



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

Forces vives – Civil Society

<p>Summary of Facts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Special Envoy is committed to engaging civil society in the region to build constituencies under the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework that can hold governments accountable and promote a shared long-term vision for peace and prosperity across the region. ▪ The Special Envoy and his representatives meet regularly with civil society actors in many of the countries of the region, as well as with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Regional Civil Society Forum. ▪ The Special Envoy has brought together civil society actors from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Uganda in national workshops on the PSC Framework in August/September 2014. ▪ In April 2015, a regional workshop in Entebbe brought together delegates from the four key countries, as well as from Kenya, Zambia, the ICGLR Regional Civil Society Forum and representatives from organizations receiving grants from the Women’s Platform. The regional workshop succeeded in: (i) strengthening the civil society commitment to the PSC Framework; (ii) developing a strategy and concrete action points for civil society support to the Strategic Roadmap of the Special Envoy for the implementation of the PSC Framework; and, (iii) providing support and recommendations for the reactivation of the ICGLR Regional Civil Society Forum.
<p>Analysis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Civil society actors in the region play a crucial role in bringing sustainable peace and security to the Great Lakes. They are keen to support the Special Envoy and participate in the implementation of the PSC Framework. Those who have had the opportunity, appreciate the direct contact with the Special Envoy and/or his Office. ▪ It is important to note, however, that the number of civil society actors in the region is large, and it is impossible to ensure all civil society actors are included in the activities of the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region. At the same time, the vast majority lack awareness of the PSC Framework and appropriate efforts will be taken to publicize the Framework objectives in the region.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most civil society organizations depend extensively on assistance (technical and financial) from international organizations. Lack of resources and lack of capacity can hinder the effectiveness of civil society actions in the implementation of the Framework, including monitoring the commitments made by their governments
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Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O/SESG intends to work with civil society actors in the Great Lakes countries, and in particular the ICGLR Regional Civil Society Forum. 	
Messaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commend civil society for its attempts to encourage cross-border activities. Effective implementation of the PSC Framework will require commitment and strong leadership from civil society to ensure sustained focus on the needs and priorities of affected populations in the Great Lakes region. Continue to encourage civil society actors in the region to share experiences, identify common issues and challenges, and develop concrete ideas to support the implementation of the PSC Framework. 	
	Drafted	Distribution
	Madeleine Schwarz	SESG
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