

Communiqué of the Fourth High-level Meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York

We, the signatories of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, held the fourth meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism (ROM) on 22 September 2014 in New York, on the margins of the 69th General Assembly of the United Nations (UN). The meeting was convened jointly by the UN Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AU), H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

The Heads of State and Government or Representatives of the following countries participated in the meeting:

The Republic of Angola
The Republic of Burundi
The Republic of the Congo
The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
The Republic of Kenya
The Republic of Rwanda
The Republic of South Africa
The Republic of the Sudan
The Republic of South Sudan
The United Republic of Tanzania
The Republic of Uganda
The Republic of Zambia
The Republic of Zimbabwe

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) participated in the deliberations.

We reaffirmed that the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework remains a viable and effective mechanism to achieve durable peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, and renewed our commitment to its implementation.

We reaffirmed our respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in the region.

We reviewed the political and security developments in the region since our last meeting.

We welcomed the progress achieved toward stabilization in eastern DRC and commended the joint efforts by the *Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo* (FARDC) and MONUSCO's Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) to neutralize some of the negative forces in eastern DRC. We encouraged the FARDC and MONUSCO's FIB to continue their efforts to fully disarm all negative forces in eastern DRC, especially the FDLR and ADF-NALU.

We condemned the security incidents of 11 June 2014 between the armed forces of the DRC and the Republic of Rwanda. We encouraged both countries to continue to find solutions on issues of common concern through cooperation and peaceful means, in line with their commitments under the PSC Framework.

Recalling the adoption of the Plan of Action at the 3rd Meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism, held in Addis Ababa on 31 January 2014, we received the First Progress Report on the implementation of the regional Plan of Action for the PSC Framework. We took note of the

progress achieved thus far in the execution of the Regional Plan of Action and welcomed the sustained engagement by all stakeholders in implementing the PSC Framework, at the national, regional and international levels.

We also took note of the challenges outlined in the Progress Report and endorsed the recommendations proposed to fast-track the implementation of commitments under the PSC Framework. We called upon all concerned stakeholders to implement the recommendations contained in the report, including: step up efforts to neutralize all negative forces, accelerate the implementation of the Nairobi Declarations of the Kampala Dialogue, fully restore state authority in eastern DRC, fight against impunity, strengthen the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM) and increase Member States' collaboration within existing regional mechanisms.

We congratulated the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on its 10th Anniversary and welcomed the conclusions of its 442nd meeting of 17 June 2014 and its 452nd meeting on 22 August 2014, which also discussed progress in the implementation of the PSC Framework.

We commended the Chair of the ICGLR, H.E. Mr. José Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola, for his good offices and active diplomacy to advance the implementation of commitments under the PSC Framework with concerned signatory countries, and to promote development and stability in the region. In this regard, we welcomed the ordinary Summit and the mini-Summits organized by President dos Santos in Luanda, in January, March and August 2014 and reaffirmed our support to regional initiatives aimed at neutralizing all negative forces operating in eastern DRC and improving relations between countries in the region.

We also welcomed the second Joint ICGLR/SADC Ministerial Meeting held in Luanda on 2 July 2014 and the 34th Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, on 17 – 18 August 2014, and commended their efforts to promote cohesion and complementarity between these regional organizations for peace and stability in the region.

We recalled the conclusions of the above mentioned mini-Summits and the second Joint Ministerial meeting and the emphasis placed on the implementation of the PSC Framework, including the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2098 (2013) and 2147 (2014) in which all negative forces were urged to lay down their arms or face military actions.

We recalled the decisions of the ICGLR mini-summit held in Luanda and the SADC Summit in Victoria Falls which provided a six month ultimatum to the FDLR to voluntarily surrender and disarm. We looked forward to the ICGLR mid-term review meeting, scheduled for 2 October 2014, to assess progress in this regard. We urged all remaining FDLR elements to come forward, surrender unconditionally and disarm or face military actions.

We welcomed the recent visits by the DRC Government delegations to Uganda and Rwanda, together with the Office of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, MONUSCO and ICGLR, aimed at accelerating the repatriation of ex-M23 combatants, in line with the Nairobi Declarations of the Kampala Dialogue. We took note of the briefing provided by the DRC Government on the implementation of the Nairobi Declarations, including the number of former ex-M23 who have been granted amnesty. We urged concerned parties to take the necessary measures to speed up the implementation of all the provisions of the Nairobi Declarations. We expressed concern over the growing threat of terrorism in the region, and welcomed the outcome of the 455th meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council held in Nairobi on 2 September 2014 at the level of Heads of State and Government on preventing and combating terrorism and violent extremism in Africa.

We welcomed the decision of 30 June 2014 of the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1533 (2004) to blacklist the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF-NALU), for, among other violations, the recruitment and use of child soldiers in the DRC.

We further noted the statement made by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Kenya on 28 June 2014 on security issues, South Sudan and the Great Lakes region, and welcomed the UN support to help Kenya fight terrorism.

We expressed our continued concern on the prevailing situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) and encouraged the Transitional Government to pursue efforts aimed at promoting national dialogue and reconciliation. We expressed our support to regional efforts led by H.E. President Denis Sassou Nguesso for dialogue and reconciliation in CAR. We called on the international community to provide the necessary financial and technical resources for the reconstruction and development of CAR.

We also expressed our concern on the continued deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in South Sudan and urged the leader of the SPLM/IO to sign the 25 August 2014 Protocol on the Agreed Principles on the Transitional Arrangements towards Resolution of the Crisis in South Sudan. We expressed our support to the efforts led by H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, in his capacity as Chair of Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), to encourage the cessation of hostilities in order to advance the IGAD-led peace process.

We commended H.E. Mary Robinson, former Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, and other Special Envoys, for their commitment to advancing the implementation of the PSC Framework. We expressed appreciation to former Special Envoy Robinson for her valuable efforts in implementing her mandates for peace and stability in eastern DRC and the region.

We warmly congratulated Mr. Said Djinnit on his appointment as Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region and extended our full support to him. We encouraged him to work collaboratively with the countries of the region, AU, ICGLR and SADC to ensure a successful implementation of the Plan of Action of the PSC Framework.

We commended the Technical Support Committee and its Co-chairs for the progress accomplished since its establishment in May 2013, and further requested them to continue to closely monitor the implementation of the PSC Framework, in close coordination with the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region and the AU Commission Chairperson's Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region.

We extended our appreciation to the UN Secretary-General and the AU Commission Chairperson for co-hosting the fourth meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism and expressed our gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the meeting.

We agreed to hold our next meeting in January 2015, on the margins of the African Union Summit.

New York, 22 September 2014