



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
to the other International Organizations
Geneva

36^h Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Geneva, 26th September 2017

**Item 10 – Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on
Democratic Republic of the Congo**

German Statement

Mr President,

Germany aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Nearly nine months after the signing of the Sylvester Agreement, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is at risk of substantially more violence and instability. We cannot ignore this multidimensional crisis, with its terrible impact on security, the socio-economic situation of the population and their human rights. The DRC is again among those countries with the highest numbers of internally displaced persons. The number has almost doubled in only six months. There are also regional repercussions.

We call on all actors to immediately end all violence. We condemn recruitment of children, killings, destruction of schools and of state infrastructure by militia as well as excessive use of force by the State services against civilian populations.

The DRC must finally embark on an inclusive path to free and fair elections. This ambition of the Sylvester agreement can still be realized if all actors engage in good faith for a transparent political transition. This is the only way out of the crisis. Swift publication of an election calendar and genuine confidence building measures are needed to resurrect the process. All political prisoners must now be released; intimidation and arbitrary arrests ended and all politically motivated legal proceedings halted.

We welcome that a team of international experts was dispatched to investigate the flagrant human rights violations in the Kasai region. We urge the Congolese Government to fully cooperate with this team and ensure their unhindered and safe access to the critical areas.

Thank you.