



SLRMUN 25



UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 4

STUDY GUIDE

United Nations General Assembly Fourth

Committee (UNGA4)

SLRMUN 2025 Study Guide

Committee Mandate

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) considers a broad range of issues covering a cluster of five decolonization-related agenda items, the effects of atomic radiation, questions relating to information, a comprehensive review of the question of peacekeeping operations as well as a review of special political missions, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Israeli Practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories, and International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Message from the Chairs:

As the head table of the Fourth Committee (GA4), we would like to welcome you to our committee at SLRMUN 2025. This year, we have chosen to deliberate on the role of MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the prosecution of international criminals, two pressing issues that continue to shape global peacekeeping and international justice.

Understanding the complexities of peacekeeping operations and international legal frameworks is crucial for productive debate. Standard MUN procedures will apply, and further details can be found in the study guide. The goal of GA4 is to critically analyse the effectiveness of MONUSCO in stabilizing the DRC and assess the mechanisms in place for prosecuting individuals responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other violations of international law.

Best Regards,

Risindu Piyasena & Gishanka Perera

CONFERENCE TOPIC

Addressing the Civil War in the Democratic Republic of Congo with emphasis on the Role of the International Criminal Court in Holding War Criminals Accountable

Background

The conflict in eastern DRC, ongoing since 1996, has resulted in approximately six million deaths. The First Congo War (1996–1997) followed the 1994 Rwandan Genocide, as Hutu extremists fled into DRC, sparking conflict with Tutsi militias and regional powers. Backed by Rwanda and Uganda, opposition leader Laurent Kabila overthrew Mobutu Sese Seko and became president in 1997. However, relations between Kabila and Rwanda deteriorated, leading to the Second Congo War (1998–2002), involving multiple African nations. The war caused millions of deaths and ended with a peace agreement under Joseph Kabila, Laurent's son, who led the country until 2019.

Despite peace efforts, violence persisted, especially in eastern DRC. Rebel groups, including the Tutsi-led March 23 Movement (M23), have remained active. The country's vast mineral wealth, including cobalt and copper, has globalized the conflict, with Chinese firms dominating the mining industry and supplying arms to the Congolese military. Allegations of corruption and child labor in Chinese-run mines have raised international scrutiny.

Recent Developments

The resurgence of M23 in 2022 reignited tensions between DRC and Rwanda, with Kinshasa accusing Kigali of supporting the rebels, while Rwanda alleges DRC backs Hutu extremist groups. Despite a U.S.-brokered agreement in late 2023 to de-escalate military presence, violence continues.

Armed clashes between M23, Rwandan forces, Congolese troops, and other militias remain common, further destabilizing the region. Over seven million people are internally displaced, and DRC faces severe humanitarian challenges, including food insecurity affecting 23.4 million people. Human rights violations, particularly against children, have increased, exacerbating the crisis.

Points to Consider for Debate

1. Political, Economic, and Social Impact of the Conflict to the DRC
 - a. How has the civil war shaped the governance, economic stability, and societal structure of the DRC?
 - b. What role have regional and international actors played in influencing the situation?
2. Effectiveness of the ICC in Addressing War Crimes
 - a. Has the ICC been successful in prosecuting those responsible for war crimes in the DRC?
 - b. What challenges does the ICC face in ensuring justice and accountability for war crimes?
3. The Role of Foreign Intervention and Peacekeeping Forces

- a. How have UN peacekeeping missions, including MONUSCO, contributed to stability or exacerbated tensions?
 - b. Should there be an expansion or reform of peacekeeping efforts to better address security concerns?
4. Strengthening Legal Frameworks for Justice and Accountability
 - a. How can international law be strengthened to ensure accountability for war crimes in the DRC?
5. Pathways to Sustainable Peace and Post-Conflict Reconstruction
 - a. What diplomatic or economic measures could be implemented to ensure long-term stability in the DRC?
 - b. How can the international community address issues such as resource-driven conflicts, refugee displacement, and economic recovery?

Expectations from Delegates

1. Historical Accuracy and Well-Researched Arguments
 - a. Delegates must present factual and well-supported research based on credible sources and historical context of the conflict of the DRC
2. Accurate Representation of Foreign Policy
 - a. Delegates should accurately reflect their countries foreign policy regarding the conflict as well as related International Law.
3. Innovative Solutions to Strengthen Justice Mechanisms
 - a. Proposals to explore practical ways to enhance the ICC's role and ensure that justice for victims of war crimes are present. The prosecution of criminals should be considered.
4. Recommendations for Legal and Institutional Reforms

- a. Delegates should consider necessary amendments to international treaties or legal frameworks to prevent impunity.
5. Addressing Regional Instability and Resource-Driven Conflicts
- a. Discussions should include policies to regulate resource extraction, limit external interference, and promote economic stability in the DRC.

Conclusion

Delegates will engage in a comprehensive analysis of the DRC conflict, focusing on the role of the ICC in holding war criminals accountable. Prepare thoroughly with adequate research to comprehensively debate on the topic and provide logical analysis with proposed solutions.

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