

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION



ICGLR/RIMC/1/05/2015

SECRETARIAT EXÉCUTIF  
CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE  
SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS

## FINAL COMMUNIQUE

Extra-ordinary Meeting of the ICGLR Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee (RIMC) on the Security and Humanitarian situation in the Great Lakes Region, with special focus on the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of South Sudan and the threat of terrorism in the region.

Luanda, Angola, 15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

*Muteke*  
*Ge*

*Amus* *NE* *Ly* *HL* *de* *KE* *CK*

An extraordinary meeting of the ICGLR Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee (RIMC) was held in Luanda, Angola, from 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015 in preparation for the Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

**The meeting was held under the theme: *"The Security and Humanitarian situation in the Great Lakes Region with special focus on the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of South Sudan and the growing threat of terrorism."***

The meeting was attended by Ministers of External Relations and Foreign Affairs or their representatives from the following Member States: Republic of Angola, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Sudan, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Zambia.

### Opening Session

In his opening remarks, the ICGLR Executive Secretary Professor Ntumba Luaba, briefed the meeting on the unfolding situation in Burundi, and the overall security and humanitarian situation in the Republic of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic and the Republic of South Sudan. The Executive Secretary deplored and condemned the recent killing of innocent people by Al-Shabab terrorist group at Garissa University College in Kenya. He further described the safety and security challenge facing the Secretariat and its staff due to the ongoing crisis in Burundi, and requested that Ministers analyse the situation in order to ensure the continued effectiveness of the organization and the safety of the staff of the organisation.

The Chair of the ICGLR RIMC, H.E. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chicoti, the Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola, extended a warm welcome to his colleagues and other delegates to Luanda, and urged them to consider the issues under discussion with particular emphasis on the eradication of all negative forces and to work together to save the region from the increasing threat of terrorism. On Burundi, the Chairperson condemned the attempted coup d'état that occurred recently which is contrary to the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region.

*S. Muteke*  
*GA*  
*Bur*  
*TE*  
*LR*  
*HR*  
*DR*  
*DR*  
  
2

The Chairman also expressed condolences to the people and Government of the Republic of Kenya following the barbaric killing of innocent students and others at Garissa University College. He also extended sympathy to the people and Government of the United Republic of Tanzania following the death of two military officers of MONUSCO/IB in the Eastern DRC.

**Plenary Session**

During the deliberations

**The meeting strongly condemned** the attempted coup d'état in the Republic of Burundi, and urged all parties to the crisis in the country to commit to a peaceful resolution and embark on an orderly process to prepare an environment conducive for fair, credible and transparent elections;

**The meeting also strongly condemned** the heinous massacre of 150 innocent people, including 147 students, at the Garissa University College in Kenya, by the terrorist group Al-Shabaab, and expressed its condolences to the government and people of the Republic of Kenya;



**The meeting welcomed** the Republic of Kenya's commitment to continue fighting terrorism, and urged all ICGLR member states to seriously work on addressing the growing radicalization of the youth;

**The meeting also strongly condemned** the killing of the two Tanzanian MONUSCO/IB officers and the continuous killing of innocent people in Beni, in the Eastern DRC;

**The meeting commended** the United Republic of Tanzania for apprehending Shiekh Jamil Mukulu, the leader of ADF. The meeting further welcomed the surrender of the founder of NALU to the Uganda government authorities;

**The meeting welcomed** the holding of the National Reconciliation Forum in Bangui, Central African Republic from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and encouraged the stakeholders to implement the resolutions on national peace and reconciliation in the country;

**The meeting also welcomed** the expressed readiness of the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Rwanda to temporarily facilitate the hosting of the Secretariat, and directed the Secretariat to provide a cost effective report related to the temporary move for consideration by the Chair;

*P. Mutahi*  
*GC*  
*76*  
*for to H. de*  
*etc*  
  




The meeting received a briefing on the Meeting of the Committee of Ministers of Defence of the ICGR that was held in Luanda, Angola on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, 2015.

