

2nd Great Lakes Investment Conference (PSIC II)

‘Cross-border Corridors’

Concept Note

Introduction

On 31 January 2014, the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the region endorsed the initiative of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region to convene a Private Sector Investment Conference (PSIC) for the Great Lakes region of Africa. Subsequently, the Office of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region (O/SESG) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) organized the PSIC which took place in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), on 24– 25 February 2016.

Recommendations of the Kinshasa conference

The PSIC identified several challenges to private sector investment in the Great Lakes region and made several recommendations for the attention of governments, development partners, and the private sector to ensure the mobilization of investment into the region. These included amongst others: the need to develop and harmonize regional investment frameworks; improve access to finance; build institutional capacity to attract and retain investment; curb corruption and illegal financial flows; and improve security and stability in the region. Also significant in the recommendations made was a call to signatories to the PSC Framework to commit to operationalise the ICGLR Private Sector Forum and actualize projects in the PSIC Investments Opportunities Brief (IOB), prepare a plan to bring the projects from the IOB to bankability, and to sustain dialogue between public and private sectors on the investment potentials and partnerships. Progress in regional integration, and the ever increasing cross-border economic activities in the region present golden opportunities for investments that could take maximum advantage of a fast-growing workforce, increasing middle class, complementary comparative advantages, vast natural resources, improving security conditions and cordial relations in the Great Lakes region.

Objectives of the Conference

The high level of interest during the PSIC warrants further and more focused discussions on selected sectors. The 2nd Private Sector Investment Conference therefore aims to focus attention on aspects of the recommendations of the inaugural PSIC by sustaining dialogue between public and private sectors, including through high-level interactive sessions that focus on cross-border economic opportunities that promote the development of business in agriculture and logistic value chains, natural resources management and joint development of resources, including tourism, through public-private partnership between DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Tanzania. Specifically, in terms of sectors, the 2nd PSIC will focus on cross border trade, and investment corridors with the private sector actors in the border regions as the prime participants. The areas that will be covered are Agriculture, Mining, Energy and Services including Tourism and will involve five countries: Rwanda, DRC, Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania.

Participants

High level government representatives will interact with the investors at the panels, but also face to face meetings and small group discussions will be offered and organized on demand.

Among the expected 200 participants will be

- Government representatives;
- CEOs of international companies investing and operating in the region;
- CEOs of prospect individual and institutional investors to the region;
- Equity Firms and banking institutions;
- Pension Funds;
- Sovereign wealth funds;
- Bilateral and multilateral development institutions;

Structure of the Conference

The Conference will be designed to foster interaction, learning and ‘matchmaking’ of concrete investment opportunities. With a view to achieving its objectives, the Conference will be structured including context setting, plenary and wrap-up sessions. Each session will start with high level speakers from the public and private sectors, followed by Q&A in plenary and summary by the moderator. There will be break-away parallel dialogue sessions around priority sectors, which will enable focused discussions more conducive to match-making. There will also be parallel exhibitions from Member States and project promoters on the sidelines of the main conference.

The Conference will aim for some specific ‘announcements’, investment and trade deals which will be prepared and nearly finalized before the gathering in Rubavu-Goma. 5-6 such projects will be identified and prepared by the organizers and the investors in preceding months to the Conference. A small preparatory group, consisting of ICGLR, RDB, ANAPI, WB, EU, ECA TradeMark East Africa and O/SESG will make a dedicated effort to prepare these specific investments by the Conference. At least one internationally recognized investor will be engaged as keynote speaker at an early stage who will be associated with the advertisement of the conference and the region’s economic potentials.

Venue

The Conference is proposed to hold in the border area of Rubavu, Rwanda with side events across the border in Goma highlighting benefits to invest in cross-border economic activities. Located along the Rwanda/DRC border, Rubavu can offer site visits to Goma-Gisenyi-Ruzizi-Bukavu areas. The optional site visits could include: (i) methane gas installations on Lake Kivu (ii) Ruzizi energy projects (iii) Ruzizi plains agricultural developments (iv) the Virunga park and (v) a mining site in the Kivus (iv) segments of the Central or Northern Corridors. On request, and in consultation with the Government of the DRC and MONUSCO site visits further inside DRC in could also be organized.

Preparations for the Conference

The preparations for the conference will be conducted in three main phases: (1) Pre-Conference, Conference and (3) Post-Conference activities.

