiling point. The Rwandan invasion, justified by the need to neutralize Hutu extremists, was brutal. Entire swathes of Zaire were ravaged as Rwandan forces and their Congolese allies, led by opposition leader Laurent Kabila, waged a campaign of terror and annihilation. Mobutu Sese Seko, the dictator of Zaire, fled as the coalition swept into Kinshasa, seizing power and renaming the country the Democratic Republic of Congo. But the horrors did not end there. In 1998, the Second Congo

War broke out, plunging the DRC into one of the deadliest conflicts since World War II. Allies became enemies, and the country became a battleground for foreign powers and rebel groups alike. When Laurent Kabila was assassinated in 2001, his son, Joseph Kabila, inherited a war-torn nation and a legacy of bloodshed.

Despite peace agreements and the establishment of a transitional government, violence in eastern DRC never truly ceased. The region became a breeding ground for new rebel groups, the most notorious being M23. Composed mainly of ethnic Tutsis, M23 rose to prominence in the early 2010s, and by 2013, they had wreaked havoc across eastern DRC. Although temporarily subdued by the combined efforts of the Congolese army and UN peacekeepers, M23's resurgence in 2022 reignited fears of an all-out war.

The conflict is further complicated by the DRC's vast wealth of natural resources, specifically copper and cobalt. But this wealth has become a curse, drawing in foreign powers eager to exploit the Congo's riches. Chinese companies, in particular, have established a near-monopoly over the country's mining industry, their influence stretching deep into the Congolese government and military. The resources that should have lifted the DRC out of poverty have instead funded militias, corrupted leaders, and fueled the insurgency.

As the world watches, the situation in the DRC only worsens. The eastern regions are a battlefield, where Congolese forces, Rwandan troops, and a myriad of rebel groups clash with devastating consequences. Over seven million people have been displaced, and nearly a quarter of the population faces severe food insecurity. Children are caught in the crossfire, their lives shattered by violence and exploitation. The international community, meanwhile, struggles to provide aid as the situation spirals further out of control.

In 2023, international peacekeeping efforts faced severe backlash. The presence of the UN's MONUSCO forces in the DRC had become increasingly controversial, as local protests against their perceived ineffectiveness turned violent. Despite this, the UN Security Council extended MONUSCO's mandate, fearing that a sudden withdrawal would plunge the country into even deeper chaos. Yet, the future of international intervention remains uncertain, as regional and global powers continue to grapple with the complexities of the Congo's ongoing conflict.

The DRC's descent into darkness seems unstoppable, as the nation is pulled deeper into the abyss by forces both internal and external. With every passing day, the dream of peace seems further

out of reach, and the Congolese people continue to suffer in a land where hope is a rare and fleeting thing. The world may watch, but it is the people of the Congo who bear the burden of this endless war, their lives forever marked by the scars of a conflict that shows no sign of ending.

Examining The Effectiveness Of Already Existing Legal Frameworks

International Legal Bodies and Frameworks

United Nations Resolutions and Peacekeeping

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has passed several resolutions to address the conflict in the DRC. One of the most significant is the establishment of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), authorized by UNSC Resolution 1925 in 2010. MONUSCO's mandate includes protecting civilians, supporting the DRC government in stabilizing the country, and facilitating humanitarian assistance. Despite these efforts, challenges persist in ensuring effective civilian protection and achieving long-term stability. Issues such as limited resources, vast geographical areas, and the complex nature of the conflict hinder MONUSCO's effectiveness.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

The ICC has jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide committed in the DRC. The ICC has indicted several individuals, including Thomas Lubanga and Germain Katanga, for their roles in the conflict. While these prosecutions represent progress in holding perpetrators accountable, the overall impact on the conflict has been limited. Many high-profile perpetrators remain at large, and the ICC's reach is constrained by political and logistical challenges.

Regional Legal Frameworks

African Union (AU) and Regional Initiatives

The African Union (AU) and regional bodies such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) have played roles in addressing the DRC conflict. The AU's Peace and Security Council has engaged in diplomatic efforts and deployed peacekeepers. The ICGLR has established initiatives like the Pact on Security, Stability, and Development in the Great Lakes Region, which includes mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution. However, the effectiveness of these regional frameworks is often hampered by limited enforcement capabilities and the complex interplay of regional politics.

National Legal Frameworks

DRC's Legal and Judicial System

The DRC's legal and judicial systems face significant challenges, including corruption, lack of resources, and limited capacity. Efforts to reform the judiciary and improve the rule of law have been met with resistance and slow progress. Ensuring accountability for human rights abuses and conflict-related crimes within the national framework remains a daunting task. Strengthening the DRC's legal institutions is essential for achieving sustainable peace and justice.

Circumstantial Legal Frameworks

Nairobi Communiqué (2007)

The Nairobi Communiqué (2007) was an agreement between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda aimed at addressing the presence of Rwandan Hutu militias in eastern DRC. It sought to promote peace by disarming and repatriating the militias, improving bilateral relations, and stabilizing the conflict-prone region.

