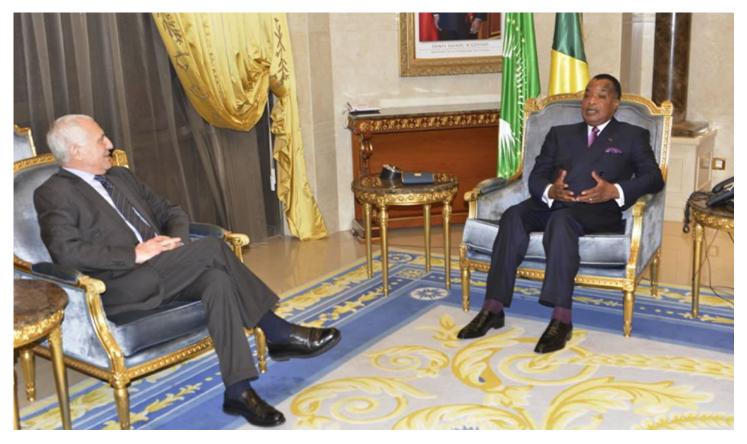


OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION

SPECIAL ENVOY DJINNIT HOLDS CONSULTATIONS WITH PRESIDENT SASSOU NGUESSO IN BRAZZAVILLE, REPUBLIC OF CONGO



United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region Said Djinnit travelled to Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, from 16 to 19 December 2017, to meet with President Denis Sassou Nguesso and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jean-Claude Gakosso. They discussed various initiatives as a follow-up to the eighth high-level Summit of the Regional Oversight Mechanism (ROM) of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region, held in Brazzaville on 19 October. They agreed on the need to step up efforts to address the continued threats posed by negative forces in eastern DRC.

They also reaffirmed the centrality of the DRC's 31 December 2016 Agreement and the importance of its swift implementation to pave the way for the timely holding of free, fair, peaceful and credible elections in the country. In light of the upcoming fifth anniversary (24 February 2018) of the PSC Framework and the President's double-hatted tenure as chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the PSC Framework, they undertook to further strengthen their collaboration to ensure maximum impact on the ground.