

**REPORT OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT
COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONAL OVERSIGHT MECHANISM OF THE PEACE,
SECURITY AND COOPERATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE DRC AND THE
REGION**

NAIROBI, 27-28 MARCH 2014

Introduction

1. The Technical Support Committee (TSC) held its Sixth meeting on 27-28 March 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya. It took place two months after the endorsement of the Plan of Action by the Regional Oversight Mechanism (ROM). Participants exchanged views on recent developments in the region and reviewed progress in the implementation of the regional commitments under the Peace Security and Cooperation Framework (PSC Framework) for the DRC and the region. They also considered tools and necessary base line information to monitor and evaluate the implementation process. Looking at the economic dimension of the PSC Framework, the TSC members also reflected on the Private Sector Investment Conference.

2. Participants included representatives from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Congo, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of South Africa, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of the Sudan, the Republic of South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Zambia.

3. The meeting was co-chaired by the Special Advisor of the UN Special Envoy, Assistant Secretary-General Modibo I. Touré and, the AU Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, Ambassador Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra. Also in attendance were Dr. Stergomena Tax, Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Dr. Frank Okuthe-Oyugi, Executive Director at the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), Mr. Sam Ibok, Director of Africa I Division, UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA), and Ms. Hiroute Haile Selassie, Head of Political Affairs Division MONUSCO.

4. Present for the first time were Ms. Bineta Diop, newly appointed AU Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security, Mr. Herman Tuyaga, Executive Secretary of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes (CEPGL).

Opening session

5. In his introductory remarks, ASG Touré, on behalf of the Special Envoy Mary Robinson and the co-chairs, warmly welcomed Kenya and Sudan as new signatory members. He also acknowledged the presence of Mr. Tuyaga and Ms. Diop who were attending the meeting for the first time.

6. He continued with a statement from Special Envoy Robinson in which she highlighted the significance of the implementation phase and the need for the initial steps to now be followed by concrete action to ensure that the goals set by the PSC Framework are met. Calling the second year of the PSC Framework the “*year of implementation*”, she appealed to the TSC members to apply the same spirit of determination and resolve that they had

demonstrated during the initial stages of their work. She noted the need for the key actors to follow through on the priorities and meet the expectations that have been raised. She noted among other actions, development and social initiatives as a way to bring concrete economic benefits to the region and its people and further expressed her readiness to work closely with the ICGLR in order to achieve the economic objectives. She also called for the support of the Committee members to make the planned Great Lakes Private Sector Investment Conference a success. She noted the significant role of the ICGLR and the efforts undertaken by its Chairperson, Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos in promoting dialogue and commended the joint efforts by the ICGLR and SADC to foster cooperation. Finally, Special Envoy Robinson also stressed the pivotal role played by the youth and civil society organizations to find lasting peace in the region.

7. Ambassador Diarra commended the Special Envoy Robinson for her commitment and dedication to peace in the Great Lakes Region. He noted, among others, her recent visit to Goma, her continued engagement with the international community and, advocacy efforts towards the full implementation of the PSC Framework commitments. He expressed concern with regards to the situation in the Central African Republic and South Sudan and called on the committee members to give greater consideration to the situation in these two countries in order to achieve lasting solutions. In this connection, Ms. Diop informed the TSC of the establishment of an AU Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights Abuses in South Sudan to be led by President Obasanjo.

8. TSC members including SADC, ICGLR and CEPGL consecutively took the floor to welcome the Republics of Kenya and Sudan and to appreciate the role of the Special Envoy Robinson and her visionary leadership to ensure that there is sustainable peace in the region. They collectively highlighted the content of the letter addressed to them by the Special Envoy Robinson in preparation of the meeting and stressed the need to focus on closer tangible deliverables. Speaking on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the ICGLR, Mr. Okuthe-Oyugi called for greater cooperation in the implementation process and in the activities currently underway.

9. Mr. Ibok and Ms. Hiroute acknowledged the leadership of the two co-chairs and the quality of work accomplished by the TSC and the Office of the Special Envoy over the past year and conveyed the strong support of the United Nations to the TSC.

