



**8th ORDINARY SESSION OF THE JOINT PERMANENT COMMISSION BETWEEN
THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO HELD
IN KINSHASA (DRC) FROM 12 TO 14 OCTOBER 2023**

Joint Communiqué

1. At the invitation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the 8th Ordinary Session of the Joint Permanent Commission between the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Uganda was held in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo from 12 to 14 October 2023.
2. The delegation of the Republic of Uganda was led by Rt. Honorable **Rebecca A. KADAGA**, 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, accompanied by:
 - Honorable **John MULIMBA**, Minister of State for Regional Cooperation;
 - Honorable **Norbert Mao**, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
 - Honorable **Oboth-Oboth**, Minister of State for Defense;
 - Honorable **Peter LOKERIS**, Minister of State for Minerals;
 - Honorable **Harriet NTABAZI**, Minister of State for Trade;
 - Honorable **Anifa KAWOoya BANGIRANA**, Minister of State for Health, General Duties;
 - Honorable **NYIRABASHITSI SARAH MATEKE**, Minister of State for Youth;
 - Honorable **BYAMUKAMA Fred**, Minister of State in charge of Transport;
 - Honorable **JOYCE NABBOSSA SSEBUGWAWO**, Minister of State for Information, Communication, Technology and National Guidance;
 - Honorable **John CHRYSOSTOM MUYINGO**, Minister of State for Higher Education;
 - Honorable **Hellen ADOA**, Minister of State for Fisheries;

RK

MK

3. The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Congo was led by His Excellency **Antipas MBUSA NYAMWISI**, Minister of State, Minister of Regional Integration, accompanied by:
- His Excellency Mr. **Jean-Pierre BEMBA GOMBO**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of National Defense and Veterans;
 - His Excellency Mr. **Alexis GISARO**, Minister of State, Minister of Infrastructure and Public Works;
 - His Excellency Mr. **Patrick MUYAYA**, Minister of Communication and Media, Spokesperson for the Government of the DRC;
 - Her Excellency Madame **Antoinette SAMBA**, Minister of Mines;
 - His Excellency Mr. **Marc EKILA**, Minister of Transport, Communication Routes and Opening Up;
 - His Excellency Mr. **Samuel Roger KAMBA MULAMBA**, Minister of Public Health, Hygiene and Prevention;
 - His Excellency Mr. **Désire NZINGA BILIHANZI**, Minister of Entrepreneurship, Small and Medium Enterprises;
 - His Excellency Mr. **Yves BUNKULU ZOLA**, Minister of Youth, Initiation to New Citizenship and National Cohesion;
 - His Excellency Mr. **Olivier MWENZE MUKALENG**, Minister of Hydraulic Resources and Electricity
 - His Excellency **Julien PALUKU KAHONGYA**, Minister of Industry;
 - His Excellency **Modeste MUTINGA MUTWISHIYA**, Minister of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Actions;
 - His Excellency **Augustin KIBASSA MALIBA**, Minister of Posts, Telecommunications, and New Information and Communication Technologies;
 - His Excellency **Didier BUDIMBU NTUBUANGA**, Minister of Hydrocarbons;
 - Her Excellency **Mireille MASANGU BIBI MULOLO**, Minister of Gender, Family and Children;
 - His Excellency Mr. **Adrien BOKELE DJEMA**, Minister of Fisheries and Livestock;
 - His Excellency **Thaddée MAMBU LAU MBEMBA**, Deputy Minister of Justice;
 - His Excellency **Jean Lucien Bussa TOGBA**, Minister of Foreign Trade;
 - And
 - His Excellency **Samy ADUBANGO AWOTHO**, Deputy Minister of Defence