Pre-Conference

To prepare for the conference it proposed to set up a vibrant secretariat and a Steering Committee at two levels. The secretariat role amongst other things will be to flesh out the existing draft concept note, prepare conference programme, logistics, invitation letters, etc. The Secretariat will be staffed by a Head of the Secretariat and two or three staff in charge of administration, logistics and production. The team members will all be outsourced and the RDB will offer an office for the secretariat and the Advisory Services of the Rwanda Convention Bureau. Other services are likely to be outsourced or subcontracted.

Further it is proposed to set up a two-tier Steering Committee structure to address technical as well as the political dimensions of the Conference. The experience of the first PSIC in Kinshasa proved the need to reduce the size of the Steering Committee membership but importantly include more operational Private Sector Actor's members mainly and members from the different countries to ensure ownership and practical implementation of the conference resolutions. The Steering Committee will be chaired by RDB and the Partner's Committee will be co-chaired by ICGLR and the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region. The Chairs of the Steering and Partners' Committee coordinate among themselves.

Additionally, to the above, a Partners' Committee will also be established to work alongside the technical group to drive the process. It is proposed to include the Special Envoy's Office, ICGLR, RCO-Rwanda, CEPGL, Donor Community, EU, WB, UNECA, etc. Youth and Women in business representatives can also be included in the Steering Committee.

Representatives of the Steering Committee will discuss the plans at early stages with the relevant ministers of the ICGLR countries to secure ownership and engagement. The secretariat will be contracting a recognized Events Management Company (EMC) to work with Conference Secretariat to research and develop customized presentations and promotional materials for the sub-sectors and make detailed recommendations will be a priority. Sector studies will be created as well as build on promotional materials developed for previous workshops/ conferences/ investment opportunities in the region.

Develop a list of target investors in these sub-sectors: the SC and EMC will identify and target world-class foreign and domestic investors in the featured sectors, all information to be shared with the SC and CS and invitations will be sent to the prospective investors. The participating countries will share lists of potential companies from their countries.

CEPGL and the ICGLR Private Sector Forum will be engaged as co-organizers at an early stage. The CEPGL member countries will use the venue of the Conference for high level meetings and such attendance will be advertised at an early stage. Before the conference, regional meetings will secure progress to improve the region's business competitiveness, regulation and the logistics services, measures to be announced also at the conference.

A conference web site will be launched four months before the conference and online match-making and information exchanges offered on the web site and before and during the conference via a dedicated mobile app.

Conference

Conference Date

The suggested date for the conference is end of 2018 to allow for adequate planning and roadshows.

Structure of the conference

The three-day high-level conference will consist of presentations in plenary and sector-specific sessions:

- a) High-level interactive segment with the private sector;
- b) Private sector to private sector sessions;
- c) Private sector to government sessions;
- d) one-on-one match making meetings between pre-qualified investors and project sponsors to discuss and announce deals which may have been in the pipeline;
- e) Breakfast meetings – arranged directly or through the CS and EMC;
- f) Investment exhibitions on investment opportunities in the selected sectors followed up with focused discussions on particular/specific project activities.

Site visits

Where requested, site visits will be taken before, during or after the conference. A visit to Goma in DRC by conference participants and a closing reception in Goma following the concurrence of the Government of the DRC is also suggested as part of the conference agenda.

Social events

Two high level dinner events will be held with key note speeches by Heads of States or significant private sector actors on both nights. One could be hosted by the main Host Country (Rwanda) and the second one by development partner(s) in coordination with the DR Congo authorities. The Rubavu event will also feature a high-level public-private dialogue broadcast live with call-in facility in the ICGLR Member States. The two events will be held in Gisenyi/Rubavu, and in Goma, just a few meters from each other, on the Rwandan and Congolese sides of the border.

Ownership

This conference will be hosted by the Government of Rwanda, in partnership with UNCT Rwanda, the Government of the DRC, O/SESG, ICGLR (Secretariat and the ICGLR Private Sector Forum), CEPGL and development partners (WBG, EU and others), and will be spearheaded by a Steering Committee and Conference Secretariat.

Post-Conference

This stage will include aggressive follow-up on investment leads generated during the conference and by the outreach campaign. The project promoters will be supported by the Conference Secretariat, Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) in relevant member States and development partners on timely follow-up to ensure that investment leads are supported. The Conference Secretariat will prepare quarterly reports for at least a year on the progress of outcomes of the conference starting within one month after the conference, whereby the first report will outline the investment leads. Subsequent reporting requirement and modalities will be agreed by the Conference Secretariat and the Steering Committee before disbanding the Conference Secretariat and handing over of the reporting and follow-up functions to the (ICGLR) Great Lakes Private Sector Forum.

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