

**GOVERNANCE PRACTICES AND SUSTAINABLE
PEACE IN NORTH KIVU PROVINCE, DR CONGO**

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**Governance Practices and Sustainable Peace in North Kivu
Province, DR Congo**

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DECLARATION

This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University.

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DEDICATION

To the Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, to my family, especially my wife, Therese Mamundele, my children Glory and Gift Ansobi, for being my pillar and a source of inspiration and support to work hard. Your prayers, moral support and encouragement have been instrumental in my success.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	ii
DEDICATION.....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	v
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xii
LIST OF APPENDICES	xiii
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS.....	xiv
DEFINITIONS OF OPERATIONAL TERMS.....	xv
ABSTRACT	xvii
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1. Background to the Study	1
1.1.1. Global Perspective of Governance Practices.....	3
1.1.2. Regional Perspective of Governance Practices	4
1.1.3. Local Perspective of Governance Practices.....	7
1.1.4. North Kivu Province in DRC	9
1.2. Statement of the Problem	10
1.3. Objectives of the Study.....	11
1.3.1. General Objective	11
1.3.2. Specific Objectives	11

1.4. Research Hypotheses	12
1.5. Justification of the Study	12
1.6. Scope of the Study	13
1.7. Limitation of the Study	13
CHAPTER TWO	14
LITERATURE REVIEW.....	14
2.1. Introduction	14
2.2. Theoretical Review	14
2.2.1. Rule of Law Theory.....	14
2.2.2. Stewardship Theory	15
2.2.3. Government Responsiveness Theory	16
2.2.4. Functionalism Theory	17
2.2.5. Theory for Peace Research	17
2.3. Conceptual Framework.....	18
2.4. Empirical Review	19
2.4.1. Rule of Law	20
2.4.2. Public Accountability	23
2.4.3. Government Responsiveness	25
2.4.4. Government Effectiveness.....	27
2.4.5. Conflict Resolution Mechanisms.....	30
2.4.6. Sustainable Peace	33

2.5. Critique of Existing Literature.....	36
2.6. Summary of the Study	39
2.7. Research Gaps	40
CHAPTER THREE	46
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	46
3.1. Introduction	46
3.2. Research Philosophy.....	46
3.3. Research Design	47
3.4. Target Population	47
3.5. Sample Size, Sampling Technique and Sample Frame.....	48
3.5.1. Sample Size	48
3.5.2. Sampling Technique	49
3.5.3. Sample Frame	49
3.6. Data Collection Instrument.....	50
3.7. Data Collection Procedure.....	51
3.8. Pilot Study	51
3.8.1. Reliability of Instrument.....	52
3.8.2. Validity of Instruments	52
3.9. Data Analysis and Presentation	53
3.10. Diagnostic Tests	55

CHAPTER FOUR.....	56
DATA FINDINGS, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS	56
4.1. Introduction.....	56
4.2. Response Rate	56
4.3. Background Information	57
4.3.1. Level of Education of the Respondents.....	57
4.4. Pilot Study Results	58
4.4.1. Reliability of Research Instrument.....	58
4.4.2. Validity of research instrument	59
4.5. Descriptive Statistics.....	61
4.5.1. Rule of Law	61
4.5.2. Public Accountability	71
4.5.3. Government Responsiveness.....	81
4.5.4. Government Effectiveness.....	90
4.5.5. Conflict Resolution Mechanisms.....	99
4.5.6. Sustainable Peace	105
4.6. Inferential Statistics	111
4.6.1. Diagnostic Tests	111
4.6.2. Combined Correlation Analysis for Independent Variables.....	119
4.6.3. Multivariate Regression Analysis.....	120
4.6.4. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	121

4.6.5. β - Coefficients	122
4.6.6. Tests of Research Hypotheses	124
4.7. Discussions	131
CHAPTER FIVE.....	143
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	143
5.1. Introduction	143
5.2. Summary of the Findings	143
5.2.1. Rule of Law	144
5.2.2. Public Accountability	144
5.2.3. Government Responsiveness	145
5.2.4. Government Effectiveness.....	146
5.2.5. Conflict Resolution Mechanisms.....	147
5.3. Conclusions	148
5.4. Recommendations	149
5.5. Areas for Further Research.....	151
REFERENCES.....	152
APPENDICES	181

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: Summary of Research Gaps	41
Table 3.2: Sample Frame	50
Table 3.3: Model for Testing Research Hypotheses	54
Table 4.1: Response Rate	56
Table 4.4: Level of Education	57
Table 4.5: Reliability Test Statistics	59
Table 4.6: KMO and Bartlett's Test	61
Table 4.7: Rule of Law	62
Table 4.8: Public Accountability	71
Table 4.9: Government Responsiveness	81
Table 4.10: Government Effectiveness	91
Table 4.11: Conflict Resolution Mechanisms	100
Table 4.12: Sustainable Peace	106
Table 4.13: Multicollinearity Test Statistics	112
Table 4.14: Normality Test	113
Table 4.20: Breuch-Pagan/cook-Weisberg Test.....	114
Table 4.21: Linearity test of Rule of Law	115
Table 4.22: Linearity Test for Public Accountability	116
Table 4.23: Linearity test for Government Responsiveness	117
Table 4.24: Linearity test for Effectiveness	117
Table 4.25: Linearity test for conflict Resolution Mechanisms	118
Table 4.26: Combined Correlation Analysis for Independent Variables	120
Table 4.27: Overall Model Fitness	121
Table 4.28: ANOVA ^a	121
Table 4.29: Overall Regression Coefficients	123
Table 4.30: Testing of Ho ₁	126
Table 4.31: Testing Ho ₂	127
Table 4.32: Testing of Ho ₃	128
Table 4.33: Testing of Ho ₄	129
Table 4.34: Linear Regression Analysis on the Relationship between CRM and SP	130

Table 4.35: Summary of Hypotheses Rejected	131
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LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework.	19
Figure 4.2: Scatter plot of Correlation for Public Accountability.....	191
Figure 4.3: Scatter Plot of Correlation for Government Responsiveness	192
Figure 4.4: Scatter Plot for Government Effectiveness	192
Figure 4.5: Scatter Plot for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms	193
Figure 4.6: Normal Probability Plot.....	193
Figure 4.7: Outliers Test	194
Figure 4.8: Scatter Plot for Heteroscedasticity Test.....	194

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix I: Letter of Introduction.....	181
Appendix II. Data Collection Tool	182
Appendix III: Scatter Plots of Diagnostic Tests.....	191
Appendix IV: Board of Post Graduate Studies (Bps) Research Authorization Letter	195
Appendix V: Map of North Kivu Province.....	196

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADF	Allied Democratic Forces
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AFC	Alliance Fleuve Congo (River Congo Alliance)
DR Congo	Democratic Republic of Congo
FARDC	Forces Armées de Laa République Démocratique du Congo (Armed Forces of DR Congo)
GE	Government Effectiveness
GR	Government Responsiveness
H₀	Null Hypothesis
M23	March 23 Movement
PA	Public Accountability
RL	Rule of Law
SD.	Standard Deviation
SP	Sustainable Peace
SPSS	Stratified Packages for Social Sciences

DEFINITIONS OF OPERATIONAL TERMS

Conflict Resolution Mechanisms	Was used to mean the capacity of the DR Congo to informally or formally find a peaceful solution to different disputes in North Kivu Province through negotiation and mediation processes.
Governance	was understood as traditions and institutions by which the government of DRC exercises authority in North Kivu Province; the process by which the DR Congo government selected, monitored and replaced, is capable to formulate and implement sound policies to govern economic and social interactions.
Government Effectiveness	was referred to as the capacity by the DR Congo to sustainably use resources to meet the needs of a society; to ensure that social investments are carried out and resources are maintained for future generations.
Government Responsiveness	was understood as the capacity of DR Congo government and local government of North Kivu Province to deliver high-quality public and civil services, engender trust and participation, demonstrate political stability and uphold the rule of law.
Public Accountability	Was referred to as the capacity of the DR Congo government to demonstrate that it is competent, reliable and honest in such a way that the public in general and those of North Kivu judge its

trustworthiness in using public money and resources.

Rule of Law

Was referred to as mechanism, process, institution, practice, or norm that are put in place by the DR Congo government to support the equality of all citizens of North Kivu Province before the law, to prevent the arbitrary use of power.

Sustainable Peace

Was understood as a goal and a process through which the DR Congo government is capable to prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, to address root causes, to assist parties to conflict to end hostilities, to ensure social cohesion, national reconciliation towards recovery, reconstruction, and development.

ABSTRACT

This research was conducted in North Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Its overarching objective was to examine the influence of governance practices on sustainable peace. In particular, the research aimed to assess the influence of the rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness, and the moderating effects of conflict resolution mechanisms in relation to governance practices and sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. Under chapter two, the research was guided by five key theories, notably, rule of law theory, stewardship theory, government responsiveness theory, functionalism theory, and peace research theory. It also reviewed literature related to the research variables, and provided the research gap. In regards to the methodology, the research followed a positivist philosophy and employed experimental research design. The study population was 744000 inhabitants; the sample size of 382 respondents was obtained using Krejcie and Morgan's formula. Unit of observation were: academicians, judges/advocates, members of civil society, members from non-governmental organizations, and members from the business community, university students, and citizens. Questionnaires was the main tool used to collect data. Data analysis was performed using SPSS version 24. A series of diagnostic tests, including tests for multicollinearity, heteroscedasticity, normality, linearity, and outliers, were conducted on the research variables. The results of each test were presented with relevant statistical conclusions. Open-ended questions were cleaned, coded, identified under each theme or variable, analysed according to the sentiment of the responses and interpreted under each research variable. Under chapter four, data analysis plan for the study consisted of two main components. First, descriptive statistics were analysed, and the data were presented in consideration of the maximum and minimum percentages from the five-point liker scale, mean and standard deviation. Second, inferential statistical analysis was conducted through linear correlation, and multivariate and linear regression analysis, revealing positive correlations between all independent variables and the dependent variable. The overall model was deemed satisfactory, as the independent variables explained 76.8% of the variations in the dependent variable. The results indicated that the overall model was statistically significant, leading to the rejection of all null hypotheses. The research findings underscored that governance practices, including the rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness, and government effectiveness, are lacking in North Kivu, contributing to the province's ongoing lack of peace. Summary of the findings, conclusions, recommendations and further areas of studies were provided under chapter five. Recommendations included among other, government of the DR Congo should endeavour to work towards resolving the ongoing armed conflict with M23/AFC armed as a primary step to peace; as a result of conflict resolution process, the government should commit itself to implementing the existing policies on demobilization, disarmament, reintegration of ex-combatants and ensure their sustainable restoration into civil life; The presence of the government, public administration services including an efficient National Police Service and modern army should be established and strengthened to promptly respond and address the needs of the population for peace effectively; interagency coordination practices should be established and strengthened for quick response to restoring sustainable peace. On medium term, military and civilian justice systems should be strengthened

and public Oversight Authority set up to ensure respect and application of rule of law at the province level; existing public accountability mechanisms should be strengthened with robust mandate to ensure accountability between public services and the population; the National Police Service, the Army, and civilian and military justice systems in North Kivu should be strengthened by increasing the number of prosecution offices and courts, augmenting the count of prosecutors and judges, and providing them with essential financial, logistical resources, and protection to effectively carry out their responsibilities as well as putting in place mechanisms that ensure that laws, policies and regulations are adhere to by everyone. In regards to long term perspectives, the government of the DR Congo should adopt and implement measures to strengthen local capacity with the focus on addressing root caused and key driving factors of recurrent conflict and fragility in North Kivu province; Community level dialogue processes, institutions and structures and other proactive measures should be established and strengthened towards reconciliation, social cohesion and sustaining peace; the central government of DR Congo in general and the provincial government in particular should adopt policy and strategies that emphasize the need to prevent outbreak, recurrence, continuation and escalation of conflict prevention national and provincial government of DR Congo and the government to benchmark from civil society's work to develop national policies on community dialogue, reconciliation and recovery for conflict prevention and transformation

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background to the Study

Peace is needed for development, development is needed for peace and good governance is needed for both while peace and development foster good governance; on the other hand, poverty, corruption, mismanagement and exclusion from development lead to more poverty and conflict (Mahwish, 2018). Social order and sustainable peace necessitate the emergence of leadership and governance as a basic component of human life.

Leadership is a process that requires people to accept a person as their leader, characterized by influence between the leaders and the followers and occurs in a given context to accomplish shared goals such sustainable peace. Good governance implies the interaction between formal institutions and people, among the people themselves and the manner in which decisions are made and implemented in an environmental setting (Vanlalhlimpuii, 2018).

It entails creating an environment that is inclusive, sensitive and responsive to the needs of the people and effective to the many challenges it encounters. Leadership is instrumental in the course of enhancing the life of the people and realizing the goals of good governance. It is the ability to influence others to achieve objectives, protects and ensures the highest quality of life while providing the much-needed direction for good governance (Vanlalhlimpuii, 2018).

Furthermore, the achievement of effective governance for both development and peace hinges on empowering all stakeholders to articulate their interests and exert influence. The greater the participation of diverse groups, the more accurately policies will align with their requirements, consequently fostering increased cooperation (Mahwish, 2018).

Worldwide Governance Indicators report defines governance as "traditions and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised, " which includes the method by which governments are chosen, followed, and replaced, their ability to create and carry out sound policies, and both the citizens' and the state's respect for the institutions that control economic and social interactions (The SDG Knowledge Hub Report, 2018). Contrary to its principles that are considered guidelines and fundamental values that support governance process, governance practices are about the application or operationalization of its principles; they are about concrete application of governance principles with the two playing a complementary role (Lukman, 2022).

As stated by Cortright, Seyle and Wall (2018), governance encompasses various facets of decision-making and implementation aimed at achieving collective action and maintaining social order. At its core, governance revolves around the exercise of power, focusing on the allocation of political authority for decision-making and influence. "The discourse on good governance has led to the important role of leadership; without an effective and efficient leader, a group cannot move forward; the leader has to be consistently aware of the parameters of governance set by the group and steer towards the accomplishment of the stated objectives; towards realizing the goals of good governance an effective leadership with avowed commitment is crucial" (Mahwish, 2018).

On the other hand, sustainable peace should broadly understood as a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society; it ensures that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account; it entails activities which are aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation, and moving towards recovery, reconstruction, and development, and emphasizing that sustaining peace, is a shared task and responsibility that needs to be fulfilled by the government and all other national stakeholders (Report of Advisory Group of Experts, 2019). Building peace is about much more than ending war, it is about putting in place the institutions and trust that will strengthen the social contract and carry people forward into a peaceful future (UNDP Report, 2020).

Regions and countries with good leadership that have adopted and implemented governance practices enjoy sustainable peace; to the contrary, those with poor leadership without adequate governing capacities are more likely to experience armed violence; the consequences include recurrent civil war, human insecurity, proliferation of organized armed groups and rebellions against the state (Oshewolo, 2018).

Importantly, good governance plays a pivotal role in sustaining peace by addressing the fundamental sources of tension and ensuring that all citizens perceive their needs and interests as being fairly represented. Failure to address the underlying factors that initially jeopardize peace can perpetuate simmering tensions, even in the presence of apparent progress.

1.1.1. Global Perspective of Governance Practices

Conflict and violence affect many communities around the world (Egan, Hill, O'Neil, Sheely, and Tam, 2019). Many of the basic causes of conflict and violence may be traced back to how communities and nations are governed. Conflict can lead to ineffective and unjust government, foster distrust, alienate young, and exacerbate inequities between communities, all of which can ignite and prolong violent conflict (Egan *et al.*, 2019). The United Nations Development Program Report (2020) argued that responsive, inclusive, and accountable governance lies at the heart of achieving the SDGs and sustaining peace.

With focus on Latin America by Ferreira and Richmond (2021) posits that criminal governance creates blockages that prevent peace formation. Two blockages emerge where criminal governance prevails: criminal structures do not reduce violence and take advantage of cultural and structural violence; their legitimacy pushes the state away from citizens (Ferreira and Richmond, 2021).

According to Saito (2021) the essential role of good governance as a foundational requirement for peace was underscored. He highlights a reciprocal relationship between peace and governance, emphasizing that the quality of governance significantly impacts the prospects for lasting peace, just as peace can, in turn, influence the quality of governance. Furthermore, the report identified the ten lowest-

performing countries in the 2018 BTI, which notably featured nations such as Syria and Yemen - countries plagued by persistent conflicts.

Borzel and Grimm's (2018) stated that European Union's efforts in establishing good governance in the Western Balkans after a conflict were able to significantly mitigate the causes and effects of violent conflict, establish operational state institutions, boost socio-economic development, foster societal trust, and plant the seeds of democracy.

Finally, the Asian perspective on governance and peace is not different from other regions. According Lee (2025), the region has experienced a number of conflicts, from religious to ethnic tensions to economic inequality and territorial disputes. Governance has been intricately connected to peace and played a key role in promoting peace and stability; many countries have achieved remarkable economic growth and development.

1.1.2. Regional Perspective of Governance Practices

Mukum (2020) posits that African countries continue to build on the governance gains that they have achieved since the early 1990s; since then, many African countries have undertaken institutional reforms that have significantly changed their governance architectures and put in place a new set of leaders. However, the continent has a long way to go: too many countries are yet to achieve the type of reforms that can prevent dictatorship, corruption and economic decline due to continued sectarian violence, weak and ineffective leadership and a lack of political will (Mukum, 2020).

According to Woniowei (2020), bad governance has made it difficult for African states to perform the corrective intervention role, particularly, in the areas of maintenance of peace and security, stimulation and production of economic growth and development of society; poor and bad governance to sub-national conflicts could be traced to weak and ineffective political leadership of most African states. Poor and bad governance in many African countries is the major contributor to the enduring sub-national conflicts in the continent.

Woniowe (2020) argues that prevalence of weak and ineffective political leadership in many African states is a key factor contributing to poor governance and, subsequently, sub-national conflicts. It is important to note that inadequate governance remains a primary driver of ongoing sub-national conflicts across the African continent. The inadequate governance prevalent in numerous African states has significantly undermined the prospects of the exuberant African youth population, leaving them with little to no hope for their well-being and future (Dan-Woniowe, 2020).

Oyedele (2019) found that a lack of shared vision, finances, poor information communication network and deficiency of institutional arrangement are the foremost challenges facing local governmental institutions in building peace in Nigeria, with great emphasis on poor value system and non-compliance with traditional customs.

Elfverson (2016) delved into the Kerio Valley peace process, highlighted the instrumental role that non-state actors can play in the mitigation and resolution of local violent conflicts. He underscored their capacity to bolster their influence when the central state proves hesitant or incapable of delivering essential services and security. Kakenya (2020) stated that greed for power and bad governance have caused the outbreak of conflicts in the region and especially in South Sudan. Instability in South Sudan is largely a consequence of struggle for power and bad governance. The propagation of conflict was affected by bad governance through graft of public resources, poor planning, sustaining unequal distribution of natural resources, creating weak institutions, mismanagement of natural resources, slowing democracy, inhibiting reforms and interfering with mediation processes.

Poor governance is entrenched in the culture of impunity, which characterizes the South Sudanese regime. Furthermore, major factors entrenched in poor governance and which have been sustaining the conflict in South Sudan include tribalism/ethnic intolerance driven by political incitements. Others include, lack of will from the two warring parties, external interference, greed for political power struggle, dependency on a diminishing oil resources bases, historical injustices, marginalization, colonialism, dependency syndrome, social cultural erosion. Plunder of national

resources leads to lack of proper national infrastructures while greed by political leaders leads to unequal distribution of public resources (Kakenya, 2020).

From Ghana's perspective, Towah (2019) posits that active governance anticipates and responds to the needs of its citizens and evolving development challenges with deliberate, targeted, and proactive planning and delivery, which is essential to getting the business of development done. Effective governance is a prerequisite for establishing the integrated policymaking capacity that is needed to drive sustainable development. Fair governance matters to sustainable development because it holds the key to building stable and secure societies and driving inclusive growth within the finite boundaries of our planet over the long term (Deiyan, 2019).

Burundi is a post conflict country after many years of civil war. Through democratic governance, the country is progressively striving towards lasting peace despite various challenges that the country faced during its political transition; the journey to stability and sustainable peace is promising (Roy, 2024). According to Roy (2024), several factors are contributing to political stability in the country, including effective governance, social cohesion through commitment to the Arusha agreement, inclusive political processes, strong institutions, economic development as well as the support of regional and international partners.

From Uganda perspective, a survey by the Uganda Bureau of statistics in 2024/2025 noted a mix of progress and challenges in the governance and peace landscape. Findings note the government efforts to improve democratic governance and peace across the country despite insecurity, institutional rivalries and political conflicts.

In summary, Mukum (2020) notes that future challenges in Africa's security sector are daunting, but not insurmountable. The type of governance structure that each African country should strive for over the next decade is one that should address peaceful coexistence and economic development, inequality, the effects of climate change, health pandemics, and enhanced regional cooperation, as well as ensure the full and effective participation in both the economic and political systems of groups that have historically been marginalized (e. g. women, youth, and ethnic and religious minorities). Each country must reflect upon its own governance challenges and engage

in robust national dialogue on institutional reforms to enable an effective and inclusive governance system (Mukum, 2020).

1.1.3. Local Perspective of Governance Practices

According Hoebeke, Lijn, Glawion, and Zwaan, (2019) there is a toxic mix of local and national factors and dynamics centred on governance, conflict over land ownership and possession, contested identity and search of natural resources has maintained a complex set of conflicts. These internal dynamics are fuelled by the spill over from internal political conflict and the political and economic ambitions of regional actors. Furthermore, according to Forku (2021), the exploitation of natural resources continues to be a root cause and driver of conflict, with most armed groups having set aside their political demands and being involved in mineral trafficking; more than 5 million people have been uprooted by insecurity and violence in the last two years, with nearly 2 million displaced in North Kivu Province alone.

Other external factors affecting eastern of Congo in general and North Kivu Province in particular include rivalry among neighbouring countries, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi as well as their internal crises that continue to be a threat to the DRC. These countries have used militias operating in the DRC to fight proxy wars among each other.

According to a UNHCR report from 2021, it has been documented that the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) have been accused of persistently causing harm and fatalities to individuals in the vicinity of Beni since June 22. These incidents have occurred despite the combined efforts of the DRC armed forces working in coordination with their Ugandan counterparts. Furthermore, there have been instances of looting and the destruction of property in the affected areas.

Additionally, recent developments revealed that fighting resumed in Rutshuru, North Kivu Province, between the Congolese army and M23 rebels. The Congolese Tutsi grouping recently relaunched attacks against government forces, FARDC, sparking diplomatic tensions between DRC and Rwanda over allegations of official support for the rebel group (Ilunga, 2022).

Taking advantage of limited presence and weak state capacities, armed groups have proliferated in eastern DRC, growing from roughly 20 major groups in 2002 to nearly 100 groups in 2021.

Recurrence of armed conflict, the presence of armed groups, renewal of fighting and recent attacks that force thousands of people to flee their homes to seek safety, continue to terrorize the lives of inhabitants while social, economic and educational activities are weakened and disrupted. There is a sense of panic and anxiety among the community, as well as a lack of confidence in security forces given the high expectations of improved security conditions after the government's decision to impose the State of Emergency in the Province (UNHCR, 2021).

According to Kizaliwa (2019) challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC include; bad governance, democratic deficit, dictatorial regime and a lack of rule of law. It also includes rebellions and uncontrolled armed groups, unequal distribution of national resources, weak participation of the population in decision-making, illicit exploitation of natural resources and political instability among others. Furthermore, sustainable peace in the DRC could be attained through various means, including national dialogue, effective governance, and a comprehensive understanding of external factors that pose challenges to lasting peace. This involves building strong institutions that can contribute to national unity, ensuring these institutions function effectively, and monitoring key indicators of good governance.

Groleau (2018) noted that the lack of clear roles and responsibilities for both structures and personnel, and particularly in administrative structures, hinders effective internal accountability or oversight. The report also mentions that there are a limited willingness and ability on the part of administrators to respond to demands from the public. This can be a reflection that the actors within the system are not directly motivated to improve their practices, despite existing problems and grievances (Groleau, 2018).

According to Blum, Brandy, and Ngeleza (2017) the conflict in the Kivu Provinces of the DRC can be characterized as a mutually reinforcing dynamic in which various actors benefit from weak governance structures, combined with larger ethnic,

international, and economic forces. The combination of poor governance and the abundance of mineral wealth in the Eastern DRC is by far the largest and most complicated driver of conflict in the region.

The government of DRC's inability to enforce the rule of law or provide security and basic services, has created fertile ground for armed groups, both foreign and domestic, to sporadically usurp control of territory and terrorize populations throughout eastern DRC. The chaos and lack of rule of law enables armed groups and foreign entities to exploit and profit from the DRC's mineral wealth with few barriers (Blum *et al*, 2018).

The controversial political transition in 2019 between former President Josphe Kabila and the current President Felix Tshisekedi raised hope to many as the president promised to make DR Congo “the Germany of Africa, a strong country for all in which every citizen has a place”. The country GDP made a significant recovery and reached 8.9% in 2022 (Chimpanda, 2024). However, the country remains “characterized with poor governance, corruption and poverty persisting; poor and dilapidated infrastructure (i.e., health, transport, energy and telecommunication) continues to cripple the country despite Tshisekedi's efforts; the situation is exacerbated by the resurgence of the ongoing war opposing his government and the M23/AFC armed groups” (Chimpanda, 2024).

1.1.4. North Kivu Province in DRC

North Kivu is one of 26 provinces of DRC. Located in Eastern part of the country, with Goma as its capital city, the province borders Rwanda and Uganda to the east, the province of Ituri to the North, Tshopo to the northeast, and Maniema province to the southwest and south Kivu province to the south. The province consists of three main cities namely, Goma, Butembo and Beni and six territories, namely, Beni, Masisi, Rutshuru, Nyiragongo and Walikale (Province du Nord-Kivu, 2022). The province has been the epicenter of war in the DRC, which has generated a multitude of armed groups, with over two dozen emerging over the past two decades. It was here that the precursors to the Congo wars began with ethnic violence in 1993, and it is here that the most formidable challenges to stability in the country persist today (Kizaliwa, 2019).

The province is a “strategically important and ecologically rich province in the DRC, with a large population, significant natural resources, and ongoing and recurrent security challenges; Its biodiversity, including Virunga National Park, and proximity to international borders make it both a critical conservation area and a hotspot for regional conflict” (International Committee of the Red Cross Report, 2024). Recurrent armed conflict in the province continues to be an impediment to sustainable peace and to affect communities' ability to meet their basic needs.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Sustainable peace is broadly understood as a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society and ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account, which encompasses activities aimed at preventing the outbreak of escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict and addressing root causes (UNDP Report, 2020). To achieve sustainable peace, the country has a multifaceted peacebuilding policy, including, strategies of inclusive peace policy that aim to addressing the political history of the country, policy on disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and community stabilization and a community level conflict transformation policy, However, since 1994, North Kivu Province is characterized by recurrent and protracted civil wars, human violations, and atrocities caused by local and international armed groups (Kizaliwa, 2019). Eastern DRC that includes North Kivu Province is home to more than hundred-armed groups that contribute to general insecurity, population displacements, and tragic levels of Gender Based Violence (USAID Report, 2020). The judicial system is assessed at 54%, indicating a significant lack of existence and accountability, with an impunity rating of 41%. There are also a notable bias and favouritism towards the wealthy, with a score of 35% (Vinck and Pham, 2018). There is just one judge for every 30, 000 people, and the majority of them receive meagre salaries. Additionally, the physical conditions of the courts are in a state of disrepair. Trial proceedings move at an exceptionally slow pace, and the judgments rendered often appear arbitrary. Those individuals with significant wealth or political connections are seldom held accountable within the judicial system (Vinck and Pham, 2018). Political pressures and monetary corruption have produced a “deregulated justice, a perverted, dirty, degenerate justice” (Harsch, 2022). As far as

public accountability is concerned, the Global Economy Index report for 2020 revealed that the DRC performed poorly and ranked 165 out 193 countries globally with an average of -1.28 (Global Economy Report, 2021). It is often argued that the DRC government is not able to provide basic services to its population. It is against this background that the study examined the influence of governance practices such as rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness and effectiveness on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

This study was guided by both general and specific objectives as follows.

1.3.1. General Objective

The general objective of the study was to examine the influence of governance practices on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives

The following specific objectives were used:

- i. To determine the influence rule of law practice on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DR Congo;
- ii. To establish the influence of public accountability practice on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DR Congo;
- iii. To determine the influence of government responsiveness practice on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DR Congo;
- iv. To assess the influence of government effectiveness practice on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DR Congo;
- v. To determine the moderating influence of conflict resolution mechanisms on the relationship between governance practices and sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DR Congo.

1.4. Research Hypotheses

The research was guided by the following null hypotheses:

- i. Ho₁: Rule of law does not have significant influence on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC.
- ii. Ho₂: Public accountability has no significant influence on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC.
- iii. Ho₃: Government responsiveness has no significant influence on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC.
- iv. Ho₄: Government effectiveness has no significant influence on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC.
- v. Ho₅: Conflict resolution mechanisms do not have any moderate influence on the relationship between governance practices and sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DR Congo.

1.5. Justification of the Study

The justification of this study is of two folds: the academic level and at the policy level.

1. **At the academic level:** the research provided information in the connection between governance and sustainable peace and the managerial approach that fits on the context of DRC that can be helpful in similar conflict related contexts around the world. The research also contributed to the debate regarding the influence of governance practices as key elements to achieve and sustain peace.
2. **At the policy level:** at the research of this research, recommendations provided to different key stakeholders in a bit to adopt or improve country policies in related to the research topic. Specifically, the research intends to target:

National and provincial government of DRC and North Kivu Province: the study's recommendations serve as guidelines to inform the adoption of regional and national policies for intervention in the field of governance and peacebuilding.

Administrators of North Kivu Province who are implementers of government policies, the study provides first-hand information on what is required to implementing governance practices towards achieving sustainable peace in North Kivu Province.

The civil society organizations and private sector: they play a key role in filling the gap where the government programs are not able to cover. The findings of the study will contribute to inform their interventions on peacebuilding and advocacy initiatives towards sustainable peace.

1.6. Scope of the Study

The study scope was limited to governance practices and sustainable peace in Goma, in DRC. Concretely, it examined six research variables, namely rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness, government effectiveness and conflict resolution mechanisms as independent variables on one hand and sustainable peace as the research dependent variable on the other hand. The study was carried in North Kivu Province, the province that is the most affected by armed conflict in DRC.

1.7. Limitation of the Study

The research was carried out in North Kivu Province. Data collection was meant to cover the entire province. The main limitation to the study was related to insecurity in the province due to the instauration of state of siege by the government on April 2021 as an exceptional measure to restore peace and later on the resurgence of armed conflict between the government forces and M23 movement. To palliate to this situation, data were collected exclusively in the capital city of Goma under government control.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

This chapter presents the theoretical review and conceptual framework in relation to governance practices and sustainable peace. It also reviews empirical literature in relation to the study variables. The chapter also presents a critique of existent literature, summary of the study and research gaps.

2.2. Theoretical Review

This section reviewed theoretical framework that guided the research. Ravitch and Carl (2016) explain that theoretical framework assists researchers in situating and contextualizing formal theories into their studies as a guide. Theoretical framework is based on existing theories in a specific field of inquiry that is related to the hypotheses of the study; it is a blueprint that is often ‘borrowed’ by the researcher to build a research inquiry; it serves as the foundation for the research (Adom, Joe and Hussein, 2018). The section highlights the theories related to governance practices and sustainable peace. The research was guided by five theories, namely rule of law theory which is related to the first specific objective, stewardship theory which is related to the second specific objective, theory for government responsiveness which related to the third specific objective while functionalism theory and peace research theory are related to the fourth and fifth specific objectives respectively.

2.2.1. Rule of Law Theory

Rule of Law Theory is the product of historical developments over centuries and is linked to the rise of the liberal democratic form of government in the West; the origins of the notion can be traced back to ancient Greek political philosophy, where it was first formulated by Aristotle (Stein, 2009). According to Valcke (2012), three interconnected components make up the rule of law. Firstly, the rule of law mandates that no one should be punished unless they violate an established law, and the proper

forum for determining whether such a violation has occurred is the ordinary courts. Therefore, the "application of wide, arbitrary, or discretionary powers of constraint" by public officials is incompatible with the rule of law. Secondly, the rule of law makes everyone equal in the eyes of the law. This means that, with the exception of the monarch, government personnel should not have a special immunity and should instead be held accountable for their actions in regular tribunals. Finally, the rule of law is derived from the acknowledgement of individual rights by the courts (Valcke, 2012).

The research has confirmed the significant and positive relationship between rule of law and sustainable peace confirming the relevance of the theory. This means that for sustainable peace to be realised, it requires full respect of the rule of law in North Kivu province without discrimination, confirming the application of rule of law theory under this research. However, findings furthermore indicated that rule of law is wanting, leading to impunity, (re)emergence of violent conflicts and insecurity in North Kivu Province.

2.2.2. Stewardship Theory

Stewardship theory was first introduced to the management literature by Davis, Schoorman, and Donaldson (1997a). The theory was developed in different fields of social science (economics, political science, public administration, organization theory) and has helped scholars in analysing many governance-related issues. It argues that. The theory analyses how to ensure accountability when a task is delegated from a principal to an executive (Schillemans and Bjurström, 2020). The theory emphasizes trust and collaboration between leaders and those they serve, with the primary goal of building public trust by promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical governance within public institutions.

