

DRAFT SPEECH

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Executive Secretary

HIGH-LEVEL REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON

JUSTICE AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

13-15 May 2019, Nairobi (Kenya)

Honorable Eugene Wamalwa, Cabinet Secretary for Devolution of the Republic of Kenya;

Mr. Andrew Gilmore, UN Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights;

Ambassador Huang Xia, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General to the Great Lakes region;

Distinguished Delegates from ICGLR Member States;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

1. I am especially grateful today for the opportunity to join all of you as we start this High Level Regional Conference on Justice and Good Governance. It is an auspicious day as we convene this meeting in Nairobi, the city that saw the birth of the ICGLR with the signing of the landmark Pact on Security, Stability and Development here in December 2006. This important meeting is another in a series of ground-breaking initiatives that Kenya has hosted, and I want to therefore extend my warmest thanks and gratitude to the people and government of Kenya for generously hosting us again today.

2. I want to also extend my gratitude to our partners at the Office of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General to the Great Lakes Region (OESG-GL)) for the support that made this Conference. We are committed to continuing our longstanding partnership with the OESG under the leadership of our new Special Envoy, Amb. Huang Xia.

3. Fighting impunity and promoting human rights and justice remains at the core of the commitments made by our Heads of States in the ICGLR Pact and its Protocols.

4. Over more than a decade since we came into existence, we have worked hard to bring among others, peace and stability to the region by neutralizing negative forces, fighting illegal exploitation of natural resources, bringing together judges and prosecutors from the Member States to collaborate closely, fighting Gender and Sexual based Violence, and launching committees against the crime of genocide.

5. Nevertheless, we still experience protracted challenges concerning cross-border crime, particularly crime related to the

illicit trade of natural resources, and challenges in the broad area of backlog related to SGBV

6. Fighting all these maladies requires collective action and active collaboration, and I am especially grateful that we have made some progress in the area of judicial cooperation. The ICGLR has consistently articulated the need to significantly enhance judicial cooperation among our Member States to address the emerging challenges to regional peace and security. Our Heads of State and Government have pronounced themselves consistently during their meetings on the need to operationalize the broad principles of the ICGLR Pact and the Protocol on Judicial Cooperation. Ministers of Justice have reiterated the importance of this issue in their various meetings, and today we have a network that is working diligently to ensure the operationalisation of these directives from our Member States.

7. I want to therefore applaud the work of this network and reiterate my utmost belief that the ICGLR has a lot of unfinished and important work to achieve in order for the vision at the root of

creation of the Pact to be realized. This unfinished work needs an active and vibrant group of professionals in each of our Member States working together to make an impact through the various initiatives we continue to launch with our partners.

8. I believe that our Member States are the stewards of the vision articulated in the Pact, and it is crucial that they take full charge of nourishing this unique brainchild of their region to ensure that it serves as the premier peace, security and development catalyst that it can truly be. There are many competing initiatives attempting to do the same work in our region, but none of them is wholly owned by the States of the region, and that is why it becomes imperative to empower and strengthen the ICGLR and its various institutions and organs such as the Judicial Cooperation Network in order to better deliver on its noble mandate.

9. Combating impunity and upholding human rights are the tenets of any stable secure and developing society. We are called upon to be custodians of justice and good governance committed to fighting impunity in all its forms and manifestations.

10. In conclusion, I would like to say that we are all looking forward to great deliberations from this conference, as well as practical recommendations and resolutions that set us on a firm foundation as a region committed to ending impunity and promoting good governance.

Asante Sana!

Thank you!

Merci Beaucoup!