



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

Displacement in the Great Lakes Region

<p>Summary of Facts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The PSC Framework is focused on addressing causes of conflict and putting an end to the recurring cycles of violence in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). With displacement figures in the Great Lakes Region among the highest in the world, the Special Envoy and Heads of State have made addressing aspects of displacement a key priority. ▪ Forced displacement in the Great Lakes is a key consequence of the conflicts that have occurred over the past 20 years, and a driver of further conflict because of scarcity of resources, lack of land, property rights or the means to make a sustainable living for those who might return. Millions of people remain in a situation of protracted displacement, having been displaced from their places of origin for more than 5 years. ▪ Key priority areas include: Rwandan refugees in eastern DRC, Congolese refugees in neighboring countries, and the influx of Burundian refugees to neighboring countries since April 2015. ▪ Displacement is not only a humanitarian issue, but one that needs to be addressed on a variety of levels, including political, humanitarian, development and economic, if lasting solutions are to be found. ▪ Regional and international organizations are increasingly looking to work together to find durable and progressive solutions to forced displacement in the Great Lakes.
<p>Next Step</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Special Envoy, working with the World Bank and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), regional and international organizations, in particular the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), and national authorities, has convened technical workshops bringing together national experts from Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia , and key regional and international stakeholders to learn from each other, share experiences, and look at what is and is not working in terms of long-term solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). ▪ The workshops build on ongoing, existing efforts, take into account lessons learned thus far, and develop concrete recommendations and action points that can better support and address displacement in the region in its multiple dimensions.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Special Envoy intends to convene a cross-border meeting in Goma with refugees, civil society, women, government officials and community leaders. 	
<p>Messaging</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is important to continue to advocate for more assistance and funding to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Great Lakes countries. ▪ It is crucial for key stakeholders to come together to develop plans that will lead to effective action and find durable solutions to the protracted displacement crisis in the Great Lakes region. 	
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