



Sexual and Gender Based Violence Meeting: 20 September 2017

At the invitation of ICGLR, the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region (O/SESG-GL) Gender Team participated in the deliberations of the two-day meeting organized by ICGLR and the Kenyan National Coordination Mechanism (NCM), as part of ICGLR's follow-up on the Kampala Declaration, as directed by ICGLR heads of State. Participants included key stakeholders of the Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) agenda in Kenya, who reviewed and discussed at length Kenya's relevant laws and judicial practices on the subject. Consideration was also given to the protocol on prevention and suppression of sexual violence against women and children, with the meeting also assessing progress and reflecting on the obstacles that impede the implementation of laws on SGBV cases in Kenya and possible recommendations to improve protection, prevention, prosecution and coordination of SGBV processes.

Participants agreed that response to SGBV in Kenya needs to be comprehensive, integrated and coordinated, multi-sectoral and across all levels. The need for effective domestication of a sound action plan on the Kampala Declaration was identified as key. O/SESG-GL-GL Gender Team highlighted the importance of the issue from a regional perspective and encouraged Kenya to sustain its efforts and continue to lead by example and ensure that the relevant ICGLR Protocols and operative paragraphs of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) are effectively implemented. The team also noted the efforts of ICGLR and reiterated the commitment of the Special Envoy to continue working closely with ICGLR and other partners to achieve progress in the implementation of the ICGLR Pact and the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, which are mutually reinforcing. The engagement of the ICGLR with National Coordination Mechanisms (NCMs) was part of a tour carried out by ICGLR Gender Team to various countries, including Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia. The ICGLR team is also planning in the near future to visit Sudan, South Sudan and Tanzania, with all visits funded by the Swiss Cooperation. The meeting recommended, among others, the designation of a dedicated person to work with the NCM to serve as direct reference point on Women, Peace and Security.