

Meeting of Ministers of Defense on Negative Forces in eastern DRC

Nairobi, Kenya

20 July 2016

Outcome Document

1. The Ministers of Defense of select countries of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) met in Nairobi, Kenya, on 20 July. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Joao Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, Minister of Defense of Angola and Chair of the ICGLR Ministerial Committee of Defense. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Guarantors of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the region, namely the United Nations, the African Union, ICGLR and SADC. The Ministers of Defense and senior representatives of the following countries participated in the meeting: Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, South Africa, and Tanzania. Also present were the Minister of Interior of Mozambique, on behalf of the Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation, the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, the ICGLR Executive Secretary, the AU Special Representative for DRC, MONUSCO Force Commander, and the SADC Secretariat Director of Organ on Politics, Defense and Security.
2. The objectives of the meeting were to: (i) take stock of progress and key challenges in the neutralization of armed groups in eastern DRC; (ii) make concrete recommendations on how best to strengthen political and security activities to support ongoing efforts against negative forces, including measures to tackle their illegal economic activities; and (iii) explore ways and means to accelerate the repatriation of disarmed ex-combatants.
3. Participants received comprehensive briefings from the Government of the DRC and MONUSCO on the status of operations against negative forces in Eastern DRC. The ICGLR Executive Secretary briefed the meeting on the 6th ordinary Summit of the ICGLR Heads of State and Government held in Luanda, Angola, on 14 June 2016. The UN Special Envoy on the Great Lakes Region also updated participants on the PSC Framework Guarantors' initiatives on the negative forces and the implementation of the Nairobi Declarations.
4. Following discussions on current operations against negatives forces and the challenges encountered, the Ministers agreed on the following recommendations, in line with the 6th ICGLR ordinary Summit and UN Security Council Resolution 2277 (2016):
 - To task Chiefs of Defense Staff/Forces of ICGLR and SADC member countries participating in the Nairobi meeting to carry out a field visit to affected areas in eastern DRC including the camps hosting ex-combatants to engage MONUSCO FIB and DRC officials in order to make appropriate recommendations to further strengthen operations to fully neutralize persisting negative forces.
 - In line with paragraph 14 of the ICGLR Summit Declaration, called on the ICGLR Secretariat to fast track the technical level preparations for the joint follow up mechanism between the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda and

Tanzania to address the growing menace posed by ADF recruitment drive in the region. To this end, the Ministers encouraged the ICGLR Executive Secretary to convene a meeting of the Chiefs of Defense Staff and other relevant actors from the four countries as soon as possible.

- Called on the Intelligence Services of countries directly affected by the activities of negatives forces in eastern DRC to strengthen existing coordination and information-sharing mechanisms.
- In furtherance of paragraph 18 of the ICGLR Summit Declaration and in accordance with paragraph 19 of UN Security Council resolution 2277 (2016), called for sustained robust advocacy and the implementation of the repatriation of surrendered FDLR in the DRC to Rwanda or for resettlement in a third country outside of the region;
- Called on other ICGLR and SADC countries to contribute troops to MONUSCO's Force Intervention Brigade to enhance operations against negative forces in close consultation with the Government of the DRC;
- Noted the importance of a comprehensive approach to address the issue of negative forces, comprising of military and non-military actions. In this regard, the meeting highlighted the need to enhance awareness and communication campaign to complement the joint FARDC/MONUSCO military operations against all negative forces in order to encourage more surrenders, and to appropriately sensitize local communities in affected areas.
- Noted the need to sustain the momentum generated by the coordination meetings on the implementation of the Nairobi Declarations held in Kinshasa on 26-27 May and 27-28 June 2016, and urged the DRC National Oversight Mechanism and the ex-M23 designated Coordinator to follow-up, including on the completion of the repatriation of the ex-combatants in Rwanda and Uganda.
- Encouraged the Government of the DRC and its National Commission for Refugees supported by the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to accelerate the biometric registration for the Rwandan refugees in eastern DRC. The meeting called on the UN Special Envoy and the ICGLR Executive Secretary to work closely with the Governments of the region, UNHCR and other concerned entities to fast track the repatriation processes of refugees including through existing tripartite agreements.
- Acknowledged the crucial role played by the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM) as a confidence building tool in the region, and called on the representatives of the Guarantors of the PSC Framework and ICGLR Member States to continue robust advocacy and resource mobilization efforts in support of the EJVM's mandate and activities.
- Emphasized the need for signatory countries to abide by all their commitments under the PSC Framework and the ICGLR Pact in relation to negative forces, in particular regional commitment number 2 of the PSC Framework "to neither tolerate nor

provide assistance of any kind to armed groups” and therefore countries in the region should not provide asylum to ex-combatants which have been granted amnesty.

- Encouraged the ICGLR Executive Secretary and the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region to convene a dedicated meeting on the issue of illegal exploitation of natural resources aimed at undercutting the life lines of negative forces.
 - Noted the need to identify countries, companies and individuals that trade and benefit from illicit economic activities of the negative forces in the region and to bring sanctions to bear through appropriate mechanisms, in line with the UN sanctions regime.
5. Participants agreed that the conclusion of their deliberations be submitted to the respective ICGLR and SADC ministerial meetings for the attention of the joint summit of the two organisations and to the high-level meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism as well as to the African Union and the UN Security Council.

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