**Recommendations**

After deliberation, the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee (RIMC) recommends to the ICGLR Summit as follows:

**1. On the Republic of South Sudan**

- i. The designation of the SPLM-IO rebels and all other South Sudanese militia groups operating in the country as negative forces and to be treated accordingly by all the ICGLR Member States as stipulated by the **Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region**;
- ii. Respect for the sovereignty and legitimacy of the elected Government of the Republic of South Sudan, and commended the Government for continuing to seriously engage in the peace talks despite continued violations from the SPLM-IO rebels. Urged the SPLM-IO rebels to accept and participate in the formation of the proposed Transitional Government of National Unity which is all-inclusive as accepted by the Government;
- iii. That no UN sanctions, whether targeted sanctions or arms embargo, be imposed on South Sudan, as these would be counter-productive and only serve to exacerbate the situation;
- iv. Commend the supporting and observer role of the CPA Troika (Governments of Norway, USA and UK) in the South Sudan IGAD-led peace process, while urging them to continue their positive engagement without directly participating in the mediation process;
- v. Increased humanitarian assistance for South Sudan from the International Community with other donors, and urged the ICGLR Member States to mobilize financial and other resources to address the increasing number of internally displaced civilians as a result of the conflict.

P. Natcho

BWA

DE

LH

HIC

to

pk

df

GE

2. On the Central African Republic

- i. That a joint ICGLR/ECCAS Summit be convened on the situation in the Central African Republic and urged that all stakeholders in CAR be encouraged to expedite the national reconciliation process in view of the forthcoming elections in the country;
- ii. Considering that the end of tenure of the current transitional government is due in December 2015 and the upcoming elections are scheduled for December 2015, ICGLR Member States and the international community should honour their previous pledges, and mobilize additional resources to ensure the conduct of the elections;
- iii. That the ICGLR advocate for the lifting of the UN sanctions and arms embargo on the CAR, and mobilize current African members of the UN Security Council to support that in order to facilitate the reestablishment of a functional national security force ;
- iv. The full participation of ICGLR Ministers at the upcoming International Conference on the CAR in Brussels on May 26, 2015, to be coordinated by the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Rwanda.

3. On the Democratic Republic of Congo

- i. That the Government of the DRC continue military offensive against FDLR and other negative forces in the DRC with special emphasis on neutralizing their command structures;
- ii. Without prejudice to the sovereignty of the DRC, Government of the DRC continue to work closely with MONUSCO in order to sustain pressure on the FDLR and all other negative forces and armed groups operating in Eastern DRC;
- iii. That Mechanisms be established composed of DRC, Uganda, UN, AU, SADC, ICGLR and DRC, Rwanda, UN and ICGLR, AU, SADC to help expedite the repatriation of the ex-combatants of M23 within a period of three months in implementation of the Nairobi Declaration;
- iv. The speedy repatriation to Rwanda of FDLR elements in the transit camps (KANYABAYONGA, WALUNGU and Lt. Gen. BAHUMA Camp) along with their dependants;

P. Matabira

Boik

LOI NE



4. On the Republic of Burundi

- i. That the Government of Burundi be urged to work towards the restoration of peace, security and stability in the country;
- ii. That the Government of Burundi expeditiously work to establish a conducive atmosphere for the speedy return of the refugees;
- iii. That the Government immediately release the detained ICGLR staff member and all foreign nationals arrested in the country since the start of the crisis;
- iv. A high level ICGLR delegation of Heads of State visit Burundi in the shortest possible time to evaluate the situation and contribute to the peaceful resolution of the current crisis;
- v. All parties in Burundi commit to stop the on-going acts of violence and pursue dialogue and peace;
- vi. That the Government of Burundi postpone the elections for a period not beyond the mandate of the current Government, and to join hands with all stakeholders in establishing the necessary conducive atmosphere for an electoral process that is peaceful, credible and transparent in accordance with the ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development;
- vii. That the Government respect the constitutional rights of the people of Burundi and its obligations under the ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development and the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance to which it is a signatory;
- viii. That the International Community extends much-needed humanitarian assistance to Burundians who have been displaced as a result of the crisis.