Focusing on the aspect of public accountability, the theory proved highly pertinent in gauging the government's level of accountability to the residents of North Kivu concerning the implementation of governance practices and the maintenance of lasting peace through its agencies. The positive and significant relationship between public accountability and sustainable peace confirms the relevance of this theory to the study,

underlining the imperative role that the government must play as a responsible steward to attain sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. Nevertheless, the research unveiled a contrasting situation, as it became evident that the population lacks trust in the provincial public administration due to the absence of public accountability in the province.

2.2.3. Government Responsiveness Theory

In the field of public administration, government responsiveness indicates how quickly and accurately an administrator can spot and track the fluctuations of citizen desires, and provide what is needed accordingly. With a focus on the citizen-driven model of government responsiveness, the theory argues that public administrators should fulfill their democratic responsibilities by faithfully carrying out citizen demands and interest. The model emphasizes that administrators' roles are subservient to those of citizens and their legally elected representatives. The model highlights that administrators' roles are subservient to those of citizens and their legally elected representatives (Wheeland, 2000).

Therefore, the behavioral norms and standards for administrators are such that their decisions should be in conformity with the directives of their political superiors (Rourke, 1969). This theory was confirmed relevant and helped to understand the relationship between the government and the local community of North Kivu Province and what the local community members needs in regards to sustainable peace. The findings confirmed the positive and significant relationship between government responsiveness and sustainable peace. An increment in government responsiveness will contribute to an increment in sustainable peace. In the case of North Kivu however, findings indicate that the government of DRC is not responsive towards its population to the extent it is not present in many parts of the province that are being run by armed groups.

2.2.4. Functionalism Theory

The theory of functionalism was developed by Parsons and Durkheim in the 1930s. According to functionalism, the government has four main purposes: planning and directing society, meeting social needs, maintaining law and order, and managing international relations (Trueman, 2022). According to functionalism, all aspects of society serve a purpose. Functionalists view government and politics as a way to enforce norms and regulate conflict. They believe that without collective conscience/ shared values and beliefs, achieving social order is impossible and social order is crucial for the well-being of society (Trueman, 2022).

This theory was confirmed to be very relevant because of the positive and significant relationship between government effectiveness and sustainable peace. This means that an increment in government effectiveness will contribute to an increment in sustainable peace. The findings imply that for any state to achieve sustainable peace it needs to be functional in terms of being effective and responsive within its territory. The finding on the other hand revealed that the DRC government in North Kivu is not effective as it ought to be in terms of maintaining law and order; the DRC government is not functional as required as far as practicing government principles is concerned.

2.2.5. Theory for Peace Research

Developed by Johan Galtung (1967), Peace Research Theory grew as a critical and constructive analysis of basic tenets of conventional wisdom of violence. In particular, it was developed with respect to some particularly formative traumas: World War I, the nuclear explosions over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Cold War, the civil wars following the end of the Cold War (Hoglund, 2011). According to the theory, peace is researchable and needs to be done according to each context using new ways of collecting data and understanding the complexity of the context (Wallensteen, Peace Research. , 2011).

In connection to conflict resolution mechanisms, which is moderating variable, the theory was relevant as it helped to understand that since 1994, North Kivu Province is facing so many challenges as a result of recurrent and protracted civil war coupled with

insecurity and violence caused by army local and international armed with the latest being the M23 rebel movement. As such, government practices and conflict resolution mechanisms are considered appropriate solutions to restoring order, security and sustainable peace in the province. After many efforts of negotiation and mediation led processes, sustainable peace is yet far from being achieved.

2.3. Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework comprises thoughts on identification of the research topic, the problem to be investigated, the questions to be asked, the literature to be reviewed, the theories to be applied, the methodology to be used, the methods, procedures and instruments, the data analysis and interpretation of findings, recommendations and conclusions that will be made (Ravitch and Riggan, 2017). A complete conceptual framework supports the study to assess the goals for this research and develop appropriate research questions and its methodology (Magher, 2018).

The study was guided by a conceptual framework of four independent variables, namely, rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness, government effectiveness as independent variables, and one moderating variable which conflict resolution mechanisms, and a dependent variable (sustainable peace). Furthermore, each variable was assigned indicators for measurement under this study as presented in Figure 2.1.

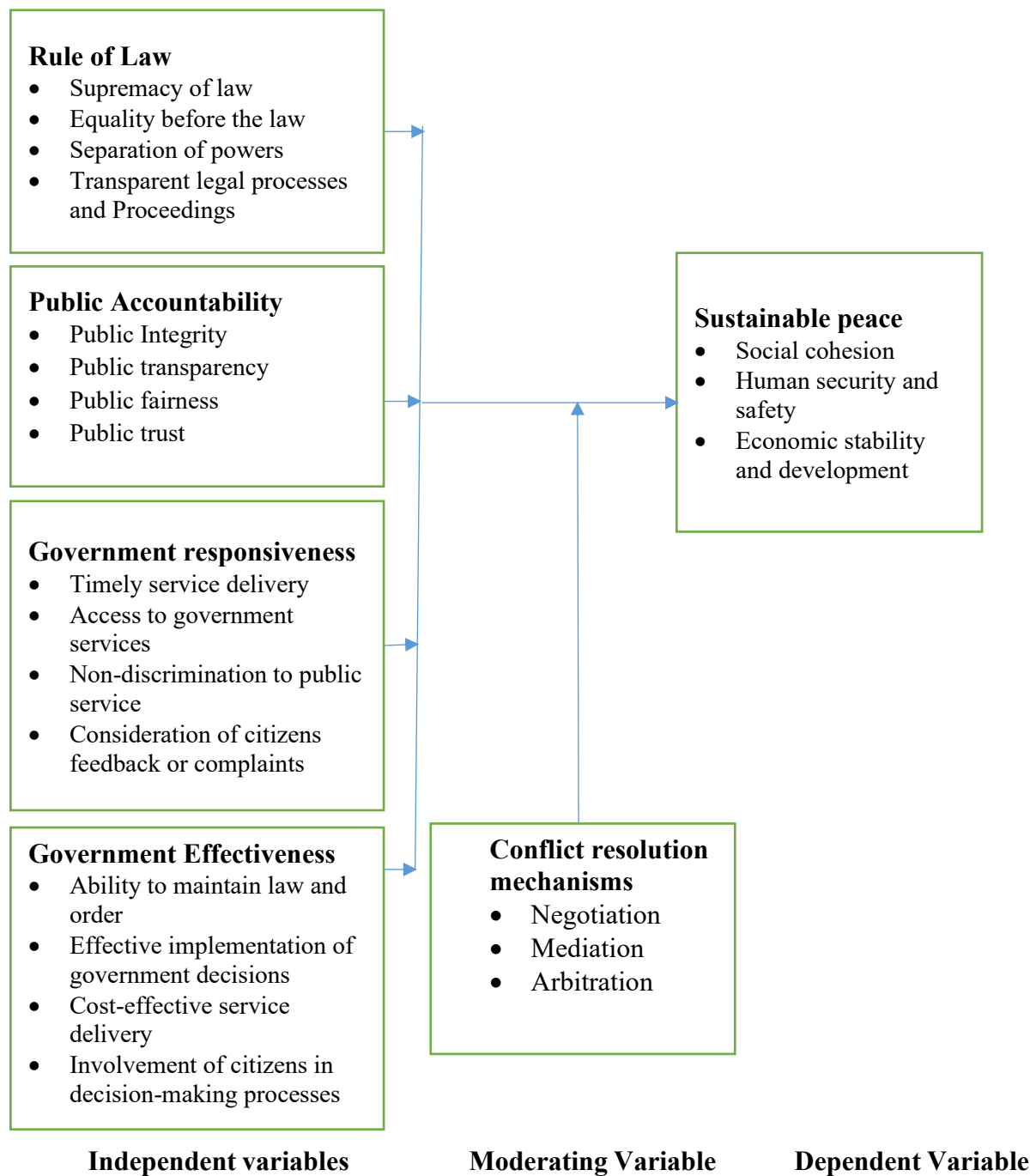


Figure 2.1. Conceptual framework

2.4. Empirical Review

This section thoroughly reviewed the empirical literature of the study variables. The purpose of the literature review is to provide the foundation of knowledge on the topic, identify inconsistencies, research gaps, as well as define the need for additional

research upon completion. This section, therefore, reviews the literature on good governance practices and sustainable peace.

2.4.1. Rule of Law

Although no international or regional legal definition exists of the rule of law, it is referred to as a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions, and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards (Report of UN Human Rights Regional Office for Europe, 2020).

Sesay (2019) noted that while the positive effects of rule of law norms and institutions are often assumed in the peacebuilding literature, with empirical work focusing more on processes of compliance with international standards in war-torn countries, purportedly, ‘good’ rule of law norms do not always deliver benign benefits but rather often have negative consequences that harm the very local constituents that peacebuilders promise to help. The rule of law promotion in war-torn countries disproportionately favours actors who have been historically privileged by unequal socio-legal and economic structures at the expense of those whom peacebuilders claim to emancipate. By entrenching an inequitable state system, which benefits those with wealth, education, and influence, rule of law institutions has reinforced structural, social, and cost-related barriers to justice. These negative effects explain why war-torn societies avoid the formal courts and law enforcement agencies despite substantial international efforts to professionalize and strengthen these institutions to meet global rule of law standards (Sesay, 2019).

Achieving lasting peace, reconciliation, and justice after armed conflict, repression, or mass violations has long been an objective, and challenge, for the international community (International Center for Transitional Justice Report, 2019). USAID Report (2021) argues that in post-conflict settings, re-establishing the rule of law is the first step in the rebuilding process. Establishing peace and security and rebuilding justice institutions can help to develop the necessary climate for reconciliation, public confidence, and subsequent economic growth. Countries with high levels of corruption

or those which lack effective rule of law in government are more susceptible to conflict and social unrest than other developing countries. The persistence of corruption adversely impacts the delivery of health, education, and other social benefits, and is a contributing factor to the persistence of poverty and other inequalities (USAID Report, 2021).

Germany and other European countries after World War II, Argentina, the Balkans, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Liberia, Peru, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Timor-Leste, and former communist countries in Eastern and Central Europe, among others, have, with different degrees of success, all made use of rule of law to deal with the legacies of mass violations to protect human rights, deliver justice, prevent violence, and advance toward sustainable peace and development (International Center for Transitional Justice Report, 2019).

A study by Zupancic, Pejic, Grilj and Annemarie (2017) confirmed the influence of rule of law on sustainable peace. Findings revealed that despite the mission being the most criticized, it has contributed positively to conflict prevention and peace-building in Kosovo and achieved its overall politico-strategic goals to contribute to the prevention of further violent conflict and help build a more prosperous and sustainable peace through rule of law reform facilitating future European integration of the country (Zupančič, *at al.*, 2017).

A study on the limits of peace in Latin America by Kurtenbach (2019) confirmed the pivotal role of good governance, particularly emphasizing the rule of law, in the establishment and maintenance of peace. The study found that the most peaceful and democratic countries, Chile, Uruguay, and Costa Rica, seemed to be able to change their development path despite dictatorship (Chile 1973–1990 and Uruguay 1973–1985) and civil war (Costa Rica 1948). Today, they not only conduct free and fair elections but also receive high ratings for the rule of law and have the most progressive welfare regimes. Levels of corruption and violence are low (Kurtenbach, 2019).

In a similar study on the Latin American economic outlook 2018: rethinking institutions for development, OECD and the United Nations (2018) also confirmed the importance of rule of law towards building peace that is beyond the absence of war.

The study found that the rule of law, and civil and property rights, are pillars of democratic institutions. They help prevent the spread of detrimental conduct such as elite capture, crime, corruption and impunity, all of which are serious problems in the region (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and United Nations Report, 2018).

With a focus on Africa, Makau (2016) unarguably confirms that no society can achieve sustainable development and peace without infusing in its mainstream a culture of justice grounded in the core norms of the rule of law. However, these core norms must grapple with Africa's unique history and be adopted to its historical circumstances to achieve cultural legitimacy.

In a study by Mogopodi and Ringo (2015) emphasized the importance of rule of law on governance and stability. Findings of the study revealed, that unlike Tanzania, the majority of respondents in Botswana thought that people in Botswana are treated equally under the law rule contributing to a peaceful social order in the country.

A similar study in Kenya by Nyakwaka and Chelang'a (2021) also underscored the significance of rule of law. The finding of the research noted that the promotion of rule of law significantly contributes to the reduction of abuse, all forms of violence and related death rates, exploitation, trafficking, illicit financial and arms, corruption and bribery as well as to the development of accountable transparent institutions.

Finally, a case study by Day (2021) in DRC revealed that extraordinarily where there existed weak institutional capacities ravaged by corrupt and autocratic rule; widespread poverty and humanitarian suffering, and an extremely volatile security situation in the country are deeply rooted in different conflict drivers, including inefficient rule of law. Despite some clear evidence of impact across the UN's work on the ground, there are many shortcomings, and the rule of law capacities of the Congolese state to achieving sustainable peace remain some of the lowest in the world (Day, 2021).

2.4.2. Public Accountability

Governance systems that contribute to stable peace are characterized by having inclusive means of operating, participatory systems that bring the governed into the process of decision making, systems for accountability that ensure transparent and equitable operations, and enough systemic capacity that are able to provide physical security and public goods supporting human development. When all of these elements are present, they form a mutually reinforcing virtuous cycle that reduces the risk of violence (Cortright, Seyle, & Wall, 2017).

Governance systems promote peace when they are accountable in their operations. People would trust governance systems more when they are predictable and are seen as being just in their decisions and structures. Achieving this accountability can often be accomplished through having participatory systems, as well as through having transparency around how decisions are made and funds are spent (Cortright, Seyle, & Wall, 2017).

Accountability is used in the sense of serving the needs of the people by applying tax and resource revenues in a traceable manner to obtain security and justice, and for service delivery in education, health care and infrastructure development (Lijm, Glawion and Zwaan, 2019). USAID Report (2021) explained that, countries with high levels of corruption, or which lack effective accountability in government are more susceptible to conflict and social unrest than other developing countries. The persistence of corruption adversely impacts the delivery of health, education, and other social benefits, and is a contributing factor to the persistence of poverty and other inequalities (USAID Report, 2021).

Every year, the New Zealand State Services Commission carries out a survey about New Zealander's satisfaction with public services (Mana, 2019). The latest *Kiwis Count* survey showed that "New Zealanders have high trust in, and satisfaction with their public services", with 80% of respondents trusting public services based on their personal experience. However, only 50% trust the public sector brand (the perception of government) (Mana, 2019).

In a study by Munzhedzi (2016) argues that the current public accountability mechanisms are not efficient and effective; the country is still confronted with many challenges in so far as lack of accountability is concerned. The unfortunate part is that there are no ready-made solutions to these challenges. In Kenya, some of the challenges faced by formal accountability institutions established by the government in effectively delivering on their mandates include lack of independence, bias, inadequate budgetary allocations, understaffing, and lack of the power to prosecute (Oduor, 2015).

A study in Nigeria by Okenyodo (2016) revealed the extent to which lack of public accountability has contributed to lack of peace. The research revealed that from violent extremism and insurgency to piracy, kidnapping for ransom, attacks on oil infrastructure, drug trafficking, and organized crime, Nigeria faces a host of complex security challenges. These threats, which typically involve irregular forces and are largely societally based, are caused by different factors including lack of accountability due to overlap management and weak oversight (Okenyodo, 2016).

A comparative study by Lijm, Tim, Glawion and Zwaan (2019) confirmed that a lack of state accountability, weak, corrupt or non-inclusive state institutions, or even their complete absence, drove populations temporarily to look for alternative solutions, but that does not mean that they prefer to do so. Most respondents in CAR and South Kivu province would prefer a strong state and formal security and justice provision. The efforts of peace operations, such as MINUSCA and MONUSCO, and of INGOs to strengthen state structures are therefore in line with the wishes of local populations (Lijm *et al.*, 2019).

Finally, a study by Kizaliwa (2019), confirmed the same findings. He stated that lack of public accountability is considered one of the challenges to achieving sustainable peace. The research findings revealed that lack of public accountability is expressed through misappropriation of national resources by the ruling class, negligence of culture in conflict resolution and exclusion of no ruling class from the management of the Country in Eastern DRC, as expressed by research respondents.

2.4.3. Government Responsiveness

The government is responsible for the maintenance of the safety and security of its citizens through the provision and maintenance of public services such as police, fire, army, and ambulance services. Where public services such as health, education and investment in infrastructure are performed efficiently and effectively, community needs are more likely to be met, thereby encouraging greater wellbeing and a more peaceful community (Institute for Economics and Peace Report, 2018). Furthermore, a well-functioning government delivers high-quality public and civil services, engenders trust and participation, demonstrates political stability and upholds the rule of law. Furthermore, there is evidence to suggest that accountability is a driver of the effectiveness of public service provision by government (Institute for Economics and Peace Report, 2018).

Responsive and accountable governance actively involves the public in decision-making, policy development, implementation, and the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of these processes. It prioritizes the alignment of public leadership and government initiatives with the needs of the people and actively engages them in identifying those needs (United Nations Report, 2015). It provides access to public information, constantly listens to the people and ensures that government and its agencies are open to people's inputs and scrutiny. Most importantly, it develops institutions, structures, systems and practices that promote and support the involvement and participation of the people and ensure equal access to services by all (United Nations Report, 2015).

An empirical study on positive peace across the world revealed that Peru has emerged as one of Latin America's most prosperous countries following decades of military coups, violent insurgencies, social unrest and macroeconomic challenges due to different responsive governments. In recent decades, prudent monetary, exchange and investment policies have allowed Peru to weather international economic crises and commodity price declines (Institute for Economics and Peace Report, 2018).

A report by the United Nations for Development Policy (2018) indicated that Timor-Leste in Asia is enjoying positive peace as a result of responsive governance. Between 2005 and 2017, Timor-Leste experienced the Asia Pacific region's largest improvement in Equitable Distribution of Resources, illustrating the country's development gains. Government investment in education and workforce development through programs such as the Education Sector Support Project (ESSP) have led to an 8.8 per cent improvement in High Levels of Human Capital. Timor-Leste liberalised its telecommunications sector in 2011, allowing more telecom operators to enter the market and driving a 17.6 per cent improvement in its Free Flow of Information score since 2005. The UN General Assembly plans on graduating Timor-Leste from Least Developed Countries (LDC) status in December 2021, reflecting the nation's past successes and future potential (United Nations Committee for Development Policy Report, 2018).

In examining Ghana's ability to continue to resist nationwide violent conflicts, the findings of a study in West Africa (1992-2016) by Musah (2021) confirm the relationship between responsiveness and sustainable peace. The findings revealed that Ghana has high chance of continuing to resist nationwide conflicts due to its internal capacities such as the geographical circumscription of local conflicts to the communities where they occur; a strong justice system; a proactive and responsive security services; the peace-loving nature of the population; and the existence of effective conflict prevention and peace education structures in the country, all working to the advantage of peaceful democratization (Musah, 2021).

Another study in Kenya by Elfversson (2016) confirmed that when the governance ceases to be responsive, any private group can take control of the situation in governance, which may lead to chaos. According to the research findings, the failure of the Kenyan government to provide security and basic services in Kerio Valley led to long-standing conflict and to non-state actors to fill important roles in governance (Elfversson, 2016).

Finally in the DR Congo Jacobs (2018) revealed that Congolese identify their government as a father is who is very rich with all necessary wealth but who is just not willing to provide for his children in the name of not having means to do so. The above findings are confirmed by the 2016 Mo Ibrahim Foundation (2016) in “A Decade of African Governance 2006-2015”. The scores and trends for DRC as far as safety of the person is concerned is about 0.0 and -10.4, showing that the DRC government has not made any change or improvement in ensuring people safety.

2.4.4. Government Effectiveness

Effectiveness in good governance refer to institutions and processes that provide good governance and produce results that meet society’s needs while utilizing scarce resources effectively. Effectiveness equals the extent of fulfilling one’s intended purpose or performing your intended function – the extent to which one exceeds its objectives, or doing the right thing at all times (Olivia, 2022).

Adeyinka (2020) concurs on the same and refers to effectiveness to mean making the best use of available resources through the processes and institutions and produce results that meet the required needs of society; the concept of efficiency also covers the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment in the context of good governance.

Florina (2017) also concurs and posits that effectiveness in the public sector means considering an assembly of conditions concerning the competence, organization, assuming responsibilities, governmental transparency, citizen participation in decision-making on certain common issues, of public interest, efficient allocation of public resources, and democratic governance. This depends on the quality of civil servants, on the quality of administrative act, conditioned in turn, by the qualification of the staff in the administration.

On the other hand, consequences of ineffectiveness in public sector include; the absence of transparency and accountability, non-implementation of government policies, spread of corruption, favouritism, power abuse, spread of fraud, and predominance of bureaucracy inside the government’s organs. All these factors

contribute to a clear setback in the effectiveness of the public sector's institutions and the bad status of public services that will result in citizen dissatisfaction and the increase of the trust crisis between the citizen and the government (CABRI, 2015).

Increasing effectiveness in the public sector has to meet the growing and more diversified requirements of citizens, as an essential objective of public administration actions, to this end, determining the effectiveness of the public sector, in different fields, making a contribution to the formulation of strategies of public funds management, aimed at the objectives fulfilment (Florina, 2017).

A number of actions can encompass effectiveness increase in the public sector: – legislative simplification of administrative rules and procedures; – diminishing bureaucracy; – increasing budgetary and fiscal transparency and accountability at governmental level; – extending the use of electronic means of information in the development of the processes, in the administration-citizen relationship in order to make the activity performance more efficient; – implementation of training and improvement programs, in relation to existent needs at local public administration level; – targeting the effectiveness of the public sector towards a level of satisfaction of social needs, as high as possible, through: social protection systems for vulnerable groups, increasing the quality of provided goods and services; heritage and environment preservation etc. (Florina, 2017).

Measuring efficiency pertains to assessing the cost incurred by a government in order to achieve a specific output, whereas measuring effectiveness pertains to determining whether the government's investment is justified and whether the desired outcomes are achieved. While efficiency implies “doing things right” and “doing better what is already being done” effectiveness implies “doing the right thing” and “deciding what to do better” (Nam, 2019).

The indicator defines government effectiveness as “perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies”. With a more concrete view, government effectiveness is considered as the answer to whether a government

does what it is supposed to do well, whether its actions, procedures, and members help achieve its mission, and eventually whether it achieves its mission (Nam, 2019).

According to Kaufmann and Kraay (2022), government effectiveness and efficiency are measured against a number of indicators, including, but not limited to competence of civil service; effective implementation of government decisions; and public service vulnerability to political pressure; flexibility, learning, and innovation within the political leadership; ability to coordinate conflicting objectives into coherent policies; policy consistency; and the extent to which government commitments are honoured.

A study in Italy by Giordano, Lanau, Tommasino, and Topalova (2018) confirmed the positive effect of (in) efficiency of public service provision. The research found that it is not only an important determinant of firm productivity but also statistically and economically significant. From a regional perspective, study by Duho, Amankwa and Musah-Surugu (2020) revealed that more so, about 17 out of 48 Asian countries record non-negative scores on government effectiveness in 2002. These include Singapore, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Macao, United Arab Emirates, Taiwan, Bhutan, Bahrain, Qatar, Maldives, Oman, Thailand, Jordan and Kuwait. This list increased to 23 countries by 2018 with some notable ones such as Georgia, China, Saudi Arabia, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Kazakhstan and Vietnam making some strides. The countries with the least scores are Iraq, Afghanistan, North Korea, Syria and Yemen (Duho *et al.*, 2020).

As far as African continent is concerned, countries still need to make more strides in government effectiveness. Comprehensive insights on the performance of countries can be assessed using the ratings of the government effectiveness index. The scores range from -2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong). This provides a year-on-year assessment of countries (The Global Economy Report, 2020). As of 2002, only eight (8) African countries out of 53 countries recorded a non-negative score under the government effectiveness index. These include South Africa, Botswana, Tunisia, Mauritius, Seychelles, Namibia, Senegal and Mauritania. As of 2018, this has changed, as countries such as Tunisia, Senegal and Mauritania dropped while others like Cape Verde and Rwanda gained positive scores. Countries such as Chad, the Democratic

Republic of Congo, Sudan, Comoros, the Central African Republic, Eritrea, Libya, and Somalia are positioned at the lower end or bottom of the list (Duho *et al.*, 2020).

2.4.5. Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

There is conflict when incompatible parties compete to gain an upper hand over different resources; they fight in some instances to get away with their enemy (Zerihun, 2020). In other words, conflict takes place when there is incompatibility of goals or values between two or more parties in a relationship, combined with the attempts to control each other and the antagonistic feelings toward each other; a situation in which two or more parties strive to acquire the same scarce resources at the same time (Zerihun, 2020). The conflict cannot be resolved if its causes are not understood. Only when a diagnosis develops into concrete terms, alternate solutions can be proposed; this is called conflict analysis. Conflict analysis is therefore a prerequisite for better management of any conflict (Oachesu, 2016).

Furthermore, when conflict is managed constructively, it has positive benefits to the conflict parties and to the society as whole. On the contrary, a conflict that is not well-managed has negative consequences. The Stockholm International Peace Institute Report (2015) concurred with the above statement and explained that armed conflict is a development issue; it kills, and its consequences extend far beyond deaths in battle. Armed conflict often leads to forced migration, long-term refugee problems, and the destruction of infrastructure. Social, political, and economic institutions can be permanently damaged; the consequences of war, especially civil war, for development are profound.

While there are different levels of conflicts, the focus of this study reveals that the North Kivu conflict under review primarily falls under an intra-state category of conflict where resource abundance continue to trigger, increase, and sustain the violence, insecurity and killings (Anderson, 2018). Some states with abundant resources have experienced the so-called “resource curse”, namely, stagnation, corruption, and violence over the revenues from resources. Anderson (2018) continues to explain that the causes of intrastate wars are linked with the economic opportunities of controlling the rents from resource extortion. Furthermore, modern civil wars last

longer since it is easier to sustain and fund the conflict; the abundance of capturable resources for example continues to increase the risk of intrastate wars. The greed factor, coupled with access to abundant resources and international trade are critical in perpetuating intrastate conflicts (Anderson, 2018).

Globally, mechanisms of disputes resolution are categorized between formal and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. The formal system refers to the legal court system while Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) refers to any method of resolving disputes without litigation. ADR regroups all processes and techniques of conflict resolution that occur outside of any governmental authority. The most famous ADR methods are the following: mediation, arbitration, conciliation, negotiation, and transaction (Legal Information Institute Report, 2022).

All ADR methods have common characteristics – i.e., enabling the parties to find admissible solutions to their conflicts outside of traditional legal/court proceedings, but are governed by different rules. In negotiation, there is no third party who intervenes to help the parties reach an agreement, unlike in mediation and conciliation, where the purpose of the third party is to promote an amicable agreement between the parties. In arbitration, the third party (an arbitrator or several arbitrators) will play an important role as it will render an arbitration award that will be binding on the parties. In comparison, in conciliation and mediation, the third party does not impose any binding decision (Legal Information Institute Report, 2022).

Mediation is globally used as a mechanism that consists of negotiation between disputing parties, assisted by a neutral third party and it is defined as: "The intervention into a dispute or negotiation by an acceptable, impartial and neutral third party (with no decision-making power) to assist disputing parties in voluntarily reaching their own mutually acceptable settlement of issues in dispute" (Government of Canada Report, 2019). On the other hand, negotiation is also globally defined as a type of discussion used to settle disputes and reach agreements between two or more sides. Negotiation is a process of "give and take" resulting in a compromise where each side makes a concession for the benefit of everyone involved.

Sticher and Sticher (2021) clarify that, in both mediation and negotiation processes, ongoing hostilities within intrastate conflicts can create significant obstacles to achieving a comprehensive settlement. Consequently, parties often initiate a ceasefire as a prerequisite for commencing peace negotiations. Moreover, even in the absence of preconditions, a ceasefire can serve to stabilize the situation, thereby facilitating the negotiation process.

Arbitration is another widely recognized alternative dispute resolution mechanism employed to resolve conflicts outside of traditional court settings. It involves the submission of a dispute to a neutral third party, the arbitrator, who renders a binding decision after considering evidence and arguments from all parties involved. According to Oklahoma Bar Association Report (2019), arbitration is the submission of a disputed matter to an impartial par (the arbitrator) for decision. The Oklahoma Bar Association further reiterates that arbitration is typically an out-of-court method for resolving a dispute, where the arbitrator controls the process, listens to both sides and makes a decision.

One of the key advantages of arbitration is the flexibility it offers. Parties have the autonomy to tailor the arbitration process to their specific needs, including the choice of arbitrators, the location of hearings, and the applicable rules and procedures. This flexibility contributes to a more efficient and tailored resolution process compared to traditional litigation. According to Morris (2023), many arbitration processes are voluntary in that both parties agree to submit the dispute to arbitration, and the parties often agree on the selection of the arbitrator and the procedural rules. Generally, rules of evidence and procedure are more relaxed than the rules of court, making arbitration an often faster and more cost-effective, way of providing a quicker resolution for disputing parties.

In the context of Eastern Congo, particularly in Goma, arbitration should serve as a crucial mechanism for resolving disputes arising from the complex socio-political landscape. A report bySave Green, Promote Peace and Sustainable Development (2023) reveals that, the DRC, having a history of political instability, armed conflicts,

and internal strife arbitration can provide a stable, neutral, and efficient means of resolving disputes between parties.

Given the region's history of armed conflict and challenges in the judicial system, arbitration provides a viable means of settling disputes and promoting stability. Local and international organizations have implemented arbitration initiatives, fostering a sense of justice and offering a path towards sustainable peace in a region marked by historical tensions.

According to (Save Green, Promote Peace and Sustainable Development (Arbitration, 2023), local organizations such as Save Green, Promote Peace and Sustainable Development (SGPSD) which was founded in Kisangani and works on many peacebuilding issues in Eastern DR Congo, is an example of a local arbitrator which operates with the aim of building social justice geared towards developing lasting solutions to problems in Eastern DR Congo

2.4.6. Sustainable Peace

On 27 April 2016, the General Assembly and the Security Council adopted substantively identical resolutions on peacebuilding (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016), respectively) (United Nations Report, 2017). The resolutions introduced the term “sustaining peace”, which, rather than redefining peacebuilding, provides for an expanded scope (United Nations Report, 2017). The concept of sustaining peace should, according to these resolutions, be broadly understood as a goal and a process that require a comprehensive, coordinated and coherent approach. Sustaining peace involved activities that aimed at preventing the outbreak, continuation, escalation and recurrence of violent conflict; addressing root causes; assisting parties of conflict to end hostilities; ensuring national reconciliation; and moving towards recovery, reconstructions and development; inherently a political process as addressing root causes and ending hostilities requires finding political solutions (United Nations Report, 2017).

According to Kelly (2024), rule of law can be understood as a principle and a process. As a principle, “rule of law is the idea that all people are treated equally under the law, regardless of who they are. Thus, the rule of law is meant to contrast with rule *by* law, which is a mode of governing in which those in political power use the law to constrain the behavior of others but not that of themselves”. As a process, “it is not just about security and justice officials enforcing the law; it is also about making the equality of everyone under the law a real, tangible thing. In that sense, building the rule of law is an ongoing social and political process that involves the state - including the security forces.

However, it also involves citizens and hinges upon state officials forging relationships of trust and reciprocity with the citizens that they are intended to serve. Now, this could be based on relevant local, national, and international standards about rules, rights, and ways to seek redress for problems that one is experiencing” (Kelly, 2024).

Schmidt and Mincieli (2018) explain that the process of sustaining peace should be broadly understood as a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account, which encompasses activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development

Sustaining peace thus encompasses an array of interventions, including strengthening the rule of law, promoting sustainable economic growth, poverty eradication, social development, sustainable development and national reconciliation. Some of the means and principles by which these interventions are pursued are inclusive dialogue and mediation, access to justice and transitional justice, accountability, good governance, democracy, accountable institutions, and respect for human rights and gender equality.

Built on principles of human security, integrating an understanding of the root causes of conflict, and the protection of human rights, sustaining peace is inextricably linked with sustainable development (Caparini, 2017). The World Bank’s (2020) definition of sustainable peace emphasizes the concept as both a goal and an enduring condition

devoid of violence. It is characterized by factors such as social cohesion, regional integration, fair economic opportunities, and inclusive, accountable institutions designed to benefit all individuals.

A research by Juncos and Blockmans (2018) noted that over the past two decades, the European Union (EU) has become increasingly involved in preventing conflict and promoting sustainable peace beyond its borders and the efforts are said to be particularly promising. However, it continues to face four key challenges in this area including bridging the early warning-response gap; improving cooperation with other international partners in conflict prevention and peacebuilding; enhancing civil–military coordination; and ensuring local ownership (Juncos and Blockmans, 2018).

Another research on sustainable peace in Colombia by Kerry (2015) confirmed the relationship between governance practices and sustainable peace. The main challenge of achieving sustainable peace in Colombia was related to rule of law. The study noted that the challenge of achieving sustainable peace was due to the fact that FARC was not ready to face the full force of the law and did not agree to end its hostilities if the government planned on making them legally responsible for their crimes. On the other hand, granting them amnesty would have strengthened the populations' impression that impunity prevails.

