

1st Meeting of the Organizing Committee for the Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference (GLITC)

Trademark Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya, 28-29 May 2019

Conclusion of deliberations

I. Introduction

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Office of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region (OESG-GL) convened on 28-29 May 2019 in Nairobi the 1st meeting of the Organizing Committee for the Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference (GLITC) scheduled on 14-16 October 2019 in Kigali, Rwanda.

In attendance were representatives of the organized private sector of the countries of the Great Lakes region from the signatory countries of the PSC-Framework and of regional and regional organizations (Cf. List of Participants annexed to this Report).

The main objective of the meeting, chaired by the interim Board of the ICGLR Private Sector Forum, was to kick-start the preparation process of the GLITC.

The meeting comes at an auspicious time, following the regional consultations on the planning and preparation of the GLITC held in Kigali on 3-4 May 2019, which set up, amongst others, the Organizing Committee.

II. Decisions on Way forward in specific issues

Participants focused on practical organizational issues necessary to ensure the success of the GLITC and concluded with the following decisions on way forward in specific issues.

a) Review of Kigali regional consultation deliberations

Participants took note of the Secretariat's review progress report of key achievements since Kigali regional meetings. These achievements include OESG's dissemination of the Kigali's reports to all 13 signatory countries of the PSC-Framework, the convening of the Organizing Committee meeting which aims to produce basis for further preparation, the joint mission OESG-ICGLR to CEPGL in Gisenyi to discuss projects selection and the outreach activities of the US Special Envoy for the Great Lakes in Kigali (meeting with ICGLR) and in Nairobi (meeting with OESG).

b) Ownership of the GLITC preparation process

Given the time constraints, participants brainstormed on optimal ways to involve all the stakeholders in order to ensure a successful conference. They reiterated, at this crucial stage towards the GLITC, the national and regional ownership of the conference preparation. They consider critical the Government's buy-in of the preparation process. Therefore, they urged:

- ✓ the representatives of the organized private sector from the signatory countries of the PSC-Framework to reach out with their respective Governments;

- ✓ OSESG-GL and ICGLR to send a joint letter to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of all the signatory countries.

c) Consideration of a timeline of preparatory activities leading to the GLITC

Participants endorsed the draft timeline presented by the Secretariat. They, however, recommended as an additional activity in July 2019 the organization of a joint high-level mission Rwanda-DRC-ICGLR-OSESG to visit core countries of the Great Lakes region (Rwanda, DRC, Burundi and Uganda) and Congo (current Chair of ICGLR) to promote the GLITC and sensitize targeted officials.

In this regard, participants took note of the organization of a high-level Panel on private sector in the Great Lakes region during the US-Africa Business Summit to be held in Maputo (Mozambique) on 18-21 June 2019, with possible participation of Heads of States of the region. The Organizing Committee recommended an active participation to this event and to take this opportunity to promote the GLITC. In this regard, the EAC/CCI is requested to submit a plan for Maputo attendance with budget but securing also Kenyan business/public support.

To ensure a well-coordinated GLITC planification process, the Secretariat is urged to develop an action plan, including benchmarks to be presented at the next meeting. Participants also discussed necessity to consider appointing stakeholders (Head of States) to champion certain projects, issues or sectors (economic integration, industrialization, private sector development, digital economy) on the next steps towards the conference.

d) Finances and fundraising needs

The Organizing Committee took note of the Conference's draft budget presented by the Secretariat, the contributions already registered (in kind of Rwanda for the venue of the conference and 100.000 USD from the O/SESG) and the necessity to raise funds to cover a gap of half a million US\$. The participants reiterated the necessity to develop a fundraising plan and to combine sponsorship (major international companies to be targeted), fundraising and corporate fees registration targeting 500 companies (USD 500/larger business and USD 250/SME).

Kenya's Chamber of Commerce which was tasked to coordinate the Working Group on finances, reported to be in transition with Board election in a few days). It, however, ensured its willingness to start, shortly, raising funds from the Kenyan major private sector companies.

Uganda's private sector announced the request made to its government to contribute up to 100.000 USD and to bid for hosting the GLITC's next edition.

All other Chambers of commerce's representatives committed to contribute to fundraising efforts up to 200.000 USD in total. Uganda

e) Selection of Projects

The Organizing Committee reiterated the necessity for the GLITC to be result-oriented and to aim for some specific 'announcements', investment deals which will be prepared and nearly finalized before the gathering in Kigali. Such cross-border projects to be showcased during the conference will be identified and prepared by the organizers during the pre-conference phase while a GLITC follow-up mechanism will be set up to finalize those deals during the post-

conference phase. Some of these projects will be selected from those (7) coordinated by the CEPGL. Additional projects will be chosen from a list proposed by the respective Chambers of Commerce.

