

High Level Regional Workshop on Natural Resources in the Great Lakes Region: *Taking Collective Actions to Achieve Peace and Development*

Co-organized by

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region – **ICGLR**,
The Office of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for the Great Lakes
Region – **O/SESG-GL**, and

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – **GIZ**

In collaboration with the Government of the Republic of the Sudan

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Recommendations

I. On Enhancing Ownership and Accelerating the Implementation of the RINR

Through the Lusaka Declaration, signed by Heads of State and Government on 15th December 2010, Member States of the ICGLR committed themselves to fighting the illegal exploitation of natural resources through national, regional, and international legal means. They approved the six tools developed under the Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR) and committed themselves to domesticating the ICGLR Protocol on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the Great Lakes Region, among other points. Ten years after the launch of the RINR, significant strides have been made but more remains to be done to ensure its effective implementation by all ICGLR Member States.

Therefore, to ensure the effective implementation of the RINR, the following actions are recommended:

1. All ICGLR Member States should recommit to effectively implementing the ICGLR Protocol on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the Great

- Lakes Region and all relevant subsequent decisions of ICGLR bodies and mechanisms.
2. The ICGLR Secretariat, in collaboration with the ICGLR Member States and all relevant stakeholders, should carry out a comprehensive review of progress and challenges in the implementation of the RINR, including concrete recommendations on ways to accelerate the implementation.
 3. The political commitment that the ICGLR instruments have benefited for the implementation of the Pact should be reaffirmed and complemented by practical strategies to domesticate the 10 Protocols of the Pact.
 4. The ICGLR Secretariat, in collaboration with ICGLR Member States and all relevant stakeholders should strengthen control of the international mineral market as done with the Kimberly Process and facilitate access to the market to allow the mineral sector to contribute to Member States development.
 5. The ICGLR Member States should consider convening an extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government dedicated to the sustainable management of natural resources with a view to discussing and deciding on new courses of action to accelerate the implementation of the RINR. The Summit would review the progress report produced by the ICGLR Secretariat as a basis for its deliberations.
 6. The ICGLR Secretariat, in collaboration with the O/SESG-GL should lead high-level political advocacy in ICGLR Member States in order to strengthen the national and regional ownership of the RINR.
 7. The ICGLR Secretariat should prioritize the implementation of the ICGLR Strategy on artisanal gold mining, given the linkages with the financing of armed groups.
 8. The ICGLR Member States, with the support of the ICGLR Secretariat and in coordination with the private sector and national, regional and international stakeholders, should accelerate the development and implementation of a regional Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) Gold Due Diligence Strategy.
 9. The ICGLR Member States should harmonize taxation regimes at the provincial, national and regional levels in general and on trade of gold in particular.

10. The ICGLR Member States should develop programs (both regional and national) to provide small-scale gold miners with access to credit and strengthen the industrialization and processing capacities of natural resources in the region.
11. The ICGLR Member States should promote the regional harmonization of legislation relating to artisanal mining activities with a view to effective regularization making it possible to increase transparency and, consequently, reduce fraud.
12. The ICGLR Member States, in collaboration with ICGLR Secretariat, the O/SESG-GL and partners, should strengthen existing regional judicial cooperation mechanisms, in particular the Great Lakes Region Judicial Cooperation Network, to fight against impunity for crimes related to illicit mineral trade and management benefiting criminal networks and organize without delay the Second Edition of the 2019 Entebbe meeting on combating trans-border crime related to natural resources.
13. The ICGLR Secretariat, in cooperation with the O/SESG-GL, should encourage the political leadership to use the Great Lakes Region Judicial Cooperation Network as the main tool to combat cross-border crimes related to natural resources.
14. The ICGLR Secretariat, in cooperation with the O/SESG-GL and other partners, should undertake initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacity of media and civil society organizations in the region, including women and youth networks, to focus on the linkages between conflict and illegal mineral exploitation and trade.

II. On Strengthening Partnerships

Effective implementation of the Regional Initiative to Fight against Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources will not only require enhanced ownership by ICGLR Member States but also synergy of actions amongst key stakeholders to set clear benchmarks for enhanced coordination and collaboration with a focus on governance and transparency in natural resources in the Great Lakes region.

In this connection, the following actions are recommended:

15. The ICGLR Member States should develop and implement measures to encourage and facilitate responsible investment into natural resources extraction and trade in the Great Lakes region and address trade barriers amongst themselves. In this regard, the forthcoming Second Edition of the Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference (GLITC) scheduled in Kigali from 22 to 24 November 2021 could be a way to further promote private investment and responsible trade.
16. The ICGLR Secretariat, in collaboration with O/SESG-GL, should engage Governments of claimed destination countries involved in the illegal trade in natural resources, specifically gold, due to its linkage with the financing of armed groups and criminal networks.
17. The ICGLR Member States and the ICGLR Secretariat should strengthen regional coordination and partnerships in order to achieve optimum utilization of resources.
18. The ICGLR Secretariat should continue positioning and enhance the visibility of the RINR at both regional and international levels through engagement with all relevant stakeholders.
19. The ICGLR Secretariat should promote cooperation among ICGLR Member States in the framework of sustaining economic development through value addition and regional/joint ventures.
20. The ICGLR Secretariat and the ICGLR Member States, in collaboration with other stakeholders, should enhance empowerment and employment for the youth and women as well as alternative occupation for IDPs, especially in the vicinity of mining areas.
21. The ICGLR Member States are encouraged to carry out mining operations within the environmentally acceptable standards.
22. The ICGLR Secretariat, with the support from the UN and other partners, should engage with international and national financial sectors to stimulate financial inclusion of ASM gold producing areas and to curb illicit financial flows.
23. The ICGLR Member States should strengthen cooperation with the UN Security Council Committee established by resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

III. On Strengthening the Capacity of the ICGLR

In line with the ICGLR's mandate on peace and security, under the ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR Pact) and the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region (PSC Framework), the UN and other development partners are called to support the RINR.

In that regard:

24. The ICGLR Secretariat and the ICGLR Member States should work to strengthen the ICGLR Secretariat's institutional capacity in order to increase its support to Member States for the implementation of the RINR.
25. The ICGLR Secretariat and the ICGLR Member States should accelerate the integration of the RINR budget into the overall ICGLR budget for the implementation of the Six Tools.
26. The ICGLR Member States should support the operationalization of the Regional Database on mineral flows as one of the Six Tools of the RINR and promote transparency by regularly publishing available data on the flow of minerals, with a focus on the 3Ts (tin, tungsten, tantalum) and gold.
27. The ICGLR Secretariat and the ICGLR Member States should strengthen the implementation of RINR by distilling and including lessons learned from other existing mineral certification mechanisms such as the Kimberly Process for rough diamonds and similar initiatives.
28. The ICGLR Member States should consider using the World Customs Organization (WCO) tool on the control of mineral resources being exported and imported.
29. The ICGLR Secretariat should engage with other African sub-regional organizations for collective actions in natural resources sector aiming at the consolidation of peace, security and stability.

IV. On the Engagement and Commitment by Donors and Other Stakeholders

Due to limited human and financial resources, there are tools of the RINR which are partially or not implemented. There is need for the donor community to support the efforts that the ICGLR Secretariat and Member States are putting in the implementation the RINR.

In that regard, the following actions are recommended:

30. The donor community should include ICGLR Programs, especially the Regional Initiative on the Fight against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, in their high-level priorities, to ensure effective implementation of the Workshop recommendations.
31. The ICGLR Secretariat, in cooperation with the O/SESG-GL and other partners, should initiate necessary follow-up actions on the engagement with and commitment by donors.