



# UNITED NATIONS GREAT LAKES REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

## Cross-border and interconnected nature of challenges facing the region

Throughout the past decades, political and security developments in the African Great Lakes region, such as the continued activities of illegal armed groups as well as electoral crises, have provided significant challenges to civilians, communities, and governments. As a result the border areas between Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda remain the main theatre for instability in the region. Such instability has resulted in tensions within and between communities, human rights violations and abuses, new and continuing cross-border movements of displaced persons and challenges to cross-border trade.

The causes and consequences of the challenges facing the Great Lakes region are regional in nature and thus need to be addressed in a comprehensive manner by ensuring a concerted and coordinated approach across state boundaries.

## Addressing peace and security challenges through a comprehensive and cross-border approach

In 2013 Governments of the region signed the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region (PSC Framework), which provides an important political platform for peace and security in the region and builds on the objectives of the 2006 International Conference on the Great Lakes Region Pact on Peace, Security and Development for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR Pact). Within these documents, Governments have signed up to various commitments including on strengthened regional cooperation and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of neighbouring countries.

One of the four Guarantors supporting the implementation of the PSC Framework is the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region (O/SESG-GL). The other Guarantors are the African Union, the ICGLR and the Southern African Development Community.

## The objective of the UN Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework

The UN Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework (UN GLRSF) encapsulates a development approach to the peace and security issues in the region and builds on a regional conflict and socio-economic analysis. The UN GLRSF aligns the development efforts of the UN in core countries of the region, namely Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda to the O/SESG-GL Roadmap for the implementation of the PSC Framework. The UN GLRSF complements development action at national level.

As a result, the **regional cross-border political advocacy efforts and development efforts go hand in hand**. This in line with the idea that there is no peace without development, there is no development without peace and there is neither lasting peace nor sustainable development without respect of human rights and the rule of law.

The 2013 **Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework** for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region (PSC Framework) is a strategic agreement signed by 13 Governments of the Great Lakes region. The Guarantors to the PSC Framework are the African Union, the Southern African Development Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the United Nations.

Through the PSC Framework, Governments of the region committed to the promotion of stability and peace in eastern DRC and the region by addressing the root causes of conflict.

The PSC Framework was only the beginning of a “comprehensive approach that will require sustained engagement,” in the words of former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

## UN Security Council endorsement

The UN GLRSF was officially launched on 21 March 2016 by the UN Secretary-General during the UN Security Council Open Debate on the maintenance of International Peace and Security: Prevention and Resolution of conflicts in the Great Lakes Region.

## Management structure to deliver the UN GLRSF

The Management Board for the UN GLRSF is co-chaired by Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, Said Djinnit and Chair of the Regional UN Development Group for Africa, Abdoulaye Mar Dieye.

Members are the co-champions of the UN GLRSF (UNDP and WFP), the Resident Coordinators of the five countries of the UN GLRSF and the R-UNDG members acting as focal point for the five countries of the Framework.

## Six Pillars of the UN GLRSF and their leads

1. *Sustainable land and natural resources management* – FAO, UNEP, UN Habitat
2. *Economic integration, cross-border trade, food and nutrition security* – FAO, UNDP, WFP
3. *A comprehensive approach to Border Management and Cross-Border mobility* – IOM, UNHCR, WHO
4. *Youth and adolescents* – UNFPA, UNICEF
5. *Gender and sexual and gender-based violence* – UNFPA, UNWOMEN
6. *Justice and conflict prevention* – OHCHR, UNDP, UNREC

The pillars will focus on three types of action.

i) Programmes by one UN Country Team which fall within the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), have a regional implication, and ensure cross-border experience sharing; ii) Cross border programmes that involve interaction between two or more UN Country Teams; and iii) Sub-regional initiatives that require regional organisation.

## Background of the UN GLRSF

**2014 – 2015: Development of analysis to ensure a solid foundation for the UN GLRSF:**

1. Regional conflict analysis;
2. Regional socio-economic analysis;
3. Roadmap of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region towards the implementation of the PSC Framework.

**December 2015, Nairobi: Validation of UN GLRSF**

UN Resident Coordinators  
UN Regional Directors  
ICGLR  
World Bank

**March 2016: Endorsement by UN Security Council**

**October 2016:**

Meeting in Kampala, Uganda agrees on the next steps to be taken towards the implementation of the UN GLRSF.

**January 2017:**

Opening of Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

## How can you support the UN GLRSF?

❖ Substantive support:

To ensure that the approach of the UN GLRSF is comprehensive and coherent, it is important to coordinate on substance with partners, including Governments of the region, regional organisations and the diplomatic community.

❖ Financial support:

Financial contributions to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund are paramount to the successful implementation of the UN GLRSF.

**You wish to support the UN GLRSF or to receive more information.**

Please visit our website: <https://ungreatlakes.unmissions.org/>; or contact us at: [glrsf@un.org](mailto:glrsf@un.org)

