

The East African Community (EAC) called for direct dialogue between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) government and the M23 rebel group to de-escalate the ongoing conflict in eastern DRC. This appeal was made during a recent summit where regional leaders emphasized the need for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in the area.

Despite these calls, DRC President Félix Tshisekedi has consistently rejected the idea of negotiating directly with M23. In a recent address, he emphasized that legitimizing the rebel group would be an affront to the victims and international law. He also criticized Rwanda for its alleged support of M23, stating that such actions undermine the credibility of the peace process outlined in the Luanda Agreement.

The M23, on the other hand, has expressed openness to direct talks with the DRC government. Corneille Nangaa, the political leader of the Congo River Alliance (AFC), a group allied with M23, stated that both the M23 and the AFC are willing to engage in direct dialogue with the Kinshasa regime.

The situation remains complex, with regional dynamics and allegations of external support for the rebels complicating efforts to achieve a peacefully resolution.