

Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have entered the final stage of negotiations on a U.S.-backed economic cooperation project aimed at benefiting citizens in both countries and the wider region, U.S. officials said Wednesday.

Massad Boulos, U.S. adviser for Africa partnerships, said he met with delegations from Rwanda and the DRC on the morning of Oct. 1, 2025, to begin the last phase of discussions on the joint economic project.

Boulos said the cooperation framework will cover energy, infrastructure, mining, healthcare, trade, and tourism, creating jobs and fostering development for local populations.

The initiative builds on the peace agreements signed between Rwanda and the DRC on June 27, 2025, with U.S. support. Once both countries reach consensus on all aspects, they are expected to sign a formal economic agreement, Boulos said, citing plans outlined by former President Donald Trump in July.

“This economic partnership will help secure lasting peace in the region and benefit millions of residents, who will also play a role in sustaining peace and development,” Boulos said.

To facilitate the initiative, a joint security mechanism has been established to monitor and implement security measures, including dismantling the FDLR rebel group and phasing out Rwandan defense measures.

Preparatory steps to neutralize FDLR considered a major regional security threat, particularly to Rwanda and the DRC are expected to begin in early October 2025.