

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION



SECRETARIAT EXÉCUTIF
CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE
SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE ICGLR COMMITTEE OF
MINISTERS OF DEFENCE ON THE SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN
SITUATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, THE
REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI, THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN**

Luanda, Angola, 20 October, 2015

At the Invitation of the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Angola, an extraordinary meeting of the ICGLR Committee of Ministers of Defence was held in Luanda, Angola, on 20th October, 2015.

The meeting was held to assess the Security and Humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic and the Republic of South Sudan.

The Meeting was attended by Ministers of Defence or their representatives from the following Member States: the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Sudan, the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Zambia.

Also in Attendance were the Executive Secretary of the ICGLR, the Representative of the Chair of Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC), the Commander of the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM) and the Coordinator of the Joint Intelligence Fusion Center (JIFC).

1. Opening session

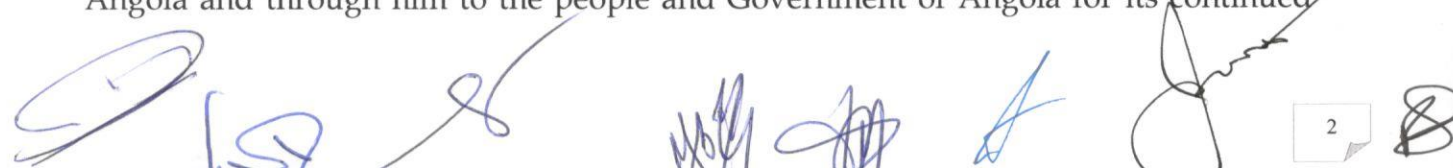
The extraordinary meeting was officially opened by the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Angola, H.E. Joao Manuel Gancalves Lourenco, who welcomed all the delegates to Luanda, Angola and urged them to help in the efforts to resolve the conflicts in Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of Burundi. He noted that the resolution of these conflicts is essential to establishing an environment of peace, stability and development in those countries and the region.

He reminded the meeting of their previous decisions and those by the ICGLR Summits of Heads of State and Government and the importance of working hard towards their full implementation.

He reiterated the Republic of Angola's continued commitment to doing its utmost part to advance the strategic objectives of peace, security stability and development in the Great Lakes Region.

The Meeting was also addressed by Professor Ntumba Luaba, the Executive Secretary of ICGLR, who noted the positive developments registered so far in the region, while emphasizing the security challenges in the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of South Sudan.

He further expressed appreciation to the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Angola and through him to the people and Government of Angola for its continued



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leadership in the quest for sustained peace, security, stability and development in the region, and for the warm hospitality and excellent facilities provided for the meeting.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting of the Committee of Ministers of Defence adopted the following Agenda:

1. Consideration of the report of the meeting of Chiefs of Defence Staff/Forces
2. Preparation and adoption of the final Communiqué

3. Recommendations

Having considered the report of the Meeting of ICGLR Chiefs of Defence Staff/Forces and contributions from various Ministers, and in the spirit of cooperation in promoting peace and security in the region, the Committee of ICGLR Ministers of Defence made the following recommendations:

On DRC

- i) Commended the government of the DRC for its continued diligence in conducting operations against FDLR and ADF and other armed groups;
- ii) Recalled the ICGLR Summit Decision on cooperation between the Government of the DRC and MONUSCO to eradicate the FDLR and other negative forces in Eastern DRC ;
- iii) Called for resumption of ICGLR Border security mechanisms to resolve border disputes ;
- iv) Called on the Joint Task Force and all stakeholders to expedite the repatriation of the remaining ex-M23, currently numbering around 836 in Uganda, and those 453 based in Rwanda, as well as FDLR elements in transit camps in the DRC.
- v) Urged the ICGLR to convene a meeting of Ministers of Defence of Angola, DRC, Uganda and the Minister of Defence of the current chair of the SADC, to be held on the 18th of November, 2015, in Kinshasa, DRC, to decide on the way forward given the expiry of the ICGLR Summit deadline for the repatriation of the remaining ex-M23 in Uganda.

