



FINAL COMMUNIQUE

10th Extraordinary Session of the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee
(RIMC) of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
(ICGLR)

African Union Permanent Mission Office, New York

25 September 2015

1. The 10th Extraordinary Session of the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee (RIMC) of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) was held, on the margins of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, on the invitation of the RIMC Chair and Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola, Hon. Georges Rebello Pinto Chikoti.
2. In attendance were Ministers of Foreign Affairs/ External Relations and or their representatives of the ICGLR Member States namely:

Republic of Angola,
Republic of Burundi,
Republic of Congo,
Democratic Republic of Congo,
Republic of Kenya,
Republic of Rwanda,
Republic of Sudan,
Republic of South Sudan,
United Republic of Tanzania,
Republic of Uganda, and
Republic of Zambia,

Time not permitting, the Central African Republic could not attend the meeting.

The ICGLR Executive Secretary, Prof. Ntumba Luaba, the Deputy Chairperson of AU Commission, H.E Amb. Erastus Mwencha, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Amb. Smail Chergui, and the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General to the Great Lakes Region, H.E Amb. Said Djinnit were also in attendance.

3. The 10th Extraordinary session of RIMC was called to consider the security and political situation in the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic and the Republic of South Sudan. The 10th Extraordinary RIMC meeting received detailed briefings from the Ministers of External Relations and International Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi and the Republic of South Sudan.
4. After consideration and discussion , Member States recommended as follows:

4.1. Security and Political Situation in Burundi

The 10th Extraordinary RIMC:

- Took note of the establishment, following the presidential elections of 21 July 2015, of a new National Assembly, a new Senate House and a new Cabinet;

- Welcomed the recent enactment of a Presidential Decree related to the organization and functioning of the National Commission on the Inter-Burundi Dialogue and encouraged Burundi to conduct this inclusive dialogue in order to consolidate peace, stability and development;
- Took note of the claim vide the Letters of the Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation of Burundi addressed to the ICGLR Executive Secretary on 1st September 2015 informing the Member States that Burundi was a victim of an Act of aggression by an ICGLR Member State, namely the Republic of Rwanda. The Government of Burundi insisted on adherence to the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region and the Protocol on Mutual Defense and Non-Aggression, and requested the dispatch of the Expanded Joint Verification Mission (EJVM) to conduct verification in Rwanda;
- Reaffirmed the commitment by all Member States of the region to promote and respect the commitments which they all freely agreed on within the framework of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, the Protocol on Non-Aggression and Mutual Defense in the Great Lakes Region as well as the Framework Agreement on Peace, Security and Cooperation in DRC and the Region;
- Encouraged that the spirit of constructive dialogue and consultation continues between the Member States;
- Urged the Government of Rwanda to facilitate the deployment of the Expanded Joint Verification Mission (EJVM) on its territory in order to verify and clarify allegations made by the Government of Burundi.

4.2. Security Situation in the Republic of South Sudan

The 10th Extraordinary RIMC:

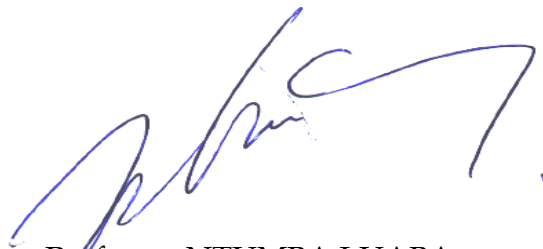
- Noted that the political and security situation in South Sudan has been dominated by negotiations and mediation between the Government and the rebel movement with a view to achieving stability and sustainable peace in the country;
- Urged the Government of South Sudan and the rebel movement to respect the Peace Agreement which they voluntarily signed to achieve sustainable peace;

- Encouraged the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) to monitor the implementation of the Agreement and pledged support to its implementation;
- Called upon the International Community to support the ongoing peace process in South Sudan and desist from imposing sanctions which would have counterproductive effects.

5. Organization of the next Ordinary Summit

The Meeting appreciated the confirmation of the offer by the Republic of Kenya to host the next Ordinary session of the RIMC and Summit in Nairobi, Kenya.

Done in New York, on 25 September 2015



Professor NTUMBA LUABA
ICGLR Executive Secretary