

# Role and Place of the Democratic Republic of Congo within the UN System

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**Abstract:** *Since the dawn of its independence, the DRC has existed in the multilateral framework through the United Nations. The United Nations remains the privileged place to enter the international community on the one hand, and to radiate its image throughout the world on the other. Nevertheless, the DRC does not seem to play its role in the concert of nations because of several factors, both internal and international. The lack of national performance is a handicap for its international deployment. The most important UN mission is deployed in the DRC. Thus, the resolution of internal problems, the mobilization of revenues and good management are all factors that would allow the country to integrate into the United Nations system which is a place where the actors are contributors to the resolution of international problems which goes through the ability of each actor to contribute.*

**Keywords:** Organization of United Nations

## 1. Introduction

As a member of the United Nations, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been part of the international multilateral framework since the dawn of its accession to national and international sovereignty. Since then, the United Nations (UN) has become the privileged place to signal its existence. It is a question of asserting itself among other actors of the system and above all, it is a place where to weave reports of several orders. Which reports are likely to raise the young state to the rank of actors on the international scene? Nevertheless, over the years, the country seems to remain the one whose presence within the United Nations would be comparable to its absence. Several facts make it less important among so many other actors. The weakness of the country's political, economic and security structures is a testament to the country's weaknesses in finding solutions to internal challenges before thinking of those of an international nature. The actors of the system are the states that first establish peace internally before considering setting up at the international level.

Moreover, the United Nations is by no means a forum for concerted action, but also, and above all, a real framework for resolving international problems in many ways. Only the actors (contributing States) are entitled to the chapter when working on important issues if not vital on the planet. On the other hand, the other less existing ones of the stage or not contributors appear there only from the point of view of the contributions to the operation and the resolutions of the world challenges.

Thus, it is noted that the United Nations would be a framework in which some States hardly exist, although they are on the list of States of the system. Our attention is drawn to the case of the DRC to the point of questioning us on the place and the role it plays within this international framework. The leitmotiv is to know the actual position in the tide of several states that make up the system. The other actors seem to take flight in international life to the point of imposing their desire on the concert of Nations. This scientific cogitation would answer this ultimate concern. Hence, three essential parts form the backbone of this

article. The UN framework: a general presentation of it, the DRC as a member of the United Nations and finally the role of the DRC in the UN. We will conclude with suggestions for a possible way out for a state actor within the United Nations.

## 2. The United Nations Concert

### 2.1 Presentation

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization created by the Treaty of SAN FRANCISCO of February 26, 1945. It is a structure grouping with a few exceptions all the States of the planet. Distinct from the states that compose it, the organization aims at international peace and security. The objectives remain, inter alia: cooperation in the international multilateral framework, international security, international economic development, social progress, and the promotion of human rights and the ultimate achievement of world peace. It is a structure that emerged from a conflict of international stature that led to the first and second world wars. The UN, then taking the place of the League of Nations, the deceased having failed this mission. Since then, the end has been to stop wars between states and provide a platform for large-scale dialogue. It contains several subsidiary organizations to carry out these missions.

On the other hand, the UN is not a world government and does not legislate. However, its resolutions give legitimacy to state intervention and are increasingly applied in national and international law. All its actions are perpetuated through the signing of treaties or conventions, interventions between nations. Within the UN, the main proceedings and debates are interpreted or translated in writing in the six official languages of the United Nations: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish, but only English and French are working languages of the New York headquarters.

Saving us from a long literature on the United Nations, we want in a condensed way to present the United Nations as a framework for the flow of multilateral and multisectoral flows between actors. The DRC is striving within this framework and its international deployment, aims at the

development of its State and its population and its affirmation as an important player in the system, before entering into the heart of the research theme, which focuses on role and in the place played on the international level, all this in the light of certain elements and referential factors.

In the aftermath, under the charter, the founding act of the organization, the United Nations is a place where a better future is built for all people and all human beings. Several objectives are thus defined, *inter alia*: the maintenance of international peace and security, the achievement of international co-operation on all subjects where it can be useful and encourages respect for human rights. It is a center for harmonizing the efforts of nations in pursuit of common goals. Solving environmental problems is an implicit mission assigned to the members of the organization.

