



Regional Training
Facility on
Prevention of
Sexual and Gender
Based Violence in
the Great Lakes
Region



Training to change attitude to prevent and punish sexual violence

ICGLR-RTF Centre of Excellence





Participants during the opening ceremony of the Training for Master Trainers, on Prevention of Sexual Violence in the Great Lakes Region, 8th May 2017 at Afrique Suites Hotel, Kampala - Uganda.

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FOREWORD

Towards a Centre of Excellence of the ICGLR against Sexual Violence in the Great Lakes Region: Three Years of ICGLR-RTF



Acting Director RTF, Nathan Mwesigye Byamukama

Pursuant to article 11 of the ICGLR Pact, Article 6(9) of the ICGLR Protocol on Prevention and suppression of Sexual Violence against women and children and Paragraph 14 of the Kampala Declaration on Sexual Violence plus the subsequent ICGLR Summits and RIMC decisions, the RTF was officially opened on 18th February 2014 and operationalized in April 2014 with the appointment of its Acting Director. The RTF mandate is to "...train and sensitize police units, judicial officers, medical officers, Social workers and other categories of persons who handle cases of sexual violence in the Great Lakes Region". This is in line with the ICGLR commitment to fight impunity in sexual violence crimes. The Headquarters of RTF are in Kampala, Uganda. A Host Agreement between Government of Uganda and ICGLR was signed on 18th February 2014.

Three years since its inception, the RTF was able to convene six (6) major high profile training workshops for police, military, medical, judicial officers, prosecutors, civil society, and journalists in the Great lakes Region. At the time of publishing this magazine, the seventh training workshop had been held in May 2017. By end of 2016 about 400 people had benefited from the training at the ICGLR-RTF.

The first training organized in December 2014 was for Police Officers from ICGLR Member States; they

were trained in Forensic Evidence Management for Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence using DNA technology. This was supported by the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SV) and the African Union Commission (AUC)'s department of Peace and Security. The second and third training workshops took place in August 2015. These two concentrated on managing sexual violence under military justice system and managing sexual violence in conflict situations respectively. The financial

support came from OSRSG-SV and the British High Commission (BHC). The fourth was a symposium that was held in July 2016 on 'Access to Justice & Fighting Impunity of Sexual Violence in the Great Lakes Region'. It was supported by Office of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region and the African Union Commission Peace and Security Department. The fifth was a sensitization and training workshop held in September 2016 on 'Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence Cases in Conflict'. It was supported by the Foreign and Commonwealth office through the BHC. From 5th -7th December 2016, the sixth big meeting was a regional colloquium on Documentation and Investigation which took place in Kampala, Uganda and was attended by representatives from all the ICGLR Member States. It was supported by funds from Population Council-Kenya, FIDA-Uganda, NICHE/ Netherlands and GIZ.

The initial boost of funds to the RTF was provided by World Bank that supported a four year project under 'The Great Lakes Emergency Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Women's Health Project' in which the RTF is to be strengthened to deliver high quality regional training programs. In particular, the Project supports the RTF to develop and implement two high-quality regional training programs for judicial and police officers in fighting Sexual violence. Special focus is on Training of Trainers (ToTs) from ICGLR member states who would in turn train others in their respective counties.

In addition, the Netherlands Initiatives for Capacity Development in Higher Education (NICHE) supports RTF with the Institutional Strengthening to deliver training programs in the Prevention and Mitigation of the SGBV; in particular for medical officers and social workers additional to the stakeholders supported by WB project. This is a four-year project ending in 2020 and supports the already running WB project collaboratively completing training and sensitization of all the four major stakeholders specifically mentioned in the ICGLR Protocol namely: Judicial officers, social workers, police units, and medical officers. The next few years will see the enlisting of other categories of stakeholders including, but not limited to, the military, prisons service, civil society and journalists.

The seventh workshop of May 2017, was bringing together Master Trainers (MTs) who are set to deliver standardized training materials and curricula for four stakeholders. This is the core of the RTF/ WB/ NICHE support.

