



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

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**Youth**

<p><b>Summary of Facts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region O/SESG-GL provided technical and financial support to the Youth Summit (Extraordinary Summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) against Youth Unemployment) in Nairobi in July 2014. Youth is also a key “pillar” in the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs)’ Regional Strategic Framework, launched in New York by the Security Council in March 2016 and will be a cross-cutting focus in upcoming UN regional programming.</li> <li>• O/SESG-GL is working on developing the “Youth Centre for Peace in Goma in support of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Youth Forum and in partnership with UN Habitat, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the local authorities. The Centre is destined to become a regional hub for youth engagement, empowerment, cross-border employment creation and participates in other sub-regional youth events and exchanges (in April 2017, 15,000 youth will come together in Goma, including from Rwanda and Burundi.)</li> <li>• O/SESG-GL has been working with Kenyan ministries of Foreign Affairs and Decentralization and Planning to set-up the ICGLR Youth Forum Secretariat in Nairobi and expects the launch for the first semester of 2017.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Analysis</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth engagement is a cross-cutting issue, and given challenges of high youth unemployment in most parts of the Great Lakes region and the absence of sufficient socio-political participation and empowerment processes, youth are an important resource but also a major concern that could become a ‘time bomb’.</li> <li>• Youth is a cornerstone issue in the Special Envoy’s Roadmap, and along with women and civil society projects, constitutes the “forces vives” portfolio. O/SESG-GL engages both separately and together the “forces vives” for monitoring and implementing the PSC Framework’s national and regional commitments.</li> </ul>



<b>Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with ICGLR Youth Forum, ICGLR Secretariat and Kenyan ministries to operationalize and launch the Youth Forum Secretariat in Nairobi in 2017.</li> <li>• Support the operationalization of the Goma Youth Centre for Peace with youth from the region, partners, and the Foreign Affairs and Youth Ministers from DR Congo, Rwanda and Burundi.</li> <li>• Work with UNCTs on regional programming and coordinate with the World Bank’s regional projects so that youth engagement and employment is encouraged, quantified and measured.</li> <li>• Work with ICGLR Youth Forum on regional projects, engaging private sector for youth employment at the 2nd Private Sector Investment Conference (PSIC II).</li> <li>• Engage the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) for regional youth projects that can contribute to the revitalization of this regional economic entity.</li> <li>• Convene youth ministers and other stakeholders for regional assessment of progress and challenges since the 2014 Youth Summit.</li> </ul>
<b>Messaging</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth are the biggest, still largely untapped resource of the Great Lakes region if they are engaged, educated and empowered;</li> <li>• O/SESG-GL works with the UNCTs, funds and agencies, financial institutions and the regional organizations to make sure youth programmes are coordinated and prioritized.</li> </ul>

	<b>Drafted by</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
	<b>Gabor Beszterczey</b>	<b>O/SESG</b>
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