## 2.2 Financing the Organization

For Benjamin MULAMBA M. (2012), which is the financing of the organization, as well as its specialized agencies, it is ensured by the obligatory contributions of the member countries and by voluntary contributions of all the companies, organizations or individuals who also have the peace and security of the world as movers or bases of their actions.

In addition, there is an American tradition of foundations that support the work of the United Nations. The main contributors to the financing of the organization are, among others: The United States (22%), Japan (11%), France (8%), Germany (7%), the United Kingdom (5%), China (5%), Italy (4%), Canada (3%), Spain (3%) and Brazil (3%). These players thus play a no less important role in resolutions of issues that affect the survival of the world. The less contributive actors simply attend the votes of the resolutions which are initiations of these great contributors. Among these states, the least contributors, one would find the DRC which sometimes undergoes the decisions taken for lack of a participation in the very functioning of the UN. Far from being an elector during voting operations (one state = one vote), the very philosophy of the organization is to involve all the states of the world in the search for solutions and which are effective for a balanced human life in a world. an atmosphere of collaboration and mutual and concerted acceptance.

The contribution of each Member State is calculated according to a quota system. The main criterion used by Member States in the framework of the General Assembly is the ability of countries to pay. This is based on an estimate of their gross national product (GNP) adjusted for various factors such as external debt and low per capita income. The share of each member state is decided by the General Assembly according to this methodology and ranges from a minimum of 0.001% to a maximum of 22%, the maximum share for the least developed countries being 0.01 Resolution A / RES / 67/238, adopted on 24 December 2012, established the scale of assessments for the apportionment of United Nations expenditures for the regular budget of the United Nations, first for the biennium 2013-2015 and with the possibility of remaining the benchmark for quotas for all

member states (UN Resolution A / RES / 67/238 of 24 Dec. 2012).

With regard to the delay in the payment of contributions, article 19 of the United Nations Charter states: "A member of the United Nations who is late in paying his or her contribution to the expenses of the organization may not participate in the vote for the General Assembly if the amount of his arrears is equal to or greater than the contribution due by him for the two full years elapsed. The General Assembly may, however, allow that member to participate in the vote if it finds that the breach is due to circumstances beyond its control "(www.un.org).

In the process, there is one thing we do not talk about when we talk about the United Nations. It's funding. Yet it is one of the few systems where, regardless of its rank of contribution, a state has a voice. But alas, things are not so simple as they appear. Those who pay want to decide that program recipients are not major payers. Several political issues are hiding behind the question of funding from the United Nations, its specialized agencies and its various programs. Thus, as we have noted above, the ordinary budget of the UN system is financed by the obligatory contributions of the Member States. The scale of assessments is approved by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Committee on Contributions. It is the scale of contribution to the budget of the organization which makes it possible to read the situation of the state concerned within the organization itself. For the DRC, indeed, as for the majority of the Member States, especially those of the African space, the contributions are weak. After winning the bet of payment delays in the UN scale, fell back in the years 2012 to 2016. This has compromised its consideration within the system.

According to Benjamin MULAMBA M. (2012), UN member states meet certain conditions, among others: to be a state, to be peaceful, to accept the obligations of the charter, to be able to fulfill these conditions, to be willing to make. These conditions must be considered not only as necessary conditions but also as sufficient conditions. In the light of these elements, a State such as the DRC may rightly have an overview of the role to be played in the system that would require all members to share some responsibility and thus contribute to the restoration of peace and security international security and safeguarding them. The end of the Second World War brought to the fore the absolute necessity of international co-operation which would prevent new world conflicts by creating the conditions for a fruitful collaboration of States.

Facing the challenges and challenges of the 21st century, the UN through all members would meet a dual imperative: financial sustainability, effectiveness of UN action. It is in this respect that some members of the organization support its efforts on a large scale and make their participation a necessity of the organization. As a result, contributors become decision-makers, while the least contributors and non-contributors can only endure the decisions made by the big ones in the same system. Legally, all states go to the action of sanctions by voting operations.

The UN is therefore important as a framework for resolution and consultation because decolonization has changed the face of the world with more than 80 nations that have freed themselves from colonial rule and since then have been potential members for the creation of a world better loving peace and integrated communautarism.