The Addis Ababa Peace Agreement (2013)

The Addis Ababa Peace Agreement (2013) was a framework signed by 11 African nations to address ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It aimed to stabilize the

region by promoting political reforms, disarming rebel groups like M23, and enhancing cooperation among regional states to prevent external interference in DRC's affairs.

Case Studies

The Kivu Conflict

The word 'conflict' does not do justice to the amount of destruction inflicted in this region. The Kivu Conflict, centered in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), particularly in the North and South Kivu provinces, has been one of the most persistent and devastating conflicts in the African Great Lakes region. Since the mid-1990s, the region has been engulfed in violence, driven by a complex interplay of ethnic tensions, competition for natural resources, and the presence of numerous armed groups. This conflict has not only destabilized the DRC but has also created one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises.

Historical Context

The Kivu Conflict's roots lie in the aftermath of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide, which saw an influx of Hutu refugees into eastern DRC, including members of the former Rwandan army and militias responsible for the genocide. These groups, later forming the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), have since used the Kivu region as a base for operations against the Tutsi-led Rwandan government. The FDLR remains one of the most notorious armed groups in the region, responsible for widespread atrocities, including massacres, rape, and the forced recruitment of child soldiers.

Opposing the FDLR are various other groups, including the March 23 Movement (M23), a predominantly Tutsi rebel group that emerged in 2012. M23 was initially formed by former members of the Congolese army who rebelled against the government, citing grievances over the failure to implement peace agreements that guaranteed their integration into the military. The group's name refers to the March 23, 2009 peace agreement between the DRC government and the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP), another Tutsi-led rebel group. M23's rise marked a significant escalation in the conflict, as it managed to capture key towns in North Kivu, including Goma, the provincial capital, in late 2012.

The Congolese National Army (FARDC) is the official state military force tasked with combating these rebel groups and maintaining security in the region. However, the FARDC has been plagued by issues such as corruption, poor discipline, and human rights abuses, which have often exacerbated the conflict rather than alleviated it. Additionally, various Mai-Mai militias, local self-defense groups primarily formed along ethnic lines, have further complicated the situation. These militias often switch allegiances and are involved in resource exploitation, making the conflict even more intractable.

Ethnic tensions in the Kivu region are a central driver of the conflict. The area is home to a diverse array of ethnic groups, including Hutu, Tutsi, Nande, Hunde, and others, each with its own historical grievances and claims to land and resources. The animosity between the Hutu and Tutsi populations, rooted in the Rwandan Genocide, continues to fuel violence in the region. Moreover, competition for land and political power has often led to violent confrontations, with different groups vying for control over territories.

The conflict is further intensified by the region's wealth of natural resources. North and South Kivu are rich in valuable minerals such as gold, coltan, tin, and tantalum, which are essential for the global electronics industry. Armed groups, including the FDLR and M23, have exploited these resources to fund their operations, engaging in illegal mining and trading activities. This "resource curse" has created a vicious cycle where the profits from mineral exploitation finance further violence, leading to more instability and suffering.

The United Nations has estimated that armed groups in the eastern DRC generate millions of dollars annually from the illegal trade of minerals, exacerbating the conflict and making peace efforts more challenging. The involvement of foreign actors, including neighboring Rwanda and Uganda, who are often accused of supporting rebel groups to secure access to these resources, has further complicated the situation.

Humanitarian Crisis and International Response

The Kivu Conflict has resulted in one of the most severe humanitarian crises in the world. The violence has displaced millions of people, with over 1.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in North and South Kivu alone. These IDPs live in dire conditions, often lacking access to basic necessities such as food, clean water, and healthcare. The conflict has also led to

widespread human rights abuses, including sexual violence, forced recruitment of child soldiers, and extrajudicial killings.

The international community, through the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), has made efforts to stabilize the region and protect civilians. MONUSCO, one of the largest and most expensive UN peacekeeping missions, has been active in the DRC since 1999. Its mandate includes supporting the Congolese government in its efforts to disarm rebel groups, protect civilians, and facilitate humanitarian assistance. However, despite its extensive presence, MONUSCO has faced significant challenges, including logistical constraints, limited resources, and accusations of failing to protect civilians adequately.

Various peace agreements have been signed over the years, such as the Nairobi Communiqué in 2007 and the Addis Ababa Peace Agreement in 2013, which aimed to address the root causes of the conflict and promote disarmament and reintegration of combatants. However, the implementation of these agreements has been inconsistent, often hindered by a lack of political will, inadequate funding, and continued interference by external actors.

The Ituri Conflict:

The Ituri conflict, centered in the Ituri Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), is one of the most brutal and protracted conflicts in the region. This conflict, which has seen periodic escalations since the late 1990s, is deeply rooted in ethnic tensions, land disputes, and the struggle for control over valuable resources. The violence has resulted in severe human rights abuses, including massacres, sexual violence, and the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. Despite various interventions by both international and national actors, the conflict remains unresolved, with sporadic violence continuing to plague the region.

Background

Ituri Province, located in the northeastern part of the DRC, has been a hotspot of ethnic violence, primarily involving the Lendu and Hema communities. The conflict between these two ethnic groups dates back to colonial times, but it escalated dramatically in the late 1990s and early 2000s. The Lendu, predominantly agriculturalists, and the Hema, who are mostly pastoralists,

have clashed over land and resources, which have been increasingly scarce due to population growth and environmental degradation.

