

**MINISTERIAL MEETING OF SIGNATORY STATES AND GUARANTORS OF
THE PEACE, SECURITY AND COOPERATION (PSC) FRAMEWORK FOR THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND THE REGION**

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 28 JANUARY 2016

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

1. Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Representatives of signatory states of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Region met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 28 January 2016, in the margins of the 28th Ordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council. The United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) were represented at the meeting, in their capacity as guarantors of the Framework. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Angola, supported by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security and the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region.
2. Participants in the ministerial meeting were briefed on recent political and security developments in the DRC, Burundi, the Central African Republic and South Sudan.
3. The meeting welcomed the recent elections in Tanzania, as well as the progress achieved in the peace process in South Sudan. They encouraged the leadership of the SPLM-IO to return to Juba to advance the peace process. It also welcomed progress in the peace process in the Central African Republic and urged the parties to continue their efforts.
4. On regional developments and progress in the implementation of the commitments under the PSC Framework, including the neutralization of negative forces and the repatriation of former members of armed groups, participants,
 - (i) Expressed their full support for the ongoing EAC-led dialogue in Burundi and, in this regard, encouraged continued efforts at preventive diplomacy and confidence-building.
 - (ii) Welcomed the decision by the Government of the DRC to resume joint military planning and operations with MONUSCO to neutralize negative forces, notably the FDLR.
 - (iii) Called on the ICGLR, in coordination with the Government of the DRC, SADC and UN, to convene a meeting of Ministers of Defence to review progress in the neutralization of negative forces.
 - (iv) Endorsed the recommendation by the Technical Support Committee (TSC) encouraging the guarantors of the PSC Framework to hold consultations with the Governments of the DRC, Uganda and Rwanda and the designated coordinator of the ex-M23, to address obstacles to the full implementation of the Nairobi Declarations, particularly the repatriation of former members of the ex-M23.

5. Regarding the strengthening of the governance mechanisms of the PSC Framework, participants,

- (i) Recommended that future ROM meetings be delinked from the AU Summit and the UN General Assembly, in order to ensure effective participation by Heads of States in discussions related to the implementation of the PSC Framework; further recommended that the ROM meeting be held as a standalone meeting in a signatory state
- (ii) Recommended that each ROM meeting be preceded by a meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to lay the groundwork for discussions and decisions by the Heads of states and heads of Government. Thematic ministerial and technical meetings could also be held as appropriate, in liaison with the ICGLR.
- (iii) Expressed appreciation to Zambia for its offer to host one of the next TSC meetings; encouraged other signatory states to host TSC meetings as well as other meetings related to the PSC Framework, to enhance ownership and visibility of the agreement.

6. With regard to ongoing preparations for the Private Sector Investment Conference, to be held in Kinshasa on 24-25 February 2016, participants welcomed the steps taken towards holding the Conference and stressed the importance for signatory states to actively participate in the event at the highest level.

7. Participants requested that the ministerial meeting's recommendations be presented for consideration to the Heads of State and Heads of Government of the ICGLR, during their next summit scheduled for 12 February 2016.

8. Finally, participants expressed appreciation to the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security and the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region for convening this ministerial meeting and thanked the AU Commission for hosting it.

Addis Ababa, 28 January 2016