



**OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

Regional Judicial Cooperation

Summary of Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commitments 6 and 7 of the PSC Framework call on the Heads of State to neither harbour nor provide protection to individuals accused of committing genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or are under sanctions, and also to commit to facilitating the administration of justice through regional judicial cooperation. ▪ These commitments reinforce the ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development for the Great Lakes, and key ICGLR protocols relating to judicial matters. ▪ The OSESG Roadmap, the Regional Plan of Action and the UNCT Strategic Regional Plan have also highlighted the need to foster judicial cooperation among the countries in the region as way to help strengthen accountability, build trust and confidence in the region and improve rule of law.
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ While there are regional guidelines for judicial cooperation in the ICGLR Protocol and other ICGLR protocols, and a number of countries have extradition treaties between them, there has been little action to effectively foster regional judicial cooperation. Events such as the recent arrest and extradition of Jamil Mukulu confirm the need to develop initiatives and support efforts that can encourage countries in the region to cooperate on judicial matters.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Special Envoy plans to work with the AU, ICGLR, UN partners, national authorities and NGO's to initiate an in-depth regional discussion on judicial cooperation on criminal matters in the Great Lakes, that can then develop recommendations and concrete action at different levels, including cross-border pilot projects, joint commissions of investigations, and/or high-level Ministerial meeting on judicial cooperation. ▪ An initial meeting is proposed for October, 2015, which will bring together national officials from the DRC, Rwanda and Uganda in a one day forum to kick-start the discussion, identify opportunities and challenges, and make recommendations for further actions. ▪ In addition, the Special Envoy is organizing with the ICGLR Regional Training Facility on Sexual Violence (Uganda) a forum on gender access to justice with experts and national authorities from the region that is tentatively proposed for October/November 2015.



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Messaging	▪ Support for the region’s justice initiatives is essential to ensuring those responsible for conflict-related atrocities are brought to justice and will also go a long way toward building trust and confidence and developing a regional judicial network that based firmly on the rule of law.	
	Drafted by	Distribution
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