



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION

2nd Private Sector Investment Conference (PSIC) Rwanda, 2017

<p>SUMMARY OF FACTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Co-organized by the Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region (O/SESG) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), with support from other partners, the inaugural Private Sector Investment Conference (PSIC) for the Great Lakes region was held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on 24-25 February 2016. ▪ The opening ceremony of the PSIC was attended by over 1,000 participants from public and private sectors of the Great Lakes countries and around the world. President Joseph Kabila of the DRC, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Vice-President Manuel Domingos Vicente representing Angola’s President Dos Santos in his capacity as Chair of the ICGLR, opened the landmark conference. ▪ The main features of the PSIC were its interactive panel and plenary sessions which included a high level panel whereby the Vice-President of Burundi and the Prime Ministers of DRC and Rwanda engaged participants on the efforts being made at country levels to promote business and investments. The conference also featured two plenary sessions on Responsible Business and Investment Climate in the Great Lakes region as well as a presentation on an Investment Opportunities Brief that highlighted regional investment opportunities. Breakout thematic panel discussions on Agriculture, Energy, Finance, Information-Communication-Technology (ICT), Infrastructure, Mining and Tourism also featured during the conference, producing debates, information exchange and useful recommendations. <p>After the PSIC, Rwanda expressed interest to co-organize the 2nd regional Private Sector Investment Conference in 2017.</p>
<p>ANALYSIS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The PSIC made several recommendations for the attention of the governments of the region, development partners and the private sector which need to be acted upon before the next global meeting for Great Lakes investments. The



	<p>recommendations aim to ensure the establishment of an enabling environment for the mobilization of investment into the region, including into regional projects that enhance peace, security, shared prosperity and development for the Great Lakes region of Africa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The ICGLR Regional Private Sector Forum will serve in the Great Lakes region as the main instrument for coordination and engagement by the private sector in the initiatives on economic development and integration in the region. The Forum will act as a focal point for interaction with private investors looking for local partners, and wanting to better understand the local opportunities available and the best ways to mitigate any risks and impediments to foreign direct investment.
<p>NEXT STEPS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The 2nd Private Sector Investment Conference will aim to focus attention on the recommendations of the inaugural PSIC by encouraging dialogue between public and private sectors, including through high-level interactive sessions that focus on cross-border economic opportunities. It will look to promoting the development of business in agriculture and logistic value chains, natural resources management and joint development of resources, including tourism, through public-private partnership between DRC, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda. ▪ A list of target investors will be developed in selected sub-sectors: the co-organizers will identify and target world-class foreign and domestic investors in the featured sectors, and invitations will be sent to the prospective investors. The participating countries and embassies in the region will share lists of potential companies from their countries. ▪ The Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) and the ICGLR Private Sector Forum will be engaged as co-organizers at an early stage. ▪ A conference web site will be launched four months before the conference and online match-making and information exchanges offered on the web site and before and during the conference via a dedicated mobile app. ▪ It is important to support increased access to viable economic opportunities for the populations of the conflict affected areas which will enhance their resilience and resistance to being drawn into conflict. ▪ Sustainable decent job opportunities for women and youth will provide tangible peace dividends to complement on-going efforts to address trauma of conflict and build strong allies in peace and stability maintenance.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ O/SESG and ICGLR need the support of all concerned to prepare bankable cross-border projects that will attract investment. This will require resources and a regional and timely approach to the preparation of these projects to ensure investors seize the opportunity provided. 	
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