

Intelligence officials from Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Angola met in Luanda on Wednesday, August 7, to address the escalating security situation in eastern DRC. This high-level meeting followed a similar gathering of foreign ministers last month, during which a ceasefire in North Kivu province was agreed upon.

A key focus of the intelligence chiefs' meeting was a plan devised by the DRC government to neutralize the FDLR, a militia linked to the 1994 Rwandan genocide. This armed group has been a destabilizing force in eastern DRC for decades and is considered a root cause of the ongoing conflict. Rwanda has expressed concerns about the plan and its potential implications for regional security.

The UN-sanctioned FDLR has been a problem for both Rwanda and DRC, carrying out attacks on both countries. The involvement of Angola as a mediator is seen as a crucial step towards finding a lasting solution to the crisis.

The intelligence experts examined the DRC's neutralization plan in detail and made recommendations to their respective governments. Their findings will be presented at a third ministerial meeting later this month.

The Luanda Process, initiated in mid-2022, aims to restore peace and stability between Rwanda and DRC. Tensions between the two nations have flared up repeatedly over the years, with the DRC accusing Rwanda of supporting the M23 rebel group, allegations that Kigali vehemently denies.

The international community is watching with keen interest as the intelligence chiefs delve into the complex issues surrounding the DRC conflict. A successful outcome of their deliberations could mark a significant step towards lasting peace in the region.