

*Q: How can we reach non-state actors in the peace process, especially those with ideologies rooted in traditional values?*

**Sister Angèle:** What drives the various actors in this country, whether state or non-state, to promote war is self-interest. Everyone wants to get rich, and the east of the DRC has become a major source of wealth. To engage non-state actors in peace processes, especially those whose ideologies are grounded in traditional values, it is advisable to:

- Identify all civil and political leaders involved in and profiting from this situation.
- Identify those who are manipulating public opinion.
- Engage in a genuine dialogue between armed groups without external intervention.
- Make grassroot state representatives accountable (head of families, villages, groups and chiefdoms) and encourage dialogue.

*Q: Given all the root causes mentioned by our panelists from 1996 to the present day, in particular the presence of foreign armed groups, are continued fruitless dialogue still relevant? Isn't it time to shift toward practical actions, such as the immediate withdrawal of troops and the enforcement of resolutions?*

**Sister Angèle:** The dialogues are scattered between the different groups and there is no common exchange. I think it's indeed time to move to practical actions, as listed in the previous answer.

*Q: What mechanism should be used to ensure that these armed groups lay down their arms?*

**Sister Angèle:** All mechanisms are in the hands of the state and the government's decisions are the only avenue for action. If the government asserts control over the attackers, rebels and militias, foreign elements and weapons will be forced to leave the country. **Strengthening the authority of the state, its leaders and various chiefs is essential.** Unfortunately, the state is pursuing its own interests at the expense of the population.

*Q: Do you think that decisions by political players, such as those taken at the conference of the OIF's assembly of deputies, can change the situation?*

**Mr Godefroid Marhegane:** I firmly believe it because of the determination of the parliamentary delegation from the DRC, the diversity of other parliamentarians and the statement made by Louise Mushikiwabo. Her statement not only aligns her with the President, but also highlights her as one of the few dignitaries capable of influencing Paul Kagame's stance. A congratulatory note from EurAc and PCI could leverage her leadership qualities and sensitivity to the suffering in the DRC, encouraging her to continue advocating for peace.

*Q: Do you believe that the involvement of regional organizations is an effective strategy for resolving the crisis in eastern DRC?*

**Mr Godefroid Marhegane:** The involvement of certain regional and even international organizations is an effective strategy for resolving the crisis and restoring peace, not just

**in eastern DRC but throughout the country.** The AFDL war in 1996 succeeded because the people of Zaire had had enough of President Mobutu's 32-year reign and wanted change. Unfortunately, the population missed the agenda of those involved in this change and we regret the assassination of Laurent Désiré Kabila. I digress to reaffirm the adage that **no war can succeed without popular support.** Today, thousands of young people in Lubero and Butembo are spontaneously mobilizing to resist the M23/RDF and even the ADF. These youths are urging the government to provide them with accelerated military training and equipment to fulfill their mission. Within the community, journalists Magloire Paluku and Delion Kimbulumbu, who joined the M23, are viewed as traitors.

*Q: Can we consider a bottom-up approach to security?*

**Mr Godefroid Marhegane:** I agree that **security should be approached from the grassroots level,** with the population informed about the frameworks governing sub-regional cooperation and the complex role of UN peacekeeping forces. Within the FARDC police and national army, there are committed nationalists who, with proper material and moral support, can effectively protect the country. Additionally, a system of sanctions should be established to reward those who excel and discipline those who struggle to adhere to standards. **While this is a long-term endeavor, it is one that must begin with the support of partner organizations.**

*Q: What do you think of the reports directly accusing certain neighboring countries of involvement in the war in the DRC, and of the international community's inadequate response in terms of sanctions, such as embargoes on arms purchases for these countries?*

**Mr Godefroid Marhegane:** **The DRC's natural resources are highly coveted, with some neighboring countries fostering a climate of war and armed conflict to exploit these resources.** These countries actively work to undermine the DRC's leadership, aiming to secure easier access to the nation's wealth. Moreover, they act as intermediaries for certain multinationals, such as Apple, which source minerals from the DRC. The DRC must establish a strong lobbying effort to expose the trade in conflict minerals and **demand sanctions against both neighboring countries and the multinationals involved.** Although this effort is already in progress, the authorities need a deep understanding of international justice to know which mechanisms to approach. Recently, a Congolese lawyer at the ICC drew the attention of the DRC's leaders to this issue. In my view, the international community is hesitant to impose sanctions on these countries because they too benefit from this illicit trade.