

SECRETARIAT
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION



SECRETARIAT
CONFÉRENCE
INTERNATIONALE SUR LA
RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS

DECLARATION

8TH ORDINARY SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT

OF

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES
REGION (ICGLR)

Under the Theme

*“Fostering the implementation of the Pact on Security, Stability and
Development in the Great Lakes Region by intensifying Regional
Economic Cooperation and Development”*

Virtual Summit,

20th November 2020

PREAMBLE

We, the Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), meeting virtually on 20th November, 2020 under the theme *"Fostering the implementation of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region by intensifying Regional Economic Cooperation and Development"* to review the political and security situation in the region at the invitation of H.E. Denis Sassou N'Guesso, President of the Republic of Congo and Chairman of the ICGLR Summit;

Recalling the decisions of our last Ordinary Summit held in Brazzaville, Congo, on 19th October 2017 in which we addressed the matters relating to our Organization as well as the political and security situation in the Region;

Having considered and adopted the recommendations of the meetings of the Regional Inter-ministerial Committee (RIMC), the Committee of Ministers of Defence, held virtually preceding this summit on 17th November and 14th October, 2020 respectively and the meeting of Ministers of Health held on 10th July 2020;

Commending the President of the Republic of Congo, H.E. Denis Sassou N'Guesso for his exemplary leadership as Chairman of the ICGLR from 2017 to 2020;

Congratulating S.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, on his ascension to the rotational Chairmanship of the ICGLR;

Expressing our sincere condolences to the Governments and People of Burundi, Congo, Kenya and Tanzania on the death of their former Presidents, Pierre Nkurunziza, Pascal Lissouba, Jacques Joachim Yhombi Opango, Daniel Arap Moi and Benjamin William Mkapa;

Congratulating H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye, on his election as the President of the Republic of Burundi, and H.E. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, on his re-election as the President of the United Republic of Tanzania;

Lauding the progress made in the consolidation of peace in the region;

Reaffirming, our strong commitment to the ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region and its related Protocols;

Taking note of the progress made in the implementation of the Pact since our last summit;

On the Republic of Burundi

1. **Note** that the security and political situation in Burundi is calm which enabled the successful holding of the general elections from May to August 2020.
2. **Laud** the improvement of the humanitarian situation as evidenced by the high number of Burundian refugees who have returned to their country;
3. **Commend** the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM) for its role in facilitating the repatriation of the 19 criminals captured by the Defence Forces and call for its successful conclusion;
4. **Lobby** for the lifting of sanctions imposed since 2015 against Burundi by the European Union, the United States of America and certain Technical and Financial Partners to enable the country to access the necessary for development;

On the Central African Republic

5. **Support** the ongoing electoral process and the holding of elections within the constitutional timeframe;
6. **Condemn** the activism of armed groups as a concern and a threat to peace and stability;
7. **Commit to strengthen** the ICGLR's involvement in the upcoming elections in the country;

8. **Urge** ICGLR member states to commit themselves to supporting the government's efforts to restore peace and stability in CAR, in particular through direct support for the development of defence and security forces;
9. **Reaffirm our support** for advocacy for the lifting of the Security Council embargo on arms and mineral resources in the Central African Republic;

On the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

10. **Affirm** that the security and humanitarian situation in the country is relatively calm ;
11. **Condemn** the activism of armed groups and the remaining negative forces that continue to operate in eastern DRC;
12. **Commend** the ongoing operations of the FARDC, which have significantly reduced the operational capabilities of some negative forces;
13. **Welcome** the resolution of the border conflict between the DRC and Zambia;

On the Republic of Kenya

14. **Congratulate** Kenya on her election as a non-permanent Member of the UNSC for 2020/2021;
15. **Note** that Kenya commits to work closely with the ICGLR on issues of peace, security and stability in the region and call on the full support of Member States;
16. **Take note** of the acknowledgement of the Republic of Kenya for the support extended by the Heads of State of the ICGLR to the outgoing Executive Secretary, Amb. Zachary Muburi-Muita, a Kenyan national, during his tenure.

