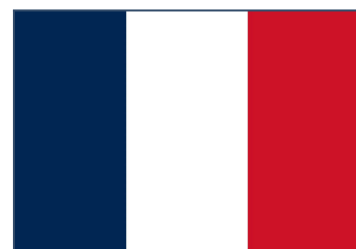




France Position Paper

Lara Genç



I. Background Information on France

The country of France is a major European power with longstanding economic, political, and cultural ties to Africa. As a P5 member in the United Nations Security Council, France plays an important role in upholding international peace and security measures. All throughout history, France has had close diplomatic relations with many states in the continent, such as Cameroon, Chad and Gabon. Although these relations first stemmed from colonial-era ties, they continue to develop to be more cooperative and partnership-focused, simultaneously influencing the strategic interests of France.

The relevance of France to the Advisory Panel on the Question of Middle Africa is rooted in its profound presence and involvement in governance, development issues and regional stability throughout the region of Middle Africa. France has promoted many peacekeeping operations, especially in the Central African Republic, through its support for missions with goals of putting a stop to mass violence and ensuring the preservation of state institutions.

France also participates in efforts of counterterrorism cooperation and coordination in the Sahel area, which often overlaps with the security environment and strategic developments of Middle Africa. In addition, through aiding education as well as infrastructure, impacting the region's long-term security and stability, France persists as a significant economic partner.

Due to its roles in the region's economic, political and security landscapes, France has a considerable amount of sway, influence and responsibility in dialogues regarding the state of Middle Africa's future.

II. Past Achievements and Attempts of France on the Issues

A. Avoiding escalation and civilian harm in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda:

- In partnership with the EU, in 2023, France provided humanitarian aid at a total of 34 million euros to assist the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, alongside immediate emergency delivery to Goma to help combat the humanitarian crisis in said region.



- France has actively supported and commended MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic of the Congo), condemning the attack on one of its helicopters, in which said attack caused the death of a South African peacekeeper and critically wounded another.
- France was the leading nation for Operation Artemis, providing the bulk of the troops and heading the control and command structure of the operation. The operation's goal was to deescalate the situation in the Ituri region and ensure the protection of the civilians caught in-between the inter-ethnic fighting.
- France urged Rwanda to cease its support for the M23 rebel groups, iterating its concern regarding the crisis in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

B. Managing the peaceful transition to democracy for Niger's Syndicate Regime:

- France is in support of governmental reforms in Niger, which is done through the AFD (Agence Française de Développement), by reinforcing the efficiency of public administration and accountability.
- France has initiated the KARIYA project, which was financially covered by AFD, in order to strengthen the civil protection services in regions (Niamey, Maradi, Zinder) across Niger.
- By cooperating with the EU, Expertise France initiates stabilization projects in order to provide assistance to security forces and allow a safer political transition.

C. Combating the proliferation of foreign mercenaries and private military companies in conflict zones:

- France is in support of the Montreux Document, which outlines legal obligations for states concerning PMSCs during armed conflict.
- On 15 April 2003, France passed a law penalizing the organisation, deployment and recruitment of mercenaries and/or mercenary groups.
- The French defence doctrine consists of strict guidelines that require certification, reliability checkups and authorization regarding PMCs.

III. Objectives, Aims and Possible Solutions Proposed by Country/Organization on the Issues

A. Avoiding escalation and civilian harm in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda:



- National Interests: France wishes to reduce the amount of offensive extremist groups that are a threat to French partners and nationals present in the region. In the interests of preventing mass displacement, France is also in support of humanitarian stability.
- France encourages cross-border discussions and diplomatic dialogue between the DRC and Rwanda, mediated by unbiased, 3rd-party monitors.
- France wishes to provide additional humanitarian aid to conduct emergency operations in North Kivu, in which said aid will be supplied to the region through humanitarian assistance corridors.
- France wishes to strengthen and reinforce UN peacekeeping operations in order to better prioritize the protection of the civil population.
- Related UN Documents: France aided in the negotiations of the 2556 (2020) and 2628 (2022) UNSC Resolutions

B. Managing the peaceful transition to democracy for Niger's Syndicate Regime:

- National Interests: France prioritizes the protection of French development and humanitarian staff and personnel deployed across the region. Additionally, France is interested in ensuring that the transition process of Niger is effective in reducing the presence of illegal armed groups in the region.
- France wishes to promote inclusive and equal political participation, providing the assurance that civilians of any sex, race, or identification are represented during the democratic transition.
- France plans to aid in socio-economic reforms and development initiatives similar but not bound to youth employment projects or climate adaptation measures.
- France hopes to take effective measures against corruption in order to ensure pure political agendas in the interest of the overall welfare of the nation and citizens.