### **2.3 The DRC as a Member of the United Nations**

The DRC has been a member of the United Nations since 20 September 1960. Its accession to the UN system is primarily a function of its existence as a state (independent political unit). This affirmation at the concert of the States allows it to collaborate with other actors having existed prudently on the international scene. The legal principle of "one state is worth one vote" in the voting process makes it possible to say that the DRC has a place in the UN, even more its election to the United Nations Human Rights Council for a triennial in September 2017 solidifies this point of view. This quality of membership cannot be torn from it or deprived by anyone in the system. As such, all states are equal because, all meet the same conditions according to the spirit and the letter of the charter of the organization. All, independent, they cannot receive the injunctions of the other members. Great as small states, they all have a seat and are called to participate in the various works of the organization. In addition, all states are of right and principle. It is a statement of the same constitutive charter with regard to any independent state manifesting its willingness to join forces with those of the community of states for a common purpose: to ensure global peace and security, to facilitate international cooperation for the stability of all the peoples of the world.

In this vein, we will elucidate some internal and external factors, as regards the Democratic Republic of Congo to understand how much the Congolese state seems to be strong or weak within the United Nations. This will allow us to approach the crux of the question in the following lines.

#### **a) Internal Factors**

It is about political, economic and security factors. The DRC is one of the unstable countries from an institutional point of view. From the dawn of its independence, the state is almost non-existent. If there was existence, it would be a faceted existence. This is explained by the fact that the state barely plays its role of initiator and protector of national life. In the 21st century, the Unitarian actors of power (states) claim to be providence, that is to say, interventionists in the national life for the social equilibrium. This is the notion of modern states. Ministerial reshuffles at regular intervals and at regular intervals. Frequent government changes could be a sign of the apparent weakness of the state. From 2011 to 2016, the country knew more or less six governments namely the government MUZITO I and II, government MATATA I and II, government BADIBANGA and the government TSHIBALA. The frequency of government change, political institutions are illustrative elements of the weakness and / or strength of the state. Several studies show that the institutional instability of the country is the fundamental one of the fall of the political powers and not reaching the assigned objectives, and therefore, the development in several sectors of the national life.

In addition, the institutional context, with its proliferation of actors and the permanent tension between the central state and local communities, continues to be a hybrid system, exacerbated by the situation of a failed state and a crisis economic. This lack of integrated management, an effective institutional framework and the homogeneous rules on which participative and participative management can be constituted constitute a departure from the deployment of the Congolese State on the international scene. At the UN, in order to defend the national interest. The reason is that they are clearly less defined or if they exist, are only disparate. Thus, we have unraveled, the United Nations system is a framework for consultation, collaboration or tools and contributors actors in terms of well-defined and achievable projects can be treated in order to win. It is in this way that we can attract the sympathy of others and hope to benefit from it.

The DRC, out of multifaceted crises including the civil war from 1998 to 2002, a difficult process of reconstruction, the establishment of institutions from the 2006 constitution, the crisis of legitimacy, the establishment of new constitutional provinces (26 according to the 2005 constitution). But, the country faces immense post-conflict challenges. The economic, social, political, moral, educational challenges, also the territorial challenge, because the years of the transition would be assimilated to those of the "chaos" (1998-2002). The situation of the country has presented more and more disarticulated depriving the state of control of its space and the majority of Congolese access difficult if not non-existent to basic social services. The drama of the Congo, whose "wealth" is constantly extolled, can be summed up in the despairing fact that the vast majority of the population lives worse until they have gained independence for nearly six decades. From the beginning of the 1990s, the dilapidated infrastructure in the national space has plunged the country into underdevelopment, impoverishment and insecurity (Portier 2003). The return of peace, not yet complete because of some pockets of resistance and insurgency in the eastern part of the country (North Kivu and South Kivu) remain intact, still bodes a new era. In this perspective, the restoration of the state and the reconstruction of the country must be carried out in front of each other. This is why communication infrastructures are at the forefront of the priority projects: this choice constitutes the beginning of a policy of territory Development. The planning of major projects, especially road projects, implies a vision at the national level, completely necessary for the decentralization, inscribed in the constitution.

