



Regional Consultation on the planning and preparation of the Great Lakes  
Investment and Trade Conference (GLITC)  
Hotel Serena, Kigali, Rwanda, 3 May 2019

Conclusion of deliberations

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Office of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region (OSES-G-L), in conjunction with the Rwanda Development Board, convened a regional consultation on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 in Kigali.

In attendance were representatives of the organized private sector of the countries of the Great Lakes region and some Investment Promotion Agencies from the 12 signatory countries of the PSC-Framework. Others included the representatives of development partners, regional women business group, international and regional organizations. Members of the diplomatic community attended the opening ceremony, which was chaired by the RDB on behalf of the Minister of Commerce and Industry of Rwanda (Cf. List of Participants annexed to this Report).

The main objective of the consultation meeting was to share ideas with stakeholders of the region and obtain validation on the focus and intended outcomes of the second regional conference to be known as the Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference (GLIT). It is important to recall that the organization of such a conference is in line with the recommendation of the Heads of States at the 7<sup>th</sup> high-level Regional Oversight Mechanism of the PSC Framework in Luanda, Angola on 26 October 2016 to carry out the necessary “follow-up action to the first Private Sector Conference with a view to further promoting the role of the private sector in support of peace and stability in the region”.

Participants brainstormed on optimal ways to ensure the success of the Conference in line with the stated objectives. They reviewed issues arising from the first edition of the conference in Kinshasa and identified critical short comings and lessons learned for the benefit of planning and organizing the next conference. They also deliberated on the business climate in the region and emphasized on the need to promote investment enabling and supporting sectors that would promote intra-regional trade and integration, amongst others.



The participants concluded with the following decisions for immediate and effective implementation by the member States, Chambers of Commerce, regional stakeholders and development partners:

- **Date and Venue:** The Conference is proposed to be held on 14-16 October in 2019 in Kigali.
- **Conference Facility:** The meeting welcomed Rwanda's offer to provide the conference facilities of the Kigali Convention Centre and back-up support as may be appropriate by the Rwanda Convention Bureau (RCB), for the hosting of the conference.
- **Title of the Conference:** the second private sector investment conference is to be titled "Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference" with the acronym "GLITC". This title is in line with the focus on cross-border trade and investment as a catalyst for regional integration. It also and better captures need to attract investments from the private sector and from regional and international financial institutions international investments in through the promotion of structural investment projects in the border areas of the countries of the region.
- **Scope, Focus and Sectors:** The Conference will aim to be a platform for the promotion of cross-border projects as well as other identified projects in the Great Lakes region on the following sectors: energy, mining, agriculture, infrastructure and financial services and ICT that have the potential to contribute to promoting peace and stability through the provision of jobs and livelihood opportunities for youth and women.
- **Format:** The three-day conference will include a high-level political segment with the suggested participation of Heads of State and Government at the opening ceremony, plenary sessions with key-note speakers, industry sector specific sessions as well as exhibition stands for member states on the sidelines of the Conference to showcase countries specific projects.



- **Participants:** the target will be 500 participants from public and private sectors;
- **Funding:** following consideration of a draft budget presented, and the necessity to raise funds to cover a gap within a limited time, the meeting decided to combine corporate fees registration (USD 500/larger business and USD 250/SME), sponsorship, and fundraising. A small working group, to be led by Kenya Chamber of Commerce and O/SESG-GL will be set up to drive the fundraising process which should be structured and driven by the projects to showcase during the Conference. The Conference's preparatory activities including promotion activities (roadshows, website) will be budgeted and included in the Conference's general budget.
- **Deliverables:** the GLITC will aim for some specific 'announcements', investment deals which will be prepared and nearly finalized before the gathering in Kigali. 5-6 such projects will be identified and prepared by the organizers and the investors in preceding months. A GLITC follow-up mechanism will be set up to implement the Conference's decisions and recommendations, in particular to finalize those deals.
- **Identification of integrating projects:** after taking note of the CEPGL's progress report of the status of 7 existing projects out of the 25 Investment Opportunities Brief (IOB) projects presented in Kinshasa in 2016, the meeting requested an updated report on the 25 projects to determine suitability for further consideration. Participants also requested the respective Chambers of Commerce to submit to the organizing committee a list of selected additional priority projects for consideration in the final projects to be showcased during the conference.
- **Ownership of the process:** The meeting decided to reach out and to engage the Governments and the private sector of all 13 signatory countries of the PSC Framework to drive the process. The Governments buy-in of the Conference is considered crucial for its success.



- **Follow-up measures and operationalization of the ICGLR Private Sector Forum:** the participants tasked ICGLR, O/SESG-GL and ICGLR Private Sector Forum's interim board which will hold a consultation meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in Kigali to set up, as soon as possible, a working group (organizing committee) and to propose, amongst others, a timeline of pre-conference activities including benchmarks and specific responsibilities defined to the next meeting of the Steering Committee.
- Kenya proposed, in the one hand, to host (permanently) the ICGLR Private Sector Forum and, in the other, the ICGLR Private Sector Forum General Assembly in Nairobi late June 2019 to elect the main Body members.

## **CLOSING CEREMONY**

At the closing ceremony of the meeting chaired by the President of Private Sector Forum (PSF) of Rwanda, the national and regional private sector re-iterated its commitment to take a leading role in the GLITC's process. Participants also expressed their gratitude to the ICGLR and the O/SESG-GL and requested their continued active support during the whole process.

They thanked the Government and the People of Rwanda for the warm hospitality extended to all participants and for all the facilities availed which made the meeting a resounding success.