



**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 region is a key consequence of the conflicts that have occurred over the past 20 years as well as a driver of further conflict because of scarcity of resources, 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 neighbouring countries, and the influx of Burundian refugees and South Sudanese refugees to neighbouring countries. • Displacement is not only a humanitarian issue, but also one that needs to be addressed on through political, development and economic approaches, if durable 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 region. • To complement the regional cross-border political and advocacy efforts by the Special Envoy on the issue of displacement, the UN Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework foresees regional cross-border development efforts regarding displacement. The Special Envoy is a co-champion of the UN Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework, which seeks to align regional cross-border efforts of the UN in Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.
<p>Next Step</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Special Envoy will continue to coordinate with partners on the issue of durable solutions to displacement. Partners include i) UN



	<p>agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), World Health Organization (WHO), and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); ii) regional organizations such as the African Union (AU) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR); iii) national authorities; and iv) other stakeholders such as the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Special Envoy will follow up on recommendations made during a previous technical workshop which brought together national experts from Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, and key regional and international stakeholders in order to share experiences and lessons learned regarding long-term solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). • The Special Envoy is looking to organize, in coordination with partners, a Ministerial level meeting to facilitate durable solutions to displacement in the region. The meeting will build on ongoing and previous efforts, take into account lessons learned, and develop concrete recommendations and action points that can better support and address displacement in the region in its multiple dimensions. • The Special Envoy is assisting OCHA in the development of a Humanitarian Outlook for the Great Lakes region.
Messaging	<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 region. • 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.

	Drafted by	Distribution
	Valery Joanne Super	O/SESG
Date: 21 February 2017		