

**Communiqué of the High-Level Consultative Meeting of Regional
Organizations in the Great Lakes Region**

Nairobi, 25 August 2015

1. The Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, the Secretary-General of the East African Community (EAC), the Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Executive Secretary of the Economic Community of Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), the Deputy Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the Assistant Secretary-General of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Deputy Secretary-General and Head of the Peace and Security Department of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and representatives of other organizations, including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the World Bank Group and the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa (list of participants attached), held a consultative meeting to discuss coordination, collaboration, and the enhancement of synergy in programme delivery to support peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region in line with the objectives of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region (PSCF).

2. Participants noted the existing institutional basis as well as ongoing coordination and collaboration between regional organisations, and the trend towards increasing economic integration in the Great Lakes region. They resolved to deepen cooperation, coordinate joint efforts in order to enhance sustainable peace, security and economic development in the region.

3. Participants took note of the prevailing security situation in the region, including the persistence of illegal armed groups in eastern DRC, the crisis in Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR) and South Sudan, and their impact on peace, security and development in the region. In this regard, they called for joint efforts to neutralise all armed groups in eastern DRC, including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). They also encouraged ongoing peace processes to resolve the crisis in the above mentioned countries.

4. Participants urged relevant organisations, including the UN, the AU, ICGLR and SADC to strengthen efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Nairobi Declarations of the Kampala Dialogue between the Government of the DRC and the ex-M23 rebel movement.

5. The meeting noted the instability associated with recent political transitions and elections, and their impact on the region. They called on all stakeholders and the international community to support meaningful dialogue and mediation processes for the conduct of peaceful, credible and inclusive elections in the region.

6. Participants shared information on respective initiatives, projects and programmes, particularly those with significant cross-border benefits, as well as confidence building measures. They also reached common understanding of priority issues and agreed on broad principles and modalities for coordination and the maximization for synergy. In this regard, they agreed to focus coordination and collaboration on peace and security, investments and regional integration, gender and governance issues, including elections and the management of natural resources. They further recognised the need to build capacity for coordination within respective organisations for effective follow-up processes, and agreed to meet regularly, under the auspices of the AU Special Representative for the Great Lakes region and the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region to discuss issues of common interest. To this end, they decided to establish a Technical team to formulate modalities for engagement and cooperation.

7. The meeting welcomed the ongoing development of a UN Regional Strategy in support of the PSC Framework and encouraged a joint meeting with regional organisations to discuss the final outcome and implementation processes. The meeting also welcomed the presentation by the World Bank Group on the Great Lakes Initiatives.

8. Participants took note of the Roadmap of the Office of the Special Envoy and welcomed the role of the Special Envoy and the AU Special Representative for the Great Lakes region to lead efforts to improve coordination and collaboration amongst regional organisations in order to ensure that the PSC Framework delivers its promises to the peoples of the region. In this regard, they encouraged the Guarantors to consider a review of the PSC Framework to take account of current and emerging issues in the region.

9. Finally, participants thanked and commended the efforts of UN Special Envoy Saïd Djinnit in convening the meeting and encouraged him to continue in this regard.

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