The participants took note of the joint mission OSESG-ICGLR to Gisenyi in CEPGL Headquarters and endorsed the proposed CEPGL's projects: i) Ruzizi Growth Pole (agriculture): a multi-component Programme comprising 51 projects to which CEPGL has extracted 5 relevant projects on agri-business; iii) Ruzizi I and II Rehabilitation (Energy); iv) CEPGL One-stop border posts (infrastructure).

The Organizing Committee recommended, however, to include in the list of pre-selected projects for further consideration, two CEPGL projects in very advanced phase: i) the Ruzizi III (Energy), this mega-project, the financing of which is practically closed; ii) the Development Bank for the Great Lakes that has become operational and envisaging to open its capital in a second phase while serving as a receptacle for the financing of other integrating projects in the region. The CEPGL was therefore requested to take the necessary measures to present these projects as a model of success and to proceed with the solemn signing of these agreements at the Conference.

The Secretariat (OSESG-ICGLR) has been tasked, in coordination with other development partners (UNDP, UNECA, WB, IFC, AfDB and TMEA) to: work closely with CEPGL and other projects focal points to i) prepare investor-oriented update on each project; ii) Identify potential investors and facilitate dialogue with them; iii) Identify a "champion" for each project; iv) Develop a unique and simple format to present each project focusing on investors decision-making; v) Prepare support/promotional materials for presenting and discussing the final output at various for a (roadshows, GLITC).

Chambers of Commerce and other stakeholders (EAC/CCI and TMEA) are also urged to submit (in writing) to the Secretariat within 15 days, additional priority projects for further consideration.

f) Discussions on GLITC format and substance: Agenda, high-level Segment, Key-note Speakers, list of participants, Panels...

Participants discussed in length GLITC format and substance and highlighted key issues.

The Organizing Committee urged the Secretariat to present a draft Agenda at its next meeting, taking into account the following considerations:

- ✓ Have a private-sector driven Conference;
- ✓ Focus on promoting and "selling" the integrating projects during the thematic sessions;
- ✓ Opening ceremony to be an Opening Panels with Heads of States as Panelists to set the tone of the Conference and engage in core issues;
- ✓ Invite African captains of industries/business models (Dangote, Mo Ibrahim and others) to be Panelists for the high-level Panel;
- ✓ Have reduced number of thematic sessions;
- ✓ Develop a list of high-profile investors as Key note Speakers;
- ✓ National exhibitions;

The participants urged the Secretariat to develop a list of participants in cooperation with Global Compact and CCA.

Chambers of Commerce are also requested to propose to the Secretariat, within 15 days:

- ✓ a list of 100 names of business/investors (with their contacts) able to pay the participation fees;
- ✓ at least two VIP names, one from the public and one from the private sector;
- ✓ the make-up of 2-3 Panels with participants (a short biography) in their focus areas;

g) Logistics, Communication

The organizing Committee took note of a joint mission OSESG-ICGLR which will be conducted on 31st May 2019 in Kigali to discuss with Rwanda Convention Bureau (RCB) leadership many practicalities related to the GLITC logistics and communication aspects.

The participants agreed on the importance to raise maximum visibility about the GLITC to present it as a world class destination for responsible investment. Therefore, the participants recommended the following:

- ✓ Design and maintain an attractive, secure and interactive web site dedicated to the GLITC (operational before end June 2019);
- ✓ Ensure that the website can be the platform for participant's registration;
- ✓ Develop communication materials as soon as possible;

h) Organization of the ICGLR Private Sector Forum General Assembly

The Organizing Committee took note of Kenya's Chamber Commerce offer to host (permanently) the ICGLR Private Sector Forum and to convene its General Assembly meeting early July in Nairobi to elect the main Body members. Kenya will provide accommodation and local transportation (worth 50.000 USD) while the O/SESG-GL will provide a financial contribution to fill the budget gap. The 3-days meeting Agenda will include:

1. Election of Board members;
2. Sustainability of the PSF;
3. Preparation of the GLITC.

III. Closing Ceremony

At the end of the meeting, the chair re-iterated the national and regional private sector commitments to take a leading role during the GLITC's process and commended the participants' engagement and the continued joint efforts towards the GLITC. The participants also expressed appreciation to the ICGLR and the O/SESG-GL and requested their continued active support during the whole process.

The second meeting of the Organizing Committee will take place early July 2019 in Nairobi, in the sidelines of the ICGLR PSF General Assembly.