The issue of decentralization suffers from common reading among members of the entire political class. This lack of consensus affects the autonomy of the provinces and defenders of the central state. The fact that decentralization is enshrined in the constitution does not guarantee education. This lack of spatial planning by the central state, to balance the "centrifugal" forces of decentralization, source of the fragmentation of the DRC, does not allow the country to play its role both internally and internationally. The lack of good infrastructure policy does not allow the DRC to keep and regain cohesion. Another challenge is that of a fragmented territory. Distributed on both sides of the equator

and occupied in its center by the second largest forest in the world, having a foot on the Atlantic coast of Africa and a foot in the heart of the Great Lakes region. The territory of the DRC presents in addition to inequalities territories, a real diversity. Apart from the question of a centralized power or not, the first challenge of any state will in the DRC is to create a link between the various components of its territorial mosaic.

Demographics with unequal distribution are not left out of the challenges that the country faces. The imbalanced distribution of the population is a reflection of this spatial structure of the network and communication tools. It is customary to say that the Congo "is full of natural wealth," yet their exploitation, the foundation of the Congolese economy for more than a century (including the colonial era) is as much its strength as its weakness of the national economy would it be part of the continuity of an economy of levy, if not of plunder, or in a perspective of reasoned valuation of these "riches" forest and mining which are neither a panacea nor a curse? It is a fundamental question that articulates resource management, territorial policies and development models.

The international financial crisis of 2009 and its ramifications on the internal economic sectors of the countries of the planet especially the "potential" economic partners interrupted the DRC's dynamic of post-conflict economic recovery. The unfinished reforms served as a springboard for the effects of the crisis, which would probably have been less severe.

(1) This situation as well as the entire corollary has highlighted a major characteristic of the Congolese economy, namely, extreme fragility in the face of exogenous shocks. This fragility is based on the non-diversification of exports, which remain essentially composed of a few primary products, on the dependence of external donors on the financing of the economy and on the structurally inflationary nature of public finance management.

In this context, the measures to mitigate the effects of the crisis have a limited effect and the external financing made available to the country remains modest. This leads the authority to stick to initiatives close to the orthodoxy of policies recommended in the framework of macroeconomic stabilization programs. Thus, any recovery of the economy to reduce its vulnerability to external shocks will seem to us to be a coherent program avoiding any path towards indebtedness, when we know how bad the debt service is to boom of the Congolese economy since long dates.

The challenges are that the less the country solves the national problems, the harder it is to be effective in the field of international cooperation through the UN, which are a place and a privileged framework for the flow of multinational flows. The common goal is that of the development of all the actors who unite the efforts for this common end, the importance of national performances for a real and beneficial existence at the international level. This is how a state can claim to be a state actor in the United Nations system. There is no need to mention the geographical area where the State is located, but rather its

contribution to the concert of States which is of considerable importance and for a world where the peoples live in peace with mutual respect and the security of their property. It is fitting to say from this point of view that the major contributing States are those whose political, social, economic and military-security structures are stable. Their technological capabilities and scientific contributions are well established. They are characterized by innovations in key areas and a large volume of humanitarian contribution. Hence, they can contribute internationally because, having already demonstrated at the national level. What is far from being the case for the DRC whose weaknesses in many respects are no longer demonstrated for decades?

#### **b) At The International Level**

Several actions by various international actors are the subject of various criticisms; these aggravate the very perception of a state sovereignly existing in the United Nations concert. It befits to be able to decide on its territory and its riches. Reforms (political, economic, mining, forestry), in many other areas such as the administration from powerful actors, foreign donors and partners of the DRC would not be well received by Congolese leaders. On the one hand, there appears to be a contradiction in the framework of international cooperation, which aims to be a place where partners put together their assets, know-how and know-how for the benefit of all stakeholders. This would not be well understood by the authorities, the political class and somewhat of the scientists who seem to make a reading contrary to that which binds the partners by reciprocal actions and in a concerted manner. On the other hand, knowing the capacities of the partners of the DRC which, since long dates would like to bring the Congolese State to bend for a sometimes uncoordinated exploitation of the natural resources of the country. This dichotomy leads us to understand from what point of view, the DRC is at the crossroads because, the bad comprehension of the agreements which bind the actors, the clarification of them and as well as the preliminary ones could be a way to avoid all slippage and fuzziness maintained by both, even if internationally, states are determined to impose their will on others, especially if they show weaknesses of any kind. Knowledge of the actors involved would be another important asset in international relations where actors of all kinds are included for different multilateral flows.

