



**OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

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## Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework

### Summary of Facts

- The Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework was developed in 2015-2016 by the Regional United Nations Development Group and the United Nations Country Teams.
- The Strategic Framework focuses on Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. The objective is to align the work of the UN in the Great Lakes region in support of the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region (PSC Framework).
- The Strategic Framework was endorsed and launched by the UN Security Council in its Resolution 2277(2016) on 30 March 2016. Its implementation is coordinated by the Office of the UN Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region and the UN Development Program's Regional Bureau for Africa.
- The Strategic Framework focuses on six pillars:
  - sustainable natural resource management;
  - economic integration, cross-border trade, and food and nutrition security;
  - mobility;
  - youth and adolescents;
  - gender and sexual and gender-based violence; and
  - justice and conflict prevention.
- By mid-2020 four cross-border projects are being implemented - one of these finished - including the DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Tanzania, supported by the UN Peacebuilding Fund and the European Union, with total value of 9 million dollars.
- By the end of 2020 the Strategic Framework is being reviewed, including its governance structure, implementation priorities and resource mobilization coordination, to scale up its cross-border programming as of 2021.



<b>Analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focussing on cross-border issues linked to eastern DRC is of importance in order to address the root causes of conflict in the Great Lakes region. Events in one country generate reactions and repercussions in another.</li><li>• Initiatives in support of the PSC Framework implementation will be enhanced as part of the strengthened regional focus on development issues, with simultaneous and/or complementary action by the UN agencies in coordination with public and private stakeholders in the region.</li></ul>
<b>The pillars and the</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainable natural resource management:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Develop regional natural resources management and</li></ul></li></ul>



**priority  
regional  
interventions**

- sustainable livelihoods in and around the Virunga Park (the DRC, Uganda, and Rwanda border area) and other regional and national parks in eastern DRC.
- Promote environmentally friendly regional gold production and trade.
  - Secure land and property rights for community economic recovery, agriculture, and investment.
- Economic integration, cross-border trade, and food and nutrition security
    - Support the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) on systems and processes to address trade and non-trade barriers and promote economic integration.
    - Promote regional private sector access to finance and other support services.
    - Promote border communities' access to agricultural technology, provide capacity support for increased agricultural productivity and output, and build regional resilience to climate-related shocks and conditions.
  - Mobility
    - Promote durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).
    - Promote regional border management programs.
    - Identify, protect, and find solutions for victims of trafficking through agreed protocols.
  - Youth and adolescents
    - Support youth employment and livelihoods.
    - Focus on innovative engagement of youth.
    - Support the healthy development and protection of adolescents.
  - Gender and sexual and gender-based violence
    - Implement commitments of the Kampala Declaration to address impunity for gender-based crimes.
    - Enhance women's visibility and participation in decision-making and peace building.
    - Increase women's economic empowerment and resilience.
  - Justice and conflict prevention
    - Strengthen institutions, mechanisms and capacities for conflict prevention management and resolution, and peace building, in cooperation with ICGLR and civil society organizations.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enhance judicial cooperation through the creation of a Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network, including law enforcement, border officials, prosecution services, judicial bodies and the legal profession.</li> </ul>
<b>Messaging</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UN Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework unites the UN's efforts towards the implementation of the PSC Framework and through this, strengthens and coordinates the UN's efforts towards durable peace, stability, and development in the Great Lakes region.</li> </ul>
<b>Next steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the modalities for the implementation of the Strategic Framework across borders and across UN agencies and funds.</li> <li>• Engage development partners to discuss design, focus and opportunities for the funding of the Strategic Framework.</li> <li>• Convene meetings per pillar of the Strategic Framework to inform stakeholders in the Great Lakes region, including the donor community.</li> </ul>

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