



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

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58th session of the Human Rights Council

Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's oral update on Democratic Republic of the Congo

1st April 2025

Delivered by Ambassador Vincenzo Grassi, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva

Mr. President,

Italy aligns itself with the EU statement and thanks the High Commissioner and the team of experts for their update.

Italy is deeply concerned for the escalating conflict in the eastern provinces of the DRC, as well as for the deteriorating security and human rights situation following renewed assaults by the Rwandan Defence Forces' backed M23 group. Civilian population, especially women and children, must be protected amid the worsening humanitarian crisis and rising displacement.

Italy strongly condemns the M23's offensive and the establishment of a parallel administration in the occupied territories, as well as the presence of RDF in the DRC, which represent a breach of the DRC's territorial integrity. We are appalled by all violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including sexual and gender-based violence, summary executions and the recruitment of children, and we reiterate our call to ensure accountability for all those responsible.

This escalation of violence significantly undermines African-led peace efforts. We reaffirm our support for the Luanda and Nairobi peace processes and we urge all parties to commit to a negotiated resolution of the conflict.

Finally, we deplore the DRC's decision to lift the moratorium on death penalty and the subsequent soaring in death sentences, which raises serious human rights concerns, particularly in the current volatile context.

I thank you.