



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **UN Special Envoy Djinnit lauds Great Lakes Countries for progress made in implementing the Regional Mineral Certification Mechanism**

**Kinshasa, 6 November 2014** - The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit, attended the third meeting of the Ministers of Mines of the Members States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), who gathered in Kinshasa, DRC, to assess the progress made in the implementation of the ICGLR Mineral Certification Mechanism launched in 2010. In his address, Special Envoy Djinnit stressed “the necessity to end the illegal exploitation of natural resources including mineral resources, and turn the mining sector into a lever for regional economic cooperation and integration”. He welcomed in particular efforts carried out by the Governments of the DRC, Rwanda and Burundi in domesticating and implementing the ICGLR Mineral Certification Mechanism. Furthermore, the Special Envoy encouraged the ICGLR Members States to “pursue their efforts to harmonize national and regional legislations with international due diligence mechanisms.”

Prior to attending the ICGLR Mineral Certification Ministerial meeting, Special Envoy Djinnit addressed the 8th ICGLR-OECD-UN Group of Experts Forum on Responsible Minerals Supply Chain and met with key actors of the mining sectors. In both meetings, the Special Envoy underscored that regional collaboration on natural resources exploitation needs “to be strengthened not only because of its economic development benefit, but also its implication in addressing the human rights aspects and ensuring inclusive development that is transformative for all the citizens in the region, particularly the most vulnerable.”

Recalling that responsible exploitation of natural resources is part of the Regional Plan of Action of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region, Special Envoy Djinnit pledged to support the efforts of the ICGLR and all the Governments of the region “to turn the conflict and discord minerals into the minerals for peace and development”.

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