

OSESG-GL Newsletter Issue 1, January 2018 - March 2018



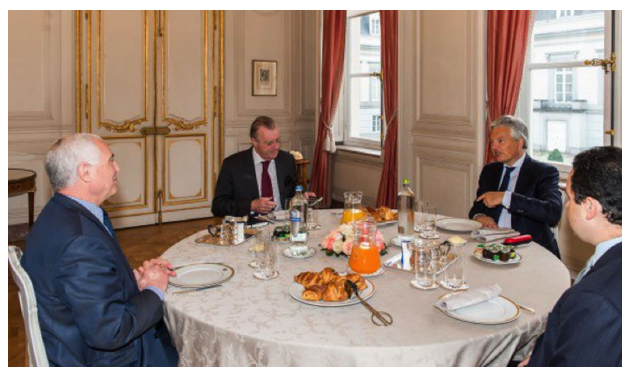
UN AND AU FOR STRONG, STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

On 20 December 2017, United Nations Special Envoy Said Djinnit met with Basile Ikouebe, the newly appointed African Union (AU) Special Representative for the Great Lakes region and Head of the AU Liaison Office in Burundi. Mr. Ikouebe took over from Prof. Ibrahima Fall in late November 2017. Mr. Djinnit briefed his counterpart on the structures of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework agreement, as well as recent developments and reform initiatives in the region. He also provided an overview of his Office's political priorities and proposed activities to be undertaken in close collaboration with the AU to further advance the implementation of the PSC Framework in 2018. [Read more](#)



SPECIAL ENVOY DJINNIT HOLDS CONSULTATIONS WITH PRESIDENT SASSOU NGUESSO IN BRAZZAVILLE, REPUBLIC OF CONGO

United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region Said Djinnit travelled to Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, from 16 to 19 December 2017, to meet with President Denis Sassou Nguesso and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jean-Claude Gakosso. They discussed various initiatives as a follow-up to the eighth high-level Summit of the Regional Oversight Mechanism (ROM) of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region, held in Brazzaville on 19 October. [Read more](#)



IN BRUSSELS, SPECIAL ENVOY DJINNIT SPOTLIGHTS THE FORGOTTEN CRISES IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

Special Envoy Said Djinnit met on 6 December 2017 with representatives of the European External Action Service and the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium, to discuss the political and security situation in the Great Lakes region, as well as ways to increase financial support to the Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework. The Regional Strategic Framework is a United Nations coordination mechanism that encapsulates a development approach to peace and security issues in the region. [Read more](#)



THE GUARANTORS OF THE PEACE, SECURITY AND COOPERATION FRAMEWORK REAFFIRM THEIR SUPPORT FOR A DEMOCRATIC AND PEACEFUL TRANSITION IN THE DRC

SPECIAL ENVOY DJINNIT AND SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE SIDIKOU PARTICIPATE IN A JOINT MEETING ON THE DRC IN ADDIS ABABA

On 22 November 2017, United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region Said Djinnit and the head of MONUSCO Maman Sidikou participated in a meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the political situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The meeting, which was attended by the Guarantors of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework agreement, namely the United Nations, the African Union (AU), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), was a follow-up to the joint United Nations-African Union meeting held on 9 November.

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On 9 November 2017, United Nations Special Envoy for Africa's Great Lakes region Said Djinnit, and Special Representative Maman Sidikou, the Head of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), met with representatives of the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. They held consultations with the AU Commission Chairperson and the Commissioner for Peace and Security. Their discussions focused on the political and security situation in the DRC and avenues for enhanced coordination in support of the electoral process in the country. [Read more](#)



MEETING OF THE PEACE BUILDING COMMISSION ON THE GREAT LAKES REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

On 27 November 2017, The UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an Ambassadorial-level meeting on the Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework, which Special Envoy Said Djinnit was invited to brief. The Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework ("Regional Strategic Framework"), endorsed by the United Nations Security Council in March 2016, reflects the United Nations development approach to the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region ("PSC Framework"). It aims at aligning efforts of UN presences across the region in support of the implementation of the international commitments under the PSC Framework. [Read more](#)



UN PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE GREAT LAKES REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK THROUGH THE FUNDING OF CROSS-BORDER PROJECTS

As a result of Special Envoy Said Djinnit's various visits and discussions with the UN Peacebuilding Commission during 2017, the Peace Building Commission approved and funded a catalytic and key project through the Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework Multi Partners Trust Fund. The project, "Preventing Conflict and Building Peace through Addressing the Drivers of Conflict and Instability Associated with Forced Displacement between Burundi and Tanzania", starts implementation on 1 January 2018, and is expected to reach its objectives by the end of the year. [Read more](#)

UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETS ON 8 DECEMBER 2017, UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTS RES. 2389 ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION



UN OFFICE FOR AFRICA'S GREAT LAKES WORKING CLOSELY WITH COUNTRY TEAMS AND ICGLR IN ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES OF CONFLICT AND INSTABILITY IN THE REGION

