

**MEETING OF THE GREAT LAKES JUDICIAL COOPERATION  
NETWORK**

**13-14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2018**

**DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA**

**PROTEA HOTEL COURTYARD MARIOTT**

**OPENING STATEMENT**

Ambassador Said Djinnit,  
**UN Special Envoy of the Great Lakes Region**

Madam Ambassador Eliane Mokodopo,  
**Representative of Executive Secretary of the ICGLR.**

H.E. Jeroen Varheul,  
**Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands,**

**Distinguished members of the Diplomatic corps,**

**Distinguished Members and supporters of the Great Lakes Judicial  
Cooperation Network,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, protocol observed.**

On behalf of the Tanzanian Government, I am honored today to host this high-level meeting of the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation network and to welcome colleagues of the judicial apparatus from the ICGLR countries. Like them, Tanzania has been involved in the setting up of the network - the fight against impunity being one of the common key priority of regional pacts and agreements.

I have to extend my warmest gratitude to the ICGLR, UNODC, UNDP, OHCHR and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Great Lakes Region – to them to have accepted for the meeting to be hosted in beautiful Tanzania. This has a very strong symbolic meaning since our country incarnates and represents some of the key mediation, facilitation, dialogue efforts that are expected to lead the region towards peace, stability and ultimately sustainable prosperity.

Let me stress the importance of such network as the one of the existing mechanism in support of central authorities and other bodies dealing with international cooperation in criminal matters. Evidentially, other regions have already established networks to support and strengthen competent authorities to better cooperate at regional and international level. For instance, the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors (WACAP) that operates through ECOWAS member states. Thus with the same spirit the Great Lakes must not lag behind, particularly since as we all know, some of the most serious crimes committed in the region are of trans border nature. Perpetrators

have for too long, and in total impunity, taken advantage of porous borders to hide and smuggle wildlife products, minerals and other resources in countries of the region.

Thus this can no longer be tolerated and efforts of us all - the political actors as well as the technical experts, with the support of the UN and other partners - must ensure that informal and formal methods of international cooperation are established and effectively work in the region. And I wish to really insist on this point that no matter how efficient national judicial systems are, efforts deployed at the national level only, would not help in eradicating the transnational organized crime that has plagued our region for decades.

Unless the cycles of violence are broken up, this region will not prosper. Unless those responsible for the violence and the serious crimes, the outrageous pillaging of the resources are arrested, prosecuted and sanctioned, the region will not be stable. And we all agree here in the room today, for having tirelessly supported this initiative, that progress in fighting impunity can only be achieved if we all collaborate, in a professional and independent manner, through a high level of judicial cooperation. Throughout the years, different partners have supported these efforts, first and foremost the ICGLR which has equipped member countries with tools that are aimed at facilitating this task: I am talking of course of the different protocols, including the ICGLR Protocol on Judicial Cooperation and the Protocol against the illegal exploitation of Natural Resources.

This is only the second meeting of this young pioneering network, which follows the one held in Khartoum in November 2017. I wish for this meeting to be an opportunity not only for the ICGLR member countries to reflect on commitments made under the different agreements and treaties, but also for practitioners to use it to fully appropriate themselves of the different tools, mechanisms, resources that we can use in the daily conduct of our functions, but also to put on the table challenges we have experienced on specific cases for which a different support should have been provided by colleagues of the region. This is the forum to table it, unpack and address as a common responsibility.

Without much delay, I wish to declare open the second meeting of the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network.

Thank you.