A report by Sarfati (2020) confirmed that governance was one of the root causes of conflict in the three countries. The report found that in order to achieve sustainable peace there was need to address the root causes of the conflict. Local context must be taken into account through a comprehensive analysis of drivers of peace that examines grievances, inclusive politics, social cohesion and root causes of conflict. Furthermore, operationalizing the sustainable peace agenda in Liberia has required revitalizing the peacebuilding architecture and enhancing its synergies with all streams of work (Sarfati, 2020).

An empirical study by Githaiga (2016) revealed that peace that is owned is an expectation that the state will provide basic socio-economic needs, security, the right to justice and more equal opportunities. In Kenya, state-led peacebuilding has sought to build peace in the provision of security, harmonious co-existence and, to a lesser

extent, the right to more equal opportunities. From that perspective, sustainable peace in Kenya is conceptualized primarily as security. While it builds peace as security, the state-led approach does not deal with other substantive aspects of owed peace, such as justice, provision of socio-economic needs and more equal opportunities. On the other hand, owned peace requires the transformation of structures of inequality and injustice to allow for lasting peace (Githaiga, 2016).

Away from the state-led approach, Interpeace's (2021) experience in working towards sustainable peace in Kenya has been rather through local spaces. According to Interpeace, "Peace can only be sustained from within these communities. That is why the emphasis is put on strengthening the resilience of local peacebuilding spaces, so that peace can sustain peace beyond any short-term funded intervention" (Interpeace Report, 2021).

Finally, as far as Eastern DRC is concerned, Kizaliwa (2019) noted that sustainable peace in that region of the country remains a challenge. His research findings uncovered that, at a personal level, critical obstacles to attaining sustainable peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) encompass issues like social exclusion, misappropriation of national resources, partiality, and the neglect of cultural factors in conflict resolution, among other factors. The aforementioned factors resulted into murder and traumatism, corruption, poverty, unemployment of the citizens of the DRC and less understanding of the population culture. To address the situation, actions such as humanitarian assistance and awareness campaigns are necessary. These initiatives can lead to the recovery of affected individuals and encourage their active participation in the peace-building process (Kizaliwa, 2019).

2.5. Critique of Existing Literature

This section provides a critique of existing literature in regards to the research theories. The concept of rule of law continues to be a subject of extensive debate, with discussions surrounding both its substance and normative functions. The ongoing debate on the rule of law nevertheless does not preclude the rising importance of the principle on the domestic and foreign policy agenda of states (Magen, 2009). Despite the rising consensus on the importance of the rule of law, numerous critiques have

arisen on the actual relevance of the rule of law as a concept. The main critiques against the rule of law pertain to its conceptual weakness, the existence of non-legal and extra-legal rules to govern society, and the elusive character of the consensus engendered by the cultural/regional diversity of rule of law traditions (Burnay, 2018). It will be argued that it is the polyphonic nature of the concept that has enabled the emergence of a consensus on the importance of the rule of law and that helps appraise the existing diversity in rule of law traditions (Burnay, 2018)

Stewardship theory provides an interesting and welcome alternative to agency theory, which in the era of New Public Management (NPM) has prompted the introduction of a new performance management system based on generalized mistrust in and control over public employees (Van Dooren *et al.* 2015). There is however a lack of empirical validation of the feasibility and outcomes of the new forms of trust-based governance recommended by stewardship theory (Torfing and Bentzen, 2020). As such, there are few examples of alternative ways of boosting public employee motivation that can serve as beacons for public service organizations desperately seeking new ways of motivating their personnel to create public value for the users and society in general (Torfing and Bentzen, 2020).

Considered from a citizen-centered perspective of government responsiveness, the theory focuses on compelling administrators to be responsive. The most fundamental characteristic of public service should be its commitment to serve citizens in order to advance the public good. A public service true to its mission should be recognized for ongoing improvement of services and for its respect for the citizens it serves (Bourgon, 2007). The model sees government responsiveness as the maximization of citizen demands/interests. However, the model shows the complexity of the concept, in consideration of the controversies surrounding questions like, how should the public interest be defined, and what is the best way to achieve public interest? (Liao, 2016).

Functionalism theory plays a various part on the society, which consist mainly of social institutions, and contributes to the sociality of the society. Sociologist Durkheim anticipates the society as an organisation where each component plays an important

part but cannot function alone; one part may crash or experience a crisis while other parts should be adapted to fill the remaining gap(s) (GradesFixer, 2019).

The strength of the functionalist theory is that it is a macro level structural theory which uses an organic analogy- using the body as a way to describe the different parts within society. Parsons identifies three similarities; System, System Needs and Functions. The System being organisms such as the human body, and society which fit together in fixed ways (GradesFixer, 2019). On the other hand, the theory is criticized for neglecting negative implications in the social circle. Some critics, such as Italian theorist Antonio Gramsci, think that the prospect justifies the process of cultural hegemony that holds it. Functionalism does not encourage people to take an active role in changing the social environment, even when it can benefit them (GradesFixer, 2019).

According to Peace Research Theory, peace is researchable in terms of understanding the root causes of conflict and factors involved (Hoglund, 2011). The theory evolved alongside the work of Machiavelli and was subsequently developed into an innovative approach for studying violence and understanding conflict better; ideas developed from the Utopian tradition inspired researchers to understand conditions and approaches and cooperation to achieving peace (Hoglund, 2011).

However, in the search for understanding violence and conflict from the perspective of conventional wisdom of violence, the theory faces some limitations in terms of understanding and explaining new forms of war and violence, in particular the traumas associated with the major wars and conflagrations of the 20th century, drawing attention to different types of conflict in the post-cold war context characterized by intra-state conflicts (Wallenstein, 2011).

This seems to be a limitation facing the Peace Research Theory, in particular in relation with the situation in North Kivu Province, which has so many national, regional and international complex key driving factors and actors involved. This attention has led to debate and a reconsideration of older propositions and assumptions of the peace research. Despite the fact that peace research has demonstrated that peace is researchable, it required new ways of collecting data and understanding the complexity

of new types of war (Wallensteen, 2011) especially in the context of North Kivu Province.

2.6. Summary of the Study

The chapter presents the research's theoretical and conceptual frameworks that guided the study. Guided by research variables, five theories were used with understanding that other can still be used on the same. The conceptual framework is made of four variables that make the research specific objectives. Besides the four variables, national conflict resolution mechanisms were the fifth variable to moderate between the explanatory and the explained variables. Furthermore, literature reviewed acknowledged the importance of governance practices to achieving peace. Each of them confirmed the significant influence between the two variables.

The four variables under this study are considered to be critical if governance has to achieve its objectives in any context. From global, regional, national to local levels, no study objects to this affirmation. However, the peacebuilding literature predominantly addresses international interventions in post-war countries. International peacebuilding is undoubtedly crucial, but it is important to recognize that peacebuilding is also a vital endeavor at the national and local levels, even during periods of relative calm. While international peacebuilding through good governance often highlights the involvement of international and regional organizations, neighboring nations, and national governments, there is limited emphasis on the bottom-up approach. There is a noticeable gap in literature when it comes to explaining or illustrating the essential role played by local communities, which are often the most affected and directly impacted by issues related to governance and the pursuit of sustainable peace.

The reality is that in many peace negotiations, the perspectives and opinions of local communities are often overlooked or disregarded. In the Colombia peace process for example, significant emphasis was placed on devising strategies for granting amnesty to the warlords, who, with their supporters, committed grave atrocities. This was conducted without paying much attention to the opinions of the thousands of victims of civil war.

2.7. Research Gaps

The main objective of this study was to examine the influence of governance practices on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, DRC. Since 1994, the province remains a conflict-ridden region characterized by recurrent and protracted civil wars, human violations, and atrocities caused by local and international armed groups. North Kivu Province is one of the most affected territories of the region (Kizaliwa, 2019). Brutal killings in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's North Kivu province have hit hundreds of indigenous families hard, uprooting them from their traditional lands where most lived as hunter-gatherers. Insecurity in the North Kivu Province has affected economic activities of the local communities, driven many to displacement camps, interrupted economic activities and schooling (Boisselet, 2021).

According to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission report in the DR Congo (MONUSCO) (2021), despite some progress made by the Congolese government in fighting impunity, heinous crimes against civilians, including rampant sexual violence, often go unpunished. According to the Global Economy Index (2021) for 2020 whereby -2.5 was considered as weak while 2.5 as strong accountability, the DRC was ranked 165 out 193 countries globally with an average of -1.2. With 1.64 points with a minimum of -1.88 points in 2020 in terms of efficiency and effectiveness, it is often argued that the DRC government is not able to provide basic services to its population. Significantly, many people have lost their expectations for the state to take responsibility for providing essential services like water, livelihood support, education, or healthcare (Ferf *et al.*, 2016).

The key driving factor to this situation is bad governance. The implementation of governance practices such as rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness and effectiveness across the territory is wanting. Many studies carried out on governance in DRC would focus on one governance practice and on specific domain such as education, health, transport etc. using a desk review approach. In his study Kizaliwa (2019) focus on challenges of sustainable without deep analysis of key governance practices and getting the view of the population on their key indicators.

Combining four governance practices and with focus on sustainable. Bak, Vrushu and Mpararo (2019) only focus the element of corruption and how to fight it.

Using a desk review approach their study is very restrictive and would not help understand many other aspects of the relationship between governance practices and sustainable peace. This study has covered these gaps. Using both qualitative and quantitative approach and focused on analysing four combined governance practices (rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness and government effectiveness) this research provided first-hand information from the perspective of the community on the influence of these governance practices on sustainable peace. The study therefore constitutes the first empirical study to understand the situation of lack of peace affecting North Kivu Province from a perspective of four governance practices.

Table 2.1: Summary of Research Gaps

Author	Article	Findings	Gaps
Kizaliwa Irumbo	Challenges to achieving Sustainable Peace in Democratic Republic of Congo: A Case Study of North Kivu Province (2019)	- Challenges to achieving sustainable peace in DRC at the structural level include but not limited to bad governance, democratic deficit, dictatorial regime and lack of rule of law. - The far-reaching consequences to achieving sustainable peace in DRC include rebellions and uncontrolled armed groups, unequal distribution of national resources, weak participation of the population in decision-making, illicit exploitation of natural resources and political instability among others.	To understand internal factors to sustainable peace in relation to governance in north Kivu province, DR Congo

		- Sustainable peace could be achieved through national dialogue, good governance and institutions building, which might lead to unified nation, institutions functioning and good governance indicators.	
Helen Lindley	Protection and governance, Linking good practice in protection and governance programmes in the DRC, Jones (2017)	While acknowledging the distinctions between protection and governance objectives and approaches, it is important in the DRC context to recognize these inter-linkages and the positive progress that can be made in addressing both protection and governance concerns through a rights- and legal-based framework to facilitate local discussion and action.	To understand the view of the population on issues of governance and sustainable peace from a score card perspective.
Mathias Bak, Jon Vrushi and Ernest Mpararo	Democratic Republic of the Congo: Overview of corruption and anti-corruption (2019)	- The DRC has a legal framework with some potential for improving its fight against corruption, but implements it very poorly. A key issue, therefore, is ensuring independent and autonomous anticorruption institutions that can put an end to the impunity of those benefiting from corruption. - At the heart of the corruption and conflict are the forms of neo-patrimonial governance and state capture that have defined politics in the DRC for decades. Powerful patron-client networks reproduce	How to understand the role and challenges of government responsiveness towards corruption.

Elfverson, E.	Peace from below: Governance and peacebuilding in Kerio Valley, Kenya, (2016)	corruption and predation at every link of the hierarchy, putting the greatest burdens on low-ranking corrupt officials and ordinary citizens. - The analysis illustrates how the failure of the state to provide security and basic services led non-state actors to fill important roles in governance. - The Kerio Valley peace process illustrates how non-state actors can play key roles in the resolution of local violent conflict, and how they can strengthen their position if the central state is unwilling or unable to provide services and security	To understand how important public accountability is in relation to peace.
Kariuki Muigua	Enhancing Environmental Governance for Peace Building in Kenya, (2019)	- There is need to move away from the command and control models of environmental governance and embrace participatory approaches that not only put into consideration the needs of the community and societies in general but also take into their account their views in order to effectively address any underlying issues of marginalization. - Enhancing Environmental governance for peacebuilding in Kenya is a necessity that cannot be ignored in the quest	- Need to understand the aspect of rule of law and governance.

		- for sustainable development. - Effective environmental and natural resources governance is a prerequisite to talk about and also to achieve peace.	
Marina Caparini and Gary Milante	Sustaining peace and sustainable development in dangerous places, in <i>Armaments, Disarmament and International Security</i> (2017)	- The context for sustaining peace is described: pockets of violence concentrated in the world's dangerous places; ongoing complex humanitarian emergencies; and limited capacities for preventing, responding to, managing and recovering from conflict - Sustaining peace is further linked to the sustainable development agenda and the principles of national ownership and inclusivity. - To understand positive and sustainable peace, and therefore the prospects for sustainable development - where it is possible and where progress is being made-it is necessary to monitor changes to the nature of peace in developing countries and the global, multilateral system, which may contribute to violence, negative peace or positive peace.	To understand the reason of protracted conflict despite different peace processes led by the country and different regional bodies.

Upon review of above empirical studies, the research gap identified was essentially knowledge gap. A knowledge gap is a type of research gap that refers to “areas in a discipline where existing academic research has not yet examined a phenomenon, concept, or relationship; it happens when there is insufficient or no research on particular topic; it offers opportunity for original contributions” (Misa, 2025). As much as it is well known that governance practices are deficient in the DRC in general and in Kivu Province in particular, this study has contributed to the knowledge gap from econometrics’ perspective. The study managed to identify concrete significant relationships between rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness, government effectiveness and conflict resolution mechanisms and sustainable peace.

The study in chapter four has shown the percentages at which each variable significantly influences the dependent variable from correlation and regression perspectives, giving the decision makers a clear understanding on how to influence public policy and society understanding. The research rejected the five-null hypothesis, which is an indication that independent and the moderating variables are good predictors of the dependent variable. This means that an increment in rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness, government effectiveness and conflict resolution mechanisms will contribute to increment in sustainable peace in North Kivu Province.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Introduction

This chapter focuses on the methodology that was employed to carry out the study. Specifically, it provides details regarding the research philosophy, the research design, the target population, the sample size, sampling techniques and sample frame, data collection instruments, data collection procedures, pilot studies with focus on reliability and validity of research instruments. The chapter also presents data analysis and presentation, the research model as well as diagnosis tests that were carried out.

3.2. Research Philosophy

Research paradigms guide scientific discoveries through their assumptions and principles. Understanding paradigm-specific assumptions helps illuminate the quality of findings that support scientific studies and identify gaps in generating sound evidence; they are the philosophies of science, which guide the way science is conducted (Yoon Soo, Lars and Anthony, 2020). The research philosophy that was used in the study was a positivism philosophy.

Positivism relies on the hypothetico-deductive method to verify a priori hypotheses that are often stated quantitatively, where functional relationships can be derived between causal and explanatory factors (independent variables) and outcomes (dependent variables) (Yoon Soo *et al*, 2020). A primary goal of positivist inquiry is to generate explanatory associations or causal relationships that ultimately lead to prediction and control of the phenomena in question. Positivism philosophy was used to verify hypothesis that were stated quantitatively, where functional relationships were derived between governance practices and sustainable peace in the context of North Kivu Province, in DRC. The dynamism was therefore well accommodated using questionnaires and literature reviews in data collection.

3.3. Research Design

A research design is a blueprint to collect the relevant data and technique to facilitate the smooth scaling of the various research operations making yielding maximal information; it provides a backbone structure to the researcher for planning of answering the research question or testing from hypothesis (Pawar, 2020). The research employed an experimental research design referred to as “the process of planning a study to test a hypothesis, where variables are manipulated to observe their effects on outcomes; by carefully controlling conditions, researchers can determine whether specific factors cause changes in a dependent variable” (Wang, Zhenshun Cheng, 2020).

To examine the influence of governance practices on sustainable peace, the research tested five hypotheses on whether the selected governance practices and moderating variable have no influence on sustainable peace (dependent variables). The study confirmed the five variables have positive significant relationship with the dependent variable. This means that an increment in any independent variable will contribute to an increment in the dependent variable.

3.4. Target Population

The target population is a subset of the target population from which the sample is actually selected; it is a group of individuals, objects or items from which samples are taken for measurement (Willie, 2022). The unit of analysis may be a person, group, organization, country, object, or any other entity that one would wish to draw scientific inferences about. It is a complete of individuals, cases or objects with some common observable characteristics (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2008). The population of Goma constituted the target population under this study.

On the other hand, the study population were the people of Goma, the capital city of North Kivu Province. The choice of Goma was justified for security reasons considering the fact that the province was under the state of siege, exacerbated by armed confrontation between the DRC Army and the M23 Movement. According to Marcotrends (2023) the city of Goma counts 744, 000 inhabitants. The respondent

targeted were academicians, the politicians, the judiciary/advocates, university students, non-governmental organizations, the business community, the civil society and the local citizens within the capital city Goma. The study targeted respondents from the different sections of the community to randomly give them an opportunity to participate to the study.

3.5. Sample Size, Sampling Technique and Sample Frame

3.5.1. Sample Size

Sample size is the number of observations or individuals included in a study or experiment; it is the number of individuals, items, or data points selected from a larger population to represent it statistically (Coursera, 2023). The research was obtained from the total population of Goma city, that is 744,000 inhabitants (Macrotrends LLC, 2023). To determine the sample size, the researcher decided to use Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula as this is a social science research. The formula was stated as follows:

$$S = \frac{X^2 NP (1-P)}{d^2 (N-1) + X^2 P (1-P)}$$

Where,

S= required sample size

X^2 = is the table value of chi-square for 1 (one) degree of freedom at the desired confidence level and it is (3.841)

N = the population size which 744, 000 inhabitants

P = the population proportion (which is assumed to be .50 since this will provide the maximum sample size),

d = the degree of accuracy expressed as a proportion (. 05).

The sample size is therefore obtained as follows:

$$S = \frac{3.841 \times 744,000 \times 0.50 (1-0.50)}{(0.05)^2 (744,000-1) + 3.841 \times 0.50 (1-0.50)} = 382 \text{ respondents.}$$

Based on the formula and the corresponding calculations mentioned above, the research's designated sample size was 382 respondents.

3.5.2. Sampling Technique

A sampling technique is defined as a technic of selecting individual members or a subset of the population to make statistical inferences from them and estimate the characteristics of the whole population; it is the sampling method that determines the generalizability of the research findings (Fleetwood, 2024). This research employed probability sampling technique to select 382 respondents within the city of Goma. A probability sampling gives every member of the population city a chance of being selected as the chosen individuals are a representation of the large group from which individuals were chosen (Fleetwood, 2024).

Furthermore, the range of the respondents was through a stratified sampling technique as presented under the sample frame. Stratified sampling involves dividing the population into subpopulations that may differ in important ways; it allows you draw more precise conclusions by ensuring that every subgroup is properly represented in the sample (McCombes, 2023).

The research considered the respondents according to the two main districts of Goma, hereby called strata, targeting all the eighteen (18) sub-districts of the city, then proceeded with selecting the respondents using a simple random sampling method. A random sample technic is defined as a reliable method of obtaining information where every single member of a population is chosen randomly, merely by chance; each individual has the same probability of being chosen to be a part of a sample (Fleetwood, 2024). The research therefore randomly targeted academicians, judges/lawyers, the civil society, the business community, university students and the citizen as presented under the sample frame.

3.5.3. Sample Frame

A Sample frame is a set of source materials from which the sample is to be drawn. It contains the names of all items of a universe or a set of objects. Sample frame provides a means for choosing the particular members of the target population that are to be interviewed in the survey. It is also used to identify a sample population for statistical treatment (Kothari, 2014). This sample frame is an indication that the researcher ensured that every unit of the city of Goma has non-zero chance of being selected, to

minimize bias and to ensure representativeness of the target population for accuracy and reliability of the research. The sample frame was as follows:

Table 3.2: Sample Frame

City of Goma	Academicians	Judges and advocates	Civil society	NGOs	Business community	University students	Citizens	Total
Goma District								
Sub-districts								
Volcans	5	5	3	4	4	3	4	28
Mikeno	4	2	3	4	4	3	3	23
Mapendo	3	5	3	4	5	3	3	26
Katindo	7	2	3	4	4	3	3	26
Himbi	2	3	3	4	4	3	3	22
Keshero	5	3	3	4	4	3	3	25
Lac Vert	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	22
Karisimbi District								
Sub-districts								
Kahembe	2	2	4	3	4	3	3	21
Katoyi	1	3	4	3	4	3	3	21
Majengo	1	-	4	3	4	3	3	18
Mabanga N.	2	3	4	3	4	3	3	22
Mabanga S.	2	2	4	3	5	3	3	22
Kasika	1	2	4	3	5	3	3	21
Murara	2	-	3	3	4	3	3	18
Virunga	-	3	3	3	5	2	3	19
Ndosho	-	2	3	3	5	2	3	18
Mugunga	-	-	3	3	4	2	3	15
Bujovu	-	-	3	3	4	2	3	15
Total	40	40	60	60	77	50	55	382

3.6. Data Collection Instrument

Data was collected using the following methods: primary quantitative data was collected through a questionnaire survey. A questionnaire is a research instrument that consists of a set of questions or other types of prompts that aims to collect information

from a respondent; a research questionnaire is typically a mix of close-ended questions and open-ended questions (Williams, 2024). On the other hand, secondary quantitative and qualitative data were collected through secondary data, namely through review of literature through the reading of articles, books, online publications related to governance practices and sustainable peace.

3.7. Data Collection Procedure

Data collection is a systematic procedure involving the collection of observations or measurements, enabling researchers to acquire first-hand knowledge and original insights into the study's problem (Bhandari, 2021). In this study, data were collected through the utilization of closed-ended questionnaires. Additionally, an assistant researcher was engaged to facilitate and support the data collection process.

The researcher and the assistant researcher proactively scheduled and confirmed appointments in advance while maintaining flexibility to accommodate the respondents' availability. They adhered to ethical principles by providing a clear explanation of the research's purpose and obtaining informed consent from each respondent. Questionnaires were distributed to the respondents, and they were retrieved on the subsequent day. To ensure a comprehensive follow-up and accurate accounting of every questionnaire, the researcher and the assistant requested the respondents' commitment to return the questionnaire on the agreed-upon day.

3.8. Pilot Study

Pilot studies are small-scale, preliminary studies, which aim to investigate whether crucial components of a main study – usually a randomized controlled trial (RCT) – will be feasible. For example, they may be used in attempt to predict an appropriate sample size for the full-scale project and/or to improve upon various aspects of the study design (Cadete, 2017). A pilot test assists the researcher in determining if there were flaws, limitations, or other weaknesses within the research instruments or research design to allow for revisions prior to the implementation of the study (Mboya, Were and Odhiambo, 2019).

The suitability of the instrument (questionnaire) for this study was tested by administering it to a small number of respondents say 10% of the sample size as recommended (Mboya, *et al.* , 2019), which enabled the research to ascertain the validity and reliability of the instrument used. To carry out this test, the study took small samples of equal size from the total number of respondents (Mboya, *et al.* , 2019). Out of 382 respondents of the sample size, 38 respondents, which constituted 10% of the sample size were randomly selected and participated in the pilot test. The respondents chosen for pilot study did not take part in the main study. The instrument pre-tested for both validity and reliability after which the main survey followed.

3.8.1. Reliability of Instrument

Reliability refers to how consistently a method measures something. If the same result can be consistently achieved by using the same methods under the same circumstances, the measurement is considered to be reliable (Middleton, 2021). This research utilized Cronbach's alpha tests to check the reliability of the research instruments developed by Lee Cronbach in 1951 to measure reliability or internal consistency. The study considered the internal consistency scores between 0.7 to 0.95 to mean that the questionnaire's internal consistency is excellent, and made necessary conclusions under Chapter 4.

3.8.2. Validity of Instruments

Validity refers to how accurately a method measures what it is intended to measure. If research has high validity, it means that it produces results that correspond to real properties, characteristics, and variations in the physical or social world. High reliability is one indicator that a measurement is valid. If a method is not reliable, it probably is not valid (Middleton, 2021). The survey items underwent both face and content validity assessments. To ensure the robustness of this research, validation was conducted through content, construct, and criteria validity. Despite the reliance on subjective assessments, the research employed construct validity to establish a logical and coherent connection between the survey questions and the study's objectives. In addition, content validity assessed whether the questions thoroughly covered the range of issues under consideration in the study. Finally, criterion validity measured how

well one measure predicts an outcome for another measure. The items underwent advanced critiquing and improvement before being administered (Middleton, 2021).

3.9. Data Analysis and Presentation

According to Business Borderlines (2017), data analysis is a process of inspecting, cleansing, transforming, and modelling data with the goal of discovering useful information, suggesting conclusions, and supporting decision-making. It has multiple facets and approaches, encompassing diverse techniques under a variety of names, in different business, science, and social science domains. Data analysis is the procedure for analysing data, techniques for interpreting the results of such procedures, ways of planning the gathering of data to make its analysis easier, more precise or more accurate, and all the machinery and results of statistics, which apply to analysing data (Business Borderlines, 2017).

The questionnaires were checked for completeness and consistency of information at the end of every field data collection day and before storage. The data from the questionnaire were recorded and entered into the computer using Stratified Packages for Social Science (SPSS) version 24 for analysis.

The data were analysed and presented using descriptive statistics. To determine the relationship between the research variables, inferential statistics analysis was used. Pearson correlations (linearity, multi and ordinary linear regression were used to establish a causal effect relationship between the four independent variables and the dependent variable in the inferential analysis. In addition, the study looked into the moderating effects of conflict resolution mechanisms on governance practices and long-term peace in North Kivu Province, DRC. The research model was therefore as follows:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + Z + \epsilon$$

Where,

Y = is sustainable peace

β_0 = is the constant (coefficient of intercept)

X_1 = is rule of Law

X_2 = is public Accountability

X_3 = is government responsiveness

X_4 = is government effectiveness

Z = is Conflict Resolution mechanisms

ε = error term

Table 3.3: Model for Testing Research Hypotheses

Objective	Hypothesis	Model for hypothesis testing
To determine the influence rule of Law on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DR Congo	H_{01} – Rule of Law does not have significant influence on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province	$Y = a + \beta_1 X_1 + e$ Y = sustainable peace a = constant β_1 = Beta coefficient X_1 = rule of law e = error term
To establish the influence of public accountability on sustainable peace in in North Kivu Province	H_{02} - Public accountability has no significant influence on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province	$Y = a + \beta_2 X_2 + e$ Y = sustainable peace a = constant β_2 = Beta coefficient X_2 = public accountability e = error term
To determine the influence of government responsiveness on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province	H_{03} : Government responsiveness has no significant influence on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province.	$Y = a + \beta_3 X_3 + e$ Y = Sustainable peace a = constant β_3 = Beta coefficient X_3 = government responsiveness

To assess the influence of government effectiveness on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DR Congo	Ho ₄ : Government effectiveness has no significant influence on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province	$e = \text{error term}$ $Y = a + \beta_4 X_4 + e$ $Y = \text{sustainable peace}$ $a = \text{constant}$ $\beta_4 = \text{Beta coefficient}$ $X_4 = \text{government effectiveness}$ $e = \text{error term}$
To determine the moderating influence of conflict resolution mechanisms on the relationship between governance practices and sustainable peace in North Kivu Province.	Ho ₅ : Conflict resolution mechanisms has no moderate influence on the relationship between governance practices and sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DR Congo.	$Y = a + \beta_4 X_4 + e$ $Y = \text{sustainable peace}$ $a = \text{constant}$ $\beta_4 = \text{Beta coefficient}$ $Z = \text{Conflict Resolution mechanisms}$ $\varepsilon = \text{error term}$

Data from open-ended questions were cleaned, coded, identified under each theme or variable, analyzed according to the sentiment of the responses and interpreted under each research variable. Finally, data were presented in the form of frequency distribution, table and figure forms that facilitate in the description and explanation of the findings.

3.10. Diagnostic Tests

A number of diagnostic tests, including multicollinearity test, heteroscedastic test, normality test, linearity test and outlier test were carried out on the research variables and relevant statistically conclusions under each test were provided under Chapter four.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA FINDINGS, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. Introduction

The chapter begins with an analysis of the educational backgrounds of the respondents from the provided sample, followed by a descriptive discussion of the variables outlined in the conceptual framework from Chapter two, and concludes with the inferential statistical modeling of the same variables. Open-ended questions were categorized under each variable and were utilized to enhance, validate, and elaborate on the narratives derived from the survey results. The findings are summarized in the subsequent section.

4.2. Response Rate

Lindsay (2019) reports that, a survey response rate is generally represented in terms of a percentage. It is calculated by dividing the number of respondents by the total number of surveys sent. Questionnaires were used as the main tool for data collection. The results in Table 4.1 indicate that a total number of 382 questionnaires were administered and 250 questionnaires were returned, representing 65% of response rate, which is very adequate for this study. Lindsay (2019) reported that a response rate of above 50% is adequate for analysis.

Table 4.1: Response Rate

Response Rate	Frequency	Percent
Returned	250	65%
Unreturned	132	35%
Total	382	100%

4.3. Background Information

In this section, the background of the respondents is presented based on the collected and analyzed data. To establish their educational backgrounds, participants in the study were requested to indicate their level of education. The following sub-sections provide the findings related to this aspect.

4.3.1. Level of Education of the Respondents

Respondents were also asked to indicate their level education. The findings are presented in Table 4.4. The majority (43.6%) were university graduates, 35.2% were undergraduates, 8% had attained a college qualification, 7.2 % had attained a high school (secondary) education, and 6% possessed a postgraduate level of education.

Findings show that all respondents had attained a certain level of education, with the majority having reached university level. This means that the respondents provided informed responses and the findings were significant to the positive outcome of the study. Briceños-Rosas (2025) corroborates on the same and explains that “the reliability of education attainment measurements is crucial for high-quality measurement in cross sectional survey research; on the other hand, inconsistencies in education attainment data can challenges assumptions of high reliability and affect the comparability and validity of education measures”.

Table 4.2: Level of Education

		Frequency
Valid	Secondary	18
	College	20
	Undergraduate	88
	Graduate	109
	Post-graduate	15
	Total	250

4.4. Pilot Study Results

Pilot studies are small-scale, preliminary studies, which aim to investigate whether crucial components of a main study – usually a Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) – will be feasible. A pilot test assists the researcher in determining if there were flaws, limitations, or other weaknesses within the research instruments or research design to allow for revisions prior to the implementation of the study (Mboya, *et al*, 2019).

The suitability of the instrument (questionnaire) for this study was tested by administering it to a small number of respondents, say 10% of the sample size as recommended (Mboya, *et al.*, 2019), which enabled the study to ascertain the reliability of the instrument used. Out of 382 respondents, 38 respondents, which represents 10% of the target population, were randomly selected and participated in the pilot test in Goma, the capital city of North Kivu.

4.4.1. Reliability of Research Instrument

Reliability refers to how consistently a method measures something; if the same result can be consistently achieved by using the same methods under the same circumstances, the measurement is considered reliable (Middleton, 2021). This research used Cronbach's alpha tests developed by Lee Cronbach in 1951 to measure reliability or internal consistency. The measurement scales for reliability were tested using Cronbach's alpha coefficient and for an alpha of 0.7 and above, the instrument was interpreted as reliable. The results in Table 4.3 show Cronbach's alpha of above 0.7 and most of it above 0.8, implying that the instruments were sufficiently reliable for measurement. Since the reliability coefficient was found to be above the recommended threshold of 0.7, the validity of the instrument was considered reliable.

Table 4.3: Reliability Test Statistics

Item	Cronbach's	Alpha Number of items
Rule of Law	. 807	13
Public Accountability	. 807	13
Government responsiveness	. 810	13
Government effectiveness	. 810	13
Conflict resolution mechanisms	. 802	10
Sustainable peace	. 790	9

4.4.2. Validity of research instrument

Construct validity is the process of finding and accumulating judgmental evidence based on research that have been conducted by other scholars by using specific instruments for measurement (Greenfield & Greener, 2016). Construct validity evaluation needs to examine the association of the measure being assessed with variables said to be correlated or theoretically correlated to the construct gauged by instrument. A construct is considered to be independent if it has a structural relationship that influences another construct and is not being influenced by any other construct in the model.

The construct validity of the questionnaire was determined using factor analysis. Factor analysis using the Principle Component method of extraction was computed to determine the sampling adequacy. Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's test of sphericity were conducted, which analyses if the samples from populations with equal variances produced p-values less than 0.05 ($p < .001$).

Bartlett's test of sphericity tests the hypothesis that the correlation matrix is an identity matrix, which would indicate that the variables are unrelated and therefore unsuitable for structure detection. Small values (less than 0.05) of the significance level indicate that a factor analysis may be useful with the data. The Bartlett's test of sphericity test is used in testing the hypothesis that the correlation matrix is an identity matrix. This

simply indicates that there are sufficient relationships among variables (Wilson, 2017). KMO measures varies between 0 and 1, and values closer to 1 are better with a threshold of 0.5. These results are presented in Table 4.4.

The factor analysis results of Rule of Law, indicated that the KMO was 0.589. From the findings, all items had loadings greater than a threshold value of 0.50. It was therefore concluded that Rule of Law can be measured by 13 items and were used in subsequent analysis. Also, the results showed that all 13 items for Public Accountability had loadings greater than a threshold value of 0.50 (0.646). Thus, 13 statements for Public Accountability were retained for further analysis.

