



## **6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial-level meeting of the Guarantors of the**

### **Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region**

**Addis Ababa, 6 February 2019**

1. On 6 February 2019, the representatives of the Guarantors of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework (PSC Framework) for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region held their sixth consultative meeting in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia to: (i) review developments in the Great Lakes region, and; (ii) assess progress in the implementation of the decisions of the 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Oversight Mechanism (ROM) Summit held on 8 October 2018 in Kampala.

2. The meeting was chaired by Honorable Sam Kahamba Kutesa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda. In attendance were: Said Djinnit, United Nations (UN) Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region; Zachary Muburi-Muita, ICGLR Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, SADC Executive Secretary. The African Union Commission was also represented.

#### **Neutralization of negative forces**

3. The representatives of the Guarantors expressed concern over the continued activities of armed groups in the region, in particular the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), as well as other groups of foreign origin in eastern DRC. In reviewing the 9<sup>th</sup> ROM decisions, they welcomed:

- The efforts by the Chair of the ROM, H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, including consultations with the Chairs of the AU, ICGLR, and SADC, with the support of the Guarantor institutions, on joint action to address negative forces.
- On-going efforts to strengthen existing ICGLR mechanisms, notably, the Joint Follow-up Mechanism on the ADF (Kasese, Uganda) and the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM - Goma, DRC) and reiterated the call on all participating countries to accelerate their contributions to ensure the full and effective operationalisation of these mechanisms.
- Progress in the repatriation of disarmed FDLR combatants and their dependents and ex-M23 combatants. Commended the Follow-up Mechanism for its work and the DRC, Rwanda and Uganda for their engagement, and encouraged continued cooperation to complete the repatriation of the remaining ex-M23 members in Uganda and Rwanda. Further encouraged the involvement of the Follow-up Mechanism in the monitoring of the reintegration process.

#### **Strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation**

4. Reaffirming the importance of resolving differences through dialogue and strengthening cooperation between the core countries in the region, the representatives of the Guarantors welcomed ongoing bilateral cooperation between the DRC and Rwanda as well as the DRC and Uganda to resolve amicably cross-border security issues. Welcomed the suggestion by the Office of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region and ICGLR to enhance confidence building on security matters, including through the convening of a meeting between the security services of the core countries to facilitate exchange of information.

### **Political Processes**

5. The representatives of the Guarantors welcomed the peaceful holding of presidential, legislative and provincial elections in the DRC and congratulated H.E. Felix Tshisekedi on taking office as President of the Republic. They emphasized the importance for the DRC's new leadership and all political actors to continue to work towards consensus and national unity to create the basis for lasting peace and development throughout the country. The representatives of the Guarantors reaffirmed their continued readiness to support the Government and the people of the DRC in their efforts to achieve long-term stability. They requested the Chair of the ROM to engage the new Administration in support of the implementation of the PSC Framework.

6. On the political process in Burundi, they took note of the conclusions of the Summit of the East African Community (EAC) held in Arusha, Tanzania on 1 February 2019. Recognizing the urgency of ensuring a peaceful and inclusive political process towards elections scheduled for 2020 in full respect of the 2000 Arusha Agreement, they encouraged timely regional consultations in the facilitation efforts.

7. On the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR), the representatives of the Guarantors welcomed the signing of the agreement between the Government of the CAR and fourteen armed groups on 6 February 2019 in Bangui, as a result of the talks held under the auspices of the AU within the framework of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation from 24 January to 5 February 2019 in Khartoum, Sudan, supported by the United Nations. They called on the signatory parties to implement the commitments made under the agreement and the international partners and the region to fully support its implementation. They noted with concern the prevailing precarious humanitarian situation in the country and encouraged greater financial support to humanitarian efforts.

8. They welcomed progress in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), under the auspices of IGAD, and stressed the importance of all parties to fully honour their commitments under the Agreement. They further urged all those who have not yet signed the Agreement to do so with continued support from the partners.

## **Appreciation**

9. The representatives of the Guarantors noted the announcement made by the UN Secretary General on the appointment of a new Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, Mr. Huang Xia. They extended their deepest respect and appreciation to Said Djinnit, outgoing Envoy, for his contribution to the Great Lakes region during his tenure and to peace and stability across the Continent.

10. The representatives of the Guarantors expressed their appreciation to the Chair for providing leadership, including in convening this 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Guarantors.