



WHAT IS THE FUTURE WE WANT?



For the Youth Forum of *International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)*

The Future we Want is Participation for Peace and Development in the **Spirit of Ubuntu**.

Ubuntu meaning

*I am - as a leader and a human being
- because we are as youth and fellow human beings.*

We celebrate — and build on — the **historic commitment** of our Heads of State of Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

We, the youth of our Great Lakes Region are 350 million of 420 million total population.

We thank our great grand parents' generation for founding a **United Nations** of peoples determined:

- “to **save succeeding generations from the scourge of war**, which twice in [their] lifetime [] brought **untold sorrow** to mankind
- to reaffirm **faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person**,
- in the **equal rights of men and women** and
- of **nations large and small**,
- to establish conditions for **justice and respect**,
- also to promote **social progress** and better **standards of life** in **larger freedom**.



Our ancestors taught us the eternal spirit of Ubuntu:

I am because we are as a people

Our grand parents were few, our parents are more and we are many.

Our grand parents won our independence.

Since independence, some of us suffered our own scourge of war, genocide and conflict.

- The **2004 ICGLR Dar-es-Salaam Declaration** set out to address **root causes of conflicts** and constraints to development.
- In **2014 ICGLR Nairobi Declaration** committed to end the **disaster of Youth Unemployment**.
- In **2015**, the **UN Security Council Resolution 2250** was unanimously adopted **addressing the causes of conflict**.

On 20th November 2020, history was made when ICGLR Heads of State declared to:

*“**Instruct** the [ICGLR] 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;”*

As youth we accept and own our role and responsibilities to **shape this Regional Action Plan**.

In the words of the resolution, we bring our unique **Demographic Dividend** to contribute to **lasting peace and prosperity**.

By addressing root causes:

- Our governments identifying and addressing **exclusion** and **intolerance**
- We need **quality jobs**
- **Youth representation** in **decision-making** at local, national, regional and international levels
- **Participation** and **consultation** in negotiation **and** implementation of peace agreements

This is our time!

As youth we live our Ubuntu.

At the heart of our curriculum, bring us:

- **peace-building** for teachers and children.
- **entrepreneurship** to benefit from the **African Continental Free Trade Agreement**.

We have the **drive, passion and Afro-optimism** to carry the torch for peace in our region, for our children and humanity.

Use our participation to

- **formulate**,
- **monitor** and
- **report** development plans

turning **government budgets** into **benefits** that our **communities** will **feel**.

We will reward delivery with our activism and our votes.

In this time of many challenges, let us bring the ancient wisdom of Ubuntu to the heart of education and development in our region and the global UN system.

All of our children and grand-children will remember this work.

We are grateful to the UN at 75. **The Future we Want** is **Participation for Peace and Development** in the **Spirit of Ubuntu**.

To find out more visit the ICGLR Youth Forum at: www.icglryouthforum.org/
or email youth@icglryouthforum.org

This video was prepared for ICGLR Youth Forum in partnership with Gaiasoft.