The factor analysis results for government responsiveness depicted that the high factor loading scores showed that all the items explained government responsiveness variable as all 13 items used to measure government responsiveness were all above the minimum (0.509) recommended value of .50. Government effectiveness also had loadings greater (0.535) than the threshold value of 0.50 and therefore all the 13 measures were retained.

Conflict resolution mechanisms also had loadings greater (0.763) than the threshold value of 0.50 and therefore all the 10 measures of Conflict resolution mechanisms were retained. Finally, Sustainable peace also had loadings greater (0.743) than threshold value of 0.50 and therefore all the 10 measures of Sustainable peace were retained. In conclusion, all the items had KMO above the acceptable value of .50 (Field, 2005), showing that it was appropriate to subject data for factor analysis on this variable of reconfiguration capability (Leech *et al.*, 2013).

Table 4.4: KMO and Bartlett's Test

Variable	KMO	Sig
Rule of Law	. 589	. 040
Public Accountability	. 646	. 020
Gov. Responsiveness	. 509	. 012
Gov. effectiveness	. 535	. 510
Conflict resolution mechanisms	. 763	. 000
Sustainable peace	. 743	. 000

4.5. Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics are brief informational coefficients that summarize a given data set, which can be either a representation of the entire population or a sample of a population (Hayes, 2023). This section presents descriptive statistics to respond to the research objectives. The study used the Likert scale questionnaire (1= strongly Agree (SA), 2= Agree (A), 3= Neutral (N), 4= strongly disagree (SD) and 5= Disagree (D) to measure the influence of governance practices variables on sustainable peace. The section presents the findings in frequencies, mean and standard deviation before providing any conclusion.

4.5.1. Rule of Law

The first objective of the research was to determine the influence of rule of law on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. Under the variable of rule of law, the study considers four key indicators, namely, supremacy of law, equality before the law, separation of powers, and procedural and legal transparency.

Table 4.5: Rule of Law

Statement	SD	D	N	SA	A	Mean	S. D.
Effective application of Rule of law is key to sustainable peace	10.4%	23.6%	11.6%	28%	26.4%	3.36	1.365
DRC has in place effective and binding laws, regulations and policies	2.4%	4.8%	18.8%	40%	34%	3.98	.969
Supremacy of the law is effective	24.4%	46.4%	12.8%	10.4%	6%	2.27	1.122
No respect of supremacy of law continues to affect peace	0.8%	12.4%	13.6%	34%	39.2%	3.98	1.049
Citizens are treated equally before the law	25.6%	42.8%	13.6%	10.8%	7.2%	2.31	1.175
All citizens answer to the laws equally	25.2%	42.4%	14%	10%	8%	2.34	1.192
The citizens have equal access to the protections	30.8%	42%	16.4%	4.8%	6%	2.13	1.091
Separation of power is effective	17.6%	29.6%	18.4%	12%	22.4	2.92	1.193
The judiciary plays its role without any influence	17.2%	48.8%	14.4%	8.8%	10.8%	2.47	1.219
The legislative plays its role without any influence	16.8%	46.8%	13.2%	12.4%	10.8%	2.54	1.091
Citizens have access to justice	30.8%	42%	16.4%	4.8%	6%	2.13	1.064
The judicial procedures are transparent and legal.	30.8%	44.4%	14.8%	4.4%	5.6%	2.10	1.275
The judicial system is professional	18.4%	37.2%	22.4%	7.6%	14.4%	2.62	1.275
Average Mean and SD.						2.70	1.160

4.5.1.1.Effective Application of Rule of Law is Key

The research sought to establish whether effective application of rule of law was key to reducing violence, ensuring, political stability as well as economic stability and development in the province. The findings are presented in Table 4.5. From the study findings, the majority (54.4%) acknowledged that effective implementation of rule of law is key to achieving sustainable peace, against 34% who were of the contrary opinion, while 11.6% remained neutral. The mean for rule of law as a key element for sustainable peace was 3.36 and an S.D of 1.365. Measured on a five-point Likert scale,

this was a high indication and confirms that when applied effectively, rule of law will contribute to sustainable peace in North Kivu Province.

These findings corroborated with United Nations Report (2023) that posited that the rule of law is fundamental to achieving the three indicators of sustainable peace under this study. According to the UN, rule of law is key, not only to international/national peace and security and political stability, but also to achieving economic and social progress and development; and to protecting people's rights and fundamental freedoms. Furthermore, rule of law, security and development are strongly interlinked, and a strengthened rule of law-based society should be considered as an outcome of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (United Nations, 2023).

4.5.1.2.The Government Has Binding Laws, Regulations and Policies in Place

Binding laws, regulations and policies were ranked as follows: 40% totally agreed and 34% agreed the DRC as a country has laws, regulations and policies in place to ensure the smooth running of affairs. 2.4% totally disagreed, 4.8% disagreed while 18.8% were neutral, with a mean of 3.98 and S.D. of .969.

Measured on a five-point Likert scale, this is a high indication and confirms that existence of binding laws, regulations and policies normally contribute to sustainable peace in any given society. The finding is in line with the State Department's Office of Investment Affairs' Investment Climate Statement (2023), which narrates that the DRC is a civil law country, and the main provisions of its private law can be traced to the Napoleonic Civil Code.

The general characteristics of the Congolese legal system are similar to those of the Belgian legal system, as the DRC largely received its law from its Belgian colonialists. Customary or tribal law is another aspect of DRC's legal system. Various local customary laws regulate both personal status laws and property rights, especially the inheritance and land tenure systems in traditional communities throughout the country.

The Congolese legal system is divided into three branches: public law, private law and economic law. Public law regulates legal relationships involving the state or state authority; private law regulates relationships between private persons; and economic law regulates interactions in areas such as labor, trade, mining and investment. However, in many cases laws and regulations are not adequate, requiring them to be updated and reformed (State Department's Office of Investment Affairs' Investment Climate Statement, 2023).

4.5.1.3. Supremacy of the Law Is Effective

Findings confirmed that DRC has laws, regulations and policies in place. When asked whether the supremacy of these laws, regulations and policies does prevail in North Kivu Province, 24.4% strongly disagreed, 46.4% disagreed, 10.4% totally agreed, 6% agree, while 12.8% were neutral, with a mean of 2.27 and S.D. of 1.122. Measured on a five-point Likert scale, there is a low indication that laws, regulations and policies that are in place to run affairs of the province are effective in their application. The study infers that laws, regulations and policies to govern the North Province are in place but not effective in ensuring sustainable peace, due to lack of their effective application.

4.5.1.4. No Respect of Supremacy of Law Continues to Affect Lack of Peace

Ineffective application of laws, regulations and policies or lack of it continues to affect peace in the province of North Kivu. This was confirmed by 34% respondents who strongly agreed, 39.2% who agreed against 0.8% who strongly disagreed and 12.4% who disagreed while 13.6% were neutral, with a mean of 3.98 and S.D of 1.049. Five-point Likert scale measurement shows a high indication of the supremacy of laws, regulations and policies being not only not applied but also not respected in the province, affecting therefore peace in the province.

4.5.1.5. Equal Treatment before the Laws

Equal treatment before the laws was rated as follows: 25.6% strongly disagreed, 42.8% disagreed, 1.2% strongly agreed, 2.31% agreed while 13.6% were neutral with a mean

of 2.31 and S.D of 1.175. The study suggests that not only are laws, regulations, and policies not consistently enforced, but it also implies that there is unequal treatment of all citizens before the law in North Kivu Province. Besides, the Five point Likert scale measurement shows a low indication of citizens being treated equally before the laws in the province.

The finding is in line with Jacobs (2019) who notes that to access state justice, it is widely held necessary to have either money or connections with more powerful people. Those without such connections resort to non-state justice, including popular justice, which can be a viable alternative. This reflects the general sentiment among the Congolese population that access to "justice" provided by the state is largely unavailable in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), particularly for less privileged individuals who lack influential connections.

4.5.1.6. All Citizens Answer to the Laws Equally

A significant majority of respondents (67.6%) strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively that all citizens are equally answerable before the laws of the country, against 18% who strongly agreed and agreed respectively, while 14% were neutral with a mean of 2.34 and SD of 1.192. The study infers that the citizens of North Kivu Province do not answer before the laws equally and this is confirmed by the five-point Likert scale measurement that shows a low indication of equal answerability of citizens before laws and regulations in the province.

4.5.1.7. Equal Access to the Protection

Equal access to protection ranked as follows: 30.8% strongly disagreed, 42% disagreed, 4.8% strongly agreed, 6% agreed while 16.4% were neutral with a mean of 2.13 and SD of 1.091. The study infers that the citizens of North Kivu province do not receive equal protection as confirmed by a big majority of respondents (72.8%). Measured on the five-point Likert scale, the measurement confirms a low indication of citizens having equal access to protection, therefore affecting the status of peace in the North Kivu Province.

The International Federation for Human Rights (2020) confirms the same and notes that since the beginning of the conflict in eastern DRC, impunity for the perpetrators of crimes under international law has been the rule and justice the exception. In addition to the weak justice system inherited from the years of dictatorship and the insignificant budget allocated to it, impunity has been fuelled by amnesties and policies aimed at “a clean start”, which have ignored victims and the role of justice in sanctioning and preventing the repetition of such crimes (International Federation for Human Rights, 2020).

The United Nations (2023) also notes that the absence of an effective justice system across remote areas of the DRC, where many of the violations took place, had been identified as an underlying cause of violence and lack of peace in North Kivu.

4.5.1.8. Separation of Power is Effective

Separation of power under rule of law was rated as follows: 17.6% strongly disagreed, 29.6% disagreed, 12% strongly agreed, 22.4% agreed, while 18% were undecided with a mean of 2.92 and S. D. of 1.193. Findings revealed that although there is separation of power on paper in the DRC, the reality however as confirmed by the majority (47.2%) is that separation of power is not effective. Respondents indicated the one main reason concerning non-respect of separation in the DRC is notably due to the fact that the judiciary and legislative branches are regularly subject to manipulation by the political elites.

Reports by May (2021) corroborated the findings and noted that the DRC is among the countries showing the largest fall in rankings in the Judicial Independence Index since 2017, occupying the 19th position worldwide. Furthermore, with a focus on Article 149 of the DRC's constitution which was adopted in February 18, 2006, amended and supplemented by Law no. 11-02 of January 20, 2011, separation of power still remains a reality very far from being achieved in the DRC; it is not just proclaimed, but it has to be lived and therefore must be palpable through actions (Masengo, 2014).

4.5.1.9. The Judiciary and the Legislative Play their Role without Any Influence

Regarding whether the judiciary plays its role of a legislation body without any influence mainly through the executive, 17.2% strongly disagreed, 4.8% disagreed, 14.4% were neutral, 8.8% strongly agreed and 10.8% strongly disagreed with a mean of 2.47 and an SD of 1.219. The study infers that the judiciary in North Kivu Province is influenced by external forces. Furthermore, a five-point Likert scale measurement confirms the same and shows a low indication of judicial freedom from any external influence.

The result showed the same tendency regarding whether the legislative plays its role without any influence. A significant majority (63.6%) strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively, against 12.4% who strongly agreed and 10.8% who agreed, while 13.2% were neutral, with a mean of 2.54 and an SD of 1.091. Measured on a 5-point Likert scale, there is a low level of legislative freedom from external pressure in playing its role of making laws in North Kivu Province.

Like the judiciary, the legislative branch of power is not free from achieving its mission of legislating the affairs of the country because of external influence and pressure mainly from the executive.

The findings align with a report by the US Department of State (2023) which notes that, although the law provides for an independent judiciary and legislative through a separation of power, in reality this is not the case. For instance, the judiciary is marred by corruption and susceptible to both influence and intimidation. Government officials and other influential individuals frequently exert pressure on judges, prosecutors, or defense attorneys. Refworld report (2023) elaborates that the constitution guarantees the inviolability of fundamental rights and freedoms and its Article 147 provides for an independent judiciary and an independent legislative body.

In practice, the executive branch frequently interferes in the judiciary and the administration of justice. The independence of the judiciary has been compromised due to several factors, including the judiciary's limited economic autonomy and the pervasive influence of executive and legislative authorities over the judiciary. The

widespread corruption among judges and magistrates has further exacerbated the situation. This corruption is often facilitated by extremely low salaries or, in certain instances, the complete absence of any salary (Refworld, 2023).

4.5.1.10. Access to Justice

Access to justice was ranked as follows: 30.8% strongly disagreed, 42% disagreed, 16.4% were neutral, while 4.8% strongly agreed and 6% agreed to the fact that all citizens of North Kivu have access to justice; with a mean of 2.13 and an SD of 1.064. The study infers that not all the citizens of North Kivu have access to justice, contributing therefore to a lack of peace in many parts of the province where the citizens are left to their fate.

A Five-point Likert scale measurement confirms the same and shows low levels of access to justice by the citizens in the province. The findings align with the Centre for International Law Research and Policy (2018) which explains that the vast territory of the DRC and the size of its population, coupled with the effects of protracted armed conflict in various parts of the country, have created multifaceted challenges which are difficult to overcome.

The country experiences a fundamental deficit of legal institutions: there may be only 45 operational peace courts, 13 courts of appeal and 27 high courts whilst the military criminal justice system consists of just 50 courts. The ratio per capita is estimated to be one peace court per 1.6 million inhabitants, one court of appeal per 5.6 million, one high court per 2.7 million and one military court per 1.4 million inhabitants (Centre for International Law Research and Policy, 2018).

4.5.1.11. Judicial Procedures Are Applied in a Transparent and Legal Manner

In regards to whether judicial procedures are applied in a transparent and legal manner, a big majority (75.2%) strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively against 4.4% and 5.6% who strongly agreed and agreed respectively, while 14.8% were neutral. With a mean of 2.10 and an S.D. of 1.275, measured on a five-point Likert scale, there is a

low indication that the judicial procedures are applied in a transparent and legal manner. A report by the US Department of

State (2023) concurs with the findings and explains that judicial procedures are ineffective due to widespread impunity, lack of enough courts and magistrates (i. e. judges, prosecutors and support staff) and judges' lack of access to legal documents and required legal support, not to mention inadequate salaries. They opt to go on strike on some occasions, but even then, they lack widespread support because of the common perception that they are corrupt. For a plaintiff to get his case heard for instance, one must allegedly offer a bribe the prosecutor, to the judge, to the registrar and many other judicial actors (US Department of State Report, 2023).

4.5.1.12. The Judicial System Is Professional in Applying Civil Justice

Finally, professionalism in applying civil justice was ranked as follows: 18.4% strongly disagreed, 37.2% disagreed, 22.4% were neutral while 7.6% and 14.4% strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively, with a mean of 2.62 and an SD of 1.275: measured on a five-point Likert scale, there is a low indication that the judicial system is professional in applying civil justice in North Kivu Province.

The findings corroborate with Donner, Hartmann, Härterich, and Steinkamp (2023) who note that the North Kivu judicial system is one of the least financed services in the DR Congo, with the bulk of operating expenses borne by litigants. Across the country, the judiciary operates in buildings dating back to the colonial era, where work facilities offer poor working conditions, which facilitates the multiplication of informal fees, and exposes litigants to ransom, racketeering and corruption. These conditions pose two major problems: a high cost to access justice and a lack of professionalism and credibility of judgments, which are considered to be favourable to the wealthy and those close to power (Donner, *et al*, 2023).

Four indicators of rule of law were assessed, namely, supremacy of law, equality before the law, separation of powers, transparent legal processes and proceedings. The research confirms that rule of law is key to sustainable peace, confirming therefore the application of rule of law theory. By applying the theory, the research implies that rule

of law plays a fundamental role of ensuring that nobody is above the law, and that perpetrators of crimes, atrocities, killings and other human rights violations are taken to court to respond to their actions equally and without favour, confirming the application of rule of law theory. This would contribute towards deterring recidivism in the province, confirming the applicability of rule of law theory.

The application of the theory would have therefore contributed to the provision of a mechanism for peaceful management and settlement of conflicts; addressing underlying conflict grievances; preventing the (re)emergence of violent conflicts, and punishing perpetrators of human rights violations and therefore contributing to sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC.

In reality, the lack of adherence to the rule of law in North Kivu Province is not conducive to achieving sustainable peace, as the chosen indicators related to it are not found to be applicable or effective. The supremacy of law is ineffective in North Kivu Province, as laws are frequently disregarded and often remain unenforced, resulting in a climate of impunity. The citizens of the province are not equal before the law, as many exhibit behaviours that suggests they are immune from legal consequences. Additionally, despite the constitutional provision for a separation of powers, in practice, both the judiciary and legislature are constantly under the influence of the executive branch.

Lastly, legal processes and proceedings lack transparency, further undermining the rule of law in the region. In addition, the composite mean for rule of law is 2.70 and an SD of 1.160. Measured on a five-point Likert scale, this is a low indication that rule of law is effective in North Kivu Province. From the findings, the study insinuates that ineffective application of rule of law continues to contribute to lack of sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. Besides being not respected and upheld, the rule of law is applied unequally and with favor in North Kivu Province contributing to recurrence of insecurity, impunity and human rights violations.

According to the respondents, key factors to unequal and favored application of rule of law in North Kivu Province includes, but not limited to, corruption, clientelism, manipulation of the judicial system by politicians and poor salaries. Freedom House

confirmed the same and reported that the Judiciary is often perceived as corrupt and subject to political manipulation. It often shows bias against the opposition and civil society groups, while government allies typically enjoy impunity for abuses. Courts have inconsistently provided justice for killings or other severe crimes in recent years and have failed to provide justice for victims of police killings or massacres in the Beni territory in North Kivu Province that have together resulted in over 3, 000 civilian deaths over the past six years (Freedom House, 2023).

4.5.2. Public Accountability

This is the second objective of the research. It sought to establish the influence of public accountability on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. Four indicators, namely, public integrity, public transparency, public fairness, public trust were used to assess the second independent variable. Findings are presented in table 4.6.

Table 4.6. Public Accountability

Statement	S. A	A	N	S. D	D	Mean	S.D.
Public accountability is crucial to sustainable peace	23.2%	32%	10%	16.8%	18%	3.36	1.499
Systems, structures, strategies and procedures for accountability are in place	4.8%	4.4%	12.8%	31.2%	46.8%	2.04	1.015
Practices of integrity is effectively observed and applied in the public administration	12.4%	10%	16.4%	17.6%	43.6%	2.45	1.206
The government operates free from bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, and other forms of corrupt practices	12.4%	8.4%	15.2%	18.4%	45.6%	2.47	1.172
The government has in place policies and practices that promote transparency	8.8%	10.8%	14.4%	17.2%	48.8%	2.47	1.193
Information, processes, decisions, and actions of governments are accessible and understandable	4.4%	5.6%	14.8%	30.8%	44.4%	2.10	1.064
The government is answerable to the local community	8.4%	6.4%	15.6%	22.4%	47.2%	2.29	1.101

The government promotes a just and equitable society where all members have an equal chance to succeed and live fulfilling lives	10.4%	8%	14%	25.2%	42.4%	2.34	1.192
The government ensures that all groups and communities are adequately represented in decision-making processes	40%	34%	18.8%	2.4%	4.8%	3.98	.969
Fair treatment in legal, administrative processes, and decision-making	8%	9.6%	19.2%	24%	39.2%	2.40	1.209
Ethical conduct is observed within the public administration	10.4%	8%	14%	25.2%	42.4%	2.34	1.192
Trust in the public administration	8.4%	8%	21.2%	19.2%	42.8%	2.42	1.136
The population demand for accountability	22.8%	24.4%	20%	13.2%	19.6%	3.26	1.367
Average Mean and SD						2.60	1.178

4.5.2.1. Public Accountability is Crucial to Sustainable Peace

Findings in Table 4.6 reveals that a simple majority (55.2%) was of the view that public accountability is key to achieving sustainable peace, 34.8% were of the contrary opinion, while 10% were undecided with a mean of 3.36 and an S.D of 1.499. Measured on a five-point Likert scale, there is a relatively high indication that public accountability contributes to sustainable peace.

The findings therefore confirm the relevance of stewardship theory in public accountability. Through this theory, the DRC government should be able to analyze many issues affecting many governance-related issues in relation to accomplishing the tasks and responsibilities with which they have been entrusted through the social contract to attaining societal goals, including achieving sustainable peace.

The findings corroborate with Schultze-Kraft and Morina (2019). Their research pointed that “accountability is a key concern of those who emphasise the centrality of democratic institutions and politics (especially free and fair elections), the rigorous

protection of human rights, and a strong rule of law in war-to-peace transitions”. Egan, Hill, O’Neil, Sheely, and Tamaru (2019) argued along the same lines and noted that the absence of accountability mechanisms can contribute to unrest and violence. Furthermore, poor performance diminishes trust and legitimacy in governance institutions and in some cases, this can exacerbate grievances and lead citizens or groups to turn to violence to get their needs met (Ergan, et al., 2019). The study concluded that in principle, the practice of public accountability is indeed key towards achieving sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. The DRC government therefore needs to be a good steward towards its people.

4.5.2.2. Policies, Systems, Structures, Strategies, Procedures and Practices for Public Transparency

In regards to whether the government has in place systems, structures, strategies, procedures and practices that promote public transparency, 17.2% totally disagreed, 48.8% disagreed, 14.4% were neutral while 8.8% strongly agreed and 10.8% agreed with a mean of 2.47 and an S. D of 1.193. The research infers that the government of North Kivu Province has not put in place policies and practices that promote public transparency in consideration of the view of the majority (66%).

Furthermore, measured on 5-point Likert scale, there is a low indication that the government of North Kivu has in place systems, structures, strategies, procedures and practices that promote public transparency. With focus on public investment management in the country, International Monetary Fund (2023) notes that although the DRC already has adopted an advanced legal framework in the area of budget processes (Law on Public Finance (LOFIP)), procurement and public accounting, it suffers from weaknesses across the whole project cycle, both on paper and in practice. Clear laws and regulations in the area of appraisal, selection, and monitoring of investment projects are lacking.

4.5.2.3. Ethical Conduct is Observed within the Public Administration

In regards to ethical conduct, 25.2% strongly disagreed, 42.4% disagreed, 14% were neutral, while 10.4% strongly agreed and 8% agreed with a mean of 2.34 and an S. D

of 1.192. A big majority of 67.6% disagreed that ethical conduct is observed within the public administration of North Kivu Province. Additionally, measured on a five-point Likert scale, there is a low indication that ethical conduct is observed and practiced within the public administration. The findings align with UNCAC Coalition (2022) which explains that all public officials in DRC are bound by an ethical code of conduct, however, if violated, there is no establishment or mechanism to report to; while sanctions are provided for in the code of ethics of public officials, these are rarely applied.

4.5.2.4. Practice of Integrity is Effectively Observed and Applied in the Public Administration

Practices of integrity was rated as follows: 17.6% totally disagreed, 43.6% disagreed, 16.4% were neutral while 12, 4% strongly agreed and 10% agreed that practice of integrity is effectively observed and applied in public administration, with a mean of 2.45 and an SD of 1.206. In consideration of view of the majority (61.2%), the research infers that the practice of integrity is neither effectively observed, not applied in public administration. Furthermore, measured on a five-point Likert scale, there is low indication that integrity is observed and applied in public observation in North Kivu Province.

Many reports and studies confirm the same. One big challenge facing the DRC administration in general and North Kivu province in particular is related to public service integrity. Lee-Jones (2020) reported that the DR Congo has experienced violence and extensive abuses of power. Protracted civil wars coupled with the continued mismanagement of state resources have placed the DRC among the group of fragile states with the world's poorest infrastructure. Bribery, lack of political integrity, and weak oversight institutions worsen clientele politics, rent-seeking and instability throughout the country (Lee-Jones, 2020).

A study by Kizaliwa (2019) confirmed the same and elaborated that recurrent abuse of public affairs power for private benefit and corruption continue to weaken country leaders' power to manage everyday affairs; it also reduces the implementation of law in the country; in fact, it develops the culture of impunity. The study therefore

concludes that public accountability in North Kivu Province is not effective due to integrity-related issues exacerbated by corruption and recurrent abuse of public affairs.

4.5.2.5. The Government Operates Free from Bribery, Embezzlement, Nepotism, and Other Forms of Corrupt Practices

In regards to whether the government operates free from bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, and other forms of corrupt practices, 18.4% strongly disagreed, 45.6% disagreed, 15.2% were neutral while 12.4% strongly agreed and 8.4% agreed, with a mean of 2.47 and an S. D of 1.172. The majority view (64%) is therefore of the opinion that practices of bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, and other forms of corrupt practices are observed within the public administration of North Kivu Province.

Furthermore, Likert scale measurement indicates low level of public administration operating from bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, and other forms of corrupt practices. UNICAC Coalition (2022) corroborates with the findings and elaborates more on the same by noting that since 2019, several bodies have been actively involved in the prevention and fight against corruption in the DRC, including the General Inspectorate of Finance (IGF), the Court of Auditors (CC), the National Financial Intelligence Unit (CENAREF) and the Observatory for the Monitoring of Corruption and Professional Ethics (OSCEP).

Although parliamentary passage of a law on the organization and operation of a national anti-corruption agency has stalled, the Presidency of the Democratic Republic of the Congo created a specialized anti-corruption agency in 2020: the Agency for the Prevention and Fight against Corruption (APLC). Despite the presence of all these institutions, the DRC is still losing an average of 15 billion dollars per year to fraud, corruption and mismanagement of public funds. Anti-corruption bodies are lacking legal safeguards, which enable them to effectively and independently exercise their mandate, protecting them from undue political influence (UNCAC Coalition, 2022).

4.5.2.6. Information, Processes, Decisions, and Actions of Governments are Accessible and Understandable

The respondents were asked whether they have access and have an understanding of information, processes, decisions and actions of the government, a significant majority (75.2%) disagreed, while 14.8% were neutral, with a mean of 2.10 and S.D of 1.064. Measured on five-point Likert scale, there is a low indication that the people have access and understand information, processes, decisions and actions of the government.

UNCAC Coalition Report (2022) carried out an assessment on DR Congo and found that the non-existence of a law on access to information prevents civil society, the Congolese media and all citizens of the country from easily obtaining the right information from the necessary sources. A toll-free number for reporting corruption cases exists, but it is not widely known among the general public due to a lack of awareness-raising about its existence through the media.

4.5.2.7. The government is Answerable to the Local Community

Government answerability was rated as follows: 22.4% strongly disagreed, 47.2% disagreed, 15.6% were neutral, 8.4% strongly agreed and 6.4% agreed, with a mean of 2.29 and S. D of 1.101. Measured on five-point likert scale, there is a low indication that the government is answerable to the population. From the above findings, the study infers that the government of North Kivu Province is not answerable to the local community. More than a decade has passed since the DR Congo adopted a new constitution and began holding free elections, yet the democratic system remains fragile, with few or no basic public services in much of the country.

USAID Report (2021) explains that lack of government accountability and transparency towards the local community is exacerbated by widespread corruption, clientelism and nepotism and this has led to general public mistrust of politicians and government officials. When asked in regards to government accountability or answerability, the respondents indicated that public servants are rather answerable to

the authorities who nominate them so that they keep their position in office rather than to the local community.

4.5.2.8. Just and Equitable Society for Equal Chance to Succeed and Live Fulfilling Life

Regarding whether the government is promoting a just and equitable society that provides an equal opportunity for individuals to succeed and live fulfilling lives, 25% totally disagreed, 42.4% disagreed while 10.4% totally agreed, 8% agreed and 14% were neutral. The study infers that in consideration of the view of a significant majority (67.6%), the government does not promote a just and equitable society for equal chance for everyone in the province.

Also, a mean of 2.34 and a SD of 1.192, measured at a five- point Likert scale reveals a low indication of the government's efforts in working towards promoting a just and equitable society that provides an equal opportunity for individuals to succeed and live fulfilling lives. The World Bank (2023) confirms the findings and notes that most people in DRC have not benefited from the wealth of the country. A long history of conflict, political upheaval, instability, and authoritarian rule has led to a grave, ongoing humanitarian crisis in North Kivu Province. In addition, there has been forced displacement of populations. These features have not changed significantly since the end of the Congo Wars in 2003. The country is among the five poorest nations in the world. In 2022, nearly 62% of Congolese, around 60 million people, lived on less than \$2.15 a day, with about one out of six people living in extreme poverty (The World Bank, 2023).

4.5.2.9. Adequate Representation in Decision-Making Processes

Adequate representation in decision-making processes was ranked as follows: 40% strongly agreed, 34% agreed, 18.8% were neutral while 2.4 totally disagreed and 4.8% disagreed with a mean of 3.98 and an S.D of .969. A five-point Likert scale measurement indicates a high level of people being represented in decision-making process in North Kivu Province. From this finding, the study infers that the population of North Kivu are being represented in decision-making processes. The United Nations

Development Programme Report (2020) explains that massive involvement of Congolese in electoral processes at the national and province level is a clear indication that they want to be part of decision-making through representation; after many years of dictatorship, Congolese are allowed to elect their representatives to the Senate and to the National Assembly.

4.5.2.10. Fair treatment in Legal, Administrative Processes, and Decision-making

Fair treatment in legal, administrative processes, and decision-making were ranked as follows: 24% strongly disagreed, 39.2% disagreed, 19.2% were neutral while 8% strongly agreed and 9.6% agreed. A mean of 2.40 and an S.D of 1.209 is a low indication of the existence of fair treatment in legal, administrative processes and decision making in North Kivu when measured on a five-point Likert scale. The study therefore infers that there is lack of fairness in legal, administrative processes and decision-making in North Kivu province despite the fact the populations are represented in decision-making.

4.5.2.11. Trust in the Public Administration and Demand for Accountability

In regards to trust in the public administration and demand for accountability, 19.2% strongly disagreed and 42.8% disagreed that the local population trust the public administration, against 8.4% and 8% who strongly agreed and simply agreed to the statement; 21.2% were neutral with a mean of 2.42 and an SD of 1.136. The findings show that the majority 62% do not trust the public administration in North Kivu Province. Besides, measured on a five-point Likert scale, there is low indication of the population having trust in the public administration in North Kivu.

Furthermore, the demand for public accountability ranked as follows: 22.8% and 24.4% strongly agreed and agreed respectively to the statement, against 13.2% who strongly disagreed, 19.6% who disagreed, while 20% were undecided with a mean of 3.25 and an S.D of 1.391. The study inferred that the local population of North Kivu plays their civic role and demand for public accountability. Additionally, measured on

a five-point Likert scale, there is a relatively high indication that the population demand for accountability from the government of North Kivu Province.

USAID Report (2022) provided an elaborated explanation as why the local community has low levels of trust in the country administration. It posited that conflict fueled by intergroup dynamics is prevalent in the DRC; and the Eastern DRC is home to more than 100 armed groups that contribute to general insecurity, population displacements, and tragic levels of gender-based violence; state weakness; poor infrastructure; widespread conflict profiteering; corruption; illicit trade in minerals, charcoal, and other natural resources; and an absence of economic opportunities and essential services for most people empower conflict entrepreneurs, fuel the violence, and destroy civic trust. All of this has fed a deep culture of mistrust of government institutions (USAID, 2022).

When queried about the factors contributing to the lack of trust in the public administration in North Kivu, respondents identified the following reasons: selfishness within public services; the state's inability to ensure fairness resulting in severe mismanagement; the nomination of authorities, particularly in the army, by the central government in Kinshasa, which makes them accountable not to the local population but to their appointers; impunity with some considering themselves above the law; and the limited involvement of the local population in demanding accountability from the public administration.

4.5.2.12. Transparency in Public Administration

Transparency in public administration was rated as follows: 19% strongly agreed, 48.1% agreed, 7.9% strongly disagreed, 2.39% disagreed and 9.5% were neutral with a mean of 2.39 and an S. D. of 1.137. In consideration of the majority 67.1% not agreeing, the study concludes that there is no transparency within the public administration of North Kivu Province. Furthermore, fairness in public administration operations was rated as follow: 21.7% strongly disagreed, 37% disagree, 21.7% were neutral, 8.5% strongly agreed and 11.1% agreed with a mean of 2.50 and an S. D of 1.236.

The findings agree with those of other scholars and international organizations. A report by the Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (2017), which analyzed the status regarding transparency through interviews and documents submitted by the authorities showed that at the legal and regulatory level, governing transparency has not yet been included in the DRC's legal framework. The International Monetary Fund (2021) explained further and posited that a lack of legal framework greatly contributes to severe low levels of transparency associated with low audit practices, which has an impact on the quality of data and the quality of disclosure practices; a situation which is aggravated by the limited ability to implement effective checks and balances between agencies. Significant legal vulnerabilities contribute to corruption in different sectors of the public administration, owing to largely manual processes and a weak disciplinary process for unethical acts (International Monetary Fund, 2021). A report by Stiftung (2022) confirmed the same. The report noted that the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains one of the most corrupt countries in the world. There is constant interference in the affairs of government and public administration. State affairs, notably economic and financial matters, are conducted in a manner that lacks due transparency.

The study inferred that public transparency and fairness are not upheld within the public administration of North Kivu Province not only due to the lack of a legal framework that does not guarantee any transparency and fairness but also due to the fact that checks and balances between agencies are severely lacking, contributing to corruption.

