In a defiant address to the diplomatic corps, President Félix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) declared that no dialogue will take place with neighboring Rwanda as long as it occupies even a portion of Congolese territory.

In his address on Tuesday, Tshisekedi reiterated DRC's stance on the ongoing conflict in the eastern region, stating, "My government reiterates the non-negotiable nature of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the DRC."

He emphasized his unwavering commitment to defending the nation, stating, "It is my right and my duty, as Supreme Commander, to defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country."

Tshisekedi reaffirmed DRC's adherence to the Nairobi and Luanda peace plans, calling them "the only valid path for a peaceful settlement of the conflict." However, he accused Rwanda of failing to uphold its commitments under these agreements.

"While the DRC has respected all its commitments, Rwanda has, as usual, failed in its own," declared Tshisekedi.

He further assured the diplomatic community that the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) will remain steadfast in their pursuit of the enemy, pledging to continue operations until complete victory.

The President's strong stance comes amidst heightened tensions between the DRC and Rwanda, fueled by accusations of Rwandan support for rebel groups operating in eastern Congo.

The M23 rebel group, in particular, has captured significant territory in recent months, leading to widespread displacement and humanitarian concerns.

Tshisekedi's address also touched upon broader diplomatic efforts undertaken by the DRC in 2023, highlighting the visit of Pope Francis, French President Emmanuel Macron, and the successful hosting of the 9th Francophonie Games.

This latest development signifies a potential hardening of the DRC's position towards Rwanda, raising questions about the feasibility of a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict.

The international community will likely continue to play a crucial role in mediating between the two nations and seeking a sustainable solution to the crisis in eastern

Congo.