The key actors in the Ituri conflict include various ethnic militias formed by the Lendu and Hema communities, as well as the Congolese National Army (FARDC). In recent years, the Cooperative for the Development of Congo (CODECO), a Lendu militia group, has been particularly active, engaging in violent confrontations with the FARDC and other groups. The conflict has not only been a local issue but has also been influenced by broader regional dynamics, including the influx of weapons and fighters from neighboring countries. Eventually however, it's always the civilians who face the brunt of the violence, with entire villages being destroyed, women and children subjected to sexual violence, and thousands of people forcibly displaced from their homes. The conflict has created a dire humanitarian situation, with displaced populations facing severe shortages of food, water, and medical care.

Efforts to Resolve the Conflict and the Challenges Faced

Numerous efforts have been made to resolve the Ituri conflict, but these have had limited success. As previously mentioned, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) has played a significant role in the region, deploying peacekeepers to protect civilians and support stabilization efforts. However, the impact of MONUSCO has been constrained by the volatile security situation and the sheer complexity of the conflict. Peacekeepers have often found themselves outmatched by well-armed militias and have struggled to maintain a lasting presence in the most affected areas.

National and local initiatives aimed at mediating between the Lendu and Hema communities have also been undertaken. The Congolese government, along with local authorities and traditional leaders, has made attempts to address the underlying grievances driving the conflict. However, these efforts have yielded mixed results, with many initiatives failing to gain the trust of the affected populations or to address the root causes of the conflict.

Judicial responses to the Ituri conflict have included prosecutions by the International Criminal Court (ICC). The ICC has brought to trial key figures involved in the early 2000s violence in Ituri, including Thomas Lubanga and Germain Katanga. Lubanga was convicted in 2012 for conscripting and enlisting child soldiers, while Katanga was convicted in 2014 for war crimes, including murder and pillaging. These prosecutions were significant in bringing some measure of accountability for the atrocities committed. However, the ongoing violence in the region suggests that deeper systemic issues remain unresolved, and that justice for past crimes has not been sufficient to deter future violence.

Next Steps for the Delegates

Research and Preparation

1. Understand the Context:

- Study the historical context of the conflict, including the colonial period, the aftermath of the Rwandan Genocide, and the Congo Wars.
- Familiarize yourself with the current situation, key actors (e.g., armed groups, government forces, international organizations), and the socio-economic landscape.

2. Identify Key Issues:

- Understand the root causes of the conflict, such as ethnic tensions, political instability, and economic disparities. Use the QARMA, provided towards the end of this document, as your starting point for such research.
- The role of natural resource exploitation in fueling the conflict.
- Understand the humanitarian impact (displacement, human rights abuses, gender based violence and the health crisis)

3. Understand Legalities and Loopholes in them:

- Look into what led to the inconsistency in the implementation of legal measures such as the Nairobi Communiqué in 2007 and the Addis Ababa Peace Agreement in 2013.

4. Use the QARMA as your Starting Point:

- As already mentioned, use the QARMA as an initiation to delve deeper into your research on this agenda.

QARMA

QARMA, which stands for "Questions a Resolution Must Answer," is a framework used to guide the development of resolutions in conferences. It consists of a set of questions that a resolution should address to ensure a comprehensive and well-rounded analysis of the agenda. These questions prompt delegates to consider key aspects such as defining terms, assessing effectiveness, exploring limitations and alternatives, considering stakeholder perspectives, and evaluating potential impacts. By incorporating QARMA, resolutions can provide a structured and thorough framework for discussion, enabling delegates to address the complexities of the agenda and propose well-informed solutions.

In summary, QARMA is a tool that helps delegates create resolutions that are comprehensive and address all essential aspects of the agenda. By answering a set of guiding questions, resolutions can provide a thorough analysis of the topic, consider various perspectives, and propose well-rounded solutions. QARMA ensures that resolutions are well-structured and enable meaningful discussions during conferences or debates.

QARMA for the Given Agenda

1. What measures can be implemented to improve the capacity of the Congolese National Army (FARDC) and local security forces?
2. What strategies can be employed to disarm, demobilize, and reintegrate (DDR) combatants from armed groups?
3. What immediate steps should be taken to address the urgent humanitarian needs of displaced populations and victims of violence?
4. How can the international community increase and coordinate humanitarian aid to ensure efficient and effective delivery?
5. What exactly led to the failure of the Nairobi Communiqué in 2007 and the Addis Ababa Peace Agreement in 2013?
6. What reforms are needed in the DRC's legal and judicial systems to strengthen the rule of law and ensure accountability for human rights abuses?

7. How can the International Criminal Court (ICC) and national courts be supported in prosecuting war crimes and crimes against humanity?
8. What strategies can be implemented to prevent the illegal exploitation of natural resources and ensure that resource revenues benefit the local population?
9. How can regional organizations such as the African Union (AU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) be engaged to support peace and stability in the DRC?