Findings confirm that the theory of stewardship is crucial towards achieving sustainability in North Kivu Province. This means that the DRC government needs to make effective use of this theory, to ensure that its agencies are accountable to the people of North Kivu in regards to implementing governance operations and ensuring sustainable peace. However, this is not the case in North Kivu. The composite mean for Public Accountability was 2.77 and an S.D of 1.268. Measured on a 5-point Likert scale, this was a low indication that public accountability is upheld in North Kivu Province.

According to the respondents, the government is failing in its role of being a good steward towards sustainable peace due to a severe lack of transparency and fairness exacerbated by corruption and this has led to a deep mistrust of government institutions exacerbated by impunity; public servants are accountable to those who nominated them rather than to the local community; to obtain some services one has to pay for what is supposed to be free. Indicators for public accountability therefore do not meet the threshold to confirm that the government is sufficiently accountable in North Kivu Province as most of its indicators are lacking.

4.5.3. Government Responsiveness

Under the third objective, the research assessed the influence of government responsiveness on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. This variable was operationalized by reference to the following indicators: timely service delivery, access to government services, non-discrimination to public service and consideration of citizens' feedback or complaints. Findings are presented in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7: Government Responsiveness

Statement	SA	A	N	S.Dis	D	Mean	S.D.
Government responsiveness is crucial to sustainable peace.	20%	41.6%	9.6%	9.6%	19.2%	3.65	1.424
The government has put in place mechanisms and strategies to urgently address the needs of the population	13.6%	14.8%	13.2%	21.6%	36.8%	2.63	1.353
State services/agencies are present throughout the province	13.2%	22%	16%	16.4%	32.4%	2.92	1.412
Public services are provided on time	6.8%	8.8%	12.4%	22.1%	49.8%	2.31	1.151
Government strives to make services accessible and efficient.	4.8%	4.4%	12.8%	31.2%	46.9%	2.04	1.015
The citizens of North Kivu interact with and benefit from the essential services and resources provided by the government	9.2%	4.8%	21.3%	28.1%	36.5%	2.26	1.111

Principle of public participation is observed in responding the needs of the communities	12.4%	14.8%	12.8%	22.4%	37.6%	2.60	1.354
The government has in place effective mechanisms and strategies to ensure non-discrimination in service delivery.	9.2%	7.6%	16.8%	22.8%	43.6%	2.35	1.153
The citizens have access to government services and opportunities without bias or prejudice	9.2%	7.6%	14.8%	23.2%	45.2%	2.33	1.153
Public servants protect and uphold the civil rights of all individuals without discrimination	13.2%	20.4%	8.4%	17.6%	40.4%	2.78	1.420
The government has put in place mechanisms and strategies to handle citizens feedback and complaints	7.2%	9.6%	18.8%	21.2%	43.2%	2.41	1.179
The government handles citizen feedback and complaints efficiently and promptly	11.6%	19.2%	7.2%	18.8%	43.2%	2.69	1.408
The government improves its services and strategies in service delivery after citizen feedback and complains	6.8%	8.8%	12.4%	22%	50%	2.30	1.149
Average Mean and S.D.						2.55	1.252

4.5.3.1. Government Responsiveness is Key to Sustainable Peace

From the North Kivu context, the study sought to understand whether government responsiveness is crucial in achieving sustainable peace. Findings in Table 4.7 show that 20% strongly agreed, 41.6% agreed, 9.6% were neutral, while 9.6% and 19.2% strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively; with a mean of 3.65 and an SD of 1.424. Measured on a five-point Likert scale, there is high indication that government responsiveness is paramount to achieving sustainable peace.

The findings thus confirm government responsiveness theory, which requires that the state, as the main duty bearer, to respond to the needs of its citizens in relation to sustainable peace. This is also in line with many studies. The Institute for Economics and Peace (2018) noted for example that Peru has emerged as one of Latin America's most prosperous countries following decades of military coups, violent insurgencies, social unrest and macroeconomic challenges due to different responsive governments. In recent decades, prudent monetary, exchange and investment policies have allowed Peru to weather international economic crises and commodity price declines.

4.5.3.2.State Services/Agencies are Present throughout the Province and have Strategies and Mechanism to respond to the Needs of the Population

The matter of state services being present throughout the province was rated as follows: 16.4% strongly disagreed, 32.4% disagreed, 16% were neutral, 13.2% strongly agreed and 22% agreed, with a mean of 2.92 and an S.D of 1.412. Measured on a five-point Likert scale, there is a low indication that state services are present and have strategies and mechanism to respond to the needs of the population within the province. This is confirmed by a simple majority (48.8%) which indicates that state services are not found throughout the province.

The findings align with that of Ergon *et al* (2019) who noted that governance institutions of DRC are unable and/or unwilling to respond to citizens' needs – due to factors such as corruption, capacity or resource shortage and the absence of accountability mechanisms – can contribute to unrest and violence. Poor performance diminishes trust and legitimacy in governance institutions and, in some cases, this can exacerbate grievances and lead citizens or groups to turn to violence to have their needs met.

Underperforming governance institutions are linked to rising instability and violence in a variety of conflict settings, including violent extremism, insurgencies, civil war, as well as the recurrence of violence. This theory does apply to North Province. This means that recurrent conflicts and violence in North Kivu are as a result of multifaceted factors, one of which revolves around the absence of state institutions in many places

in the province, where the law of the jungle has taken over, leading to many armed groups, proliferation of arms, insecurity, instability, violent extremism, etc.

4.5.3.3.Strategies and Mechanisms to Respond to the Needs of the Population

In regards to whether the government has put in place mechanisms and strategies to urgently address the needs of the population, findings in Table 4.8 show that 21.6% strongly disagreed, 36.8% disagreed, 14.8% were neutral, 13.6% strongly agreed and 18% agreed; with a mean of 2.63 and an S.D of 1.353. Descriptive analysis therefore shows that the DRC government does not urgently respond to the needs of the population according to the majority (58.4%).

USAID report (2022) confirms the findings and noted that the DRC state is unable to deliver basic services such as health, education, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); nor guarantee the security of its people (including breaking the cycle of violence against women, girls, and other vulnerable populations). Another study by Vinck (2019), while conducting a population-based survey on perceptions and attitudes about peace, security and justice in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo confirmed the same. The population compared the DRC government to a wealthy father who is unwilling to feed his children.

4.5.3.4.Interaction and Benefiting from Essential Public Services and Resources

The issue of interaction and benefiting from essential public services and resources was rated as follows: 28.1% strongly disagreed, 36.5% disagreed, 21.3% were neutral while 9.2% strongly agreed and 4.8% agreed with a mean of 2.26 and an SD of 1.111. Measured on a five-point Likert scale, there is also a low indication that the citizens interact and benefit from essential public services and resources.

In consideration of the majority's (64.5%) views and Likert scale measurement, the study infers that the citizens do not interact or benefit from essential public services and resources in North Kivu Province, with the population often being left to their own fate. This therefore explains the existence of many armed groups in the province,

which in many places take over the responsibility of the state to the extent of abusing their illegal authority.

4.5.3.5. Timely Service Delivery

Regarding the delivery of timely services, the respondents rated this as follows: 22.1% strongly disagreed, 49.8% disagreed, 12.4% were neutral, 6.8% strongly agreed, and 8.8% agreed; with a mean of 2.31 and S.D of 1.151. Descriptive analysis reveals that a substantial majority, approximately 71.9%, reported that services in North Kivu are not delivered promptly. The study concludes that not only is timeliness an issue, but services are also lacking in areas where public service structures are absent, as previously indicated. Besides, measured on five-point Likert scale, there is a low indication that public services are delivered promptly in North Kivu Province.

The findings concur with many other studies on governance in the DRC. With a focus on health care in particular, the World Health Organization Report (2015) explained that the health system is described as suffering from substantial domestic underfunding with a heavy reliance on external donor funding; the sector is dysfunctional due to decades of political instability. The private sector, the civil society and international NGOs have taken over this sector to compensate for the quasi-inexistence of public health facilities and services across the country, especially where government institutions and services are not existent.

Additionally, in regions beyond the reach of these organizations, the local population is more often than not left to navigate their challenges independently, relying primarily on the initiatives of private individuals. Altare et al (2020) confirmed the same and noted that health outcomes are poorer in conflict-affected territories than in stable ones. The main challenges to service provisions identified by the study respondents included; the availability and retention of skilled personnel, the lack of basic materials and equipment, as well as insufficient financial resources to ensure health workers' regular payment, medicaments' availability and facilities' running costs. Insecurity exacerbates pre-existing challenges, but does not seem to represent the main hindrance to service provision in North Kivu.

4.5.3.6. Accessibility and Efficiency of Public Services

As far as accessibility and efficiency of public services was concerned, 31.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 46.9% disagreed, 4.8% were neutral, 4.8% strongly agreed and 4.4% agreed; with a mean of 2.04 and S.D. of 1.015. The finding indicates that, not only does the population not have access to public services but also those which exist are not efficient as confirmed by the as shown by the majority 78.1%?. Furthermore, measured on a five-point Likert scale, there is a low indication of accessibility and efficiency of public services in North Kivu Province.

North Kivu InfraSAP report confirmed these findings. It noted, “the poor state of infrastructure in North Kivu is a significant constraint on growth, development, and stabilization, with a large majority of the population lacking access to basic infrastructure services. While reliable access numbers are not available, the electrification rate in North Kivu is estimated to be around eight percent (8%) and mobile penetration around ten percent (10%). Access to improved water sources is similarly limited, and where water supply systems are in place in a few urban areas, this supply only caters for an estimated ten to twenty percent of demand. Transport, particularly by road as the dominant form, is expensive and highly unreliable.

Unsurprisingly, lack of reliable infrastructure is a significant constraint on business operations, and hence investment and growth.” (North Kivu InfraSAP Report, 2021). Henn, Lameke, Mugaruka, Tanutama (2023) provide an explanation as to why the population of North Kivu does face challenges in accessing services. Their study indicates a severe shortage of financing in towns and villages as leaders lack the resources to significantly expand the state services as a result of minimal revenue and expenditure across localities.

4.5.3.7. Public Participation in Service Delivery without Discrimination, Biasness and Prejudice

Participation in government responsiveness is understood as the direct or indirect involvement of stakeholders in decision-making about policies, processes, and plans in which they have interest (Quick, and Bryson, 2016). Respondents were asked

whether they are involved in processes of decision-making in-service delivery; 22.4% strongly disagreed, 37.6% disagreed, 12.8% were neutral, 12.4% strongly agreed and 14.8% agreed, with a mean of 2.60 and an S. D of 1.356.

The majority (60%) were of the view that the population is not involved in decision-making, processes, and plans in which they have interest as far as service delivery is concerned. From then measurements on a five-point Likert scale, there is an average indication that the population is involved in policies, plans and processes in relation to public service delivery in North Kivu Province.

Furthermore, the respondents were asked whether the principle of non-discrimination in accessing public services is observed in North Kivu; and the findings in Table 4.7 reveal that 22.8% strongly disagreed, 43.6% disagreed, 16.8% were neutral, 9.2% strongly agreed and 7.6% agreed, with a mean of 2.35 and an S. D of 1.153. The five-point Likert scale indicates the occurrence of discrimination in accessing public services. The study therefore confirms that there is discrimination in accessing public services in North Kivu Province.

Finally, when asked whether the citizens have access to government services and opportunities without bias or prejudice, 23.2% and 45.2% strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively, against 9.2% and 7.6% who strongly agreed and agreed respectively, while 14.8% were undecided; with a mean of 2.33 and an SD. of 1.153.

Moreover, apart from the low indication of the absence of bias and prejudice in the provision of public services, as revealed by a five-point Likert scale measurement, the study implies that practices of bias and prejudice are indeed evident in accessing public services in North Kivu Province. This indicates that, not only does the population of North Kivu have limited involvement in determining access strategies for public services, but also, the process of accessing these services is marred by bias and prejudice.

Henn, *et al* (2023) confirmed the above findings and noted that the exclusion of the population in public decision making, processes and plans is exacerbated by challenges posed by the lack of democratic accountability, widespread corruption and widespread

impunity. Their study furthermore noted that despite this exclusion, there are high levels of participation in public works and the population display a willingness to contribute to public good, as evident in their responses in the behavioral game; this offers a glimmer of hope and suggest that there is a strong foundation to build upon in promoting better governance and improving local state capacity (Henn *et al*, 2023).

4.5.3.8. Efficient, Prompt Handling and Improvement of Public Services after Citizens' Feedback and Complains

Findings are presented in Table 4.7. Citizen's feedback was rated as follows: 21.2% strongly disagreed, 43.2% disagreed, 18% were neutral, 7.2% strongly agreed and 9.6% agreed, with a mean of 2.41 and an S.D of 1.179. The study inferred that citizens' feedback and complaints are not handled efficiently and promptly.

Besides, measured on a five-point Likert scale, there is also a low indication of citizen feedback and complains being handled efficiency and promptly. Furthermore, when asked whether the government improves its strategies in service delivery after citizens' feedback and complains, a big majority (72%) disagreed while 12.4% were neutral with a mean of 2.30 and an S.D of 1.149. Measurement on the five-point Likert scale indicates a low level of improvement of strategies in public service delivery in North Kivu Province.

The findings align with that of a project carried out by Christian Aid (2016) that aimed at giving the local community a voice to hold authorities accountable. According to the project report, the process of citizen feedback is faced with the challenge of lack of accountability; not only do the local authorities often lack experience or knowledge about participatory governance, the population is also largely unaware of its right to hold government to account and express its concerns to that same government.

Additionally, the report expounded on the cumulative cultural experience with authority over the past few decades, which narrates the experience as having been characterized by an authoritarian demeanor that brooks no dissent, asserts its power, and has at times responded in a threatening or even more severe manner to inquiries or adverse feedback. Consequently, citizens have developed a reluctance to hold the

government accountable (Christian Aid, 2016). The study therefore infers that a lack of public accountability from the local authorities has serious impact on citizens' feedback processes and improvement of public service delivery.

4.5.3.9.Civil Rights Are Protected and Upheld Without Discrimination

Protection and upholding of civil rights without discrimination was rated as follows: 17.6% strongly disagreed, 40.4% disagreed, 13.2% strongly agreed, 20.4% agreed, while 8.4% were undecided with a mean of 2.78 and an S.D of 1,420. Measured on a five-point Likert scale, the findings show a low level of civil rights being protected and upheld without discrimination in North Kivu Province. Freedom House (2023) confirms that due to political instability, insecurity in country in general and North Kivu Province in particular, physical security is tenuous due to violence and human rights abuses committed by government forces, as well as armed rebel groups and militias in areas where they occupy, not to mention the state of siege, where civil rule has been replaced by military authorities.

Under this objective, the study employed four indicators to rate the influence of government responsiveness on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, namely, timely service delivery, access to government services, non-discrimination to public service and consideration of citizens' feedback or complaints. The composite mean for government responsiveness was 2.55 and an SD of 1.252. Measured on a five-point Likert scale, government responsiveness shows a low indication that the governance practice of responsiveness is being upheld by the DR Congo government in North Kivu Province.

Furthermore, descriptive statistics in Table 4.7 shows that the four indicators are not met in the context of North Province. In other words, the national and provincial governments are failing in as far as the practice of responsiveness is concerned. Government services are conspicuously absent across the entire province, not to mention that the local community lacks access to these services, and even in cases where they are available, not only are they not delivered in a timely manner but are also administered in a discriminatory fashion.

Furthermore, citizens do not participate in decision making, in planning and other public processes and as result, feedback is not sought, neither is it responded to. Government responsiveness theory is failing in the DRC where the government, through its agencies, is not playing its role of a good steward in putting in place strategies, resources and agencies that should work with the community in order to urgently and timely respond to their needs.

From the open-ended perspective, the respondents indicate that the government presence is quasi absent in many places not only in the entire country but also in North Kivu Province; public services are completely lacking; the population are left to their fate in regards to public services, security and administration sometimes; one has to travel long distance to seek for public service and where it is possible, private entities such as the Catholic church, international Non-Governmental Organization take over in particular in regards to health services.

This situation, in turn, contributes to lawlessness and the absence of peace, as numerous armed groups assume the roles and, at times, the responsibilities of the state, imposing their own laws and regulations in lieu of government authority. In many areas of North Kivu Province where private entities hold sway, the rule of the jungle becomes the prevailing order of the day.

4.5.4. Government Effectiveness

This is the fourth objective of the study. It assessed the influence of government effectiveness on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province of the DRC, in consideration of the following four indicators: ability to maintain law and order, effective implementation of government decisions, cost-effective service delivery and involvement of citizens in the decision-making processes. Findings are presented in Table 4.8.

Table 4.8: Government Effectiveness

Statement	SA	A	N	SDis.	D	Mean	S. D.
The effectiveness of government operations is a key factor to SP.	27.6%	29.6%	12.8%	8.8%	21.2%	3.48	1.342
The legal system, are effective to interpret and apply the law and maintain order	10.8%	12%	30.4%	19.6%	27.2%	2.68	1.245
The province has well-functioning police and army force.	10.8%	6.4%	18%	19.2%	45.6%	2.40	1.108
The government has put in place policy to build trust and positive relationships between police officers and community members	6.8%	4%	14%	18.4%	56.8%	2.21	. 956
The civil services of the state are effective in applying government's decisions	4.4%	4.4%	12.4%	31.2%	47.6%	2.03%	1.005
DRC government operations are results-oriented	8.4%	8.4%	22%	18.8%	42.4%	2.45	1.141
The government improves and adapts to the changing circumstances and citizen needs.	8.8%	22%	12.4%	6.8%	50%	2.30	1.149
The government has policy in place of effective service delivery	6.8%	8.8%	12.4%	22%	50%	2.30	1.149
Government provides quality goods and services	13.2%	21.6%	16%	16.4%	32.8%	2.91	1.407
The government strive to reduce inequalities and promote inclusion	10.8%	6.4%	18%	19.2%	45.6%	2.40	1.108
Citizens participate in decision-making is by voting in elections to choose representatives	16.8%	28.4%	12.4%	14.4%	28%	3.17	1.463
Government often holds public hearings and consultations before making major policy decisions	4.8%	4.4%	12.8%	31.2%	46.8%	2.04	1.015
Government structures at local level provide forums for citizens to discuss and influence decisions about local issues	13.2%	21.6%	16%	16.4%	32.8%	2.91	1.407
Average Mean and S.D.						2.40	1.191

4.5.4.1. Effectiveness is Key to Sustainable Peace

From a contextual perspective, the study sought to know whether having an effective government in place influences sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. Descriptive analysis in Table 4.9 shows that the majority 57.2% (27.6% strongly agreed and 29.6% agreed) support the statement whereas 8.8% strongly disagree, 21.2% disagree while 12.8% were neutral with a mean of 3.48 and an S.D. of 1.342.

Literature agrees with the findings. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2023) argues that many positive outcomes including sustainable peace can arise where there is effective governance, characterized by capable implementation, sound policy processes and separation of powers along with high levels of political participation. On the same, Oshowolo (2018) posits that regions and countries, which have adopted and implemented governance practices enjoy sustainable peace compared to those that have not; and on the contrary, countries without adequate governing capacities are more likely to experience armed violence.

The consequences include recurrent civil wars, human insecurity, proliferation of organized armed groups and rebellions against the state. The findings therefore confirm the application of functionalism theory. This means that the DRC government needs to play its role of being a functional government if it expects to achieve sustainable peace in North Kivu Province.

4.5.4.2. The Legal System, which Includes Courts, Judges, and Legal

Professionals are Effective to Interpret and Apply the Law and Maintain Order

The effectiveness of the legal system to interpret, apply laws and maintain order was rated as follows: 19.6% strongly disagreed, 27.2% disagreed, 30.4% were neutral, 10.8% strongly agreed and 12% agreed, with a mean of 2.68 and an SD of 1.245. Measured on a five-point Likert scale, there is a low indication that courts, judges and legal professional are effective in interpreting and applying law and maintaining order in North Kivu Province.

The European Commission (European Commission Report, 2023) corroborates with the findings and explains that “the sheer number of crimes committed has overwhelmed the Congolese justice system, beset by challenges in investigating offences and carrying out successful prosecutions. In addition, fighting continues to leave some regions isolated, while victims and witnesses are not only unprotected from armed attackers, but also unable to access justice. This reality undermines public trust and confidence in the authorities’ ability to render justice.”

4.5.4.3. North Kivu Province has Well-Functioning Police and Armed Forces that Maintain Law and Order

In regards to a well-functioning police and armed forces that maintain law and order, 19.2% strongly disagreed, 45.6% disagreed, 18% were neutral, while 10.8% strongly agreed and 6.4% agreed with a mean of 2.40 and an S.D. 1, 108. A big majority (64.8%) is of the view that the police and army are not functioning well in North Kivu Province. Besides, measurements on a five-point Likert scale show low indicators of the two institutions effectiveness in maintaining law and order in the province.

Many reports indicate that the police and armed forces have been accused of committing atrocities against the civilians instead of protecting. European Commission (2023) explain that “for too long, a culture of impunity in much of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has enabled both security forces and armed groups to harm civilians. Both sides have been accused of sexual violence and rape, but few offenders have been identified or prosecuted. Furthermore, Mattner (2023) explains that “the national police force of DR Congo is not in a position to fulfil its duty to ensure the safety of the population; the inefficient state apparatus is being restricted in its ability to function properly by nepotism and patronage systems, not to mention that security forces throughout the country are inadequately paid and heavily fragmented, resulting to a general lack of commitment and sense of duty on the part of individual police forces, to the detriment of the population”.

4.5.4.4.The Government has put in Place Policy to Build Trust and Positive Relationships between Police Forces and Community Members

In regards to putting in place policies to build trust and positive relationships between police forces and community members, a big majority of respondents (75.2%) disagreed on the existence of the said policies, 14% were neutral with a mean of 2.21 and an SD of 0.956. Measured on a five-point Likert scale, there is a very low indication of any existing policies or practices that aim to build trust and positive relationships between the police forces and the citizens. Mattner (2023) explains that the relationship is severely strained, as the police force in the DRC frequently abuse their power by extorting money from civilians especially given their low salary of just US\$30 a month. “The system is rotten to the core with senior officers who take a share of what the lower ranks rip off from people” Mattner opines.

4.5.4.5.The Civil Services of the State are Effective in Applying Government’s Decisions

On whether decisions are applied effectively within the public administration, 31.2% strongly disagreed, 47.6% disagreed, 12.4% were undecided, 4.4% strongly agreed and 4.4% agreed, with a mean of 2.03 and an S.D of 1.005. According to the majority 78.8%, effective application of decisions remains a challenge in the DRC in general and North Kivu Province in particular due to various reasons. Indications from a five-point Likert scale reveal that civil services of the state are not effective in applying government decisions. The findings agreed with reports by Stiftung (2022) who reported that the DRC has a long record of failing to implement policies; structural constraints such as the unsuitability of skilled personnel in certain strategic positions, poor infrastructure and inadequate budgets seriously hamper the implementation of even the most basic of measures. Moreover, while the Congolese government has launched numerous programs in recent years, these initiatives often lack a clear strategic vision, and the policies they seek to implement are not rooted in established evidence. Despite many donor-funded capacity-building programs, the DRC does not have an institutional framework for policy learning (Stiftung, 2022).

4.5.4.6. DRC Government Operations are Result-Oriented

When asked whether the performance of the DRC government in North Kivu Province is result-oriented, 18.8% strongly disagreed, 42.4% disagreed, 22% were neutral, 8.4% strongly agreed and 8.4% agreed, with a mean of 2.45 and an S. D of 1.141. A cumulative simple majority (61.2%) reveals that the performance of government in North Kivu is not result-oriented.

From a security perspective, Hairder and Rohwerder (2019) agree with these findings and postulate that the Congolese security system is not only incapable of defending the state and the state's authority, but it also poses a serious threat to the population as a whole. The local authorities failed to address justice or human rights issues, which resulted in a system of entrenched impunity. These security agencies are yet to achieve their expected result. Stiftung (2022) sheds more light on the same by reiterating that the Congolese government initiated many programs over the past few years, programs that characteristically lacked a real strategic vision; with the policies to be implemented not usually based on proven evidence. Despite many donor-funded capacity-building programs, the DRC does not have an institutional framework for policy learning.

4.5.4.7. The Government Provides Effective Service Delivery Improves and Adapts to the Changing Circumstances and Citizen Needs

Effective service delivery was rated as follows: 22% strongly disagreed, 50% disagreed, 12.4% were neutral, 6.8% strongly agreed and 8.8% agreed with a mean of 2.30 and an SD of 1.149. Measured on the five-point Likert scale, there is very low indication the country has a policy for effective service delivery. On the other hand, findings on improving and adapting to the changing circumstances and citizens needs is quasi-inexistent in North Kivu Province as confirmed by a big majority of respondents (72%) who disagreed, against 6.8% who strongly agreed and 8.8% who agreed, while 12.4% were neutral with a mean of 2.30 and an SD of 1.149. Findings on the mean and SD show a very low indication that the government improves and adapts to the changing circumstances to respond to citizens. The findings align with those of The Conversion (2023) which notes that the DRC faces huge challenges in

delivering public services, being unable to meet its citizens' basic needs. It further reiterates that the country hardly has any funds to meet basic needs of the citizens let alone improving and adapting to the changing circumstances.

4.5.4.8. Government Provides Quality Goods and Services

Descriptive statistics under government effectiveness revealed that state services do not exist in many places and where they exist, people do not have access to them; furthermore, where they are provided, they are not granted in a timely fashion. The study sought to assess whether goods and services are of good quality. Delivery of quality goods and services was rated as follows: 16.4% strongly disagreed, 32.8% disagreed, 16% were neutral, 13.2% strongly agreed and 21.6% agreed, with a mean of 2.91 and an S.D of 1.407.

The analysis shows that a majority 49% were of the opinion that state services are of poor quality in areas where they are provided. Additionally, five-point Likert scale measurement leans towards a low indication of good quality services being provided by the state in the province. Stiftung (2022) agrees with the findings and explains that the DRC government is notorious for wasting human, financial and organizational capital. No useful structure is tasked with studying, setting up, evaluating and improving methods that ensure the efficient and effective use of human resources in public administration (Stiftung, 2022). According to Haider and Rohwerder (2019) poor quality of goods and services is also due to the fragile state of infrastructure in most major cities which is almost non-existent in many remote regions; largely due to widespread corruption, underfunding, unpaid professionals (who mostly rely on petty corruption to survive) and lack of appropriate equipment, leading to a deficient functioning and service delivery of the administration. Furthermore, democratic institutions are weak and ineffective and suffer from corruption, a lack of professionalism, poor performance and dependence on the political patronage of the president (Haider, and Rohwerder, 2015).

4.5.4.9. The Government Strives to Reduce Inequalities and Promote Inclusion

In regards to whether the government strives to reduce inequalities and promote inclusion, 19.2% strongly disagreed, 45.6% disagreed, against 10.8% who strongly agreed and 6.4% who agreed with 18% being neutral, with a mean of 2.40 and an SD of 1.108. A five-point Likert scale measurement indicates very minimal efforts by the government to reduce inequalities and to promote inclusion in the North Kivu Province.

The findings align with those of USAID and the Education Development Centre Report (2021) which notes that the DRC faces enormous challenges related to Sustainable Development Goal 8 and 10; as 40% of its population live in urban areas making the country dependent on agriculture; there exists large inequities between provinces, and national level data indicates that 35% of the majority youth population (ages 15 -24) are unemployed, although that number is probably much higher in reality. More than half of the country suffered from multidimensional poverty; and when combined with generations of poverty, conflict and fragility, a vicious cycle of stunted growth at every level of the socio-ecological ecosystem is inevitable, undermining both individual and national social and economic development (United State Agency for International Development and Education Development Center Report, 2021).

4.5.4.10. Government Often Holds Public Hearings and Consultations and Public Participation

Holding of public hearings and consultations for major policy decisions at the local was rated as follows: 31.2% strongly disagreed, 46.8% disagreed, 12.8% were neutral, while 4.8% strongly agreed and 4.4% agreed; with a mean of 2.04 and an S.D of 1.015. Measured on a five-point Likert scale, there is a very low indication that government holds public hearings and consultations. In regards to whether citizens discuss and influence decisions about local issues, 16.4% strongly disagreed, 32.8% disagreed, 16% were neutral, while 13.2% strongly agreed, and 21.6% agreed; with a mean of 2.91 and an SD of 1.407. Measured on a five-point Likert scale, there is a low indication

of the practices being applied in North Kivu Province, as confirmed by a simple majority of respondents (49.2%).

Heen, Lameke, Mugaruka and Tanutama (2023) provide an exhaustive explanation to the findings. According to them, in as much as the country in the previous 20 years has embarked on an ambitious decentralization program and has established a system where both traditional and state officials are in charge of separate local jurisdiction, the key challenge is that there is an apparent lack in democratic accountability, high levels of corruption, and an acute lack of financing. Virtually none of the local leaders are elected but instead selected by traditional or provincial leaders. This is in spite of the constitution mandating the election of commune mayors.

Moreover, a notable number of government officials attained their positions through family connections and often appointed their own family members to various roles. This practice hinders the engagement of the local community in discussing and influencing decisions on local matters. Instead, decisions are unilaterally made by the chief, who holds a position akin to a monarch or king, and these decisions are expected to be unquestionably respected and adhered to.

Under this objective, the study assessed the effectiveness of the DR Congo government in consideration of four indicators, namely, ability to maintain law and order, effective implementation of government decisions, cost-effective service delivery and the involvement of citizens in decision-making processes. The respondents agreed on the importance of effectiveness towards achieving sustainable peace, confirming the application of functionalism theory.

Nonetheless, an examination of descriptive statistics reveals that the government of North Kivu Province is struggling in terms of maintaining a competent civil service that can effectively implement decisions and policies, and it appears to lack a results-oriented approach. Moreover, in instances where public services are offered, they are often of subpar quality. All respondents fully agreed that the DRC government is not effective, as it is unable to carry out its mission of fulfilling its promises and as a result, the members of the community have minimal trust in the government. Besides, the composite mean for government's effectiveness was 2.40 and an S.D of 1.191.

Measured on a five-point Likert scale, this was a low indication of the DRC government's effectiveness in North Kivu Province. When asked to pinpoint the challenges affecting government effectiveness, respondents highlighted that the presence of armed groups poses a significant obstacle. Additionally, goods and services funded by the government often evade quality inspections, and citizens often experience delayed delivery with lower satisfaction levels. This is notably the case for their existing roads and bridges that are usually overpriced despite deteriorating rapidly; depicting cases where significant financial resources are spent but producing very poor results within the public administration. Other reasons for lack of effectiveness include incompetence, corruption, a lack of political will, coupled with late or no payment for civil servants, and infiltration of the public institutions, in particular the army, which is infiltrated by foreigners including foreign armed forces.

From the perspective of functionalism theory, the DR Congo government in North Province is failing in its mission in terms of achieving its purpose of planning and directing society, meeting social needs, maintaining law and order, and managing national affairs (Trueman, 2022). Feedback from open ended questions indicates that favoritism, nepotism, clientelisms as well as embezzlement of public funds, corruption, impunity and poor salaries are among other factors that contribute to the government failing to manage public affairs effectively. the DRC government is falling short of being effective and/or efficient, thus contributing to a lack of sustainable peace in the province.

4.5.5. Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

Conflict resolution mechanisms is the moderating variable under this study. This means that in order to achieve sustainable peace in North Kivu, it is expected of the DRC government to effectively implement governance practices and at the same time make use of conflict resolution mechanisms such as negotiation, mediation and arbitration to resolve the protracted and recurrent conflict that continues to affect the province.

Table 4.10: Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

Statement	S.A	A	N	S.Dis	D	Mean	SD.
Effective use of conflict resolution mechanisms can help to restore peace	26.2%	34.3%	12.5%	14.5%	12.5%	3.53	1.437
The government use of conflict resolution mechanism has been effective	20%	20.4%	23.2	11.2%	25.2%	3.13	1.306
Negotiation led processes has yield positive result for peace	12%	21.2%	15.6%	16.4%	34.8%	2.87	1.401
Despite different negotiation led by the government, there is still no expected peace	16.8%	28.4%	12.4%	14.4%	28%	3.17	1.463
The government use of mediation is effective	20.8%	27.6%	21.6%	10.8%	19.2%	3.35	1.349
Mediation led processes have yielded positive result for peace	13.2%	22%	16%	16.4%	32.4%	2.92	1.412
Despite different mediation processes international bodies, there is still no expected peace	21.6%	22.4%	12.8%	16%	27.2%	3.07	1.424
The government use of arbitration is effective	15.6%	15.2%	26.4%	11.6%	31.2%	2.92	1.241
Arbitration led processes have yield positive result for peace	12%	21.2%	15.6%	16.4%	34.8%	2.87	1.401
Despite arbitration processes there is still no expected peace	21.6%	22.4%	12.8%	16%	27.2%	3.07	1.424
Average Mean and SD.						3.09	1.385

4.5.5.1. Effective use of Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

Peacebuilding in a conflict-ridden and protracted province like North Kivu should be considered as a process; a process that involves different stages and strategies aiming at addressing the root causes of conflict. To do so, it is not enough to use conflict resolution mechanisms; it is also required that they are used effectively. The study sought to understand whether in the context of North Kivu Province, effective use of conflict resolution mechanisms is key to achieving sustainable peace.