The RTF is still a growing institution that requires sufficient support from Member States to take off. The

RTF needs to recruit at least two core "heavy weight" staff for smooth and effective operations. What has been achieved is what I have been able to do alone and in acting capacity, with a handful of good volunteers and the accountant. If we get a training coordinator and a knowledge production/ IT Expert, progress and efficiency will greatly improve much faster.

The RTF has potential to become Africa's Centre of Excellence in providing the necessary skills for effective and efficient management of the endemic problem of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence on the continent. We are grateful to the Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands's NICHE programme that has set aside EUR 200.000 to buy property befitting of the ICGLR-RTF as a Centre of Excellency as part of the Euro 1 million support to RTF. At the time of writing this report, the search for the appropriate property within the available resources was on. It can be done ■



Dr. Astrid Wake, NICHE Support representative addressing RTF meeting



World Bank Support Mission led by Ms. Verena Phipps (1st left) meeting in Burundi



World Bank Support Mission in Kampala led by Pia Peeters (2nd left) and Leanne Bayer (1st right)

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

ACCORD	African Centre for the Constructive Resolutions of Disputes
AfDB	African Development Bank
AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
AUC	African Union Commission
AWCFS	African Woman and Child Features services
CAR	Central African Republic
CEDOVIP	Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DRC	Democratic Republic Of Congo
EUR (€)	Euro (European Currency)
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FIDA Uganda	Uganda Association of Women Lawyers
FPU	Family Protection Units
GBP (£)	Pound sterling (British Pound)
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GLR	Great Lakes Region
ICGLR	International Conference of the Great Lakes Region
ICGLR-RTF	International Conference of the Great Lakes Region-Regional Training Facility
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDA	International Development Assistance
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IT	Information Technology
JLOS	Justice and Law Sector
KD	Kampala Declaration
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPLA	Movimento Popular de Libertacao In Angola
MTs	Master Trainers
MSM	Maastricht School of Management

NAWJ-U	National Association of Women Judges and Magistrates in Uganda
NC	National Coordinators
NCM	National Coordination Mechanisms
NICHE	Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Development in Higher Education
O/SESG-GL	Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PIM	Project Implementation Manual
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PSO	Peace Support Operations
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RIMC	Regional Inter-ministerial Committee
RINR	Regional Initiatives on Natural Resources
RPF	Rwanda Patriotic Front
RTF	Regional Training Facility
RWF	Regional Women's Forum
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SLM/A	Sudan Liberation Army
SPLA/M	South Sudan Liberation Army/ Movement
SPLM-N	Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement-Northern Sector
ToT	Training of Trainers
UGX	Ugandan shilling
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UN	United Nations
UNAFRI	United Nations Institute for Prevention of Crime
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN-OSRSG-SVC	UN-Office of Special Representative of Secretary General-Sexual Violence in Conflict
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator Office
UNSESG-GLR	United Nations Secretary General to the Great Lakes Region
USD (\$)	United States Dollars
VSUs	Victim Safety Units
WHO	World Health Organization

FACTS ABOUT ICGLR-REGIONAL TRAINING FACILITY



Executive Secretary of the ICGLR Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita (2nd Right) with the staff of the RTF

The Regional Training Facility (RTF) on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence in the Great Lakes Region, was established by the Heads of States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes (ICGLR). ICGLR is made up of 12 Member States namely: Angola, Burundi, Central Africa Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo (Congo Brazzaville), South Sudan, Sudan, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The RTF was launched on 18th February 2014 in Kampala, Uganda.

LOCATION

The Regional Training Facility has its headquarters in Kampala, Uganda. It is hosted on the 7th Floor at the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development – George Street, Simbamanyo House. It will soon shift to a much bigger and permanent home, thanks to NICHE.