On the Republic of South Sudan

17. **Urge** the International Community to support the Revitalized Peace Agreement and extend material and diplomatic support to the Transitional Government of National Unity;
18. **Call upon** the signatory parties to the Peace Agreement to speed up the implementation process, especially the training and unification of the national army;
19. **Call upon** the holdout armed groups to join the ongoing peace process in the country, and abide by their cease-fire commitments;
20. **Urge** the international community to extend humanitarian assistance to refugees from South Sudan and help facilitate their repatriation to their homes as part of the current peace process;

On the Republic of the Sudan

21. **Welcome** the signing of the Sudan Peace Agreement in Juba on 3rd October 2020 between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan Revolutionary Front and call upon the international community to provide the necessary support for its speedy implementation.
22. **Laud** the efforts exerted by H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit , President of the Republic of South Sudan and the Government of South Sudan in the mediation process that culminated in the signing of the Sudan Peace Agreement;

On the report of the Ministers of Health

23. **Deplore** the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the populations of the region and the economies of States;
24. **Commend** the efforts of Member States to contain the spread of the pandemic;
25. **Welcome** the decision to create a network of health experts similar to the Judicial Cooperation Network in the Great Lakes Region.

On the fight against terrorism and prevention of extremism

26. **Express** our concern about the growing threat of terrorism and extremism in Africa;
27. **Instruct** the Secretariat to organize a physically Ministerial meeting, as soon as the context of the pandemic allows, to assess the threats in the Great Lakes Region and work on a regional strategy to prevent and combat terrorism and extremism;

On Youth Issues

28. **Congratulate** H.E. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, for his nomination by the United Nations as the Global Champion for youth empowerment;
29. **Instruct** the Secretariat to facilitate the establishment of a Regional Plan of Action on UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security in the Great Lakes Region;

On women's participation

30. **Congratulate** women for their actions in the process of consolidating peace and security in the Great Lakes Region and decide to encourage the continued commitment of the Regional Women's Forum and the Consultative Council on Women, Peace and Security to the participation of women in decision-making bodies;
31. **Welcome** the efforts of ICGLR, the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region and the UN Peacebuilding Commission for the consultations held on 4 November 2020 to support women's initiatives in the region;
32. **Instruct** the Secretariat to work in close collaboration with gender departments, the Regional Women's Forum and Civil Society Organizations to promote the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action of Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security to increase the role and participation of women in mediation and peacebuilding, decision making bodies, and the fight against SGBV;

33. **Decide**, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, to put in place initiatives for the social and economic recovery of vulnerable populations, particularly women and people living with disabilities, to strengthen the protection of these people, and to facilitate the reduction of customs duties for women operating in cross-border trade and in the agricultural sector.

On the ICGLR Secretariat and the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Development (SFRD)

34. **Reiterate** the imperative need for member States to honour their financial obligations to the Secretariat and affiliated bodies to remit their budgetary pledges to the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Development (SFRD);
35. **Instruct** the Secretariat to conclude a schedule with Member States for the recovery of arrears due to the organization;
36. **Instruct** the Secretariat to adopt a results and performance-based budget management approach;
37. **Approve** the budget for the years 2020 and 2021, amounting to US\$19,769,254 for both years, i.e. US\$9,647,208 for 2020 and US\$10,122,045 for 2021;
38. **Invite** the Secretariat to continue the reform process already under way, while at the same time providing a new direction for the revitalization of the Organization, in line with the recommendations made by Ernst & Young;
39. **Appoint** Mr. João Samuel CAHOLO, of Angolan nationality, as Executive Secretary of the ICGLR;
40. **Pay** a well-deserved tribute to Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita, the outgoing Executive Secretary of the ICGLR, for his good and loyal service to the Organisation during his tenure;

On the current ICGLR Chairmanship

41. **Endorse the candidature of S.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço**, President of the Republic of Angola, as the incoming Chair of the ICGLR for a two-year term;
42. **Maintain the Troika** consisting of the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Congo and the Republic of the Sudan until the next ICGLR Summit;

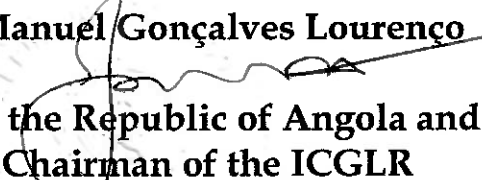
On the date and venue of the Next Summit

43. **Agree to convene** the next Summit of Heads of State and Government in the Republic of Angola at a date to be communicated through diplomatic channels;

Acknowledgements

44. The Heads of State and Government expressed their profound gratitude to His Excellency Denis SASSOU N'GUESSO, President of the Republic of Congo and outgoing Chairman of the ICGLR, for the excellent arrangements that enabled the success of their Virtual Summit./-

Done in Brazzaville on 20 November 2020

H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço

**President of the Republic of Angola and
Current Chairman of the ICGLR**