Findings in Table 4.10 indicate that 24.5% strongly agreed, 36.2% agreed, 13.8% were neutral, 13.2% strongly disagreed and 12.2% disagreed with a mean of 3.58 and an S. D. of 1.421. Findings in Table 4.9 show that the majority 60.7% think that the government should make use of conflict resolution mechanisms effectively to resolve the recurrent and protracted conflict facing North Kivu Province. The findings agree with Stepanova, Polk and Saldert (2020), who noted that the integration of different knowledge is especially important for the management and governance of complex issues, including conflict resolution with multiple actors; the integration of different knowledge may help to manage the complexity of conflicts by stimulating different kinds of awareness among the actors.

4.5.5.2. Use of Conflict Resolution Mechanisms has been Effective

The effective use of conflict resolution mechanisms was rated as follows: 11.2% strongly disagreed, 25.2% disagreed, 23.2% were neutral, 20% strongly agreed and 20.4% agreed with a mean of 3.13 and an S. D. of 1.306. Measured on a five-point Likert scale, this was a high indication that confirms that the DRC government utilizes conflict resolution mechanisms towards sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. The findings show that the DRC government has been employing conflict resolution mechanisms to resolve the conflict affecting the North Province. Different processes aiming at resolving the conflict in North Kivu have taken place.

4.5.5.3. Use of Arbitration

According to World Intellectual Property Organization (2020), arbitration is a procedure in which a dispute is submitted, by agreement of the parties, to one or more arbitrators who make a binding decision on the dispute. In choosing arbitration, the parties opt for a private dispute resolution procedure instead of going to court. Despite the fact the process is regulated, it is mainly a private-led process where parties resort to resolve their dispute. The research sought to know whether the people of North Kivu make use of arbitration processes to restore peace in North Kivu Province.

Findings in Table 4.10 indicate that 11.6% strongly disagreed, 31.2% disagreed, 26.4% are neutral, 15.6% strongly agreed and 15.2% agreed with a mean of 2.92 and S. D of 1.241. A simple majority (42.8%) is of the view that arbitration processes are not useful in resolving many conflict related issues facing North Kivu Province. The findings are of the contrary view with Save Green, Promote Peace and Sustainable Development (2023) which noted that arbitration provides a viable means of settling disputes and promoting stability given the region's history of armed conflict and challenges in the judicial system.

Furthermore, considered as a private-led process, the respondents also indicated that the use of arbitration at individual levels, when it has been applied, has not yielded positive results in terms of achieving sustainable peace in the province as confirmed by 16.4% who strongly disagreed, 34.8% disagreeing, 15.6% being neutral, 12% strongly agreeing, and 21.2% agreeing; with a mean of 2.87 and an S.D of 1.401.

Finally, a simple majority (44%) is of the view that despite different arbitration processes that may have taken place at individual levels, there is still no expected peace; with a mean of 3.07 and SD of 1.424. Considering the key driving factors affecting peace in North Kivu Province, the search for a solution would rather require the use of negotiation and mediation rather than an arbitration process, which is a process that is rather applied to individuals.

4.5.5.4. Use of Negotiation and Mediation

Contrary to negotiation, which is a process through which two parties agree to peacefully end their conflict, mediation process is a negotiation process that is facilitated by a neutral third party. The reality is that all the negotiation peace processes on DRC are conducted through the facilitation of a third party, making it fall under what should be termed as mediation. The findings in Table 4.10 show that the government has made use of different conflict resolution mechanisms towards peace.

When asked to indicate whether the use of negotiation has yielded positive results towards sustainable peace, 16.4% strongly disagreed, 34.8% disagreed, 15.6% were neutral, 12% strongly agreed and 21.2% agreed; with a mean of 2.87 and an S.D of

1.401. Measured at the five-point Likert scale, there is low indication that negotiation processes have yielded positive results towards sustainable peace. Furthermore, a simple majority of respondents (45.2%) were also of the view that there is still no expected peace with a mean of 3.7 and S.D of 1.463.

In regards to whether the government makes use of mediation processes effectively, 20.8% strongly agreed, 27.6% agreed, 21.6% were neutral, 10.8% strongly disagreed and 19.2% disagreed, with a mean of 3.35 and S.D of 1.349. From these findings, there is a simple majority of respondents (48.4%) who are of the view that the government makes effective use of mediation processes to resolve different conflicts affecting North Kivu Province.

Besides, measured on a five-point Likert scale, this was a high indication and confirms that the DR Congo government utilizes mediation led process towards sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. The finding is in line with a lot of literature on the same. Different regional and international mediation processes have led to different agreements have been taking place to restore peace in North Kivu Province. To mention just a few, Etahoben (2022) talked about the Nairobi Peace Process on the DRC that began on Tuesday Nov 29, 2022 in the Kenyan capital under a new series of consultations and negotiations to find a lasting solution to the violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Maianhi (2023) on his side elaborates on the UN brokered peace deal between the DRC government and envoys of 11 African countries including Uganda and Rwanda (who were accused of supporting the rebel group) in 2013. The eleven African countries agreed on a framework to help the DR Congo structurally reform its organizations and to refrain from interfering with the DR Congo's internal issues. The deal also addressed the poor conditions in the FARDC (which played a role in the conflict) and urged the DRC to implement security reforms. The study therefore concludes that the DRC government actually makes use of negotiations at different levels to seek for peace in North Kivu. They are however yet to bear any positive results.

Regarding whether the mediation-led processes in which the government has participated has yielded positive results, 16.4% strongly disagreed, 32.4% disagreed, 16% were neutral, 13.2% strongly agreed and 22% agreed; with a mean of 2.92 and an SD of 1.412. The findings indicate that a simple majority of respondents (48.8%) disagreed that different mediation led processes have yielded positive results.

Additionally, as per the measurement on the five-point Likert scale, there is a low indication that different mediation processes have yielded positive results towards sustainable peace. Furthermore, a simple majority of respondents (48.8%) also agree that despite different mediation processes led by regional and international bodies, there is still no expected sustainable peace in North Kivu Province.

Westendorf (2019) brings up a very fundamental point that explains why the use of negotiation and mediation processes has not yet yielded sustainable peace. He argues that, while a set of practical challenges undermined the effectiveness of the peace processes, a more fundamental challenge was that the security building, the governance building, and transitional justice initiatives were primarily technocratic exercises that attempted to “fix” the infrastructure and systems of states emerging from civil war (Westendorf, 2019).

When asked to identify the challenges hindering various conflict resolution processes or the reasons why different mediation and negotiation efforts had failed to establish lasting peace in North Kivu Province, respondents cited a combination of internal and external factors contributing to the absence of peace, despite numerous peace initiatives. Internally, challenges related to governance were emphasized with respect to implementing peace process agreements.

Specifically, factors such as a lack of political will and the state's limited capacity for governance were highlighted as primary reasons for the inability of various peace processes to achieve sustainable peace. The government of the DRC was perceived as inadequately addressing the issues raised and discussed within different peace processes, demonstrating weaknesses in establishing the necessary plans and mechanisms to respond effectively. According to the respondents, the key actor in restoring sustainable peace in North Kivu is the government. Getting involved in peace

processes is one good thing, but putting in place mechanisms to ensure that resolutions passed are fully implemented is another key thing that is lacking from the side of the DRC government.

Additionally, respondents pointed out the presence of external factors that persistently work against the achievement of sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, despite the various peace processes. This factor is closely tied to the exploitation of natural resources, which both internal and external actors seek to benefit from. The proliferation of local and international armed groups and the recurrent incursions of the Rwandan and Ugandan armies are motivated by gaining access to different regions and zones rich in natural resources in North Kivu Province.

The full implementation of peace agreements would hinder these local, regional, and international actors from accessing the natural resources they desire. From the perspective of peace research, there is an ongoing, protracted armed conflict alongside a multitude of armed groups operating in North Kivu, which has occasioned the displacement of the local community. Addressing this complex issue is essential for achieving sustainable peace in the province.

4.5.6. Sustainable Peace

Sustainable peace is the research dependent variable. Three indicators were considered under sustainable peace, notably, low levels of violence, political stability and economic stability and development. Findings are presented in Table 4.11.

Table 4.11: Sustainable Peace

Statement	S.A	A	N	S.D	D	Mean	S. D
Sustainable peace can be restored in the North Kivu Province	21.6%	22.4%	12.8%	16%	27.2%	3.07	1.424
The level of crime, killings and violence is low	8.4%	6.4%	15.6%	22.4%	47%	2.29	1.101
The level of armed conflict or military engagement is limited in scope and intensity	5.2%	1.2%	13.6%	21.2%	58.8%	2.06	.814
The government maintains safety and well-being of the communities	10.8%	6.4%	18%	19.2%	45.6%	2.40	1.108
The environment is conducive for development, prosperity, and the well-being of citizens	8.4%	8.4%	22%	18.8%	42.4%	2.45	1.141
Actions of neighboring countries influence political stability	34.4%	54.8%	4%	1.6%	5.2%	4.36	.904
The government is able to manage conflicts, address grievances, and provide a clear vision	8.4%	6.4%	15.6%	22.4%	47.2%	2.29	1.101
The government is investing in education, healthcare, and workforce skills to improve the productivity and employability of the population	13.2%	21.6%	16%	16.4%	32.8%	2.91	1.407
The government is working to improve the standard of living and economic health of the province	13.2%	21.6%	16%	16.4%	32.8%	2.91	1.407
The government offers long-term perspective and is committed to addressing short-term challenges and long-term structural issues.	12.4%	20%	16%	16.4%	35.2%	2.84	1.384
Average Mean and SD.						2.75	1.179

4.5.6.1.Sustainable Peace can be Restored/Achieved

When asked whether sustainable peace can be restored, the respondents were divided almost equally. A simple majority (44%) agreed to the statement, another simple majority (43%) were of the contrary opinion, while 12.8% were neutral with a mean of 3.07 and SD of 1.424. This implies that the government of North Kivu in collaboration with the local population can work towards restoring sustainable peace that the province had enjoyed for many years before 1994. The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (2017) explains that the primary responsibility for

leading the process for sustaining peace rests with national governments and authorities, including sub-national and local authorities as well as the local population.

4.5.6.2.Reduced Crime, Killings and Violence

Despite the fact that people believe that peace can be restored in North Kivu Province, a big majority of respondents (69.4%) as presented in Table 4.11 disagreed that there is low level of crime, killing and violence in the province, against 14.8% who were of the contrary opinion with a mean of 2.29 and standard deviation of 1.101. Measured on the five-point Likert scale, there is a low indication of low level of crime, killings and violence in the province.

The finding aligns with a report by Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect (2023) that the protracted and resurgent violence and insecurity have exacerbated an already dire humanitarian crisis, with 26.4 million people in need of protection and humanitarian assistance. Various armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continue to indiscriminately attack civilian populations and commit violations that may amount to crimes against humanity. The Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect (2023) indicates that in 2022, more than 1, 800 civilians were killed and thousands injured in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu

The above situation is justified by the fact that the government is unable to maintain the safety and well-being of the communities in the province as confirmed by a significant percentage of respondents (64.8%), against 16.4% who were of the contrary opinion, while 18% who were neutral with a mean of 2.40 and SD. of 1.108.

Besides, measured on the five-point Likert scale, there is a low indication that the government maintains the safety and well-being of the community members in North Kivu. The findings align with UNICEF Report (2023) data which revealed that conflict in eastern DR Congo is having a devastating impact on children's education, as insecurity has disrupted the education of three-quarters of a million children in 2022 and early 2023.

As a result of the lack of safety and security, the environment is not conducive for development, prosperity and well-being of the citizens as confirmed by a majority of respondents (61.2%) against 16.8% who agreed and 22% who were neutral with a mean of 2.45 and S.D of 1.141.

Measured on the Five-point Likert scale, there is low indication that the environment in North Kivu Province is conducive for development and prosperity currently, especially since the M23 armed group resumed fighting the government in October 2022. UNICEF Report (2023) confirms the same and indicates that between January 2022 and March 2023, at least 2,100 schools in North Kivu and Ituri provinces have been forced to stop operating because of the deteriorating security situation; insecurity has been especially damaging for the nearly 240,000 recently displaced children living in the vast camps around Goma.

The situation has made it difficult for the government to invest in education, healthcare and workforce to improve the productivity and employability of the population as confirmed by a majority of respondents (49.2%) against 34.8% who were of the opposite view and 13.2% who were neutral, with a mean of 2.91 and an SD of 1.407. The Five-point Likert scale measurement revealed a low indication of the government investing in education, healthcare and workforce to improve productivity and employability in the current context of North Kivu Province.

With a focus on the health sector, Mushagalusa, Mayeri, Kasongo, *et al* (2023) explain that the context of instability in DR Congo compromises the performance of the health system by depriving it of competent personnel. On the other hand, UNICEF Report (2023) confirms that insecurity continues to disrupt education system, with at least 2,100 schools in North Kivu and Ituri provinces being compelled to stop operating.

Furthermore, a simple majority of respondents (49.2%) were of the view that the government is working to improve the living standards, security and economic health of the province, against 34.8% who agreed and 13.2% who were neutral with a mean of 2.91 and an S.D of 1.407. Measurement at the five-point Likert scale shows a low indication of government working to improve the standard of living and restoring security in the province.

A positive gesture towards restoring security, standard of living, security and economic health was observed nonetheless, when President Tshisekedi enforced the "state of siege" in the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri from 6 May 2021 as a radical but necessary step to swiftly stem armed groups and restore security; he appointed army and police officers to replace civilian administration including elected Governors and suspended elected provincial assemblies (OCHA services, 2023).

Despite the positive gesture towards restoring security, standard of living and economic health through the state of siege, the respondents were still of the view that the government cannot offer long-term resolutions and is not committed to addressing short-term challenges and long-term structural issues affecting the province as confirmed by a simple majority of respondents (51.5%), against 32.4% who were of the opposite view, while 16% were neutral, with a mean of 2.84 and an S.D of 1.384.

In addition, measured on the five-point Likert scale, there was a low indication that the government offers long-term perspective and is not committed to addressing short-term challenges and long-term structural issues affecting the province. Report of Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect (2023) provides an explanation as to why the respondents express such sentiment towards the government efforts.

According to the Center, despite the government declaration of military rule in North Kivu in May 2021 under a so-called "state of siege" to confront armed groups, and joint military operations being deployed, including through the East African Community (EAC), these efforts have failed to stem violence or attacks against populations; violence has escalated in the eastern province for several years amidst a surge in attacks by groups like the Allied Democratic Forces, Cooperative for the Development of Congo and the March 23 Movement (M23) (Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect Report, 2023).

Furthermore, various armed groups have exploited the absence or weakness of state authority in eastern DRC to perpetrate attacks against civilians, terrorize and control communities affected by conflict for decades coupled with rampant impunity and competition for control of profitable minerals (Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect Report, 2023).

As a result of recurrent and protracted conflicts, insecurity and violence on the local population, the majority of respondents (69.6%) no longer have confidence in the government's ability to manage conflicts, address grievances and provide a clear vision for the province, against 14.8% who were of the opposite view and 15.6% who were neutral, with a mean of 2.29 and an S.D of 1.101.

Sustainable peace, considered as a process aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties of conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation, and moving towards recovery, reconstruction, and development still has a long way to go as far as North Kivu Province is concerned. The findings correspond with many literatures on peace and conflict in DRC, including research by the Center for Preventive Action. The Center (2023) notes that, despite its wealth in natural resources and diplomatic efforts by the Eastern Africa Community and International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, "violence continues to come in waves in North Kivu Province, and civilian casualties remain on the rise, without forgetting the on-going armed conflict between the DRC government and M23 movement. "

According to Kizaliwa (2019), the absence of peace in North Kivu Province has resulted to murder and traumatisms, corruption, poverty, unemployment of DRC people and less understanding of the population's culture. Furthermore, the composite mean for sustainable peace was 2.75 and an SD of 1.119. Measured on a five-point Likert scale, this was a low indication that sustainable peace was being achievable in North Kivu Province.

When respondents were asked to provide reasons for the continued absence of peace in North Kivu Province, their responses to open-ended questions included, among other factors, the government's perceived inability and lack of political will to actively pursue peace restoration. They also cited international and regional interference, especially by multinational corporations and neighboring countries, suggesting that there might be an interest in keeping the region in a state of turmoil to maintain access to its natural resources.

Furthermore, external and internal forces were mentioned as contributing to thwarting government intervention, with a multiplication of armed groups leading to the proliferation of illicit arms. Infiltration of the army and the National Police by elements from neighboring countries was highlighted as another reason, as it is believed to hinder government efforts to achieve social order, security, and peace in the province.

4.6. Inferential Statistics

Inferential statistics are research findings that help come to conclusions and make predictions based on the research data (Bhandari, 2023). The current study used correlation and regression analysis. This section presents diagnostic tests that were stated under chapter three then carries out inferential statistics.

4.6.1. Diagnostic Tests

Tests were carried out to determine regression assumptions – Multicollinearity, linearity, normality, outliers and heteroscedasticity and conclusions are provided after each test.

4.6.1.1. Multicollinearity Test

Multicollinearity is an association or the correlation between two predictors (or independent) variables in a statistical model. Multicollinearity is associated with more than two (or independent) variables (Enders, 2023). The absence of multicollinearity within a dataset assumes a range of statistical tests, including multi-level modelling, logistic regression, factor analysis, and multiple linear regressions (International Business Machine, 2021). The study carried run three diagnostics on SPSS to identify multicollinearity, namely, review of the correlation matrix for predictor variables that correlate highly, computing the Variance Inflation Factor (henceforth VIF) and the Tolerance Statistic and compute Eigenvalues.

The study applied tolerance in testing multicollinearity. It provides measures of the effect caused by a single independent variable on other independent variables. Tolerance is; $T = 1 - R^2$. If the value of T is less than 0.01 then it is certain that multicollinearity is present. From the findings presented in Table 4.12, the VIF values

for all the variables were less than 5, a clear indication that multicollinearity did not exist between the study variables. All the VIF column values were less than 10, and Tolerance values were greater than 10% respectively, indicating that there was no multi-collinearity influence between the explanatory variables. As a result, we rejected the null hypothesis.

Table 4.12: Multicollinearity Test Statistics

Model	Collinearity Statistics	
	Tolerance	VIF
(Constant)		
Conflict Resolution Mechanisms	0.425	2.353
Rule of Law	0.470	2.126
Public Accountability	0.455	2.196
Government Responsiveness	0.319	3.138
Government Effectiveness	0.349	2.862

a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable Peace

H₀: There is a multicollinearity problem

H_a: There is no multicollinearity problem

4.6.1.2. Normality Test

An assessment of the normality of data is a prerequisite for many statistical tests because normal data is an underlying assumption in parametric testing (Lund and Lund, 2021). Many parametric tests are based on the assumption that the data follow a normal distribution; it is assumed that the samples' populations are normally distributed (Kithinji, 2015).

When these assumptions do not hold, any conclusion drawn from it cannot be said to be accurate and reliable. Normality test is based on the assumption that the value of interest (which is calculated from the sample) will exhibit a bell-curve distribution function if oodles of random samples are taken; the distribution of the calculated value (across samples) is plotted; the shape that is assumed by all of the parametric stats are discussed are *normal* (i. e., skew and kurtosis are both zero) (Mordkoff, 2016).

This study used Shapiro Wilk test to determine if the variables follow a normal distribution (Cooper & Schindler, 2016). The null-hypothesis for Shapiro Wilk test is that the population follows a normal distribution therefore, if the alpha level is 0.05 and the p-value is less than 0.05, then the null hypothesis that the data are normally distributed is rejected. If the p-value is less than 0.05, then the null hypothesis is not rejected since there is enough evidence that the data is not normally distributed. From the findings in Table 4.13, the results obtained from the Shapiro Wilk test show that all the variables had a p-value greater than 0.05, meaning that all the variables involved follow a normal distribution. This can be concluded that the residual value is normally distributed so that the regression analysis procedures have been fulfilled.

Table 4.13: Normality Test

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	Df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
Studentized Residual	0.040	250	0.200*	0.994	250	0.501

NB: 0.501 is greater than 0.05.

Furthermore, the normal probability plot is a graphical technique for assessing whether or not a data set is approximately normally distributed. Departures from this straight line indicate departures from normality.

The Durbin-Watson estimate is 1.601, which lies between 1.5 and 2.5. Therefore, there is no relationship between the residual variable and the independent variable and the assumption that there is independence of errors (there is no relationship between the independent variables and the residual variable) is satisfied.

4.6.1.3. Outliers Test

An outlier may be described as any observation far from the rest of other observation. The presence of outlier in any given data may make the data not to assume the normality condition; it is therefore important to test the presence of outliers in any

given data and even remove them to satisfy the normality condition (Mboya, Were, and Odhiambo, 2019). In this study, the outliers presented were shown in graph 4.2 in appendix III. There are no circles or asterisks on either end of the box plot; hence this is a clear indication that there are no outliers present.

4.6.1.4. Heteroscedasticity Test

Heteroscedasticity, as often found in psychological or behavioural data, may result from misspecification due to overlooked nonlinear predictor terms or to unobserved predictors not included in the model, outliers in the data, or an incorrectly specified model equation (Klein, 2016).

Breuch-pagan/cook-Weisberg test was used to test for Heteroscedasticity. According to this test, if the square test statistic with p degrees of freedom is greater than 0.05 (Prob > Chi-squared), it suggests existence of homoscedasticity in the model (Park, 2018); on the contrary, the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that heteroscedasticity is present. The findings presented in Table 4.19 indicate a Chi2 (1.3020) has p-value of 0.3130 which is greater than 0.05. This therefore concludes to the fact that there is no heteroscedasticity.

Table 4.14: Breuch-Pagan/Cook-Weisberg Test

Ho: Constant variable			
Statistics	Df	Stat value	P-Value
Chi-squared	5	1.3020	.3130

Based on the scatterplot output above, the spots are diffused and do not form a clear specific pattern. It can be concluded that the regression model does not exhibit heteroscedasticity issues.

4.6.1.5. Linearity (Correlational Analysis) Tests

Linearity Test for Rule of Law

To find out whether there was linear relationship between Rule of law and sustainable peace, Pearson moment's correlation coefficients was used. The result of the finding is presented on Table 4.15. The result indicates that the variables rule of law and sustainable peace has a positive relationship indicated by a correlation coefficient value of .464 and p-value of .000<0.01. This suggests that there is a stronger linear positive and significant relationship between the two variables, which means that an increase in rule of law practice would lead to a linear increase in sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC.

Table 4.15: Linearity Test of Rule of law

		Rule of Law	Sustainable Peace
Rule of Law	Pearson	1	.464**
	Correlation		
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	250	250
Sustainable Peace	Pearson	.464**	1
	Correlation		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	250	250

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Other than product moment correlation coefficient, linearity was also tested using scatter plot between rule of law and sustainable peace and the result in Figure 4.3 in appendix III clearly indicated that there was linear relationship between Rule of Law and Sustainable Peace.

Linearity Test for Public Accountability

To find out whether there was linear relationship between Public Accountability and sustainable peace, Pearson moment's correlation coefficients was used. The result of the finding is presented on Table 4.16. The result indicates that the variables public Accountability and Sustainable Peace has a positive and significant relationship indicated by a correlation coefficient value of .562 and a p- value of .000<.001. This

means that an increase in public Accountability would lead to a linear increase in sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC.

Table 4.16: Linearity Test for Public Accountability

		Sustainable Peace	Public Accountability
Sustainable Peace	Pearson Correlation	1	.562**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	250	250
Public Accountability	Pearson Correlation	.562**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	250	250

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Other than product moment correlation coefficient, linearity was also tested using scatter plot between public accountability and sustainable peace and the result in figure 4.4 in appendix III clearly indicated that there was linear relationship between public accountability and sustainable peace.

Linearity Test for Government Responsiveness

To find out whether there was linear relationship between Government responsiveness and sustainable peace, Pearson moment's correlation coefficients was used. The results of the findings are presented on Table 4.17. The results indicates that the variables Government responsiveness and Sustainable Peace have a positive and significant relationship indicated by a correlation coefficient value of .763 and p-value de $.000 < 0.01$. This suggested that there is a linear positive relationship between the two variables which means that an increase in government responsiveness would lead to a linear increase in sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC.

Table 4.17: Linearity Test for Government Responsiveness

		Sustainable Peace	Government Responsiveness
Sustainable Peace	Pearson Correlation	1	.763**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	250	250
Government Responsiveness	Pearson Correlation	.763**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	250	250

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Other than product moment correlation coefficient, linearity was also tested using scatter plot between government responsiveness and sustainable peace and the result in figure 4.5 in appendix III clearly indicated that there was linear relationship between government responsiveness and sustainable peace.

Linearity Test for Government Effectiveness

To find out whether there was linear relationship between Government effectiveness and sustainable peace, Pearson moment's correlation coefficients was used. The result of the finding is presented on table 4.18. The result indicates that the variables government effectiveness and sustainable Peace has a positive and significant relationship indicated by a correlation coefficient value of .766 and a p- value of $.000 \leq .001$. This suggested that there was a linear positive relationship between the two variables, which means that an increase in Government effectiveness would lead to a linear increase in sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC.

Table 4.18: Linearity Test for Effectiveness

		Sustainable Peace	Government Effectiveness
Sustainable Peace	Pearson Correlation	1	.766**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	250	250
Government Effectiveness	Pearson Correlation	.766**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	250	250

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Other than product moment correlation coefficient, linearity was also tested using scatter plot between government effectiveness and sustainable peace and the result in figure 4.6 in appendix III clearly indicated that there was linear relationship between government effectiveness and sustainable peace.

Linearity Test for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

To find out whether there was linear relationship between Conflict resolution mechanisms and sustainable peace, Pearson moment's correlation coefficients was used. The result of the finding is presented on Table 4.19. The result indicates that the variables Conflict resolution mechanisms and Sustainable Peace has a positive strong relationship indicated by a correlation coefficient value of .798 and a p- value of .000<.001. This suggested that there is a linear, strong, positive and significant relationship between the two variables, which means that an increase in conflict resolution mechanisms would lead to a linear increase in sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC.

Table 4.19: Linearity Test for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

		Sustainable Peace	Conflict Resolution Mechanisms
Sustainable Peace	Pearson	1	.798**
	Correlation		
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	250	250
Conflict Resolution Mechanisms	Pearson	.798**	1
	Correlation		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	250	250

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Other than product moment correlation coefficient, linearity was also tested using scatter plot between conflict resolution and sustainable peace and the result in figure 4.7 in appendix III clearly indicated that there was linear relationship between government effectiveness and sustainable peace.

In summary, the linearity test (correlation analysis) confirms that all the four independent and moderating variables of the model have a positive and significant relationship with the dependent variable, which means that the increase in rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness, government effectiveness and effective application of conflict resolution mechanisms would lead to a linear increased in sustainable peace in North Kivu Province.

4.6.2. Combined Correlation Analysis for Independent Variables

This was tested to check whether the independent variables relate with one another and one way of doing this is by testing multicollinearity. The combined correlation of the four independent variables namely rule of law (RL), public accountability (PA), government responsiveness (GR) and government effectiveness (GE) was computed to determine the strength and direction of the associations between variables. Pearson product moment correlation coefficient (r 's) was used.

The correlation coefficients were summarized in Table 4.20. Findings indicate that rule of law has a positive and weak relationship with government responsiveness ($r=0.265$, $n=250$ $p = 0.000$); public accountability has a positive and weak relationship with rule of law ($r=0.368$, $n=250$, $p= .000$), government responsiveness ($r=.379$, $n=250$, $p= .000$). Furthermore, government responsiveness also has positive and weak relationship with rule of law ($r=.265$, $n=250$, $p= .000$), with public accountability ($r=.379$, $n=250$, $p= .000$). Finally, government effectiveness also has positive and weak relationship with rule of law ($r= .104$, $n=250$, $p= .102$) with public accountability ($r=.268$, $n=250$, $p= .000$) as well as with government responsiveness ($r=.261$, $n=250$, $p= .000$).

All the independent variables have a positive and significant relationship with one another considering that all the p-values were less than .01 that is p-values $.000 < .01$, except between government effectiveness and rule of law (p value=.102). Findings also revealed no problem of multicollinearity among the variables since all the R-values were less than 0.8 as suggested by Enders (2023).

Table 4.20: Combined Correlation Analysis for Independent Variables

		RL	PA	GR	GE
RL	Pearson Correlation	1	.368**	.265**	.104
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.102
	N	250	250	250	250
PA	Pearson Correlation	.368**	1	.379**	.268**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.000
	N	250	250	250	250
GR	Pearson Correlation	.265**	.379**	1	.261**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.000
	N	250	250	250	250
GE	Pearson Correlation	.104	.268**	.261**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.102	.000	.000	
	N	250	250	250	250

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

4.6.3. Multivariate Regression Analysis

Grant, Hickey, Head (2019) define multivariable regression as models that are used to establish the relationship between a dependent variable and more than 1 independent variable that can be used for a variety of different purposes in research studies. The four independent variables were considered together (one equation) as predictors of sustainable peace. A multiple linear regression model was used to test the significance of the influence of the independent variables on the dependent variable. This study sought to examine whether rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness and government effectiveness and conflict resolution mechanisms influence sustainable peace.

The Table 4.21 shows the analysis of the fitness of the model used in the study. The results indicated that the overall model was satisfactory as it was supported by coefficient of determination also known as the R-square of 0.768. This means that all the independent variables explain 76.8% of the variations in the dependent variable.

Table 4.21: Overall Model Fitness

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.879 ^a	0.773	0.768	0.32728	1.601

a. Predictors: (Constant), Rule of law, Public Accountability, Government Responsiveness, Government Effectiveness and Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

b. Dependent Variable: Sustainable Peace

4.6.4. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

The analysis of Variance was tested to know whether the model above was good or not good enough, in other words, it was to tell whether X_1 , X_2 , X_3 , X_4 and Z collectively affect Y (Sustainable peace). To explain whether the factors affect sustainable peace collectively, the Table 4.22 provided the results on the analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The results indicated that the overall model was statistically significant. This meant that all the independent variables (Rule of law, Public Accountability, Government responsiveness, Government effectiveness and conflict resolution mechanisms) are good predictors of sustainable peace. This was supported by an F calculated of 165.723 and the reported p value (.000) which was less than the conventional probability of 0.05 significance level. These results suggested that the independent variables are good predictors of Sustainable Peace.

Table 4.22: ANOVA^a

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	88.753	5	17.751	165.723	.000 ^b
Residual	26.135	244	0.107		
Total	114.887	250			

a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable Peace

b. Predictors: (Constant), Government Effectiveness, Rule of Law, Conflict Resolution Mechanisms, Public Accountability, Government Responsiveness

The research model was therefore as follows:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + Z + e$$

Where,

Y = is Sustainable peace

β_0 = is constant (coefficient of intercept)

X_1 = is rule of Law

X_2 = is public Accountability

X_3 = is government responsiveness

X_4 = is government effectiveness

Z = is conflict Resolution mechanisms

ε = is error term

$H_0: \beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4, \beta_5 = 0$

$H_a: \beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4, \beta_5 \neq 0$

From the ANOVA table, the P-value is ≤ 0.05 hence we reject the null hypothesis. The model is fit and the five independent variables Rule of Law, public accountability, government responsiveness, government effectiveness and conflict Resolution Mechanisms explain the variance independent 76.8% from the adjusted R Square. This means that 76.8% of the changes in sustainable peace could be attributed to the combined effect of the predictor variables. However, 23.2% of the variance is explained by other factors not covered in the study.

4.6.5. β - Coefficients

This was done to know the individual effect (rate of change) of each independent variable on sustainable peace. Regression of coefficients results in Table 4.33 shows that there was a positive and significant relationship between sustainable peace (dependent variable) and rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness, government effectiveness and conflict resolution mechanisms.

The variable with the highest beta value contributes the most to explaining the dependent variable's variance, which is controlled by all other variables in the model, as shown in the Beta column beneath standardized coefficients (ignoring the negative sign). Conflict Resolution Mechanisms (0.405), followed by Government Effectiveness (0.280), Public Accountability (0.223), Government Responsiveness (0.171) and Rule of Law (0.044) is the most significant factor in the standardized beta coefficients column. These results show that a change in rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness, government effectiveness and conflict resolution mechanisms will definitely lead to a positive change in sustainable peace in North Kivu Province.

Table 4.23: Overall Regression Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	0.001	0.118		0.011	0.991
	Conflict Resolution Mechanisms	0.329	0.038	0.405	8.639	0.000
	Rule of Law	-0.053	0.054	0.044	-0.980	0.032
	Public Accountability	0.249	0.051	0.223	4.930	0.000
	Government Responsiveness	0.157	0.050	0.171	3.153	0.002
	Government Effectiveness	0.325	0.060	0.280	5.418	0.000

a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable Peace

From the above results, the optimal model was retained as follows:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1$$

$$X_1 + E \dots \dots \dots \text{Equation 1}$$

1

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_2 X_2 +$$

$$E \dots \dots \dots \text{Equation 2}$$

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_3 X_3 +$$

E.....Equation 3

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_4 X_4 +$$

E.....Equation 4

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_5 Z +$$

E.....Equation 5

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_0 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_0 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_0 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_0 + Z +$$

E.....Equation 6

Where:

Y: is sustainable peace

X₁: is rule of law

X₂: is public Accountability

X₃: is government responsiveness

X₄: is government effectiveness

Z: is conflict resolution mechanisms

Explanation:

B₀ = is Constant

B₁ = is the regression coefficient of X₁

B₂ = is the regression coefficient of X₂

B₃ = is the regression coefficient of X₃

B₄ = is the regression coefficient of X₄

B₅ = is the regression coefficient of Z

e = is the error term, the disturbance between 0 and 1

4.6.6. Tests of Research Hypotheses

The test of hypothesis is based on the research conceptualized framework with its corresponding null hypothesis. Linear regression analysis was carried out and the value of R, R², F ratio, t-values and p-values were obtained. The R-value shows the strength of the relationship between the variables, R² (coefficient of determination) value shows the extent to which variations in independent indicators explain indicators of the dependent variable (goodness of fit or explanatory power), t-values represent the significance of individual variables, Beta values show the effect of the

independent variable on the dependent variable (positive or negative) and p-values represents the confidence level at 95% or 0.05 significant level at which point a decision to confirm the hypothesis was made at values of F-ratio where $p < .05$. Based on SPSS analysis that provides p-values for every analysis, the rejection of the null hypothesis was based on the decision that if the p value is inferior to the level of significance ($p < .05$).

