

**SECRETARIAT
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION**



**SECRETARIAT
CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE
SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS
LACS**

STATEMENT OF THE ICGLR

CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND REGIONAL FORA

NAIROBI, 8th September 2019

**H.E. Ambassador Huang Xia, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General to the
Great Lakes Region;**

Honorable Representatives of the African Union and SADC;

Honorable Chairpersons of ICGLR Regional Fora;

Distinguished Participants;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

1. It is my distinct honor and pleasure to address this august gathering on behalf of the Executive Secretary, Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita. He asked me to relay his appreciation to all delegates for attending this important meeting, and his regrets for not being here today.
2. This meeting is auspicious because it will provide a platform to bring on board the views and perspectives of grassroots organizations and stakeholders ahead of upcoming meetings of organs of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework (PSC-F) in Kinshasa later this year. The outcome of this meeting will

also inform the deliberations of the ICGLR Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee (RIMC) later in the year in Brazzaville, Congo.

3. As we all know, the **Dar-es-Salam Declaration** and the **ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region**, bind all our Member States to pursue the objective of transforming the region into a space of sustainable peace and development. Despite that expressed intention, the challenges of marginalization and vulnerability that disproportionately affect our women acutely remain in our region, and these problems have been repeatedly identified by our Heads of State as serious crises requiring serious attention and collective action. To achieve that overarching objective, empowering women is an essential first step, in addition to incorporating the important voice of the wider civil society in the development of our countries.
4. We have in our midst today representatives of several organizations that work directly on the issues affecting our wider societies, and this meeting affords them all an opportunity to really exchange views and arrive at suitable recommendations to improve the works going forward. They have an ambitious vision for addressing the concerns of their constituencies in their respective countries, and they are united under the rubric of the regional fora to amplify their collective voice and to appeal to their governments for active engagement and concrete progress on their issues.
5. That is why we recognize that this consultative meeting today will help us arrive at an agenda for the way forward, and resolve many of the stumbling blocks on the way of effective impact.
6. I would also like to reaffirm the continued commitment of the ICGLR Secretariat to work with our partners at the UN Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General in advancing the work of civil society actors in the whole region, as a guarantor of the PSC-F.

7. Let me conclude by again reiterating my appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Kenya for the warm hospitality we have been accorded so far, and wish you all fruitful deliberations.

Thank you for your kind attention.

PAREK MADUOT/ICGLR