In the same vein, the Congolese realities require a thorough study rather than any contribution to structural redevelopment that would be unsuited to the Congolese model and hinder the smooth running of the State, given the difficulties of several orders. For illustrative purposes, the reforms of the World Bank have brought nothing concrete to the country if not to enrich more external donors. The organization has almost replaced the Congolese state by taking strategic decisions that traditionally fall within the prerogatives of the sovereign state. Thus, the various injunctions are perceived as a way for the international community (the powerful states and decision-makers of the system). With regard to the contribution of the DRC, its contribution capacity of the last two years is 0.003% on 100% of the total contribution. Thus, the contribution of the country is classified in the contributions of the Member

States "degressed" of category 4, that is to say 36 countries whose total percentage is of 0,187%.

### 3. Conclusion and Suggestions

At the end of this cogitation, it is appropriate to recall the crux of the question: Place and role of the DRC within the UN system. The UN is a framework for the flow of international multisectoral flows between several states of all continents. Several internal, external and international factors have enlightened us to perceive the real place and the true role that the DRC plays within this reference structure in the world. Weaknesses, notably the disarticulation of socio-political and economic structures, the opaque and less balanced management of the State, public finances, the misallocation of national resources, the lack of integrated management of the entire Congolese territorial space, contribution of the country in terms of international contributions to the UN, place the country in a position of weakness, to play its role within the structure itself. Moreover, Congo's internal performance should be stepping stones to international performance; since the field of cooperation is that of the actors contributing to the solutions of all the members of the organization. This is how the DRC as a member of the United Nations can have a non-fictional or passive place, but also and most importantly, plays the same important role as all other members, to influence the international scene. The ultimate end is the wellbeing of the Congolese country and people.

Our contribution is this reflection that we consider no less necessary for our country, the contribution to the resolution of Congolese problems in order to allow the Congolese State to rise as an actor on the international scene. It should play the necessary role for the promotion of the Congolese people, the promotion of the State and the entire international community. So, let us suggest in a few lines a solution track.

- 1) The DRC is an independent country, like other states in the world, and they are members of the United Nations. The country should simmer social projects, in the foreground, national before thinking internationally. No actor in the UN system has the monopoly to induce another actor not to have national projects for the future of the State concerned, the smooth running or the advancement of the latter and its population. Each of the members of the United Nations being different from others because of history, political, economic, social, the objectives are also divergent because of the particularities of each member of the organization. It is the reasoned and feasible societal project that the DRC should submit to the study and appreciation of all the members of the system in order to obtain approval and support from others. In vain would the actions of the Congolese State tend to participate in the work without a real and feasible project on its part?
- 2) The UN is a forum for consultation and discussion among several stakeholders. Hence, actors with clearly defined and practical projects can have a voice. The country should be content to be a passive actor and sometimes excluded from voting on important issues. It is thus restricted to non-contributory or low-contribution States. It would be important to have concrete proposals

that are likely to be addressed and accepted. In this way, the country can be allowed to become an important player with national welfare as the mobile motive for all their international multi-sectoral flows.

- 3) Participation in the UN system should be seen as a continuation of state actions, characterized by the pursuit of the national interest. Defend the interests of the country and Congolese at all levels of this multilateral international structure. Each member should be considered as a potential partner for the development of this or that other sector of national life.
- 4) Being an actor in the UN presupposes being able to play a role within the UN itself. These are actions in order to move the organization forward. The different contributions in competent and efficient human resources, capable of playing a role that would be required of them. The DRC would make itself respected by the other actors through the different actions and its ability to contribute to the smooth running of the system.
- 5) The political aspect of the UN could not be ignored by members, like the DRC. Some actors have considerable influence within the organization. It is therefore necessary to create a corridor of discussions with some more influential players in view of an imminent strategic positioning during major debates and global issues, thus involving the contribution of major players, particularly the United States of America, Great Britain, France, Belgium, China, Japan, Brazil, Israel and many others. On the other hand, solicit their support for the resolutions of the different crises of several orders that country has lived and still lives. Because, it is the sacrosanct objective of its membership and its participation in the UN, to find a solution to the problems of the country, As a result of this ultimate goal, the state can play an important role within the organization itself.

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