



9th Meeting of the Guarantors of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region

Nairobi, 6 July 2022

1. On 6 July 2022, the representatives of the Guarantor institutions of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region met in Nairobi, Kenya, to: (i) assess the latest developments in the region and (ii) exchange on ways to further enhance their support to the implementation of the PSC Framework and ongoing peace efforts by leaders of the region, including in the context of the recent deterioration of the security situation in eastern DRC and its implications for regional stability.
2. The meeting was attended by Huang Xia, Special Envoy of the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region; Michelle Ndiaye, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission for the DRC; Ambassador Yasir Ibrahim Ali Mohammed, Deputy Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR); and Jorge Cardoso, Director of the Organ on Politics, Defense and Security, representing Elias Mpedi Magosi, Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Regional developments

3. The representatives of the Guarantors expressed deep concern over the deterioration of the security situation in eastern DRC and its regional implications since the holding of the 10th High-Level Meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism (ROM) on 24 February 2022 in Kinshasa, DRC, due to continuing, and recently increased, attacks by armed groups, including the 23 March Movement (M23) and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), among others. Further to the joint statement of the Guarantor institutions of the PSC Framework issued on 5 April 2022, they reiterated their strong condemnation of the resurgence of the M23 and called upon all armed groups to immediately cease hostilities and to engage resolutely and peacefully in the process of voluntary and unconditional disarmament.
4. They welcomed the efforts of the region to address these security challenges, including the holding of three Conclave Summits of Heads of State of the East African Community (EAC) on the peace and security situation in eastern DRC under the auspices of H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, and the consultations held between the DRC authorities and Congolese armed groups, launched as part of the political track of the Nairobi process. Taking note of the decision of the second and third Conclave Summits, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 21 April and 20 June 2022,

respectively, regarding the deployment of a regional force targeting negative forces in eastern DRC, the representatives of the Guarantors also called for continued efforts to advance the implementation of non-military measures in complement to military efforts as a key element in ensuring members of negative forces that are willing to surrender are provided with viable opportunities to return to civilian lives in full respect of international human rights and humanitarian law. In this regard and further to the decisions of the 10th ROM Summit, the representatives of the Guarantors encouraged the concerned countries to expedite the deployment and engagement of the Operational Cell of the Contact and Coordination Group to implement the non-military approach in the fight against negative forces.

5. The representatives of the Guarantors condemned the rise in hate speech and incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence in the region and called upon all stakeholders to exercise restraint and prosecute those involved in ethnic stereotyping and hate speech.

6. The representatives of the Guarantors further noted with concern the rising tensions between the DRC and Rwanda and called on both countries to exercise restraint and pursue a diplomatic solution. In this regard, they welcomed the mediation process led by H.E. President João Lourenço of Angola and the holding of the Tripartite Summit in Luanda, Angola on 6 July 2022.

7. They further urged all stakeholders to remain committed to dialogue and to spare no efforts to safeguard the progress already achieved by the PSC Framework signatory countries in terms of diplomatic initiatives and reinforced bilateral and regional cooperation.

8. The representatives of the Guarantor institutions also reiterated their willingness to collaborate more closely with a view to increasing their support to the region's ongoing peace efforts; in this regard, they pledged to develop concrete proposals in support of the various peace and security processes currently underway for a lasting solution to the current crisis. These include the priorities identified below.

Identified priorities

9. The representatives of the Guarantors committed to stepping up their support to the region with a view to addressing challenges to peace and security and preventing a reversal of the gains recently made in regional political, security and economic cooperation. They agreed to:

- Support efforts to de-escalate current tensions and to support dialogue processes among countries of the region, notably the Nairobi process and the Angolan mediation process;
- Continue to promote and fully support the effective implementation of non-military solutions needed to address the root causes of conflicts and committed themselves to working together to implement the Contact and Coordination Group's Action Plan on non-military measures and to deploy its Operational Cell as soon as possible;

- Redouble joint high-level political advocacy for the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the High-Level Workshop on the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Great Lakes Region, held from 31 August to 2 September 2021 in Khartoum, the Sudan, with a focus on gold originating from artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), as well as the continued mobilization of all relevant stakeholders for a successful second edition of the Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference by the end of the year in Kigali, Rwanda;
- Enhance support for the promotion of the rule of law through the implementation of the conclusions of the meeting of Ministers of Justice of ICGLR Member States on Enhancing Judicial Cooperation in the Great Lakes region, held on 16 June 2022 in Kinshasa, DRC;
- Continue providing support to initiatives aimed at ensuring a meaningful participation of women and youth in conflict prevention, mediation, peacebuilding and political processes.

Appreciation

10. Participants expressed their appreciation to Special Envoy Xia for convening the ninth meeting of the Guarantor institutions of the PSC Framework.