



Competency Profile <i>Processfile</i> SAMONU			
School:		Delegation:	
			
Name			
Areas	Competencies		
Social Sciences	Critical thinking	Reflective and systemic thinking	multiperspectivism
Humanities	Textual analysis	Argumentation	Contextualization

Competency Profile <i>Processfile</i> SAMONU			
	Spelling and grammar	Coherence and cohesion	
Maths	Interpretation and representation	Reasoning and argumentation	
Natural Sciences	Science, technology and society	Explanation of chemical, physical, and biological phenomena	Inquiry
			Discussion developed within an educational framework

Tabla de observaciones	
Áreas	Observaciones
Ciencias Sociales	
Lenguaje	
Matemáticas	
Ciencias Naturales	

Introduction.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is located in the heart of Central Africa, crossed by the equator. It is the second-largest country in the African continent, covering 2,345,000 km² (about twice the size of Colombia).

It borders nine countries: the Republic of the Congo to the west; the Central African Republic and South Sudan to the north; Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania to the east; and Zambia and Angola to the south. The DRC is home to the world's second-largest

rainforest (the Congo Basin) and the second-largest river in the world by discharge volume (the Congo River). Its average population is 116 million people, though estimates range from 112 to 124 million.

Its economy relies heavily on the mining and extractive sector, which represents 90% of the country's export earnings. The capital and largest city is Kinshasa, with more than 17 million inhabitants in its metropolitan area. It is the second-largest French-speaking city in the world after Paris, as French is the official language. The country also recognizes four national languages: Lingala, Kikongo, Tshiluba, and Kingwana (Swahili).

The DRC is a global powerhouse in natural resources, holding vast reserves of cobalt, coltan, copper, diamonds, and gold. However, it faces serious displacement issues caused by armed conflicts in its eastern provinces, specifically North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri.

Position paper

Despite its role as an essential planetary carbon sink and a critical supplier of nearly 70% of the world's cobalt, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to face protracted destabilization in its eastern provinces (North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri). The resurgence of non-state armed groups, most notably the March 23 Movement (M23), represents a direct threat to the nation's territorial integrity and has displaced over 6.9 million civilians, requiring urgent multilateral action to balance humanitarian relief, economic transparency, and sovereign peacebuilding.

In light of escalating conflicts over the control of critical resources and key maritime passages, should the international community prioritize state sovereignty or imperialist and/or multinational intervention to ensure global security, and which nations represent the most direct threat to the current multilateral order?

Prioritizing State Sovereignty: It is grounded in the principles of non-intervention and self-determination. Advocates argue that allowing unilateral or neo-colonial interventions under the guise of "ensuring security" often conceals foreign powers' ambitions to control critical natural resources (such as cobalt, copper, or oil).

Risk: It can result in international paralysis during severe humanitarian crises or the internal collapse of states, thereby jeopardizing regional stability.

Prioritizing Multinational Intervention / Global Governance: This approach holds that critical maritime transit routes (such as the Red Sea or the Strait of Malacca) and strategic resources essential for the energy transition are vital to global economic stability. Consequently, they require collective security frameworks to guard against piracy, terrorism, and state coercion.

Risk: Critics argue that such operations risk becoming imperialist interventions driven solely by the geopolitical interests of major powers, thereby undermining the sovereignty of developing nations and reinforcing global power asymmetries.

Threats to the Current Multilateral Order

In contemporary geopolitical analysis, perceptions of which actors threaten the multilateral system diverge along regional lines and strategic interests:

Western Perspective: NATO-aligned nations and Western democracies predominantly identify Russia and China as the primary challenges. Russia is condemned for violating established territorial integrity and sovereignty norms in Eastern Europe. China faces scrutiny over its increasing military assertiveness and sweeping maritime claims in the South China Sea, alongside its strategic deployment of debt-trap diplomacy across developing economies.

Global South Perspective: Many nations across Africa, Latin America, and Asia contend that the multilateral order is equally compromised by Western powers (specifically the United States and European allies). They point to the widespread deployment of unilateral coercive measures (sanctions), military actions conducted without explicit UN Security Council mandates, and asymmetric trade structures that impede domestic value addition and the industrialization of critical domestic resources.

To what extent does the unilateral control of strategic maritime passages and critical resource deposits by major powers redefine the concept of self-defense under international law, and what

institutional mechanisms does the current multilateral order possess to sanction these actions without resorting to armed intervention?

