



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

Partnerships and Donor relations

Summary of Facts

- The Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region (O/SESG-GL) established in May 2014 a dedicated Trust Fund to support its regional events, projects and activities.
- Between 2014 and 2020, O/SESG-GL secured contributions and commitments of USD 6 million to its Trust Fund. The donors have been Norway, the Netherlands, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Belgium, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.
- Norway has been the main supporter of the Trust Fund, signing a new three-year agreement with O/SESG-GL of 1.8 million dollars starting in July 2020.
- The Netherlands, Finland and Switzerland have also supported O/SESG-GL with delegating young professionals for 1-2 years to Nairobi with an overall budget of one million euros.
- As of 2019, the UN's New York based Donor Relations and the Peace and Development Fund (PDF) have also secured additional resources for O/SESG-GL. The overall sum of these extrabudgetary resources is over one million dollars until the end of 2020.
- In March 2016, the Security Council launched in New York the Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework. Resource mobilization to support the Strategic Framework resulted to date in support to three cross-border projects financed by the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) with a total budget of 7.5 million dollars and an EU grant of 1.7 million dollars. Further discussions have started with both the PBF and the EU for additional cross-border projects in the core Great Lakes countries (the DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania).
- The main partner for all O/SESG-GL projects and activities has been the International Conference on the Great Lakes region (ICGLR), based on an MoU signed in 2014 and renewed since.
- Specific events have generated further partnerships. The Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference, planned for Kigali, Rwanda on 2-3 December 2020 together with ICGLR and the Rwanda Development Board, resulted in financial contributions from the European Union, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), Trade and Development Bank and further public and



private commitments from the region.

- Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, O/SESG-GL has further engaged international financial institutions for coordinated regional support, including the World Bank Group, African Development Bank, BADEA, European Investment Bank, Afreximbank, Trade and Development Bank Group (TDB) and main donors, including France, Norway and China.



<p>Analysis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O/SESG-GL’s partnership strategy has been further strengthened during 2020, especially with the African Union and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region Secretariat and its Fora (Women, Youth, Private Sector). It is crucial to continue improving partnerships for successful implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the DRC and the region, and the UN Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework, further engaging the Special Envoys of the Partner countries, as well as regional organizations and Development Partners. • For regional projects proposed by the UN Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework, more resources will be required from Development Partners to fulfil the mandate of the Special Envoy. • Some flagship areas of development projects, such as the Women, Peace and Security, the Youth, Peace and Security, have presented opportunities for O/SESG-GL to develop further partnerships and strengthen donors’ relations, including with private business and both international and regional NGOs and CSOs.
<p>Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue engagement with Development Partners on working and principal levels. Continue periodic visits by the Special Envoy to global capitals and meetings with key stakeholders. • Engage Development Partners at focused Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) meetings presenting opportunities to support the Special Envoy and fund further implementation of the UN Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework. For 2020-2021, PBC meetings are planned on women’s empowerment and engagement in political and socio-economic processes, on regional investment and trade promotion and furthering peace and security via non-military measures, including DRRR. • Develop partnerships for joint resource mobilization with United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs), funds and agencies for each of the six pillars of the Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework.

**Messaging**

- O/SESG-GL has successfully forged strategic partnerships and strengthened cooperation with donors. Further engagement will focus on coordination between donors, development partners and regional stakeholders to promote cross-border cooperation.
- More should be done to coordinate and streamline donors' relations between UNCTs, funds and agencies, for more efficient use of funds and to develop synergies for cross-border programmes and projects in the Great Lakes region.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further work should be done to enhance regional leadership and efforts to champion different socio-economic issues. • Stronger engagement of regional and national stakeholders will strengthen the UN cross-border projects’ staying power.
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Date: 25 June 2020		