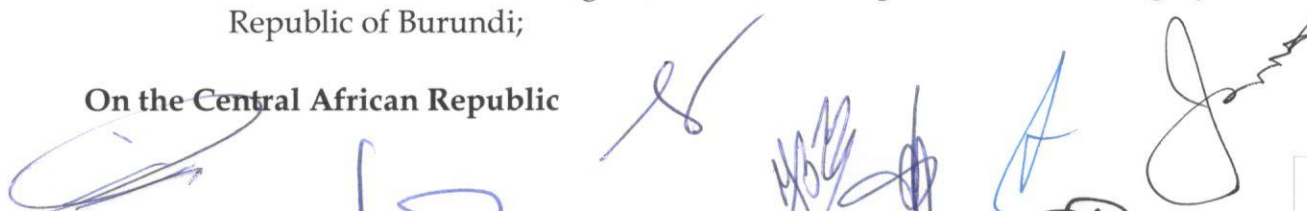
On South Sudan

- i. Welcomed the Signing of the IGAD mediated Peace Agreement by President Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of South Sudan, and Dr. Riek Machar, the leader of SPLM/IO;
- ii. Called for the deployment of a strong and well-facilitated IGAD monitoring and verification team to ensure the sustainability of the ceasefire in South Sudan;
- iii. Welcomed the Republic of Uganda's commencement of the withdrawal of its forces from the Republic of South Sudan in accordance with recently signed Compromise Peace Agreement;
- iv. Appealed to the international community to extend assistance to the Government of South Sudan to facilitate the return of refugees and internally displaced people and to address the worsening humanitarian conditions in some parts of the country;
- v. Called on the ICGLR troika to enhance their close participation in the ongoing resolution of the conflict in South Sudan.

On Burundi

- i. Appreciated the efforts of the EAC Mediation process led by H.E Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda in search of peace and stability in Burundi ;
- ii. Welcomed the willingness of the Government of the Republic of Burundi to engage in the all inclusive inter-Burundi dialogue to be conducted in and outside Burundi under various thematic areas in consolidation of peace and unity required by the people of Burundi ;
- iii. Appealed to the ICGLR Troika (Angola, Kenya and Uganda) to work with both the Government of Rwanda and the Government of Burundi to implement the decision of the RIMC meeting on the deployment of EJVM to verify allegations of acts of aggression against the Republic of Burundi, and to find an amicable resolution to the tensions between the two sister countries;
- ii. Called for the adherence to the ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, the Protocol on Non-aggression and Mutual Defence and the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region, in order to respect of the sovereignty of the Republic of Burundi;

On the Central African Republic



- i. Called on ICGLR Member states to urgently expedite nomination of Military experts by the 15th November, as recommended by the Summit in Luanda to assess the necessary needs for the reconstruction of the armed forces of the Central African Republic;
- ii. Recommend that the Chair of RIMC to facilitate the implementation of ICGLR Summit decision on convening a Joint ICGLR/ECCAS Summit;
- iii. Called on the United Nations to lift the arms embargo on the Central African Republic, and appealed to all ICGLR member states to support this call, and further called on African members of the UN Security Council to help advance this important call;
- iv. Called on ICGLR Member States to honor their previously expressed pledges to assist the CAR with financial and technical support to ensure the holding of the elections in the country.

On the EJVM


- i. The meeting adopted the report of the EJVM with amendments. They further called for the budget of 2016 to reflect the main planned activities for the year before approval;
- ii. Called upon ICGLR Member states that had not sent all their experts to EJVM to do so in accordance with its Terms of Reference to ensure effectiveness of its operations;
- iii. Encouraged those Member states that have not cleared their financial obligations to the EJVM to do so as soon as possible;
- iv. Proposed that EJVM contributions be consolidated into the Member States annual dues for the sake of efficiency and consistency;
- v. Encouraged the EJVM to visit Burundi and verify the real causes that compelled some citizens of Burundi to leave their homes.

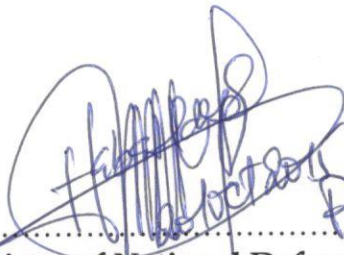
The Committee of Ministers of Defence commended the Government and the People of Angola for the warm hospitality and excellent facilities that enabled the meeting to be successful.



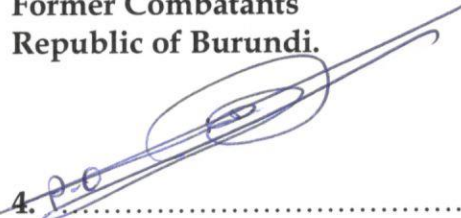
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Done in Luanda, Angola, le 20 October 2015

1. 
Minister of National Defense
Republic of Angola.

2. 
Minister of National Defence and
Former Combatants
Republic of Burundi.

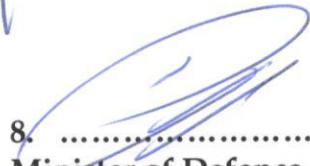
3. 
Minister of State for National Defence
Central African Republic

4. 
Minister at Presidency in charge of
National Defence
Republic of Congo

5. 
Minister of National Defence and
Former Combatants
Democratic Republic of Congo


6. 
Cabinet Secretary for Defence
Republic of Kenya


7.
Minister of Defence
Republic of Rwanda

8. 
Minister of Defence
Republic of The Sudan

9.
Minister of Defence
Republic of South Sudan

10.
Minister of Defence and National
Service
United Republic of Tanzania

11. 
Minister of Defence
Republic of Uganda

12. 
Minister of Defence
Republic of Zambia