



## MEETING OF THE PEACE BUILDING COMMISSION ON THE GREAT LAKES REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



On 27 November 2017, The UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) convened an Ambassadorial-level meeting on the Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework, which Special Envoy Said Djinnit was invited to brief.

The Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework (“Regional Strategic Framework”), endorsed by the United Nations Security Council in March 2016, reflects the United Nations development approach to the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region (“PSC Framework”). It aims at aligning efforts of UN presences across the region in support of the implementation of the international commitments under the PSC Framework.

The Regional Strategic Framework is organized in six thematic pillars, including Sustainable Natural Resource Management; Economic Integration, Cross-Border Trade and Food and Nutrition Security; Mobility; Youth and Adolescents; Gender and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence; and Justice and Conflict Prevention.

The PBC meeting came in the context of the ongoing PBC efforts to engage on regional and cross-border peacebuilding issues, and served to generate additional interest of the international community in support of the implementation of the Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework.

The ambassadors (or their representatives) of the PBC Countries attended the meeting with a total audience of 70, including non-PBC members, ambassadors of the Great Lakes region engaged on the Framework. The meeting was led by the Korean Chair of PBC, H.E. Cho Tae-yul.

During the discussions, over 20 delegations commended the Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework and exchanged views about the presentations, including that of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Director for Democracy and Good Governance, Amb. Ambeyi Ligabo. The Chair of the PBC welcomed the Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework as a precursor for UN reform in its cross-UN pillar regional focus and committed to convening further meetings to review progress. A summary of the PBC discussions will be submitted to the Security Council.

In the afternoon of 27 November, Special Envoy Djinnit, in collaboration with the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), convened a panel discussion to take stock of the main policy and programmatic issues emerging from the PBC meeting. The panel discussion brought together 30 experts from Permanent Missions to the UN including the five core countries, the PBC Chair, Vice Chairs and focal points, the World Bank, international organizations and participants from the UN system and civil society.

Following a request by the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region for support to tackle cross-border challenges in the region, the Assistant Secretary-General for the Peacebuilding Support Office approved the project "Preventing conflict and building peace through addressing the drivers of conflict and instability associated with forced displacement between Burundi and Tanzania", totaling US\$ 2 million.

The project focuses on enhanced border management and protection monitoring in border areas, the preparation of economic reintegration of displaced populations as well as the strengthening of displacement-related conflict resolution mechanisms.

The contribution of the Peacebuilding Fund to the Great Lakes Cross-border Multi-Partner Trust Fund provides an opportunity to showcase the delivery capacity of the Regional Strategic Framework, thus making a catalytic contribution for further resource mobilization efforts. In a related development, discussions on the proposed activities and the contracting are being finalized with the European Union for Euro 1.5 million financial support for a cross-border project on peace, security and human rights in the Great Lakes region.

While the PBC meeting focused on the UN Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework, for the Office of the Special Envoy it is just one of the important new tools for cross-border and cross-organizational cooperation in the Great Lakes region. The EU-UN, the World Bank-UN regional partnerships are gaining momentum, as well as the Special Envoy's engagement with Resident Coordinators, UN Funds, programmes and Agencies to increasingly work together for both political and socio-economic objectives in cross-border settings.