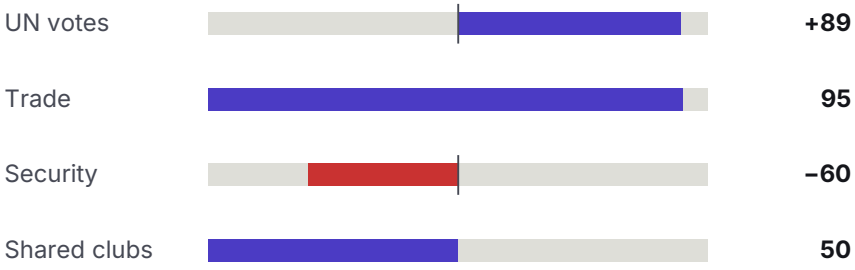
Rwanda & DR Congo

Close at the UN and tied by trade, yet on opposite sides of war in eastern Congo.

+40

Distant

Relationship index, −100 to +100. Votes and security run from −100 to +100; trade and shared clubs from 0 to 100.

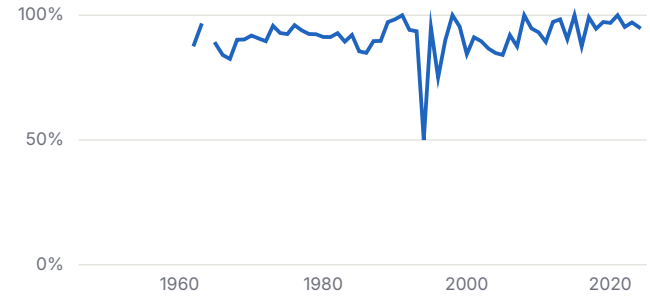


IN SHORT

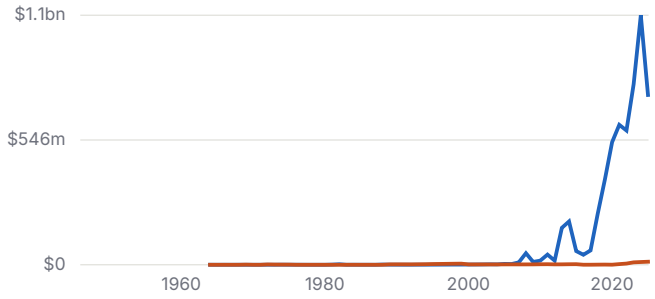
- Armed conflict: UCDP records them on opposite sides of the conflict in DR Congo, with Rwanda supporting another party, most recently in 2025.
- At the UN their vote agreement is 96% (2022–2024), among the highest either of them has with any country.
- Trade in goods ($887 million a year) is very important for Rwanda, much less so for the DR Congo.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, the DR Congo names Rwanda more often than the reverse (137 sentences against 91).
- 286,000 people born in Rwanda live in the DR Congo (UN DESA counts place of birth, however long ago they moved). A separate count, by UNHCR: 198,000 refugees and asylum seekers from Rwanda in the DR Congo; the two counts measure different things and are not added up.

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way

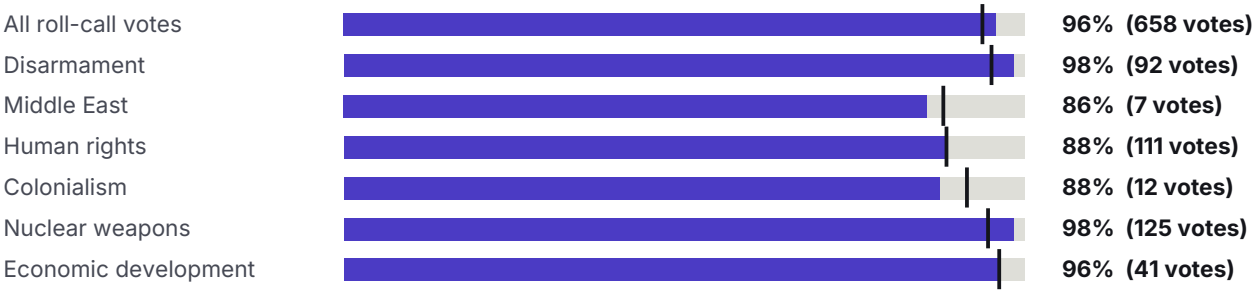


Goods exports each way (US dollars)



Rwanda sells to DR Congo DR Congo sells to Rwanda

VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)



Bar: since 2010. Mark: all years. Share of roll-call votes on whole texts cast the same way, counted vote by vote; an abstention against a yes counts as a difference. Disarmament, colonialism and economic development count votes up to 2018.

THE FACTS

UN votes	At the UN, the vote agreement of Rwanda and the DR Congo was 96% in 2022–2024. For Rwanda, the DR Congo is the 3rd closest voting partner out of 191; for the DR Congo, Rwanda is the 19th closest partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $887 million a year in 2023–2025: 19.2% of all Rwanda's trade and 1.9% of the DR Congo's. The DR Congo is Rwanda's largest trading partner.
Words	Since 1946, Rwanda has named the DR Congo in 91 sentences of its General Debate speeches; the DR Congo has named Rwanda in 137.
Security	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program records them on opposite sides of armed conflict, one of them supporting another party (DR Congo, 1996–2025).
People	286,000 people born in Rwanda live in the DR Congo and 236,000 born in the DR Congo live in Rwanda (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met 4 times.

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	161 shared votes on whole texts in 2022–2024, the years the headline share covers. With that many, a share is good to about ±8 points.
Trade	**High**	Goods trade is reported in 3 of the 3 years 2023–2025. Goods only, from customs data (IMF); services and energy pipelines are not in it.
Security	**High**	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program covers every state up to 2025. It counts only conflicts with at least 25 battle deaths a year.
Shared clubs	**High**	The list of tracked groups is fixed; membership is checked by hand.
Index	**High**	As sure as the weaker of its two required parts, votes and trade. Security and shared clubs add to it but never make it surer.

MOMENTS (EDITORIAL CONTEXT, NEVER PART OF A SCORE)

1994	Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda; more than a million refugees cross into eastern Zaire
1996	First Congo War: Rwanda backs the rebellion that topples Mobutu in 1997
1998	Second Congo War begins; Rwandan troops fight alongside rebels
2002	Pretoria Agreement: Rwanda agrees to withdraw its troops
2012	M23 rebels take Goma; a UN group of experts reports Rwandan support, which Rwanda denies
2025	M23 takes Goma and Bukavu; a peace agreement is signed in Washington in June

SOURCES AND HOW TO CITE

UN votes, speeches, mentions and trade: Nations on Record (UN General Assembly voting data, UN General Debate Corpus, IMF International Trade in Goods). Armed conflict: Uppsala Conflict Data Program, version 26.1. Migration: UN DESA International Migrant Stock 2024. Refugees: UNHCR. Football: international results archive (CC0). Every score follows fixed rules written out on /method; AI never sets a score. Independent and non-commercial; not affiliated with the United Nations.

Cite as

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