

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



CLOSING REMARKS BY THE HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL DURING THE GREAT
LAKES REGION CONFERENCE AT WINDSOR ON 15TH MAY 2019

Mr. Huang Xia, United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region;

Mr. Andrew Gilmour, United Nations Assistant-Secretary-General for Human
Rights;

Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita, Executive Secretary International
Conference for Great Lakes Region;

Your Excellency Aime Ange Wilfrid Bininga, the Minister of Justice, Human
Rights and Promotion of Indigenous People of the Republic of Congo

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Excellencies, Ambassadors, and Members of the Diplomatic Corp,

Good afternoon,

It has been a pleasure hosting all of you for this High-Level Regional Conference on Justice and Governance. I am happy that we have been able to achieve the goal that we set out to achieve and that we now have a Declaration.

The conference has been highly successful, which is reflected in the agreed recommendations that move the region a further step toward attaining peace, security and prosperity. The recommendations endorsed by the Ministers include providing the ICGLR Lusaka centre for Democracy and good governance with comprehensive information on the implementation of the instrument for the promotion of justice for all and protection of human rights. This will assist in monitoring how the declarations is being implemented and also create an opportunity for exchange and learning good practices

Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen,

We have also agreed that member states should come up with action plans for the prevention of genocide and other atrocious acts. On the issue of Transitional Justice, we have agreed to develop and implement context specific reparation programs that seek to remedy including by addressing the immediate needs of survivors and acknowledge the harm caused in a non-discriminatory, gender sensitive and victim cantered manner

Countries have also been called upon to set institutions and set aside budgets to address the issue of sexual gender based violence.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

I must emphasize the importance of giving life to the Declaration. In the past, there has been a missing link between commitments and implementation. We ratify treaties, we pass resolutions, but implementation is slow. It is my prayer that member states will embrace the Declaration and put in place mechanisms to implement it.

I am confident that we shall remain committed to our collective objectives as a region and that we shall work tirelessly to see that the commitments we have made to each through various Declarations over the years are upheld and respected.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for taking the time to come and discuss the topics that have led to the recommendations now adopted by the conference.

I also wish to thank the panellists and keynote speakers who have provided us with insights that have made these discussions possible.

Special thanks also go to the MC and the moderators who guided the discussions on Monday and yesterday.

I wish to thank all dignitaries and everyone else who has attended and participated in the discussions for the last two days. It would not have been possible to make any meaningful progress without your input.

Finally, I cannot forget the work done by the ICGLR Secretariat, the Office of the Great Lakes Region under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here in Kenya and my officers, from the Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice who have worked tirelessly to make this conference a success.

To our visitors, I hope you have enjoyed your stay here in Kenya. You are welcome to enjoy our beautiful sceneries before you depart.

Allow me to once again express my sincere gratitude and thank you all for coming and participating in these important discussions.

I wish you all safe travels back to your countries.

Asanteni