LEGAL STATUS AND MANDATE

Under Art 6(9), the ICGLR **Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children (2006)**, “Member States agree (d) to set up a special regional facility for training and sensitizing judicial officers, police units, social workers, medical officers and other categories of persons who handle cases of sexual violence in the Great Lakes Region”.

In fulfillment of this obligation, the government of the Republic of Uganda offered, during the December 2011 ICGLR Summit, to host this special Regional Training Facility.

FUNDING PARTNERS

The RTF is funded by Member States, partners and friends of ICGLR. Art 26 (4) of the ICGLR Pact states

that the operating budget of the ICGLR “*shall be funded by mandatory annual contributions of Member States and by resources mobilized from cooperation and development partners of the Great lakes Region and by any other resources identified by the conference.*” Uganda as a Member State contributed Office premises.

VISION

A leading training, research, and information sharing facility on prevention of SGBV in the GLR.

MISSION STATEMENT

Providing High quality training material and quality training to professional groups that deal with survivors of SGBV to improve the response to SGBV in the GLR.

GOAL

The RTF mandate is to train and sensitize judicial officers, police units, social workers, medical officers and other categories of persons who handle cases of sexual violence in the Great Lakes Region as provided for under the ICGLR Protocol on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES;

1. To train and sensitize judicial officers, police units, social workers, medical officers and other categories of persons who handle cases of sexual violence in the Great Lakes Region;
2. To develop regional coordination and standardized curricula that provide common skills, common frameworks and a common access to content, materials and the database as well as training on resolutions; standards and policies as well as on protocols and frameworks of the ICGLR, AU and UN instruments on sexual violence;
3. To provide regional knowledge-generation, scientific evidence gathering, early warning, documentation and sharing framework that encompasses running a website network and new media activities, as well as facilitating demand led networking events and a regional SGBV training network available to training stakeholders;
4. To provide policy oriented research to inform training materials for practitioners in the management of SGBV cases.
5. To provide a database of regional and international technical experts and a technical assistance as well as regional and national SGBV training needs for quality enhancement of SGBV training across the Region

TARGET GROUP FOR THE TRAINING

The RTF will train police units, judicial officers, social workers, medical officers, attorneys/advocates and other categories of persons who handle cases of sexual violence in the Great Lakes Region (e.g. prisons, army, journalists etc as the case may be from all the 12 member states)

RTF PARTNERSHIPS

The RTF works closely with governmental, non-governmental, civil society, international and national partner organizations already doing similar activities, by:

- Using their technical expertise to develop training manuals or standardise the ones already developed by partners
- Making use of their trainers to conduct the trainings
- Using their data bases to establish the situation in the various Member States
- Providing a regional platform for partners to share relevant information and data
- Ensuring that similar organisations are part of the working technical committees.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS TO DATE

1. Member states of ICGLR
2. World Bank
3. UNWomen
4. UN-Office of Special Representative of Secretary General-Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN-OSRSG-SVC)
5. AU-Peace and Security Department
6. British High Commission in Kampala
7. FIDA - Uganda
8. Population Council - Kenya
9. GIZ
10. Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region (O/SESG-GL)-Gender access to justice symposium in July 2016
11. NICHE ■



THE ICGLR-REGIONAL TRAINING FACILITY LAUNCHED IN STYLE



The Guest of Honour - Hon Mary Karoro Okurut, Minister of Gender, Labor and Social Development, delivering making her address

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (GLR) opened a Regional Training Facility (RTF) on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual and Gender based violence (SGBV) in the region. The RTF, which is based in Kampala, Uganda is currently hosted by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. The Facility was launched on February 18, 2014 at a colourful ceremony in Kampala attended by over 70 participants.

The RTF launch on 18th February 2014 was preceded by a press briefing on 17th Feb 2014 at the Media Centre. The media briefing was addressed by Mrs Elizabeth Kyasiimire, Commissioner Gender, Ms Diana Ofwona representing the Regional Director UN Women and Nathan Byamukama, representing ICGLR. The briefing was covered and telecast by several mainstream media including The New Vision newspaper which ran an article the next day. The media briefing provided a unique opportunity to ensure that journalists were enlightened about the facility. On the whole journalists showed interest in the regional statistics on SGBV.

