



Principles that should guide efforts to address the immediate crisis in eastern DRC

While focusing on long-term efforts to address the root causes of conflicts in the Great Lakes region, Special Envoy Mary Robinson is proposing some principles that should guide efforts to tackle the immediate crisis in eastern DRC. These principles are the following:

- All parties should solemnly acknowledge and agree that the suffering and displacement of the people, especially women and children, in Eastern DRC and beyond have gone on for too long and cannot be tolerated any further;
- The DRC government and all other parties to the PSC Framework should implement their commitments with a focus on a peaceful solution to the crisis;
- Any agreement reached between the concerned parties should contribute to breaking the cycle of violence and impunity, and be compatible with the DRC government's and region's obligations under the PSC Framework;
- The parties to any agreement should also comply with all other obligations under international law;
- The voluntary return of all refugees in the region should be accelerated in the context of furthering the agenda of reconciliation and tolerance;
- The demobilization of all armed groups active in eastern DRC, foreign or Congolese, should be re-launched, through a new DDR and DDRRR program that learns from past successes and pitfalls, in line with Security Council resolution 2098 (2013);
- The Special Envoy continues to support strongly all efforts to bring peace and stability to eastern DRC, including those under Security Council resolution 2098 (2013).
- The Special Envoy will continue to work closely with governments, donors and civil society to ensure that peace will create dividends for all the people in the region.