



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

before the United Nations Security Council

on

**THE SITUATION CONCERNING THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO**

New York, February 2, 2001

(Final text)

THE SITUATION CONCERNING THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Mr. President,

The Jamaican delegation is pleased to see you presiding over the Council's deliberations for the month of February. We wish to assure you and the delegation of Tunisia of our full cooperation and support. Let me also express our appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Kishore Mahbubani and the delegation of Singapore for the dynamic and effective manner in which the affairs of the Council were handled last month.

Let me join others in welcoming President Joseph Kabila to the Security Council. On behalf of the Government and people of Jamaica, I wish to extend condolences to President Kabila and to his family on the untimely passing of his father, the late President Laurent Desiree Kabila, with whom the Security Council had the honour to meet in January of last year. Now that the mantle has been passed to President Joseph Kabila, we assure him of my delegation's continued support for and solidarity with the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Our message to President Kabila today is one of encouragement as he and the people he leads face the daunting challenges that lie ahead.

As the Secretary-General indicated, President Kabila may be assured that the international community stands ready to assist in bringing peace to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to the entire Great Lakes region of Africa. The fact that he has come to New York to meet with the Security Council so soon after his inauguration is a clear indication of his wish to move the process forward. We are indeed heartened by his recent diplomatic initiatives, both regional and international, and are encouraged by his call to all parties to come to the peace table. These gestures, reiterated in his important statement to the Council today, could be important confidence-building measures which we hope will be reciprocated.

Mr. President,

My delegation is well aware of how seemingly intractable the problems in the Democratic Republic of the Congo appear to be. But no matter how difficult it might seem to be to find solutions, the suffering of the people involved impels us to use our best efforts to put an end to their misery. My delegation continues to believe that the Lusaka Agreement remains the most viable basis for sustainable peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In this connection, we support the call for an immediate cessation of hostilities, and reaffirm support for the unity, stability and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in

accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). We also call on all concerned to demonstrate their commitment to implement the Kampala and Harare Agreements, as well as to cooperate with the Libreville process.

Jamaica fully supports the pursuit of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue. We believe that this political dialogue is an indispensable step towards national reconciliation. We therefore welcome the commitment, stated there today by President Kabila, to resume the process of national dialogue, and we emphasize the need for full cooperation by all parties involved with the Office of the Facilitator.

We urge those who believe that they have a legitimate right to justice and to governance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to pursue it through the processes provided for at the bargaining table and not through the barrel of a gun. We firmly believe that there is no military solution to the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Another issue of concern to my delegation is the continued illegal exploitation of mineral resources. The Interim Report of the Panel of Experts clearly indicates the link between the conflict and exploitation of resources which should be used for the economic and social development of the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In this regard, Jamaica fully supports the urgent deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to fulfill its mandate. We are therefore encouraged by President Kabila's reiteration of his Government's intention to cooperate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Kamel Morjane, and with MONUC.

As the conflict widens, with some 16 million people being affected, including over 2 million internally displaced persons and refugees in neighbouring states, we have the makings of an immense humanitarian tragedy, the extent of which is unknown, given the lack of access for humanitarian workers to the populations in need. We realize, however, that the humanitarian and security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo can be addressed in a lasting manner only within the framework of a comprehensive peace in a regional context involving the entire Great Lakes, in parallel with the national dialogue, under the auspices of the OAU and the United Nations.

In conclusion, Mr. President, my delegation wishes to express appreciation to the Secretary-General, to his Special Representative and to the men and women of the MONUC for their efforts to bring peace to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

We look forward to the report of the Secretary-General, which will set the stage for the Council's discussions later this month with the Political Committee of the Lusaka Agreement and for further action by the Security Council.

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