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# JOINT PRESS RELEASE

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## **The Representatives of the Guarantors for the Peace, Security, and Cooperation (PSC) Framework Agreement for the DRC and the region urge for determined actions to neutralize ADF in Beni areas**

**Beni, 24 May 2016** - The representatives of the Guarantors of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework comprising of the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), visited Mavivi and Erengeti in Beni territory, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on 24 May 2016. The purpose of the visit was to assess the continued impact of the activities of the negative forces, in particular the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) on the local population in the conflict affected areas, express solidarity with the concerned population and local authorities, and call for greater cooperation between the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) to neutralize ADF.

The representatives of the Guarantors met respectively with the MONUSCO officials, the Civil Society, the local authorities, and the FARDC Sukola I operations Commander, Brigadier General Mbangi Marcel, who briefed them on the ongoing joint FARDC/MONUSCO USALAMA operation against the ADF, including operational challenges and constraints. The local authorities and civil society expressed their frustrations at what they perceived as the indifference of the International Community to their plight. They in particular expressed serious concerns with the continued massacres against innocent civilians despite the presence of DRC and MONUSCO forces, and called upon the international community to step up efforts aimed at enhancing the protection of civilians.

The Guarantors extended their condolences and sympathy to the population who continue to be the innocent victims of cruel and heinous attacks caused by the ADF. They also commended the FARDC who continue the fight against ADF under difficult conditions with the support of MONUSCO. In this regard, the Guarantors reiterated the

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urgency to boost the ongoing joint operations between the FARDC and MONUSCO in the effective neutralization of the ADF. They urged the local population to cooperate with the FARDC and MONUSCO in sharing information and alerting the local authorities on any suspicious ADF presence in their communities.

The Guarantors of the PSC Framework are composed of the United Nations represented by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit, and the Deputy Special Representative of MONUSCO David Gressly; the AU represented by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission for the Great Lakes Region and Head of AU Liaison Office in Burundi, Prof. Ibrahima Fall; the ICGLR represented by its Executive Secretary General Prof Ntumba Luaba Alphonse; and the SADC represented by Lt Col Wilbert A. Ibuge, Head of SADC Defence Affairs and Planning.

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