



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

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## Youth

<b>SUMMARY OF FACTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ O/SESG supported the Youth Summit in Nairobi in July 2014 and subsequently secured – as per final communique – that youth is a ‘pillar’ in the UNCTs’ Regional Strategy Paper and upcoming programming;</li> <li>▪ O/SESG is participating in the launching the initiative ‘Youth Centers for Peace’ in up to six eastern DR Congo cities. Goma will be the first and will be opened in October 2015, in cooperation with ICGLR Youth Forum, UN Habitat, MONUSCO and local authorities;</li> <li>▪ O/SESG is coordinating with Kenyan ministries – foreign and decentralization/planning – and ICGLR in support of the sustainable set-up of ICGLR Youth Forum in Nairobi. Productive meetings held on August 25 and 26 with ICGLR Youth Forum interim chair, ICGLR Secretariat, and Kenyan ministries that lay out plan for the operationalization of the Youth Forum.</li> <li>▪ Joint youth projects with CEPGL will contribute to its ‘revitalization’, as stipulated in the Regional Action Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>ANALYSIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Youth is cross-cutting and given challenges of high unemployment and insufficient socio-political participation and empowerment processes, it can be an explosive issue;</li> <li>▪ Youth can be converted into the biggest resource of GL region if they engaged, educated and empowered;</li> </ul>
<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work with ICGLR Youth Forum, ICGLR Secretariat and Kenya Ministries to operationalize the Youth Forum before the next ICGLR Summit.</li> <li>▪ Launch with partners the Goma Youth Centre for Peace in October/November 2015, inviting foreign and youth ministers from DR Congo, Rwanda and Burundi;</li> <li>▪ Work with UNCTs on regional programming and coordinate with WBG’s regional projects so that youth engagement and employment is encouraged, quantified and measured;</li> <li>▪ Work with ICGLR Youth Forum on regional projects, engaging private sector in the PSIC process;</li> </ul>



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<b>MESSAGING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Youth is an important issue in SESG's Roadmap and along with women and civil society projects constitutes the 'forces vives' portfolio;</li> <li>▪ O/SESG works with regional organizations to make sure youth programmes are coordinated.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Drafted by</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
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