4.6.6.1. Hypothesis Testing (Ho₁): Rule of Law Does Not Have Significant Influence on Sustainable Peace in North Kivu Province, in DR Congo.

According to the first null hypothesis, rule of law does not have any significant influence on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC. The following formula was used:

$$Y_s = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \varepsilon_i$$

Where as

Y_s = is sustainable peace

X_1 = is rule of law

β_0 = is constant (coefficient of intercept)

ε = is error term

The analysis of Variance was tested to know whether the model above was good or not good enough, in other words, it was to tell whether X_1 (rule of law) affects Y (Sustainable peace). The Table 4.24 provided the results on the analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The results indicated that the overall model was statistically significant. This meant that the independent variable (rule of law) is a good predictor of sustainable peace. This was supported by an F calculated of 412.892 and the reported p value (.000) which was less than the conventional probability of 0.05 significance level. These results suggested that the independent variable is good predictor of Sustainable Peace. Ho₁ was therefore rejected and he research confirms that there is a significant relationship between rule of law and sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DR Congo.

Table 4.24: Testing of Ho₁

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	315.314	1	315.314	412.892	.000 ^b
	Residual	189.390	248	.764		
	Total	504.704	249			

a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable Peace

b. Predictor: (Constant), Rule of Law)

4.6.6.2. Hypothesis Testing (Ho₂): Public Accountability does not have Significant Influence on Sustainable Peace in North Kivu Province, in DR Congo

The second null hypothesis of the research stated that there is no significant relationship between public accountability and sustainable peace. The following formula was used to carry out the analysis:

$$Y_s = \beta_0 + \beta_2 X_2 + \epsilon_i$$

Whereas,

Y_s = is sustainable peace

X_2 = is public accountability

β_0 = is constant (coefficient of intercept)

ϵ = is error term

The analysis of Variance was tested to know whether the model above was good or not good enough, in other words, it was to tell whether X_2 (public accountability) affects Y (Sustainable peace). The Table 4.25 provided the results on the analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The results indicated that the overall model was statistically significant. This meant that the independent variable (public accountability) is a good predictor of sustainable peace. This was supported by an F calculated of 76.983 and the reported p value (.000) which was less than the conventional probability of 0.05 significance level. These results suggest that the independent variable is good predictor of Sustainable Peace. Ho_2 was therefore rejected and the research confirms that there

is a significant relationship between public accountability and sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC.

Table 4.25: Testing Ho₂

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	119.556	1	119.556	76.983	.000 ^b
	Residual	385.148	248	1.553		
	Total	504.704	249			

a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable Peace

b. Predictor: (Constant), Public accountability

4.6.6.3. Hypothesis Testing (Ho₃): government responsiveness does not have significant influence on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC

The third hypothesis stated that there is no government responsiveness does not have significant influence on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC. This section presents the regression analysis to test the hypothesis and provides a conclusion on whether to reject or fail to reject the third null hypothesis. Linear regression analysis was carried out using the following formula:

$$Y_s = \beta_0 + \beta_3 X_3 + \varepsilon_i$$

Whereas,

Y_s = is sustainable peace

X_3 = is government responsiveness

β_0 = is constant (coefficient of intercept)

ε = is error term

The analysis of Variance was tested to know whether the model above was good or not good enough, in other words, it was to tell whether X_3 (government responsiveness) affects Y (Sustainable peace). The Table 4.26 provided the results on the analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The results indicated that the overall model was statistically significant. This meant that the independent variable (government responsiveness) is a good predictor of sustainable peace. This was supported by an F

calculated of 15.203 and the reported p value (.000) which was less than the conventional probability of 0.05 significance level. These results suggested that the independent variable is good predictor of Sustainable Peace. Ho₃ was therefore also rejected and the research confirms that there is a significant relationship between government responsiveness and sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC.

Table 4.26: Testing of Ho₃

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	29.152	1	29.152	15.203	.000 ^b
	Residual	475.552	248	1.918		
	Total	504.704	249			

a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable peace

b. Predictors: (Constant), Government responsiveness.

4.6.6.4. Hypothesis Testing (Ho₄): government effectiveness does not have significant influence on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC.

The fourth null hypothesis the study tested was that government effectiveness does not have significant influence on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC.

Regression analysis was carried out using the following formula:

$$Y_s = \beta_0 + \beta_4 X_4 + \varepsilon_i$$

Whereas,

Y_s = is Sustainable peace

X_4 = is Government effectiveness

β_0 = is constant (coefficient of intercept)

ε = is error term

The analysis of Variance was also tested to know whether the model above was good or not good enough, in other words, it was to tell whether X_4 (government effectiveness) affects Y (Sustainable peace). The Table 4.27 provided the results on the analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The results indicated that the overall model was

statistically significant. This meant that the independent variable (government effectiveness) is a good predictor of sustainable peace. This was supported by an F calculated of 12.039 and the reported p value (.001) which was less than the conventional probability of 0.05 significance level. These results suggested that the independent variable is good predictor of Sustainable Peace. Ho₃ was therefore also rejected and the research confirms that there is a significant relationship between government effectiveness and sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in DRC.

Table 4.27: Testing of Ho₄

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	23.367	1	23.367	12.039	.001 ^b
	Residual	481.337	248	1.941		
	Total	504.704	249			

a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable peace

b. Predictors: (Constant), Government effectiveness.

4.6.6.5. Testing of Hypothesis 5 (H₀₅): Conflict Resolution Mechanisms do not Moderate Governance Practices and Sustainable Peace in North Kivu Province, in DR Congo

The fifth and last hypothesis of the study sought to establish the moderate significance relationship between conflict resolution mechanisms and sustainable. The research argues that beside the four governance practices (rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness and government effectiveness) that have significant influence on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, the latter is also depended on conflict resolution processes. The aim of this hypothesis was to establish how the relationship between government practices and sustainable peace is moderated by conflict resolution processes. The testing of hypothesis is expressed using the following regression model; $Y_s = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Z_1 + \epsilon_i$

Whereas,

Y= is Sustainable peace

a = is constant

β_1 = is Beta coefficient

Z_1 = is Conflict resolution mechanisms

e = is error term

Correlation coefficient (r) and the coefficient of determination (R-square) were determined. The value of R squared (0.24) suggest that organizational structure explains 24 % the variance of the respondents score in sustainable peace. With the F ratio at $F(6.124) = 61.24$ and $p = 0.014$, this implies that the relationship between conflict resolution and sustainable peace is significant. This implies also that the study rejects the fifth hypothesis and conclude that a part from the four independent variables of the study, sustainable peace in North Kivu is significantly depends on the need for the government to resolve the conflict using different mechanisms in particular negotiation and medication processes.

This means that sustainable peace in North Kivu Province in DRC is subject to resolving conflicts on one hand and on the other hand, the need for the government to respect the supremacy of the law, to be accountable, responsive and effective in carrying its regalian responsibility towards ensuring peace and development for the people of North Kivu Province, in DRC.

Table 4.28. Linear Regression Analysis between Conflict Resolution and Sustainable Peace

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	12.064	1	12.064	6.124	.014 ^b
	Residual	484.629	246	1.970		
	Total	496.694	247			

a. Dependent Variable: Sustainable peace

b. Predictors: (Constant), Conflict resolution mechanisms

In conclusion, the testing of the five hypotheses reveals significant relationship between the dependent and moderating variables and the dependent variable. This implies that sustainable peace in North Kivu Province significantly depends on the need for the government to respect supremacy of the law, to be accountable, responsive

and effective on one hand and also the need for it to sustainably resolve conflicts within the province, confirming the application of the five research theories.

Table 4.29: Summary of Hypotheses Rejected

Hypothesis	F	Sig value	Decision
Ho ₁ : Rule of law has significant influence on sustainable peace	412.892	.000	Fail to accept
Ho ₂ : Public Accountability has no significant influence on sustainable	76.983	.000	Fail to accept
Ho ₃ : government responsiveness has not significant influence on sustainable peace	15.203	.000	Fail to accept
Ho ₄ : Government effectiveness has no significant influence on sustainable peace	12.039	.001	Fait to accept
Ho ₅ : Conflict resolution mechanisms has no moderating influence on the relationship between governance practices and sustainable peace	6.124	.014	Fail to accept

4.7. Discussions

The study examined the influence of governance practices on sustainable peace in North Kivu, in the DRC. It focused on four governance practices, namely, rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness and government effectiveness as its independent variables, and conflict resolution mechanism as its moderating variable.

From its background, the study has clearly shown the relationship that exists between governance and sustainable peace. Many studies concur on the same. A study by Yoshihiro (2021) corroborates the same and emphasizes that good governance can crucially ensure that peace lasts by addressing root causes of tension and making sure that all citizens feel that their needs and interests are fairly represented. Confirming the same, UNDP Report (2020) explains that building peace is about much more than

ending war. It is about putting in place the institutions and trust that will strengthen the social contract and carry people forward into a peaceful future.

One Earth Future Foundation Report (2024) also concurs and elaborates that governance systems that contribute to stable peace are characterized by having inclusive means of operating, participatory systems that bring the governed into the process of decision making, systems for accountability that ensure transparent and equitable operations, and enough systemic capacity that they are able to provide physical security and public goods supporting human development. They further reiterate that, when all of these elements are present, they form a mutually reinforcing virtuous cycle that reduces the risk of violence, the core at which achieving this lies the key element of leadership.

Fulop and Ramsay (2023) confirm the same and explain that leadership may be seen as a key component of a governance system, acting both to influence and facilitate that system. Furthermore, leadership plays an important role in good governance and this is more evident for countries that are in the process of development. Optimistic goals are set and pursued with strategic vision and planning. Through actions and personal influence leadership is a resource of good governance. However, all leadership does not end up with the best cake. In order to achieve good governance, it is therefore vital, that leadership has the essential qualities to build and sustain it.

For leadership to be effective, it is required, inter alia, skills, attributes, experience and achievement as these are instrumental in affecting valuable changes, establishing and setting the tone and standards of good governance (Fulop and Ramsay, 2023). The research findings reveal that essential qualities of leadership are lacking in North Kivu Province, in DRC.

The first objective of the research determined the influence of rule of law on sustainable peace. Both descriptive and inference analysis have confirmed that rule of law has a significant influence on sustainable peace. The respondents do recognize the importance of rule of law in reestablishing and sustaining peace in the province. Both correlational analysis and regression analysis also indicated a positive and significant

relationship between the two variables, leading to the rejection of the research hypothesis and confirming the application of rule of law theory.

Many researches corroborate with these findings. UNODC (2024) concurs and notes that a solid and legitimate rule of law system protects the human rights of people, holds power accountable, prevents violent crime and provides fair and legitimate avenues to resolve conflict; in societies where the rule of law does not exist, there is a greater tendency towards violence and social insecurity. Shinoda (2024) is of the same view and posits that “the rule of law is key to coordinating peace operations, or peace-building activities in particular, in post-conflict regions; its application describes a situation in which people respect the fundamental rights of others, offering greater stability to the society as a whole; the rule of law is normally understood to be an ideal that provides both justice and order as well as individual freedom and social stability”.

However, further analysis of descriptive analysis indicates that the DRC government falls short in upholding the principle of rule of law in North Kivu Province. The lack of adherence to the rule of law in North Kivu Province is not conducive to achieving sustainable peace, as the chosen indicators (supremacy of law, equality before the law, separation of powers and transparent legal processes and proceedings) are not found to be applicable or effective. The supremacy of law is ineffective in North Kivu Province, as laws are frequently disregarded and often remain unenforced, resulting in a climate of impunity. The citizens of the province are not equal before the law, as many exhibit behaviors that suggests they are immune from legal consequences. Additionally, despite the constitutional provision for a separation of powers, in practice, both the judiciary and legislature are constantly under the influence of the executive branch.

The research uncovers a conspicuous deficiency in the application and adherence to the rule of law within the province. Identified factors contributing to the disparate and preferential application of the rule of law in North Kivu Province encompass, among other issues, a disregard for laws and policies, widespread corruption, clientelism, manipulation of the judicial system by politicians, and inadequate salaries. Separation

of power and independence of the judicial system as provided by Article 147 of the constitution is only on paper.

For instance, the judiciary is marred by corruption and susceptible to both influence and intimidation. Government officials and other influential individuals frequently exert pressure on judges, prosecutors, or defense attorneys. The findings align with Refworld (2023) and the US Department of State (2023) which notes that, inasmuch as there is a provision within the law for the judiciary to operate independently, there exists frequent interference of the judiciary by the executive branch in the administration of justice. The independence of the judiciary has been compromised due to several factors, including the judiciary's limited economic autonomy and the pervasive influence of executive and legislative authorities over the judiciary. The pervasive corruption among judges and magistrates has worsened the situation significantly. This corruption is frequently enabled by exceedingly low salaries or, in some cases, the total absence of any salary.

Additionally, government allies often enjoy impunity for their transgressions. The courts display inconsistent adjudication of justice for severe crimes or killings committed in the province. The persisting inefficacy of the rule of law significantly contributes to the absence of sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. The findings corroborates with Donner, Hartmann, Härterich, and Steinkamp (2023) who note that the North Kivu judicial system is one of the least financed services in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with the bulk of operating expenses borne by litigants. Throughout the nation, the judiciary functions within structures dating back to the colonial era, where inadequate working facilities create poor working conditions, which in turn, foster the proliferation of informal fees and subject litigants to extortion, racketeering, and corruption.

Such circumstances give rise to significant issues such as: the high cost associated with accessing justice and a perceived lack of professionalism and credibility in judgments, which are often viewed as biased towards the affluent and those with connections to power (Donner, *et al*, 2023). Lastly, legal processes and proceedings lack transparency, further undermining the rule of law in the region. From the findings, the

study concludes that ineffective application of rule of law continues to contribute to lack of sustainable peace in North Kivu Province.

Besides being not respected and upheld, the rule of law is applied unequally and with favor in North Kivu Province contributing to recurrence of insecurity, impunity and human rights violations. Freedom House confirms that courts have inconsistently provided justice for killings or other severe crimes in recent years and have failed to provide justice for victims of police killings or massacres in the Beni territory in North Kivu Province that have together resulted in over 3,000 civilian deaths over the past six years (Freedom House, 2023).

The second objective of the study established the influence of public accountability on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. Public accountability is understood as the public sector in North Kivu Province demonstrating its competence, reliability, and honesty in a way that allows the public to judge its trustworthiness in using public money and resources (Mana, 2019). Findings from descriptive and inferential analysis confirms the significant relationship between public accountability and sustainable peace as findings have rejected the research null hypothesis and confirmed the application of stewardship theory. This means that an increase in public accountability would lead to a linear increase in sustainable peace in North Kivu Province in DRC.

These findings concur with One Earth Future Foundation Report (2024) which notes that systems for accountability that ensure that rules apply equally to all governed citizens contribute to peace; ensuring transparency about governance decision making processes and distribution of resources is an important part of accountability. Ike and Rowland's (2020) study in Nigeria underscored the critical role of accountability for good governance and pointed out the centrality of professional accountants in enhancing accountability in governance; their study argued that peace is desirable in every human society and is pursued through mechanisms which include accountability.

Findings from descriptive analysis on the other hand revealed a low indication of public accountability being upheld in North Kivu Province. The DRC government is failing in its role of being a good steward towards sustainable peace due to a severe

lack of transparency and fairness with the public administration that has led to a deep mistrust of government institutions exacerbated by impunity, whereby public servants are accountable to those who nominated them rather than to the local community.

The selected indicators for accountability therefore do not meet the threshold to confirm that the government is sufficiently accountable in North Kivu Province as most of its indicators are lacking. Lee-Jones (2020) concurs and reports that the DRC has experienced violence and extensive abuses of power; bribery, lack of political integrity, and weak oversight institutions worsen clientele politics, rent-seeking and instability throughout the country. Kizaliwa (2019) confirms the same and posits that recurrent abuse of public affairs power for private benefit and corruption continue to weaken country leaders' power to manage everyday affairs; it also reduces the implementation of law in the country; in fact, it develops the culture of impunity and while all public officials in DRC are bound by an ethical code of conduct, however, if violated, there is no establishment or mechanism to report to; while sanctions are provided for in the code of ethics of public officials, these are rarely applied. This absence of public accountability and total impunity not only within the public administration but also within the community significantly contributes to lawlessness and to a greater extent to lack of peace.

The third objective of this study established the influence of government responsiveness on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. An evaluation of both descriptive and inference analysis revealed a positive and significant relationship between the two variables, leading to the rejection of the research third hypothesis and the confirmation of the functionalism theory. This means that an increase in government responsiveness would lead to a linear increase in sustainable peace in North Kivu Province in DRC.

The findings concur with Linde and Peters (2020) who argue that "when government policies are seen to reflect people's ideas and preferences, those governments may indeed be evaluated positively, thus, people are more likely to express support for the political system when responsiveness is high; a government that manages to act in accordance with the preferences of a majority of the citizens should thus be

increasingly perceived as worthy of support and could therefore be perceived as enjoying a high degree of legitimacy”.

The findings are also supported by Novikova and Liebert (2021) who posit that “the perception of government responsiveness is particularly important in building active and engaged citizenry”. This means that the more the DRC government is responsive in good quality and regular service delivery without any discrimination while considering citizens’ feedback or complaints, the more it will be considered worthy of support and will enjoy a high degree of legitimacy in North Kivu Province.

However, further analysis of descriptive data reveals the opposite. The composite mean for government responsiveness was 2.55 and an S.D of 1.252, which shows a low indication that governance practice of responsiveness is being upheld by the DRC government in North Kivu Province. The four indicators are not met in the context of North Province. In other words, the national and provincial governments are failing in as far as the practice of responsiveness is concerned. Government services are conspicuously absent across the entire province, not to mention that the local community lacks access to these services, and even in cases where they are available, not only are they not delivered in a timely manner but are also administered in a discriminatory fashion.

Furthermore, the citizens do not participate in decision making, in planning and other public processes and as a result, feedback is not sought, neither is it responded to. The theory of stewardship is not applicable in the DRC where the government, through its agencies, is not playing its role of a good steward in putting in place strategies, resources and agencies that should work with the community in order to urgently and timely respond to their needs. Many literatures confirm these findings.

An empirical study by Henn, Lameke, Mugaruka, and Tanutama (2023) confirms the above and elaborates more on reasons of irresponsiveness on the side of the DRC government. Their research found that, “while government agents are found on the ground, they face significant challenges due to a lack of financial support, as only a half of them receive a salary, and those who do, receive a meager compensation and rely on local resources to supplement their income. Combined with a lack of

democratic accountability and insularity of many localities, this absence of structural support has presumably led to a predatory state, widespread corruption and the near non-existence of service delivery. As a result, government agents are unable to expand the state and provide essential services to the population due to a scarcity of resources” (Henn et al, 2023). USAID Report (2020) corroborates with the same and notes that “despite abundant natural and human resources, the DRC has failed to realize its potential due to weak institutions, instability, and a government that is neither sufficiently accountable nor responsive to its citizens”.

This situation, in turn, contributes to lawlessness and the absence of peace, as numerous armed groups assume the roles and, at times, the responsibilities of the state, imposing their own laws and regulations in lieu of government authority. In many areas of North Kivu Province where private entities hold sway, the rule of the jungle becomes the prevailing order of the day.

Under the fourth objective, the study assessed the influence of government effectiveness on sustainable peace in consideration of four indicators; namely, ability to maintain law and order, effective implementation of government decisions, cost-effective service delivery and the involvement of citizens in decision-making processes. Inferential analysis confirmed the positive and significant relationship that exists between government effectiveness and sustainable peace. An increase in government effectiveness contributes to a linear increment in sustainable peace.

The findings concur with many studies including Oshewolo’s (2018) who explains that regions and countries, which have adopted and implemented governance practices, enjoy sustainable peace compared to those that have not. On the contrary, countries without adequate governing capacities are more likely to experience armed violence; the consequences include recurrent civil war, human insecurity, proliferation of organized armed groups and rebellions against the state.

The findings also concur with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2023) which argues that many positive outcomes, including sustainable peace can arise

where there is effective governance, characterized by capable implementation, sound policy processes and separation of powers along with high levels of political participation. The study therefore agreed on the importance of effectiveness towards achieving sustainable peace, confirming the application of the functionalism theory.

Nonetheless, an examination of descriptive statistics reveals that the government of North Kivu Province is struggling in terms of maintaining a competent civil service, army and national police that can effectively implement decisions and policies, and provide security as it appears to lack a results-oriented approach. The European Commission Report (2023) corroborates with the findings and explains that “the sheer number of crimes committed has overwhelmed the Congolese justice system, beset by challenges in investigating offences and carrying out successful prosecutions.

In addition, fighting continues to leave some regions isolated, while victims and witnesses are not only unprotected from armed attackers, but also unable to access justice. This reality undermines public trust and confidence in the authorities’ ability and effectiveness to render justice.”

Moreover, in instances where public services are offered, they are often of subpar quality. All respondents fully agreed that the DRC government is not effective, as it is unable to carry out its mission of fulfilling its promises and as a result, the members of the community have minimal trust in the government.

The findings agreed with reports from Stiftung (2022) who reported that the DRC has a long record of failing to implement policies; structural constraints such as the unsuitability of skilled personnel in certain strategic positions, poor infrastructure, and inadequate budgets seriously hamper the implementation of even the most basic of measures.

Moreover, while the Congolese government has launched numerous programs in recent years, initiatives which often lack a clear strategic vision, as the policies they seek to implement are not rooted in established evidence. Despite the numerous donor-funded capacity-building programs, the DRC does not have an institutional framework for policy learning (Stiftung, 2022).

The key driving factors contributing to government ineffectiveness include; incompetence, corruption, a lack of political will, delayed or absent payment for civil servants, nepotism, lack of accountability, and infiltration of public institutions,

notably, the army, which is infiltrated by foreigners, including foreign armed forces. From the perspective of functionalism theory, the DRC government in North Province is failing in its mission in terms of achieving its purpose of planning and directing society, meeting social needs, maintaining law and order, and managing international relations (Trueman, 2022).

The fifth and last objective of the study established the moderating effect of conflict resolution mechanisms on governance practices and sustainable peace. Findings revealed a positive and significant relationship between conflict resolution mechanisms and sustainable peace, rejecting the research fifth null hypothesis. This means that an increase in resolving the conflict through mediation and negotiation processes would lead to a linear increase in sustainable peace in North Kivu Province in DRC. Besides, as acknowledged by the respondents, sustainable peace in North Kivu province in DRC is achievable.

Furthermore, analysis from β – Coefficients indicates that Conflict Resolution Mechanisms, which is the variable with the highest beta value, contributes the most to explaining the dependent variable's variance, which controls all other variables in the model. Conflict Resolution Mechanisms (0.405), followed by Government Effectiveness (0.280), Public Accountability (0.223), Government Responsiveness (0.171) and Rule of Law (0.044) is the most significant factor in the standardized beta coefficients column. This means that in order to achieve sustainable peace there is need first of all to seek to resolve the conflict in North Kivu Province, In DRC.

The need to quickly resolve the conflict is echoed by Life Peace Institute Report (2024) which explains the conflict in North Kivu as “a long history of tensions and violence as a result of profound lack of trust between communities, and between communities and political authorities” and which has seen the involvement of neighboring countries such as Rwanda through M23 movement and other international armed groups. Hoinathy (2023) confirms the same and explains that, considering the complexity of the conflicts that are deeply rooted in historical, local, national and regional grievances, there is need for immediate, well-coordinated and aligned responses to the conflict. While the importance and need to quickly resolve this conflict is acknowledged, peace processes have not yielded any positive outcome as fighting still

continues on and many people displaced. Hoinathy (2023) confirms the same and notes that “Eastern DRC peace processes have missed the mark”.

Lack of a positive outcome is due to a combination of both internal and external factors. Internally, challenges related to governance were emphasized with respect to implementing peace process agreements. Specifically, factors such as a lack of political will and the state's limited capacity for governance were highlighted as primary reasons for the inability of various peace processes to achieve sustainable peace. The government of the DRC was perceived as inadequately addressing the issues raised and discussed within different peace processes, demonstrating weaknesses in establishing the necessary plans and mechanisms to respond effectively.

Getting involved in peace processes is one good thing, but putting in place mechanisms to ensure that resolutions passed are fully implemented is another key thing that is lacking from the side of the DRC government. Expanding on internal challenges, N’Gambwa (2019) explains that “the DRC leadership has been lacking three attributes of the utmost importance to the country’s welfare: a real vision for the DRC’s future, the competence and ability to execute the vision, and the character needed to ensure the realization of the vision with sound judgment, integrity, and equity; the country record regarding good governance principles is poor as it is known for the mismanagement of its resources, the incompetence of its leadership, and corruption”.

External factors on the other hand also persistently continue to work against the achievement of sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, despite the various peace processes. These factors are closely tied to the exploitation of natural resources, which both internal and external actors seek to benefit from. The proliferation of local and international armed groups and the recurrent incursions of the Rwandan and Ugandan armies are motivated by gaining access to different regions and zones rich in natural resources in North Kivu Province.

The full implementation of peace agreements would hinder these local, regional, and international actors from accessing the natural resources they desire. International and regional interference, especially by neighboring countries and multinational corporations suggests that there might be an interest in keeping the region in a state of turmoil to maintain access to its natural resources. Infiltration of the army and the

National Police by elements from neighboring countries was highlighted as another reason, as it is believed to hinder government efforts to achieve social order, security, and peace in the province.

Ahere (2020) provides a detailed explanation in regards to these external factors. The organization explains that, “almost all stages of the DRC peace process have been characterized by the involvement of external actors who have played critical roles which have at times been helpful and at times destructive. Many countries and militant groups were directly involved in the conflicts in the DRC. Most, if not all, of these parties had strong preferences regarding the outcome of the transitional arrangements. This is because all these countries were motivated to be part of the war by particular interests, which necessitated their follow-up to ensure that the ensuing peace accords reflected these interests. With the many parties and diverse interests involved, negotiating a representative settlement became challenging” (Ahere, 2020).

On the same, Maianhi (2023) notes that “Eastern DRC is rich in minerals with minerals such as tin, tungsten, tantalum, and gold which attracted foreign interest from Uganda and Rwanda which continue to back rebel factions - including M23 – to control strategic but informal supply chains running from mines in the Kivu into the two countries.”

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Introduction

The study examined the influence of governance practices on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, in the DRC. Specifically, it looked at the influence of rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness, government effectiveness and conflict resolution mechanisms on sustainable peace. This chapter summarizes the research data and the statistical analysis carried out. It discusses the findings in relation to the specific objectives and assesses the meaning of the results by evaluating and interpreting them. Finally, the chapter provides conclusions related directly to the specific objectives. The recommendations refer to the suggestions for further study. Each recommendation traces directly to each variable.

5.2. Summary of the Findings

In North Kivu Province, the research discerned that the absence of sustainable peace primarily stems from the DRC government's incapacity to implement governance practices such as the rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness, and government effectiveness. Data were collected in the city of Goma, employing a random sampling approach to select the research respondents from diverse sectors, including academicians, the judiciary/advocates, university students, non-governmental organizations, the business community, civil society, and local citizens. Administered questionnaires were utilized alongside open-ended questions. The response rate was found adequate for analysis. The instrument underwent pilot testing, and reliability and validity analyses were conducted using Cronbach's Alpha Formula.

This confirmed the conceptual framework of this study. Statistical analysis was executed using SPSS version 24, encompassing diagnostic tests to identify data anomalies. Qualitative data underwent content analysis, and the data was organized into themes and categories. Quantitative data were operationalized for analysis, involving descriptive and inferential statistics. Scatter plots were visually inspected for

linear regression relationships, followed by linear regression to ascertain the magnitude and direction of the relationship. Multiple regression was used to test the combined effect of all the independent variables to the dependent variable; this was followed by β -Coefficients that revealed that the four independent and moderating variables contribute positively to the dependent variable (sustainable peace). The research null hypothesis were rejected, unveiling the ensuing research findings and relevance and application of the study theories.

5.2.1. Rule of Law

The results validate that the rule of law shares a positive relationship with sustainable peace. Correlational analysis indicates a noteworthy positive relationship between the two variables. This implies that an enhancement in the rule of law would result in a proportional improvement in sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, aligning with the principles of the rule of law theory. However, both qualitative and quantitative findings concurrently emphasize the inadequacy of the rule of law in North Kivu Province.

The research uncovers a conspicuous deficiency in the application and adherence to the rule of law within the province. Identified factors contributing to the disparate and preferential application of the rule of law in North Kivu Province encompass, among other issues. Additionally, government allies often enjoy impunity for their transgressions. The courts display inconsistent adjudication of justice for severe crimes or killings committed in the province. The persisting inefficacy of the rule of law significantly contributes to the absence of sustainable peace in North Kivu Province.

5.2.2. Public Accountability

The outcomes under the second research objective affirm that public accountability exerts a positive influence on sustainable peace. Correlational analysis reveals a notable positive relationship between the two variables. This suggests that an augmentation in public accountability would result in a proportional improvement in sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, aligning with the tenets of the Stewardship Theory.

Nevertheless, both qualitative and quantitative findings concurrently underscore the deficiency in public accountability in North Kivu Province. The research exposes a significant dearth in the application of public accountability within the province. Noteworthy factors contributing to the unequal and biased application of public accountability in North Kivu Province encompass, among other issues, a disregard for laws and policies, widespread corruption, clientelism, manipulation of the judicial system by politicians, and inadequate salaries for government employees.

Moreover, it is revealed that government allies often enjoy impunity for their transgressions. Courts inconsistently deliver justice for severe crimes or killings committed in the province. The inefficacy of public accountability continues to contribute to the absence of sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. The DR Congo government's failure in its role as a good steward toward sustainable peace is attributed to a severe lack of transparency and fairness within the public administration. This has engendered deep mistrust of government institutions, exacerbated by a culture of impunity where public servants are answerable to those who appointed them rather than being accountable to the local community. Indicators for accountability fall below the threshold to confirm that the government is sufficiently accountable in North Kivu Province, as the retained indicators of public accountability under the study also exhibit deficiencies.

5.2.3. Government Responsiveness

Under the third objective, the research assessed the influence of government responsiveness on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. Correlational analysis also showed a very positive and significant relationship between the two variables. This means that sustainable peace significantly depends on how much the government is responsive in the province.

Furthermore, an increase in government responsiveness would lead to a linear increase in sustainable peace in North Kivu Province in DR Congo, confirming the application of Government Responsiveness theory. However, analyses conducted through both quantitative and qualitative methods suggest a limited adherence to the governance practice of responsiveness by the DR Congo government in North Kivu Province.

Both national and provincial governments appear to fall short in upholding the principle of responsiveness. Government services are noticeably lacking throughout the entire province, with the local community facing difficulties in accessing these services. Even when available, services are not only untimely but also administered in a discriminatory manner. Additionally, citizens are excluded from decision-making processes, planning, and other public proceedings, leading to a lack of sought-after feedback and responses.

This situation contributes to lawlessness and the absence of peace, as various armed groups often assume roles and responsibilities typically held by the state, imposing their own laws and regulations in the absence of government authority. In areas where private entities exert influence, a state of disorder akin to the law of the jungle prevails in many parts of North Kivu Province.

5.2.4. Government Effectiveness

The study conducted an evaluation of the impact of government effectiveness on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. Correlational analysis revealed an exceedingly positive and statistically significant relationship between the two variables. This signifies that the attainment of sustainable peace is profoundly contingent on the degree of government effectiveness within the province. Additionally, a rise in government effectiveness is projected to result in a proportional increase in sustainable peace in North Kivu Province in the DR Congo, affirming the application of the theory of functionality.

However, a scrutiny of descriptive statistics unveils a discouraging indication of the DR Congo government's effectiveness in North Kivu Province. The government grapples with the challenge of sustaining a proficient civil servant capable of executing decisions and policies with efficacy, seemingly lacking a results-oriented approach. Furthermore, instances of public service delivery, when they occur, frequently fall short of acceptable quality standards. Factors contributing to the ineffectiveness of the government encompass, but are not confined to, the persistent presence of armed groups, hindering its operational capacities.

Additionally, government-funded goods and services often evade rigorous quality inspections, leading to prolonged delays in delivery and diminished citizen satisfaction levels. This is prominently observed in the construction and maintenance of existing roads and bridges, marked by exorbitant costs despite rapid deterioration - a stark illustration of substantial financial investment yielding inadequate outcomes within the realm of public administration. Other factors contributing to the lack of effectiveness include incompetence, corruption, a dearth of political will, delayed or absent remuneration for civil servants, and infiltration of public institutions, notably the military, by foreign entities, including foreign armed forces.