In the morning of the 27 November 2017, the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit, briefed the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) at the United Nations headquarters in New York with a view to strengthening policy coherence between peace, security and development efforts, and generating interest in support for the cross-border peacebuilding priorities identified under the Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework. [Read more](#)



TOWARDS GREATER COLLABORATION ON ISSUES OF SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF THE UN SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION AND THE ICGLR

The United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, Said Djinnit, and the Executive-Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), Zachary Muburi-Muita, met on 23 November 2017 in Bujumbura, Burundi, to explore ways for greater collaboration on key development and security issues concerning the region. The two heads held discussions on topical areas falling under their respective mandates. [Read more](#)



LEADERS OF AFRICA'S GREAT LAKES REGION AGREE TO VIGOROUSLY TACKLE THE ISSUE OF ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS IN THE REGION AND SPEED UP THE REPATRIATION PROCESS OF DISARMED FDLR COMBATANTS

The Eighth Meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region was held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, on 19 October 2017. The meeting brought together leaders of the region, including heads of State and Government from the signatory countries of the PSC Framework, as well as high officials from the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU), and representatives from regional organizations and various stakeholders. [Read more](#)



DECISION OF THE 8TH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL OVERSIGHT MECHANISM (ROM)

At the 8th High Level meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism held in Brazzaville on 19 October 2017, the heads of State of the region encouraged the Office of the United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, in consultation with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Secretariat, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union, to convene regular meetings to review progress in the implementation of the Declaration of the Women's Platform of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework adopted in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in July 2016. [Read more](#)

COMMUNiqué OF THE EIGHTH HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE REGIONAL OVERSIGHT MECHANISM OF THE PEACE, SECURITY AND COOPERATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO AND THE REGION BRAZZAVILLE, 19 OCTOBER 2017



EXPERTS FROM THE GREAT LAKES JUDICIAL COOPERATION NETWORK MEET IN KHARTOUM AND JOIN FORCES AGAINST CROSS-BORDER CRIME

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) with support from the United Nations Office for the Great Lakes region and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), organized the first meeting of the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network in Khartoum, Sudan, on 1-2 November 2017. This meeting of the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network is the first one since its establishment in November 2016. [Read more](#)



UN ENVOY SAID DJINNIT MEETS WITH EU PARTNERS ON THE POLITICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

Stability and security are coming slowly to the Great Lakes region, albeit with some major challenges still to overcome. It is in this context that Said Djinnit, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, on 9 October 2017 convened a meeting with members of the diplomatic corps of the European Union and Norway based in the region. Among the issues discussed were the elections in Kenya and the on-going political dialogues in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundi. Participants also discussed the central question of neutralization of negative forces in the region, especially the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Allied



UNDER THE UN INITIATIVE, LEADERS OF AFRICA'S GREAT LAKES REGION UNDERTAKE A FIELD VISIT TO ASSESS PROGRESS IN THE NEUTRALIZATION OF NEGATIVE FORCES IN EASTERN DRC

Under the leadership of the Office of the United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, representatives of the signatory countries of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework agreement, namely from the African Union (AU), the International Conference on the Great Lakes region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) undertook a field visit in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on 11 September 2017 to assess progress in the neutralization of negative forces in this region. The United Nations peacekeeping mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) provided logistical support for the

Democratic Forces (ADF), the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO) and the ex-M23. [Read more](#)

visit, which also included Uganda. [Read more](#)

ADVOCACY

- [Decision of the 8th meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism \(ROM\)](#)
- [Partners Consultative Meeting on UN Women Strategy, Southern Sun Mayfair Hotel, Nairobi: 8 September 2017](#)
- [ICGLR Regional Women Forum participation in TSC Field Visit: 7-11 September 2017](#)

- [Sexual and Gender Based Violence Meeting: 20 September 2017](#)

COORDINATION

- [Partnerships Discussion: 21 September, 2017](#)

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

- [UN System-Wide Strategy on Gender Parity](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

22 January 2018

- Coordination meeting with Resident Coordinators and Regional Directors on the Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework.
- Coordination meeting between the United Nations and the World Bank in the Great Lakes Region.
- Director-level meeting of the Working Group on Displacement in the Great Lakes Region.

23 January 2018

- Management Board Meeting for the Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework Fund.
- Steering Committee Meeting, Great Lakes Cross Border Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

22 February 2018

- Ninth face-to-face meeting of the Advisory Board of the Women's Platform for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, Nairobi, Kenya.

The PSC Framework in a few words...

In February 2013, 11 nations signed the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region, in a renewed drive to end the recurring cycles of devastating conflicts in eastern DRC which impact stability and development in the Great Lakes area of Africa. On 31 January 2014, two more countries, Kenya and Sudan, became signatories of the PSC Framework. The Framework aims to help "address the root causes of conflict and put an end to recurring cycles of violence" in eastern DRC and the Great Lakes Region...[Read more](#)

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