The launch started with a breakfast meeting attended by diplomats and partners. Thereafter a ribbon was cut to mark the establishment of the RTF. The afternoon session was attended by officials from the Justice and Law Sector (JLOS). The launch was presided over by three ministers: Hon Karoro Okurut (Minister of Gender), Hon Shem Bageine (Minister of State for East Africa Affairs) and Hon Rukia Nakadama (Minister of State for Gender). The opening was also attended by the Executive Secretary of ICGLR, Prof Ntumba-Luaba, Mrs Diana Ofwona representing Mrs Christine Musisi the Regional Director UN Women and Pernilla Rydeo representing Mary Robinson, the Special Envoy

of the Secretary General to the Great Lakes Region. Also in attendance were Mrs Elizabeth Kyasimire the Commissioner, for Gender and Ambassador Ben Lukwiya representing Ambassador Mugume, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Several organisations attended the launch including UNDP, UN Women, UNAFRI, UN-RCO, UNFPA, Oxfam and Care. Embassies represented included Japan, South Africa, Great Britain, Angola, Burundi, South Sudan and The Netherlands.

Elizabeth Kyasimire, the Commissioner for Gender and Social Affairs in the Ministry, expressed pleasure that the facility was located at the centre of the national machinery of gender equality and women empowerment in Uganda.

Ambassador James Mugume, in a speech read by Ambassador Ben Lukwiya described the opening of the centre as a landmark occasion in the efforts to fight SGBV in the Great Lakes Region and a big step in the implementation of the Kampala Declaration. He confirmed that Uganda was fully committed to the effort to fight and end sexual and gender based violence in the region. "This launch of the Training Facility comes at a time when the region is marred with violent conflicts in which the majority of victims are women and young girls. It is, therefore, timely that we have this facility to empower personnel that are usually involved in investigations of sexual violence to develop and harness their ability and attitude in handling sensitive crimes against women," he added. Mr Mugume hoped all Member States would greatly benefit from the RTF services. He called for greater cooperation with the RTF of all other stakeholders currently engaged in eliminating SGBV.

As Permanent Secretary of Uganda's Foreign Affairs Ministry, he pledged the ministry's commitment to working closely with the Ministry of Gender to facilitate the work of the training facility to ensure that it achieves its intended objectives.

Prof. Lumu Alphonse Ntumba Luaba, the Executive Secretary of the ICGLR, said the opening of the Facility was a great day for women in the Great Lakes Region. He said it was a demonstration of the strong will of the Heads of State and Government towards elimination of crimes that especially target women. This commitment is in furtherance to the Article 11 in the Pact on Peace, Security, Stability, and Development in the Great Lakes Region, which calls for the prevention, criminalisation and punishment of sexual violence against women and children. "The launch today of the Training Facility will equip security officers, social workers, medical personnel, and all stakeholders in rendering assistance to victims of sexual and gender based violence. It is a great step towards victory against impunity of this violence," Prof. Luaba said. He thanked the Ugandan government for accepting to host the facility, "a brainchild of the ICGLR that received unequivocal backing from all the 12 Member States, including newly admitted South Sudan". He also thanked particularly UN Women both for financial and technical support towards the launch of the Facility.

A representative of the UN WOMEN in Uganda applauded the ICGLR for brokering many regional commitments to peace and stability in general and more recently in favour of women's human rights through its Pact and Protocols. The opening of the facility, she observed, was another great step forward in its commitment to oversee the improvement of women's lives across the region. "It is important that



The past and current Executive Secretaries of ICGLR: (L-R) Ms. Liberata Mulamula, Prof Ntumba-Luaba and Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita



Mrs Mary Robinson- former UN Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region.

regional leaders continue to provide political support and cover for ICGLR and the new initiatives to link and jointly work for the interests of the people of the Great Lakes Region," she noted.