5. On the Situation in Sudan

- i. The lifting of sanctions imposed on the country for the last two decades;
- ii. Full support for the efforts by the Government of Sudan to neutralise all Sudanese negative forces operating in the country;
- iii. The suspension of any form of support to Sudanese negative forces (JEM, SPLM-N, SLM-AW & SLM-MM);

*Handwritten signatures and initials:*  
A large blue signature on the left side of the page.  
A blue circle containing the letters "RVR".  
A blue signature that appears to be "JH".  
A blue signature that appears to be "HIC".  
A blue signature that appears to be "K".  
A small box containing the number "6".

- iv. Enhanced cooperation by the ICGLR with other regional actors and international organisations to tackle the possible proliferation of mercenary groups, arms traffickers and negative forces that are targeting UN peacekeepers, humanitarian workers and civilians.

6. On the threat of Terrorism

- i. Proactive sharing of intelligence by all ICGLR Member States, enhancement of early warning mechanisms, close monitoring of cross border movements, and the strengthening of the existing regional counter-terrorism mechanisms in the fight against this threat;
- ii. That the ICGLR Regional Youth Forum organize a special programme of solidarity with the students of Garissa University College as an expression of unity in the face of the heinous threat of terrorism.

7. On the Conference Secretariat

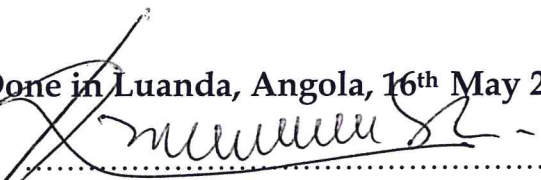
- i. The temporary relocation of the Conference Secretariat (CS) from Burundi to ensure the safety and security of the staff and the continued effective functioning of the organisation until such time as the situation stabilizes;
- ii. That a skeleton staff from the Conference Secretariat remains in Bujumbura to continue engaging in the effort to help Burundi return to peace and stability.

Vote of thanks

The meeting received the vote of thanks moved by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda, H.E. Louise Mushikiwabo, on behalf of her colleagues, to the Government and People of Angola for the warm hospitality and excellent facilities put at the disposal of the delegations, and for the continued steadfast leadership of the Chairman of RIMC, H.E. Georges Rebelo Chicoti.

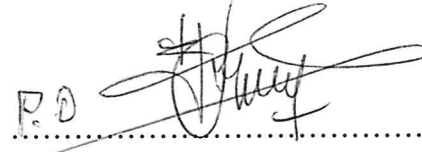
*P. Mutake*  
*GA*  
*Sur*  
*17*  
*LM*  
*de HK*  
*102*  
*7*


Done in Luanda, Angola, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015

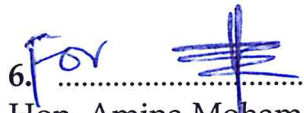
1.   
Hon. George Rebelo Pinto Chicoti  
Minister of External Relations  
Republic of Angola

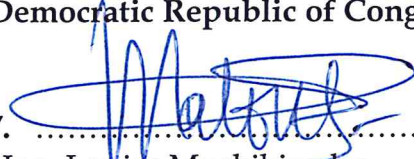
2. ....  
Hon. Laurent Kavakure  
Minister of External Relations and  
international Cooperation  
Republic of Burundi

3.   
Hon. Toussaint Kongo Doudou  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Africa  
Integration and Francophonie  
Central African Republic

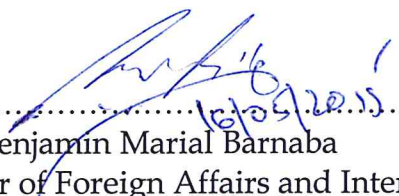
4.   
Hon. Basile Ikouébé  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Congo

5.   
Hon. Raymond Tshibanda N'Tungamulongo  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International  
Cooperation  
Democratic Republic of Congo

6.   
Hon. Amina Mohamed  
Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Kenya

7.   
Hon. Louise Mushikiwabo  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation  
Republic of Rwanda

8.   
Hon. Ali Ahmed Karti  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of The Sudan

9.   
Hon. Benjamin Marial Barnaba  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International  
Cooperation  
Republic of South Sudan

10. ....  
Hon. Bernard Kamillius Membe  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
International Cooperation  
United Republic of Tanzania

11.   
Hon. Sam Kuteesa  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Uganda

12.   
Hon. Harry Kalala  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Zambia