5.2.5. Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

The research sought also to determine the moderating influence of conflict resolution mechanisms between governance practices and sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. Correlational analysis also showed a very positive and significant relationship between the two variables - conflict resolution and sustainable peace. This means that sustainable peace significantly depends on the government's effectiveness, not only in resolving the conflict but also in implementing resolutions and decisions of different negotiation and mediation processes. Moreover, the analysis of β – Coefficients revealed that concerning individual effects (rate of change), not only do all independent and moderating variables exhibit a positive and significant relationship with sustainable peace (dependent variable), but also the most significant factor in the standardized beta coefficients column is Conflict Resolution Mechanisms. This is followed by Government Effectiveness, Public Accountability, Government Responsiveness, and Rule of Law.

Furthermore, both analyses also confirmed that the government has been involved in different conflict resolution processes to restore peace in North Kivu Province. Nevertheless, the attainment of sustainable peace remains elusive. A confluence of internal and external factors perpetuates the absence of enduring peace in North Kivu Province. Internally, governance-related challenges stand out, particularly in the execution of peace process agreements.

More precisely, the lack of political will and the state's limited governance capacity emerge as primary impediments to the realization of sustained peace through various peace processes. The DRC government is perceived as inadequately addressing the concerns deliberated in different peace processes, revealing deficiencies in formulating requisite plans and mechanisms for effective response.

While engaging in peace processes is commendable, the absence of measures to ensure the comprehensive implementation of resolutions underscores a critical deficiency on the part of the DRC government. External factors encompass the exploitation of natural resources, sought after by both internal and external actors, the proliferation of local and international armed groups, and recurrent incursions by the Rwandan and Ugandan armies. These incursions are motivated by the desire to gain access to different regions and zones rich in natural resources within North Kivu Province. The complete implementation of peace agreements would impede these local, regional, and international actors from accessing the coveted natural resources.

5.3. Conclusions

In conclusion, the research findings revealed that there was a significant relationship between the independent governance practice variables and the dependent variable since all the p-values were less than level of significance. In the study, a multiple regression found out that the overall sustainable peace model was satisfactory as it is supported by coefficient of determination (also known as the R-square). This means that all the independent governance practices variables contribute to the variations in the dependent sustainable peace variable.

The study established that there is a strong positive influence on sustainable peace in North Kivu Province attributed to units of change for all the independent governance practice variables. Test of overall significance of the five variables, jointly, rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness, government effectiveness and conflict resolution using ANOVA, found the model to be significant. This was supported by an F statistic and the reported p value, which was less than the conventional probability of significance level. These results suggested that the independent variables are good predictors of sustainable peace. Nevertheless, as

indicated by the descriptive analysis, the DRC government encounters challenges in executing chosen governance practices (independent variables). There is a notable absence of the rule of law and public accountability. The government is lacking in responsiveness and effectiveness on the ground. Despite its active engagement and endeavors in conflict resolution processes, the attainment of sustainable peace remains a distant prospect in the North Kivu Province.

Upon review of above empirical studies and the research findings, the research has covered the knowledge gap that existed that was identified. From econometric perspective, the study has shown concrete percentages and significant relationships that exist between rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness, government effectiveness and conflict resolution mechanisms and sustainable peace. This means that an increment in rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness, government effectiveness and conflict resolution mechanisms will contribute to increment in sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. This also gives decision makers a clear understanding on how to influence public policies and society understanding to achieve sustainable peace in North Kivu Province

5.4. Recommendations

Given the overall significance test of the five variables - Rule of law, public accountability, government responsiveness, government effectiveness, and conflict resolution - conducted jointly, which found the model to be significant and indicated that an increase in these variables would result in a linear increase in sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, the study puts forth the following policy and managerial recommendations:

5.4.1. Short-Term Recommendations

The government of the DR Congo should endeavor to work towards resolving the ongoing armed conflict with M23/AFC armed as a primary step to peace.

As a result of conflict resolution process, the government should commit itself to implementing the existing policies on demobilization, disarmament, reintegration of ex-combatants and ensure their sustainable restoration into civil life.

The presence of the government, public administration services including an efficient National Police Service and modern army should be established and strengthened to promptly respond and address the needs of the population for peace effectively; and

Interagency coordination practices should be established and strengthened for quick response to restoring sustainable peace.

5.4.2. Medium-Term Recommendations

Military and civilian justice systems should be strengthened and public Oversight Authority set up to ensure respect and application of rule of law at the province level; Existing public accountability mechanisms should be strengthened with robust mandate to ensure accountability between public services and the population.

The National Police Service, the Army, and civilian and military justice systems in North Kivu should be strengthened by increasing the number of prosecution offices and courts, augmenting the count of prosecutors and judges, and providing them with essential financial, logistical resources, and protection to effectively carry out their responsibilities as well as putting in place mechanisms that ensure that laws, policies and regulations are adhere to by everyone.

5.4.3. Long-term Recommendations

The government of the DR Congo should adopt and implement measures to strengthen local capacity with the focus on addressing root caused and key driving factors of recurrent conflict and fragility in North Kivu province

Community level dialogue processes, institutions and structures and other proactive measures should be established and strengthened towards reconciliation, social cohesion and sustaining peace;

The central government of DR Congo in general and the provincial government in particular should adopt policy and strategies that emphasize the need to prevent

outbreak, recurrence, continuation and escalation of conflict prevention national and provincial government of DR Congo.

The government to benchmark from civil society's work to develop national policies on community dialogue, reconciliation and recovery for conflict prevention and transformation.

5.5. Areas for Further Research

This study focused on governance practices and sustainable peace in North Kivu Province. The study has confirmed that the model is very significant to achieving sustainable peace. This means through effective implementation of selected governance practice coupled with resolution of the conflict, sustainable peace is achievable in North Kivu Province. Furthermore, despite many efforts towards resolving the conflict, sustainable peace is yet to yield fruit. Besides, the government is neither responsive nor effective. Further research is therefore required to understand the reasons why the government of DRC is neither responsive nor effective to assure sustainable peace.

Another study is required to majorly focus on the role of neighboring countries in supporting rebel groups and especially in relation to the exploitation of natural resources as another key factor driving factors that continues to fuel conflict in the region.

Finally, for the sake of sustainable resolution of conflict in North Kivu Province, a study should also focus on investigating the dynamics of over hundred-armed groups in eastern DR Congo in general and in North Kivu in particular for security sector reform.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Letter of Introduction

Dear respondent,

RE: INTRODUCTION AND REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY

I am a graduate student of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) pursuing a PhD Degree in Leadership and Governance. I am expected to carry out research, as a fulfillment of one of the requirements of attaining the Degree. The title of my research is “**Governance Practices and Sustainable Peace in North Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo)**”.

I am humbly requesting you to participate in this research by answering the questionnaire as provided below. Your assistance through responding as honestly as possible and to the best of your knowledge in this questionnaire will go a long way in making this study a success. Your responses will be treated with confidentiality and will only be used for this Academic Research. Your names will only be mentioned through your consent; otherwise, no names will be used.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and co-operation. Yours Sincerely,

Luc Ansobi Loneli/ Student Researcher

Email: lucanso2004@gmail.com

Mobile No. +254716548024

Appendix II. Data Collection Tool

1. Instructions

Please do not write your name or title anywhere in the questionnaire. Respond to each item by putting a tick on the appropriate response. Note that there is no right or wrong answer.

Section A: General/ Demographic Information:(Tick appropriately)

1. Highest Level of Education:

Secondary: ☐ College: ☐ Undergraduate: ☐ Post graduate: ☐

Graduate: ☐

Section B: Research questions (Tick appropriately)

Rate the following items as far as governance practices are concerned in relation to sustainable peace [1= Strongly disagree (SD), 2= Disagree (D), 3=Neutral (N) 4=strongly agree (SA), 5=Agree (A)].

No	Questions	SA	A	N	SD	D
	Rule of law					
1.	Effective application of Rule of law is key to sustainable peace					
<i>Supremacy of Law</i>						
2.	DRC has in place laws, regulations and policies that are binding to all					
3.	Government and people respect the supremacy of the law					
4.	No respect of supremacy of law continues to contribute to lack of peace in North Kivu Province.					
<i>Equality before law</i>		SA	A	N	SD	D
5.	All citizens of North Kivu Province are treated equally before the law					
6.	All citizens of North Kivu Province answer to the laws equally					

7.	The citizens of North Kivu Province have equal access to the protections					
<i>Separation of power</i>		SA	A	N	SD	D
8.	Separation of power is observed in North Kivu Province					
9.	The judiciary plays its role without any influence from the executive					
10	The legislative plays its role of making laws without any influence from the executive					
<i>Transparent legal processes and Proceedings</i>		SA	A	N	SD	D
11	All citizens in North Kivu Province have access to justice					
12	The judicial procedures are applied in a transparent and legal manner.					
13	The judicial system is professional in the application of civil justice					
In your opinion, what are the challenges facing the respect of the rule of law in North Kivu Province According to you, what is the effective way of applying and upholding rule of law in North Kivu Province?						
Public Accountability		SA	A	N	SD	D
14	Effective application of public accountability principle is crucial to sustainable peace					
<i>Public integrity</i>		SA	A	N	SD	D
15	The government of North Kivu has put in place systems, structures, strategies and procedures for public integrity					
16	Practices of integrity is effectively observed and applied in the public administration					
17	The government of North Kivu Province operates free from bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, and other forms of corrupt practices					

<i>Public transparency</i>		SA	A	N	SD	D
18	The government of North Kivu has in place policies and practices that promote transparency, such as Freedom of Information Acts, open data initiatives, and public consultations.					
19	Information, processes, decisions, and actions of governments are accessible and understandable to the public of North Kivu					
20	The government of North Kivu is answerable to the local community					
<i>Public fairness</i>		SA	A	N	SD	D
21	The government of North Kivu promotes a just and equitable society where all members have an equal chance to succeed and live fulfilling lives					
22	The government of North Kivu ensures that all groups and communities are adequately represented in decision-making processes					
23	The citizens of North Kivu Province are all treated fairly in legal proceedings, administrative processes, and decision-making					
<i>Public trust</i>		SA	A	N	SD	D
24	Ethical conduct is observed within the public administration of North Kivu Province instilling trust to the population					
25	The local population of North Kivu Province have trust in the public administration					
26	The population plays their part in demanding accountability from the public administration for peace					
In your opinion, what are the challenges facing public accountability in the East of the country in general and in relation to peace in particular?						

In your view, what needs to be done to assure that principle of public accountability is respected and applied in North Kivu Province?						
Government responsiveness						
		SA	A	N	SD	D
27	Government responsiveness is crucial to sustainable peace.					
<i>Timely service delivery</i>		SA	A	N	SD	D
28	The government has put in place mechanisms and strategies to urgently address the needs of the population in North Kivu Province					
29	State services are present throughout North Kivu Province					
30	Public services in North Kivu province are provided on time					
<i>Access to government services</i>		SA	A	N	SD	D
31	Governments typically strive to make these services accessible and efficient.					
32	The citizens of North Kivu interact with and benefit from the essential services and resources provided by a government regional level throughout the province					
33	Principle of public participation is observed in responding the needs of the communities					
<i>Non-discrimination to public service</i>						
34	The government of North Kivu has in place effective mechanisms and strategies to ensure non-discrimination in service delivery.					
35	The citizens of North Kivu Province have access to government services and opportunities without bias or prejudice					

36	Public servants protect and uphold the civil rights of all individuals without discrimination					
<i>Consideration of citizens feedback or complaints</i>		SA	A	N	SD	D
37	The government of North Kivu Province has put in place mechanisms and strategies to handle citizens feedback and complaints					
38	The government of North Kivu Province handles citizen feedback and complaints efficiently and promptly					
39	The government improves its services and strategies in service delivery after citizen feedback and complains					
In your opinion, what are the challenges facing the local population in terms of response/reactivity on the part of the Congolese state in general and with regard to sustainable peace in particular? In your assessment, what need to be put in place for the government to be responsive in terms of responding to the needs of the people in general and in relation to peace and security in particular?						
Government effectiveness		SA	A	N	SD	D
40	Government effectiveness is key to contributing to sustainable peace.					
<i>Ability to maintain law and order</i>		SA	A	N	SD	D
41	The legal system, which includes courts, judges, and legal professionals are effective to interpret and apply the law and maintain order in North Kivu Province					
	North Kivu Province has well-functioning police and army force that maintains law and order.					
42	The government has put in place community policy to build trust and positive relationships between police officers and community members					
<i>Effective implementation of government decisions</i>						

43	The civil services of the state apply the decisions of the government in an effective way					
44	DRC government operations are results-oriented					
45	The government of North Kivu Province continuously improves and adapts to the changing circumstances and citizen needs.					
Cost-effective service delivery						
46	The government of North Kivu has policy in place of effective service delivery					
47	Government provides quality goods and services to the community					
	The North Kivu government strive to reduce inequalities and promote inclusion					
<i>Involvement of citizens in decision-making processes</i>		SA	A	N	SD	D
48	Citizens participate in decision-making is by voting in elections to choose representatives at various levels of government.					
49	Government often holds public hearings and consultations at province before making major policy decisions					
50	Government structures at local level provide forums for citizens to discuss and influence decisions about local issues					
Please assess the performance of DRC government In North Kivu Province in terms of its effectiveness In your opinion, what are the challenges faced by state services in terms of effectiveness and efficiency? What needs to be done for the DRC government to be effective and efficient in its operation towards sustainable peace in North Kivu?						
Conflict resolution mechanisms						

		SA	A	N	SD	D
51	Effective use of conflict resolution mechanisms can help to restore peace					
<i>Negotiation</i>						
52	The DRC government employs negotiation mechanism effectively to restore sustainable peace in North Kivu Province					
	Negotiation led processes has yield positive result for peace					
53	Despite different negotiation led by the government, there is still no expected peace					
<i>Mediation</i>		SA	A	N	SD	D
54	The DRC government employs mediation mechanism effectively to restore sustainable peace in North Kivu Province					
55	Mediation led processes has yield positive result for peace					
56	Despite different mediation processes led by the government and other regional and international bodies, there is still no expected peace					
<i>Arbitration</i>		SA	A	N	SD	D
57	The DRC government is effectively using the arbitration mechanism to restore lasting peace.					
58	Arbitration led processes have yield positive result for peace					
59	Despite different arbitration processes led by the government and other regional and international bodies, there is still no expected peace					
60	Sustainable Peace	SA	A	N	SD	D
61	Sustainable peace can be restored in the North Kivu Province					
<i>Low level of violence</i>		SA	A	N	SD	D

62	The level of crime, killings and violence is low in North Kivu Province					
63	The level of armed conflict or military engagement is limited in scope and intensity in North Kivu Province					
64	The government of North Kivu maintains safety and well-being of the communities of North Kivu Province					
<i>Political stability</i>		SA	A	N	SD	D
65	The environment in North Kivu is conducive for development, prosperity, and the well-being of citizens					
66	Actions of neighboring countries influence political stability in North Kivu Province					
67	The North Kivu government is able to manage conflicts, address grievances, and provide a clear vision					
<i>Economic stability and development</i>						
68	The government in North Kivu is investing in education, healthcare, and workforce skills to improve the productivity and employability of the population					
69	The government of North Kivu Province is working to improve the standard of living and economic health of the province					
70	The government of Nord Kivu offers long-term perspective and is committed to addressing short-term challenges and long-term structural issues in the province.					
In your opinion, what are the challenges for the government in its efforts to restore lasting peace? What do you think the government should do to restore lasting peace?						

Recommendations for sustainable peace in Eastern DRC

In relation to good governance and sustainable peace in North Kivu Province, what recommendations would you make regarding the role of the following actors?

1. The national government of the DRC
2. Provincial government
3. The civil society
4. The local community

Appendix III: Scatter Plots of Diagnostic Tests

Figure 4.1. Scatter Plot on Correlation between Rule of Law and Sustainable



Peace

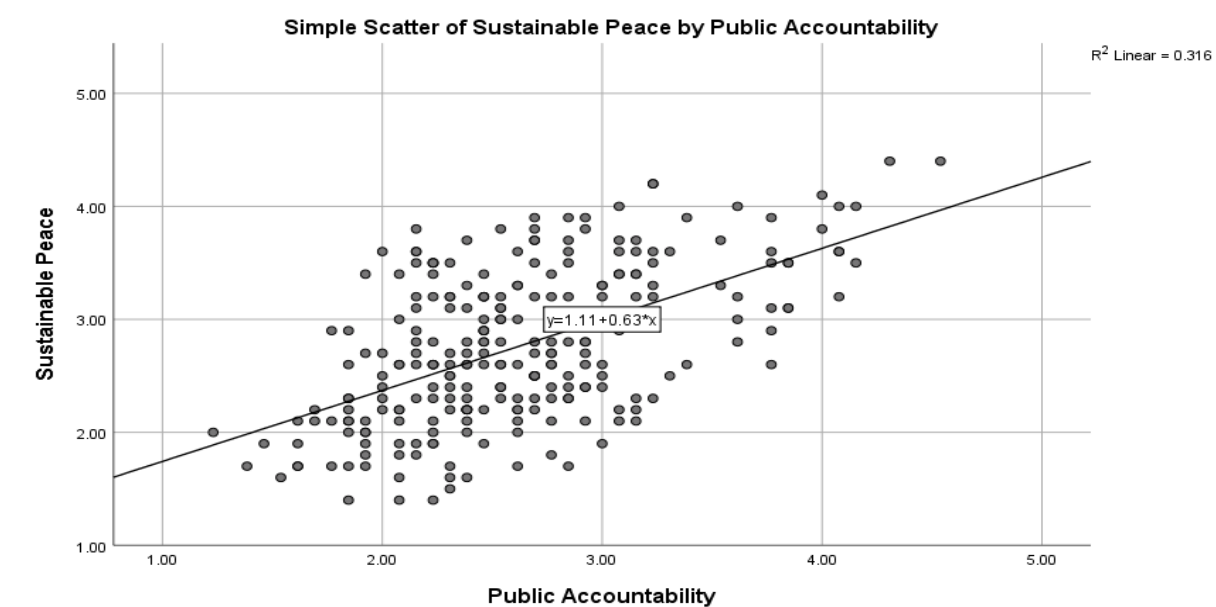


Figure 4.2. Scatter Plot of Correlation between Public Accountability and Sustainable Peace

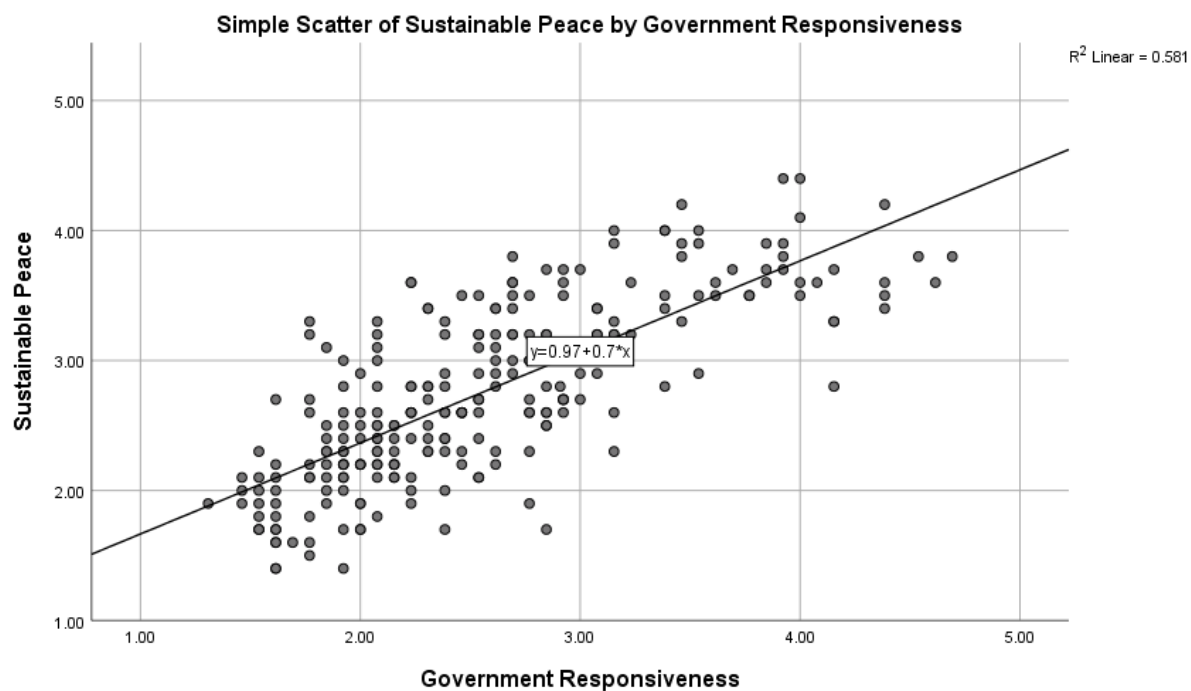


Figure 4.3. Scatter Plot of Correlation between Government Responsiveness and Sustainable Peace

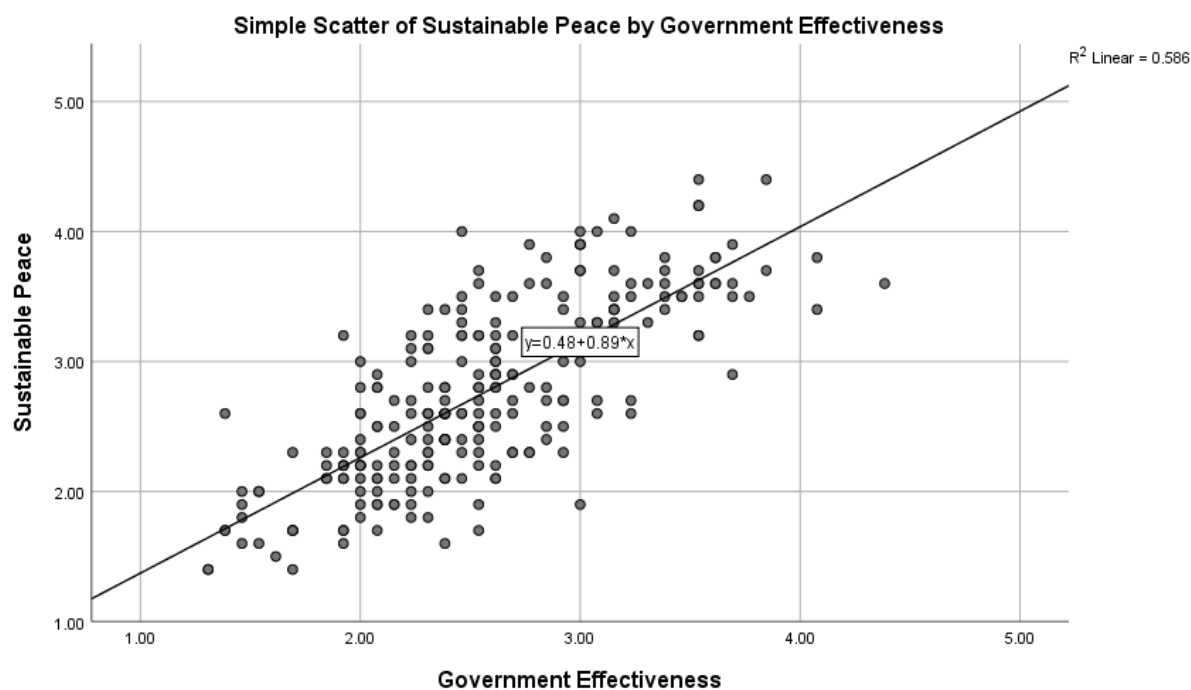


Figure 4.4. Scatter Plot between Government effectiveness and Sustainable Peace

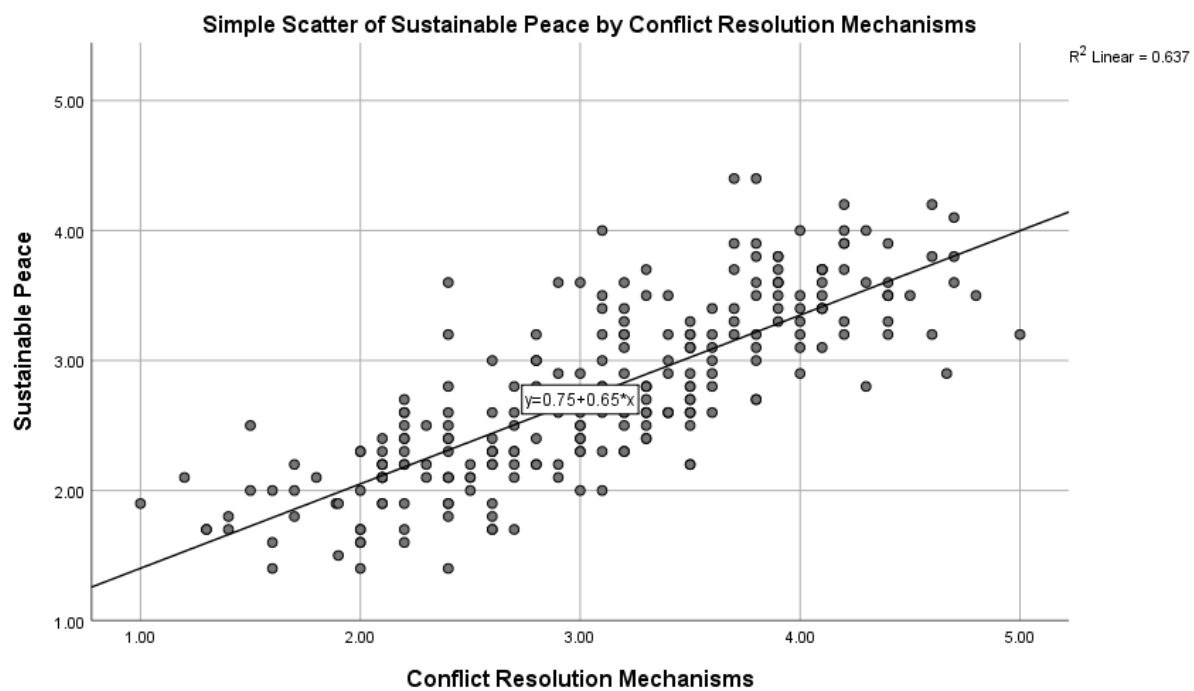


Figure 4.5. Scatter Plot for conflict resolution

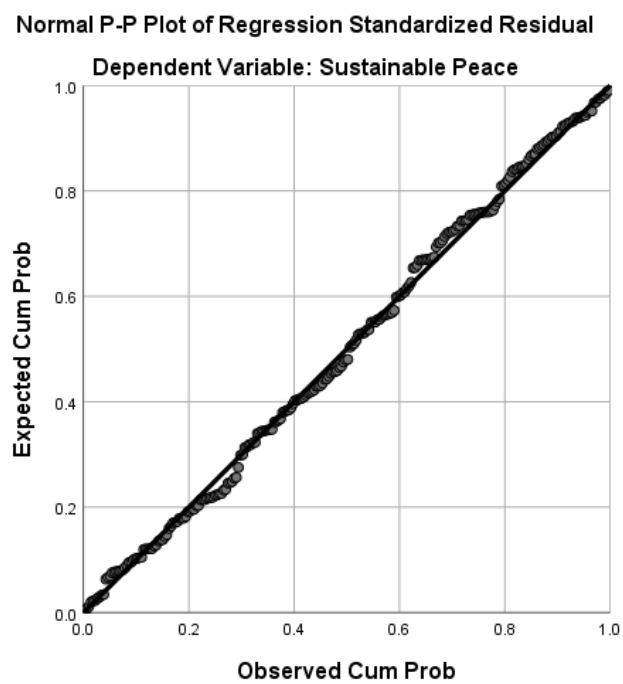


Figure 4.6. Normal Probability Plot

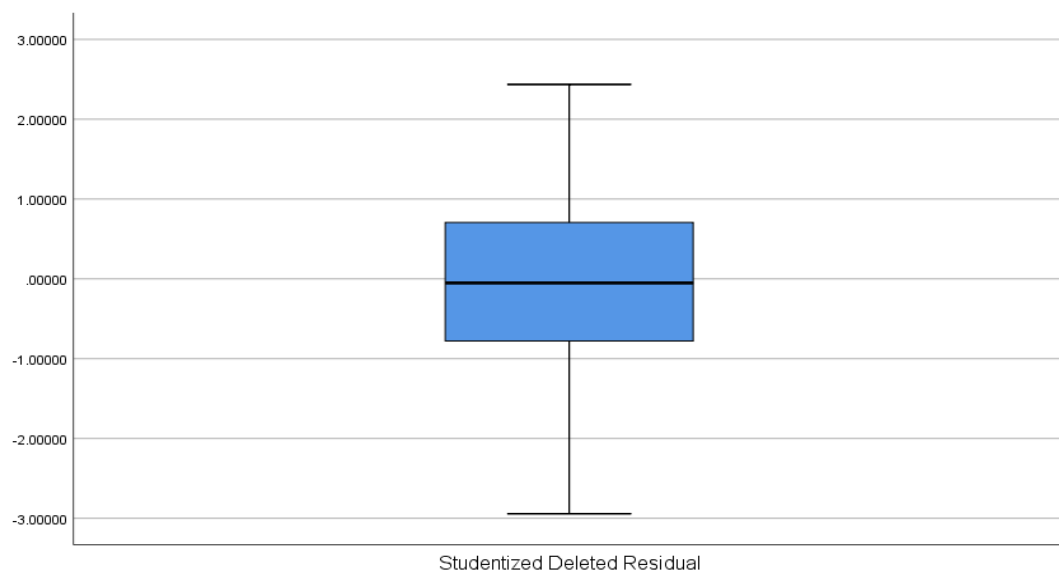


Figure 4.7. Outliers Test

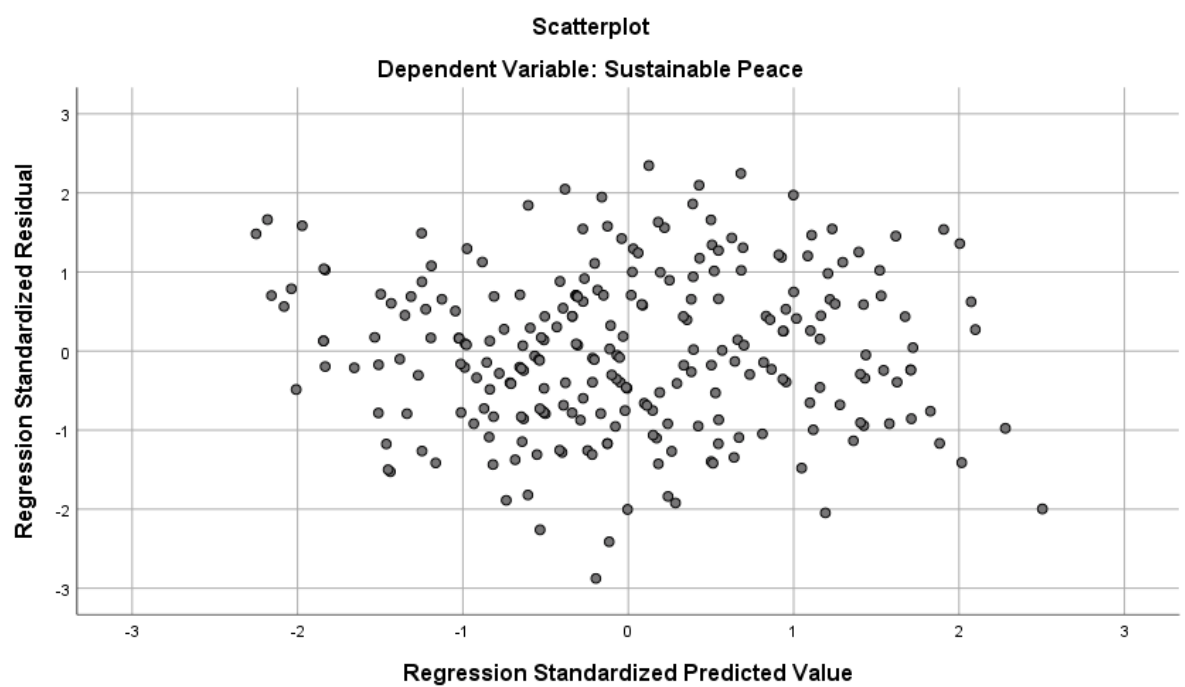


Figure 4.8. Scatter Plot for Heteroscedasticity Test

Appendix IV: Board of Post Graduate Studies (Bps) Research Authorization Letter


**JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
OF
AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, BOARD OF POSTGRADUATE
STUDIES**

P.O. BOX 62900, 00200 • NAIROBI • KENYA • TEL: (007)-5870901-4 • Email: director@bps.jkuat.ac.ke

REF: JKU/2/11/HD419-0330/2016 18TH OCTOBER, 2022

ANSOBI LUC LONELI
C/o SOBE
JKUAT

Dear, Loneli

RE: APPROVAL OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL AND APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISORS

Kindly note that your PhD. research proposal entitled: "GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES AND SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN NORTH KIVU PROVINCE, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)" has been approved. The following are your approved supervisors:-

1. Dr. Joyce Amuhaya
2. Dr. Millicent Mboya
3. Dr. Evelyn Datche

Yours sincerely,



PROF. LOSENGE TUROOP
DIRECTOR, BOARD OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

Copy to: Dean, SOBE
/cao

 JKUAT is ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 Certified
Setting Trends in Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship 

Appendix V: Map of North Kivu Province



Source: ResearchGate