4. In his opening address, His Excellency **Antipas MBUSA NYAMWISI**, Minister of State, Minister of Regional Integration, denounced the acts of terrorism that caused thousands of victims in the Democratic Republic of Congo, specifically in Beni territory in North Kivu, Itumu and Mambasa territories in Ituri, and the massacre and burning of children in their dormitories at Lycée Lubhirlha in the border town of Mpondwe in Uganda.
5. He also emphasized the need to strengthen the fraternal relations that exist between the peoples of the two countries and, at the same time, expressed the Government's willingness to revitalize the economic, commercial, cultural and security ties that link the two countries. He then reaffirmed the commitment and determination of the two Heads of State, Their Excellencies Mr **Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO**, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Mr **YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI**, President of the Republic of Uganda, to attach particular importance to bilateral cooperation with the aim of improving the standard of living of the peoples of both countries.
6. His Excellency Mr **John MULIMBA**, Minister of State for Regional Cooperation, on behalf of Her Excellency **Rt. Hon. Rebecca A. KADAGA**, 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, expressed his gratitude to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo and its people for organizing the 8th Session of the Joint Permanent Commission and for the hospitality extended to the Ugandan delegation during its stay in Kinshasa.
7. He also acknowledged the great work accomplished by His Excellency President **Felix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO** during his term at the head of the African Union and the Regional Monitoring Mechanism for ICGLR, and the wonderful role he played for the stability of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Great Lakes Region. He reaffirmed the commitment of His Excellency President **YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI** to strengthening cooperation and sustainable development in the region. He also stressed the need to speed up the implementation of the decisions taken so as not to lose sight of the expectations of the two Heads of State.
8. The two parties recognized that their shared geography, culture and history impose obligations on them, particularly in terms of ongoing dialogue, in the interest of their respective peoples.

9. To this end, the two parties agreed to remove entry visa fees on reciprocal bases to facilitate free movement of people.
10. They examined issues relating to military and security cooperation, the securing and demarcation of common borders, the neutralization of hostile armed groups, the fight against proliferation of small arms and light weapons, repatriation of refugees, public administration, and decentralized cooperation between the decentralized territorial entities bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Uganda.
11. The two parties also discussed cooperation in the fields of trade, taxation, customs, transport, telecommunications and communications, industry, agriculture, fisheries and livestock, pollution control in the border zone, the construction of power lines and roads between the two countries, infrastructure development, hydrocarbon exploration in areas of common interest and in Health matters.
12. The two parties have signed a memorandum of understanding on the roadmap for the implementation of all the 7th Joint Permanent Commission decisions under customs and trade.
13. The two parties discussed cooperation agreements in the following areas: public administration, the fight against corruption, respect for human rights, justice, humanitarian action and national solidarity, youth, health, sports and entertainment, gender, family and children, social affairs and education, immigration, prisoner exchanges and air transport and agreed to continue consultations to finalize the above agreements.
14. At the end of discussions, the two parties noted with satisfaction the efforts made to implement the recommendations of the 7th Session of the Joint Permanent Commission between the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Uganda held in Kampala in 2018.
15. To this end, the two Parties agreed to set up a Permanent Joint Follow-up Committee within 3 months to implement recommendations arising from this 8th Session of the Joint Permanent Commission and directed the committee to make quarterly progress report.

16. The Right Honorable **Rebecca A. KADAGA**, 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, on her own behalf and on behalf of her entire delegation, thanked the Minister of State, His Excellency **Antipas MBUSA NYAMWISI**, the Government and the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo for the warm welcome extended to them.
17. The discussions took place in a spirit of peace and brotherly understanding and both parties expressed gratitude that this meeting has taken place.
18. The two parties agreed to meet in Kampala, in the Republic of Uganda, to hold the 9th Session of the Joint Permanent Commission on a date to be set and Communicated through diplomatic channels.

Done in Kinshasa, 14 October 2023.

For the Democratic Republic of Congo



H.E. Mr **Antipas MBUSA NYAMWISI**
Minister of State, Minister for Regional
Integration

For the Republic of Uganda



Rt. Honorable **Rebecca A. KADAGA**, 1st
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for
East African Community Affairs