



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

Regional Judicial Cooperation

Summary of Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commitments 6 and 7 of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region (PSC) Framework call on the Heads of State to neither harbour nor provide protection to individuals accused of committing genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or are under sanctions, and also to commit to facilitating the administration of justice through regional judicial cooperation. ▪ These commitments reinforce the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Pact on Security, Stability and Development for the Great Lakes, and key ICGLR protocols relating to judicial matters. ▪ The Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region (O/SESG-GL) Roadmap, the Regional Plan of Action and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Strategic Regional Plan have also highlighted the need to foster judicial cooperation among the countries in the region as a way to help strengthen accountability, build trust and confidence in the region and improve rule of law.
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ While there are regional guidelines for judicial cooperation in the ICGLR Protocol and other ICGLR protocols, and a number of countries have extradition treaties between them, there has been little action to effectively foster regional judicial cooperation. Events such as the recent arrest and extradition of Jamil Mukulu confirm the need to develop initiatives and support efforts that can encourage countries in the region to cooperate on judicial matters.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Special Envoy is working with the African Union (AU), ICGLR, UN partners and national authorities to initiate an in-depth regional discussion on judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the Great Lakes that can then develop recommendations and concrete action at different levels, including cross-border pilot projects, joint commissions of investigations, and/or high-level ministerial meetings on judicial cooperation. ▪ Two meetings were held in the first half of 2016 – one in Kinshasa and the other in Nairobi. The meetings brought together senior prosecutors and police chiefs to kick-start the discussion, identify opportunities and challenges, and make recommendations for further actions. The Special Envoy is now working closely with the ICGLR to establish a Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network of Prosecutors that will help



	<p>promote the practical implementation of the ICGLR Protocol on Judicial Cooperation and reinforce commitments made by the Heads of State in the ICGLR Pact and the PSC Framework.</p>
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Messaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support for the region's justice initiatives is essential to ensuring those responsible for conflict-related atrocities are brought to justice, and will also go a long way toward building trust and confidence and developing a regional judicial network that is based firmly on the rule of law. 	
	Drafted by	Distribution
	Madeleine Schwarz	SESG
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