Proceedings

10. The AU Special Representative, Ambassador Diarra briefed TSC members on the coordination meeting held in Bujumbura between the four guarantors of the PSC Framework to mark the first Anniversary of the Agreement. The meeting discussed issues of cooperation, trust building and reflected on best ways to fast-track the implementation of the PSC Framework commitments. Among the issues requiring attention and common action from the guarantors are: the rapid implementation of the Kampala Dialogue declarations, the entering into force of the DRC Amnesty Law, and the DDR process in the DRC. The guarantors also emphasised the speedy implementation of ICGLR and the CEPGL projects and requested both organisations to provide an update on the list of ongoing projects. Of concern was also the situation with the Expanded Joint Verification Mission (EJVM) and its capacity to operate effectively. The guarantors discussed the funding requirements for the joint mechanism and the need for the countries to pay their contributions and for the guarantors to

engage the donor community for further support. In this connection, the EU has provided funding for the payment of stipends and the provision of vehicles. Similarly, MONUSCO and ICGLR have been urged to speed-up the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

11. The TSC Members also received a briefing from ICGLR representative on the ICGLR mini-Summit held in Luanda on 24 and 25 March 2014. They noted that the Summit and regular dialogue between leaders in the region was essential for the success of the PSC Framework and acknowledged the efforts of the Heads of State to focus their attention on core issues fuelling conflict in the region. They noted and appreciated the resolve of the Heads of States to fast track the implementation of the Kampala Dialogue Declarations, the illegal exploitation of resources, follow-up on the repatriation of former M23 combatants and take appropriate actions against FDLR and other illegal armed groups operating in eastern DRC.

Implementation status of the 15 priority activities

12. Members of the Committee went through the fifteen priority activities and provided constructive inputs to form part of the review, monitoring and reporting framework (*see attached revised matrix*).

Private Sector Investment Conference

13. A UNDP Technical Team briefed the TSC on preparations of the Investment Opportunity Brief (IOB) for the Great Lakes region, preparatory to the Private Sector Investment Conference. The conference will aim at exploring business opportunities in the context of peace building and establish the foundation to put the region on a trajectory to attract investors. The preparatory process will be participatory and inclusive. A Technical Team will undertake a tour of the region to put together an Investment Opportunity Brief (IOB) and to discuss the concept note, including tentative timeline and sequencing of regional consultations, with relevant stakeholders in each country. TSC members have been invited to designate focal points who will be involved in consultations and planning the conference. Following the briefing by the UNDP Technical Team, committee members provided some pertinent and useful comments which will be integrated in the preparatory work. They recommended close collaboration with, and between the UN, ICGLR, SADC and CEPGL to plan and organize the conference, taking into account the reality of the region and bearing in mind the ultimate objective to create conditions to promote stability and livelihood. TSC pledged to support the work of the Technical Team.

14. In moving forward, it was agreed that the UNDP Technical Team in cooperation with the Secretariat would take into consideration the TSC members comments on the IOB and ensure that it reflects the concerns expressed during the meeting.

15. The Secretariat will circulate the power point presentation, with the contact information of O/SESG and UNDP focal points.

Monitoring and evaluation

16. Participants were briefed by experts from South Consulting on a proposal for monitoring and evaluation tools for the PSC Framework. (South Consulting is a Kenyan consulting firm with a track record and proven expertise in peace processes in the region,

including , the monitoring of the implementation of the Kenya National Dialogue under the AU Panel led by former Secretary General Kofi Annan). The TSC members requested further explanatory notes in support of the proposal. They also noted the need to refine the tools and indicators to help the countries track the implementation process of the PSC Framework commitments, including through qualitative means of assessments. South Consulting and the Secretariat will revert with a refined text for consideration.

Dates of the next meetings

17. The TSC discussed its calendar of activities and venues for the next meetings. The next meeting of the TSC was suggested to take place in Goma tentatively in May 2014, subject to concurrence by the DRC Government. MONUSCO was requested to provide logistical support to the TSC members and for the meeting, as appropriate.

18. The agenda of this meeting will include ‘field missions’ on the ground to check the status of implementation of key aspects of the fifteen priority activities, including DDRRR, strengthening of the EJVM, Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre (JIFC), mineral certification issues, repatriation of refugees as well as consultations with civil society, women and youth groups. The TSC also suggested that a committee meeting be held in the margins of the Regional Consultation Meeting on the Great Lakes Private Investment Conference schedule to take place in Luanda, Angola, in July 2014. The TSC also suggested a ‘stock taking’ meeting fully dedicated to prepare for the ROM meeting, anticipated to take place in the margins of the UNGA in New York, in September 2014.

19. The TSC welcomed the offers made by some signatory states to host TSC meetings in their capitals and urged the Secretariat to develop an itemized list of requirements for hosting such meetings outside Nairobi (Secretariat HQs) for the consideration of member states.

20. It was also suggested that the Secretariat start developing ways keep the TSC members informed on matters that require follow-up related to the implementation of the regional commitments. The TSC noted they would specifically like to be kept apprised on the progress on donors’ engagement, briefings to the TSC, as well as the funding mechanism for the implementation of the Action Plan.

21. The Secretariat was also requested to share briefing materials on the Office of the Special Envoy with the newly signatory members namely Kenya and Sudan.

Nairobi, 2 April 2014