

OFFICE OF THE
FACILITATOR
DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE
DRC GOVERNMENT AND THE
M23 ON THE SITUATION IN
EASTERN DRC



BUREAU DU FACILITATEUR
DIALOGUE ENTRE LE
GOUVERNEMENT DE LA RDC ET
LE M23 SUR LA SITUATION DANS
L'EST DE LA RDC

PRESS RELEASE

The seventh plenary meeting of the Dialogue between the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and M23 on the situation in eastern DRC was held at the Speke Hotel Resort Munyonyo, Kampala, on 21 December 2012.

The Dialogue, which officially opened on 9 December 2012, has been running for less than two weeks. Over this brief period, significant progress has been made, as follows:

1. The Rules of Procedure have been agreed, signed and operationalized;
2. The clusters to compose the Agenda for the Dialogue have been agreed, as follows:
 - i) Review of the Peace Agreement of 23 March 2009;
 - ii) Security issues;
 - iii) Social, economic and political matters;
 - iv) Mechanism for implementation of the resolutions adopted at the Dialogue.

Despite this substantial progress, consensus still needs to be reached on one item of the draft Agenda of the Dialogue within the security cluster. This item relates to the need to consolidate the current lull in military hostilities.

Taking into consideration the technical constraints related to the availability, over the Holiday season, of the invaluable Staff supporting the facilitation, without whom work cannot be carried out, the Facilitator has decided, in consultation with the Parties, to adjourn the plenary meetings of the Dialogue until 4 January 2013. He indicated, however, that he will remain in contact with the Delegations by telephone.

In his closing statement, the Facilitator recalled that the ultimate goal of the Dialogue is to secure lasting peace in eastern DRC for the benefit of the people. He also wished the participants a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Dialogue is being facilitated by H.E. Dr. Crispus Kiyonga, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Uganda. The Delegation of the Government of DRC is led by H.E. Raymond Tshibanda, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophonie of DRC. The Delegation of M23 is led by Francois Rucogoza, Executive Secretary of M23.

The Dialogue has so far attracted observers from the following countries and organizations: Belgium, France, Norway, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, The African Union, the European Union and MONUSCO.