

# Democratic Republic of Congo Delegation



H.E. Didier Budimbu Ntubuanga, Minister of Hydrocarbons of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), is coming to Cape Town in November for African Energy Week (AEW) 2021. Confirmed as a speaker at Africa's premier energy event, H.E. Minister Ntubuanga is dedicated to improving regional relations, attracting critical investment, and showcasing the significant oil, gas and renewable potential of the DRC. By promoting the country's resources and emphasizing the opportunities for investors, the Minister is committed to accelerating energy and economic growth, positioning the country a competitor in the big leagues.

Delegation Contacts	Name	Role		
	H.E. Didier Budimbu Ntubuanga	Minister of Hydrocarbons		Democratic Republic of Congo
WPC Contacts	Michelle Tetreault	VIP/Protocol	(403) 519-8651	<a href="mailto:michelle@wpccanada.com">michelle@wpccanada.com</a>
	Michael Schilling		(867) 223-2747	<a href="mailto:michael@wpccanada.com">michael@wpccanada.com</a>
	Mitchell Wright		(403) 471-2456	<a href="mailto:mitchell@wpccanada.com">mitchell@wpccanada.com</a>
LO Contact	Greg MacGillivray	403-605-6493		<a href="mailto:gm@scenarios2strategy.com">gm@scenarios2strategy.com</a>
Hotel				

	Monday, September 18th	18:00	Ministerial Reception Program Starts	Fairmont Palliser – Crystal Ballroom
	Tuesday, September 19th	17:15	Canada Night Event - Ticketed	Nutrien Western Event Centre
	Tuesday, September 19th	20:00	Arrive at Cirque de Soleil Event	Lot 6 – Stampede Park
	Thursday, September 21st	14:45	Closing Ceremonies	Big 4 Main Hall A&B
			Departure from YYC	YYC Airport

Legend	
Common Event	
Country Specific Event	

## **Protocol Tips: Congo**

As the liaison officer hosting the official delegation from the Democratic Republic Congo ("DRC"), you will require cultural sensitivity and respect. Here are some key considerations to keep in mind:

*Research and Preparation:* You will find the biography of the leader of your delegation in this Handbook. Please feel free to research the delegation's background, including the individuals' positions and roles. Understanding their specific interests and objectives will help you tailor your interactions effectively.

*Formal Greetings and Respect:* Address delegation members using appropriate titles and honorifics, such as "Monsieur" (Mr.) or "Madame" (Mrs./Ms.). Handshakes are common in Congolese culture but wait for delegation members to initiate. Avoid extensive physical contact beyond handshakes, especially with individuals of the opposite gender. Begin meetings with a warm welcome and expressions of gratitude for their visit.

*Communication Styles:* Practice active listening and engage in open and patient communication. Maintain good eye contact during conversations to convey respect and engagement. Use a friendly and open body language to create a welcoming atmosphere.

*Business Etiquette:* Build relationships before delving into business discussions. Small talk is important for rapport. Be patient in conversations and avoid pressuring for quick decisions.

*Time Perception:* Meetings may start later than scheduled, but arriving on time is still essential to show respect. Be patient and flexible if schedules shift.

*Dining and Hospitality:* Given that meals such as the opening ceremonies are part of the program, inquire about any dietary restrictions or preferences within the delegation. While dietary inquiries were made as part of the delegate registration process the information provided may be incomplete. Be prepared to guide delegation to meal options wherever possible. Please note that in most cases these will be the vegetarian option.

*Gender Sensitivity:* Pay attention to gender roles and interactions. Be respectful of cultural norms regarding gender relations.

*Privacy Concerns:* Always ask for permission before taking photographs, especially of delegation members, as privacy is important to Congolese.

*Cultural Taboos:* Avoid using the left hand for offering or receiving items, as it is considered less clean. Be cautious when discussing sensitive topics such as politics, ethnicity, and history.

## **Swahili Language Tips**

The DRC has official languages Swahili, Lingala, Kikongo, and Tshiluba but the common language is French, so use French or Swahili here are the common phrases in Swahili you may need as a Liaison Officer:

Hello - "Jambo" or "Habari" (both are common greetings)

Welcome - "Karibu"

Please - "Tafadhali"

Thank you - "Asante" (commonly used, similar to "Thank you" in English)

Yes - "Ndiyo"

No - "Hapana"

Goodbye - "Kwaheri"