



Photo credit: O/SESG-GL  
Participants at the 4th meeting of the GLJCN in Brazaville, Republic of Congo 4 to 5 April 2019

### Results

- All 12 ICGLR countries have designated contact points on regional judicial cooperation
- The GLJCN facilitates cooperation on protracted cases that have an impact on peace and security in the region
- The ICGLR Protocol on Judicial cooperation is applied and helps countries collaborate on judicial cases even in the absence of formal agreements on mutual legal assistance
- With the Nairobi Declaration on Justice and Good Governance (adopted on 15 May 2019), ICGLR countries commit to take all appropriate measures to enable the GLJCN to effectively fulfill its mandate

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Cover Photo credit: MONUSCO  
Displaced children in the DRC

### Way forward

The full operationalization of the GLJCN is expected to bring about faster and greater responses to requests for assistance, leading to better investigations and increased successful prosecutions, thus contributing to the fight against impunity in the region.

For more information :

<http://ungreatlakes.unmissions.org>

<http://www.icglr.org/index.php/en/>



Photo credit: MONUSCO  
Covered-up SGBV victim testifying in court in the DRC



## THE GREAT LAKES JUDICIAL COOPERATION NETWORK



## The Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework

The Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the region (Framework agreement), signed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 24 February 2013, commits the signatory countries (Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Kenya, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia) to work together to address long-standing issues that have contributed to violence and atrocities in the Great Lakes region for almost 30 years. Two of the regional commitments of the Framework agreement call for greater cooperation on justice:

- Commitment 6 calls on signatory countries to “neither harbor nor provide protection of any kind to persons accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity, acts of genocide or crimes of aggression or persons falling under UN sanctions regime”
- Commitment 7 calls on signatory countries to “facilitate the administration of justice through judicial cooperation within the region”



Photo credit: MONUSCO  
Women association of SGBV victims in the DRC

## The Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network (GLJCN)

The GLJCN was created in response to these commitments of the Framework agreement. It is a mechanism of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the only vehicle in the region that supports central authorities and other bodies dealing with international cooperation in criminal justice matters. Directors of Public Prosecution offices or their appointees represent their countries in the GLJCN as national contact points.

The Office of the United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, which was created to support the implementation of the Framework agreement, engages and coordinates UN and non-UN support to the GLJCN.

### The GLJCN facilitates:

- Formal and informal judicial cooperation
- The sharing of best practices in addressing investigation and prosecution challenges
- Collaboration on cross-border cases
- Access to and streamlining of legislation
- Capacity building

The GLJCN meets on a rotational basis in the signatory countries of the Framework agreement. The country hosting the meeting assumes its chairmanship until the following meeting.

### The context

Transnational crime, including illicit management and trade of natural resources, human rights violations, especially sexual violence, armed groups and related illicit funding flows, human trafficking, etc., contributes to instability in the Great Lakes region. Continued impunity of perpetrators of these crimes fuels mistrust and may lead to instability.

Despite the existence of regional guidelines for judicial cooperation contained in the ICGLR Protocol on Judicial cooperation and other agreements, progress in effectively fostering regional judicial cooperation and curbing transnational crime has been limited.

### The establishment of the GLJCN

- **25-26 August 2015, Lusaka, Zambia:** The Ministers of Justice of ICGLR countries called for the promotion of mutual legal assistance to combat cross-border crime
- **19-20 April 2016, Nairobi, Kenya:** Directors of Public and Military Prosecution and Directors of Investigation from the ICGLR member states recommended the creation of the GLJCN
- **14 June 2016, Luanda, Angola:** Heads of State reiterated their calls to strengthen regional judicial cooperation during the 6th Ordinary Summit of the ICGLR
- **10-11 November 2016, Nairobi, Kenya:** The Directors of Public Prosecution and their representatives established the GLJCN and adopted its Terms of Reference. The Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) were called upon to support the ICGLR to operationalize the Network



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Participants addresses the 5th meeting of the GLJCN in Nairobi, Kenya - 10 to 11 December 2019