



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

PSCF Governance Structures

Summary of Facts

The Peace Security Cooperation (PSC) Framework provides for two Governance structures, namely the Regional Oversight Mechanism (ROM) and the Technical Support Committee (TSC). The African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN) are the co-chairs for the PSC Framework governance mechanisms. The Guarantors of the PSC Framework are the AU, UN, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

- *The Regional Oversight Mechanism (ROM)* is the main oversight body under the PSC Framework. It meets once a year at Head of State and Government level to review progress on the implementation of the national and regional commitments of the signatory countries: Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, South Sudan, South Africa, and Zambia. The ROM has held seven high-level meetings to-date: **i)** 26 May 2013 at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa; **ii)** 23 September 2013 at the UN Headquarters in New York; **iii)** 31 January 2014 at the AU Headquarters; **iv)** 22 September 2014, on the sidelines of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly in New York; **v)** 31 January 2015, on the margins of the 24th ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, in Addis Ababa; **vi)** 29 September 2015 on the sides of the UN General Assembly in New York; and **vii)** 26 October 2016 in Luanda, Angola.
- At its first meeting, and on the initiative of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General (SESG) for the Great Lakes Region, the ROM established the TSC under the co-chairmanship of the SESG for the Great Lakes Region and the Special Representative of the African Union for the Great Lakes Region.
- Importantly, at the fourth meeting of the ROM on 22 September 2014, the participants endorsed the findings and recommendations contained in the first progress report on the implementation of the PSC Framework: **i)** Neutralise the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) through military and non-military actions, implement in full the Nairobi Declarations, starting with repatriation of eligible ex-M23 members from cantonment sites in Uganda and Rwanda; **ii)** Increase collaboration among member states within existing regional security mechanisms, in particular the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM), the Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre (JIFC), Joint Bilateral Commissions, and boost national and international support to these mechanisms, as appropriate; **iii)** Accelerate measures to restore and consolidate state authority in eastern DRC, including through the establishment of the Rapid Reaction Force, as called for in UNSC Resolution 2098 (2013), and the implementation of the DRC Government national stabilization and reconstruction program; **iv)** Increase efforts to roll out the DRC Disarmament,



Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) national program, including through timely provision of financial and technical support; v) Develop a comprehensive regional approach to address obstacles to the return of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their countries of origin in the Great Lakes region, taking into account humanitarian and protection needs, as well as the need to reform national policies and laws impeding returns; vi) Fast-track economic programs to address youth unemployment in the region in line with the outcome of the Youth Employment Summit held in Nairobi on 19-24 July; vii) Take concrete actions to advance regional economic and judicial cooperation, including through the holding of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries or in French *Communauté économique des Pays des Grands Lacs* (CEPGL) and ICGLR summits, and relevant measures to promote coherence and synergies among mutual legal assistance and regional economic projects, while ensuring that peace dividends for the peoples of the region are delivered in the short-run.

- On 10 July 2015 a ministerial retreat of signatory countries took place in Nairobi. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Angola, Burundi and Kenya, and the Minister of Defence of South Africa were present, while the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia were represented by senior officials. The meeting created a unique opportunity for ministers and other high-level representatives to undertake a joint assessment of the implementation of the PSC Framework and explore measures to enhance the role of signatory countries. The participants of the retreat emphasized that the PSC Framework remained a relevant instrument to sustain peace, security and cooperation in the region. In this regard, participants endorsed a set of proposals aimed at strengthening the PSC Framework's governance and increasing the ownership by signatory countries. Proposals included: (a) the convening, as required, of special sessions of the ROM in addition to the regular meetings held in the margins of the UN general debates and the AU summits; (b) the championing of priority actions derived from the Regional Plan of Action by the Heads of State and Government of the region; and (c) the personal participation of Heads of State and Government in ROM meetings, and the participation of their designated representatives in Technical Support Committee (TSC) meetings. Participants further recommended the convening, as necessary, of ministerial segments meetings.
- On 14 June 2016, the 6th Ordinary Summit of the ICGLR held in Luanda, endorsed the recommendations proposed, including that of de-linking the high-level meetings of the ROM from the UN General Assembly and the AU Summit, and to convene instead, annual stand-alone ROM meetings on rotational basis in signatory countries. Following consultations between the SESG and several regional leaders, the proposal for member states to host the ROM was welcomed. The overall objective of this reform is to have more focused discussions, improve the decision making process, thereby, facilitating the implementation of the commitments.
- Building on the outcome of the 6th ICGLR Ordinary Summit, the Office of the SESG and the ICGLR Secretariat jointly organized a meeting of the Ministers of Defense of select ICGLR and SADC member states on 20 July 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss armed groups and the repatriation process in the



	<p>eastern DRC. The meeting was chaired by Joao Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, Minister of Defense of Angola and Chair of the ICGLR Ministerial Committee of Defense. The Ministers of Defense and senior representatives from Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, South Africa, Tanzania, and Mozambique participated in the meeting.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The Technical Support Committee (TSC)</i> is the technical branch of the PSC Framework. It comprises senior government representatives of the signatory countries, as well as senior officials from the Guarantors. It was mandated <i>inter alia</i> to develop a detailed plan for the implementation of the regional commitments with benchmarks and follow up measures. The TSC held its first meeting on 24 June 2013. It meets every two to three months to review progress of the implementation process. The Office of the SESG for the Great Lakes Region, the AU and ICGLR Executive Secretary act as the Secretariat and provide support to the work of the TSC and other high level meetings. 	
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