



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

## Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework

<p><b>Summary of Facts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework was developed in 2015-2016 by the Regional United Nations Development Group and the United Nations Country Teams.</li> <li>▪ The Framework covers the period of 2016–2017, and focuses on Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. The objective is to align the work of the UN in the Great Lakes region in support of the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the DRC and the region.</li> <li>▪ The Strategic Framework focuses on six pillars:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ sustainable natural resource management;</li> <li>○ economic integration, cross-border trade, and food and nutrition security;</li> <li>○ mobility;</li> <li>○ youth and adolescents;</li> <li>○ gender and sexual and gender-based violence; and</li> <li>○ justice and conflict prevention.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The Framework was endorsed and launched by the UN Security Council in its Resolution 2277(2016) on 30 March 2016. Its implementation is coordinated by the Office of the UN Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region and the UN Development Program’s Regional Bureau for Africa.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Analysis</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Focussing on cross border issues linked to eastern DRC is of importance in order to address the root causes of conflict in the Great Lakes region. Events in one country generate reactions and repercussions in another.</li> <li>▪ Initiatives in support of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region will be enhanced when they are implemented as part of a regional focus, with simultaneous and/or complementary action.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The pillars and the priority regional interventions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sustainable natural resource management:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop regional natural resources management and sustainable livelihoods in and around the Virunga Park (DRC, Uganda, and Rwanda border area) and other regional and national parks in eastern DRC.</li> <li>○ Promote environment friendly regional gold production and trade.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



- Secure land and property rights for community economic recovery, agriculture, and investment.
- Economic integration, cross-border trade, and food and nutrition security
  - Support the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) on systems and processes to address trade and non-trade barriers and promote economic integration.
  - Promote regional private sector access to finance and other support services.
  - Promote border communities' access to agricultural technology, provide capacity support for increased agricultural productivity and output, and build regional resilience to climate-related shocks and conditions.
- Mobility
  - Promote durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).
  - Promote regional border management programs.
  - Identify, protect, and find solutions for victims of trafficking through agreed protocols.
- Youth and adolescents
  - Support youth employment and livelihoods.
  - Focus on innovative engagement of youth.
  - Support the healthy development and protection of adolescents.
- Gender and sexual and gender-based violence
  - Implement commitments of the Kampala Declaration to address impunity for gender-based crimes at country level.
  - Enhance women's visibility and participation in decision-making and peace building.
  - Increase women's economic empowerment and resilience.
- Justice and conflict prevention
  - Strengthen institutions, mechanisms and capacities for conflict prevention management and resolution, and peace building, including ICGLR and Civil Society Organizations.
  - Strengthen regional efforts to increase controls of the supply side of small arms and light weapons.
  - Enhance judicial cooperation through the creation of a Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network, including law enforcement, border officials, prosecution services, judicial bodies and the legal profession.



<p><b>Messaging</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework unites the UN’s efforts towards the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region, and through this strengthens and coordinates the UN’s efforts towards durable peace, stability, and development in the Great Lakes region.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Next steps</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Finalize the modalities for the implementation of the Strategic Framework across borders and across UN agencies.</li> <li>▪ Convene a meeting of development partners to inform them on and to discuss opportunities for funding of the Strategic Framework.</li> <li>▪ Convene meetings per pillar of the Strategic Framework to inform stakeholders in the Great Lakes region, including the donor community, on the Framework.</li> </ul>	
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