C. Combating the proliferation of foreign mercenaries and private military companies in conflict zones:

- National Interests: France hopes to hinder destabilization in areas in which humanitarian and diplomatic partnerships are present. In addition, the protection of French personnel outside national borders is prioritized.
- France encourages the establishment transparency guidelines consisting of points such as but not limited to unbiased oversight, periodic reporting and strict licensing, applicable to all security contractors in operation abroad
- France is in support of monitoring mechanisms that do not breach any sort of consent or sovereignty, established for specific regions, with the goal of tracking mercenary flows and actions.
- France wishes to fortify the Montreux Document and similar UN frameworks that track and regulate mercenary flows and/or activities.



- Related UN Documents: France has assisted in the drafting and negotiation of UNSC sanctions frameworks which address mercenary involvement

IV. Bibliography

“Agence Française de Coopération Technique.”

Expertise France | L'agence Française de Coopération Technique, www.expertisefrance.fr/. Accessed 15 Nov. 2025.

“EAC Trade on the Rise as Leaders Commit to Addressing Barriers at the 25th MSMES Trade Fair.”

East African Community, www.eac.int/. Accessed 14 Nov. 2025.

European University Institute,

www.eui.eu/. Accessed 14 Nov. 2025.

France Calls on Rwanda to Cease Support for Rebels in Eastern Congo

|*Reuters*, www.reuters.com/world/africa/france-calls-rwanda-cease-support-rebels-eastern-congo-2024-02-20/. Accessed 15 Nov. 2025.

“France Tells Rwanda to ‘immediately’ Leave DR Congo – DW – 01/30/2025.”

Dw.Com, Deutsche Welle, 30 Jan. 2025,
www.dw.com/en/france-tells-rwanda-to-immediately-leave-dr-congo/a-71460976. Accessed 15 Nov. 2025.

“Investir Pour Un Monde En Commun.”

AFD, www.afd.fr/. Accessed 14 Nov. 2025.

Kodjo, Tchioffo. “Ending Conflicts, Sustaining Peace - African Union - Peace and Security Department.”

African Union, Peace and Security Department, www.peaceau.org/. Accessed 15 Nov. 2025.

Limited, Daniel Inaju - Challydoff. “50 Years of Unity, Progress, and Purpose!”

Switch to English, www.ecowas.int/. Accessed 15 Nov. 2025.

Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères. “Democratic Republic of the Congo



– French Humanitarian Contribution of €34 Million and Emergency Delivery to Goma in Partnership with the EU (09.03.23).” *France Diplomacy - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs*, www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/news/article/democratic-republic-of-the-congo-french-humanitarian-contribution-of-eur34. Accessed 15 Nov. 2025.

Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères. “Democratic Republic of the Congo – French Humanitarian Contribution of €34 Million and Emergency Delivery to Goma in Partnership with the EU (09.03.23).”

France Diplomacy - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/news/article/democratic-republic-of-the-congo-french-humanitarian-contribution-of-eur34?utm_source=chatgpt.com. Accessed 14 Nov. 2025.

Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères. “France Diplomatie.”

France Diplomatie - Ministère de l'Europe et Des Affaires Étrangères, www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/. Accessed 15 Nov. 2025.

Montreux Document Forum,

www.mdforum.ch/. Accessed 15 Nov. 2025.

“MONUSCO Peacekeeping.” *United Nations*,

United Nations, peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/monusco. Accessed 14 Nov. 2025.

“Page d'accueil Du Ministère Des Armées et Des Anciens Combattants.”

Accueil - Ministère Des Armées et Des Anciens Combattants, www.defense.gouv.fr/. Accessed 15 Nov. 2025.

“RDC Progress.” *Expertise France*,

www.expertisefrance.fr/en/projects/rdc-progress?utm_source=chatgpt.com. Accessed 14 Nov. 2025.

UN Documents : Security Council Report,

www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents-all. Accessed 15 Nov. 2025.



UNOWAS,

unowas.unmissions.org/. Accessed 15 Nov. 2025.