

Peace and Security in the Great Lakes region: The International Community enhancing partnership with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region



Throughout the past decades, political and security developments in the African Great Lakes region, have provided significant challenges to civilians, communities, and governments. The continued violence in some areas, unresolved underlying conflicts and activities of illegal armed groups in border areas, keep hindering reconstruction and development efforts in this region despite the huge potential.

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and its Member States, remain determined to transform the region into a space of durable peace and security as well as political and social stability for the benefit of its people. Cognizant of this determination and the current opportunities in the region for sustainable stability and development, the European Union stepped up its support to the ICGLR Secretariat and its regional activities. This support

materialized in a regional program funded for a total of 10 million US dollars over a span of four years and launched in December 2018.



*“We need to do more to
address critical needs in the
Great Lakes Region.*

*The joint launch of a regional Peace
and Security initiative with EU, GIZ
and ICGLR is an important next step.”*

*- Said Djinnit,
the former Special Envoy of the UN Secretary
General for the Great Lakes-*

This program is jointly implemented by the ICGLR, the United Nations (UN) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Its overall goal is to contribute to the consolidation of peace and stability in the African Great Lakes region by strengthening the capacity of the ICGLR Secretariat in the areas of peace and security, responsible management of mineral resources and combating sexual and gender-based violence, to facilitate conflict resolution and to prevent the emergence of new conflicts. A specific focus will lie on the implementation of the ICGLR Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children.

This joint program aims to achieve three key results:

1. Strengthening the ICGLR’s peace and security programme;
2. Enhancing control of the exploitation of selected mineral resources; and
3. Providing protocol on prevention and suppression of Sexual Violence against women and children for effective application in the Great Lakes region

These results are expected to strengthen the ICGLR Secretariat, the delivery under its Programme on Peace and Security as well as enhance the implementation of measures preventing and protecting women and children from sexual and gender-based violence.

This action falls within the European Union's support for peace, security and regional stabilization measures, which is crucial for the development of the countries of the Great Lakes region through the 11th Regional Indicative Programme for Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean for the period 2014-2020.

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