The Redefinition of Self-Defense vs. Geopolitical Practice

Article 51 of the United Nations Charter establishes that the right of self-defense is permissible solely in response to a prior "armed attack." Under international law, securing economic resources or safeguarding commercial maritime lanes does not constitute a legitimate legal trigger for armed self-defense.

Nevertheless, major powers attempt to redefine this principle in practice through two main channels:

Economic Security as National Security: Powers such as the United States, China, and the European Union frame unimpeded access to critical raw materials (such as Congolese cobalt for the green energy transition) and supply chains as "vital national security interests."

Hybrid Warfare and Gray Zones: By deploying economic coercion, asymmetric concession agreements, and indirect maritime blockades, foreign powers operate just below the threshold of an "armed attack." This leaves developing states vulnerable, as current legal frameworks prevent them from invoking military self-defense against purely economic or diplomatic aggression.

Multilateral Sanction Frameworks (Non-Armed Intervention)

The multilateral system provides legal and institutional mechanisms to counter abusive unilateral dominance, though their impact depends heavily on the geopolitical leverage of the actors involved.

United Nations Frameworks

Security Council Non-Military Sanctions (Article 41): Under the UN Charter, the Council may impose comprehensive trade embargos, diplomatic expulsions, communications severance, and asset freezes on states threatening international peace through aggressive resource capture.

***Limitation:* The veto power held by permanent members (P5) reliably neutralizes sanctions directed against them or their strategic allies.**

"Uniting for Peace" Resolution (General Assembly): When the Security Council is paralyzed by a veto, the UN General Assembly can convene to recommend collective measures, political sanctions, and global condemnations, stripping the offending power of international legitimacy.

Legal and Arbitration Bodies

International Court of Justice (ICJ): Sovereign states may initiate contentious proceedings against foreign powers for infringements upon their permanent sovereignty over natural resources. A critical legal benchmark remains the 2005 *Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (DRC v. Uganda)* ruling, in which the ICJ explicitly condemned the illegal looting and exploitation of natural resources.

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS): Adjudicates disputes regarding the unilateral blockade or monopolization of strategic chokepoints, upholding the principles of freedom of navigation and innocent passage guaranteed under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Economic Forums and Regional Frameworks

Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA): Resolves interstate and investor-state arbitrations concerning critical mineral concessions and asymmetric bilateral investment treaties.

African Union (AU): Leveraging its regional governance architectures and resource charters, the AU can mobilize unified diplomatic coalitions, suspend non-compliant bilateral trade pacts, or restrict offending states from regional market access.

In conclusion

The delicate balance between state sovereignty and multilateral governance has reached a defining crossroad. International law, grounded in Article 51 of the UN Charter, strictly limits self-defense to armed attacks, yet major powers increasingly weaponize "economic security" and gray-zone tactics to secure critical mineral reserves—such as Congolese cobalt—and vital trade routes. This asymmetry leaves developing nations exposed to foreign coercion, asymmetric exploitation, and foreign-fueled instability, as seen in the ongoing humanitarian emergency in the eastern provinces of the DRC.

Overcoming this structural vulnerability requires moving beyond paralyzed mechanisms like the veto-bound UN Security Council. Developing states must strategically mobilize alternative legal and regional frameworks: advancing claims through the International Court of Justice—reinforcing the 2005 precedent against resource looting—while leveraging the African Union and the UN General Assembly’s "Uniting for Peace" resolution. True multilateral security cannot rely on unilateral intervention disguised as humanitarian or economic protection; it demands strict adherence to sovereign resource rights, accountable global supply chains, and legal accountability for external actors destabilizing resource-rich regions.

Bibliography

<https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/us-national-security-strategy-africa-debuts-as-a-global-player/>

<https://studies.aljazeera.net/en/analyses/new-battleground-competing-international-interests-gulf-guinea>

<https://sjms.nu/articles/10.31374/sjms.411>

Agencia Presidencial de Cooperación Internacional de Colombia (APC)

Honorable Presidium, esteemed delegates:

The Democratic Republic of the Congo extends a diplomatic greeting to all nations present today. We arrive at this committee facing a critical dilemma: whether the international order will protect national sovereignty and the self-determination of peoples, or surrender to unilateral economic coercion and gray-zone interventions disguised as collective security.

As a country that contributes nearly 70% of the world's cobalt and houses one of the planet's primary carbon sinks, the DRC demands an order governed by international law—not by the asymmetric interests of external powers fueling conflict in our sovereign territories. We stand ready to construct transparent, equitable, and legally binding multilateral solutions.

Thank you