"The fact that a wide range of expertise will emerge from the facility ranging from investigation and prosecution personnel, to specially trained interpreters, forensic specialists, psychosocial trauma counsellors, health professionals, witness protection specialists, attorneys and judges means that at last we will be contributing to a much clearer accounting of sexual and gender based violence in justice processes. We will also be accounting for better outcomes for survivors," she noted. She described the launch as an emotional moment for all those that had waited for justice for far too long.

She pledged the UN WOMEN's willingness to strengthen further collaborations with ICGLR and the Ugandan government in order to kick-start the operations of the Facility. "UN WOMEN is proud to partner with the regional training facility and is pleased to announce the flag off of this collaboration with an initial contribution of fifty thousand US dollars (US\$ 50,000) to equip the centre," she revealed.

In her speech delivered by Ms Pernilla Rydeo on behalf of the UN, Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region, Mrs Mary Robinson expressed gratitude and emphasized that the opening of the facility was a fulfilment of one commitment out of many regional leaders agreed to within the Framework. "As we launch the training facility, we must follow through with quality, timely, harmonised training curricula to ensure that it serves the purpose for which it has been established; to equip prosecutors, judicial actors, police officers, medical personnel, social workers and other relevant professionals to deal with cases of sexual gender based violence," she noted.



Amb. Said Djinnit, Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region (left) with Mr. Nathan Byamukama, A.g Director, ICGLR-RTF during his courtesy visit to the RTF on 7th January 2015.

Minister Bageine welcomed the opening of the facility saying it was a useful addition to efforts within the East African Community to purge the problem of SGBV. "We recently passed a Protocol on Peace and Security and are in process of extension of the jurisdiction of the East African Court of Justice to include handling crimes against humanity...which have always been directed at women," he said. As a Community, which covers a huge chunk of the ICGLR, Bageine said there was overwhelming interest to promote peace and security and to advance especially the lives and rights of women and children because of its impact on the region's progress.

Minister Nakadama was happy that the Facility was finally open and would meet the expectations of the region. She recalled the long struggle from Arusha in November 2014 that had culminated into the Facility.

The Chief Guest, Mary Karoro Okurut, lauded the spirit of regional cooperation that makes the realisation of important projects like the Facility possible. She said Uganda was not going to merely host a 'white elephant' but would ensure it works.

"The manner in which SGBV cases are prosecuted are akin to second violation given that the victim is required to recount what happened in full view of everyone. This, experts have noted, is the reason far fewer cases are reported. It is why a Regional Training Facility is crucial: she said. She decried sexual violence which she said had reached epic proportions, particularly citing the plight of survivors of the on-going violent conflict in South Sudan. "The guns may fall silent but in the lives of those women, of those girls, of even the young boys who have undergone this violence for them the guns will go on and on unless we get this kind of specialised training," she said. She rallied regional Governments and Agencies to offer their full support to ensure the facility is well staffed, facilitated, encouraged, and

appreciated so that its work can have far reaching impact beyond where it is hosted. "We owe it to the citizens of the region, the men and boys, women and girls, to ensure that all occurrences of sexual gender based violence are prevented in order for peace and security to be guaranteed," Karooro said

The afternoon session was an interaction between the Secretariat, the Gender Ministry and Civil Society Organisations engaged in combating SGBV. This interface was aimed at a reflection and preparation of what RTF curricula must focus on, who and how it must be delivered, potential sources of collaboration, both technical and financial, and ways and means of harnessing already existing knowledge and ongoing training efforts in respect to the elimination of SGBV.

The session attracted the Police, the Justice Law and Order Sector, the Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention, the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda, Isis-WICCE, among so many other stakeholders.

Participants were also addressed by Nathan Byamukama, the Programme Officer Crosscutting Issues at the ICGLR Secretariat. He reiterated appreciation to Uganda for hosting the Facility pointing out the central role of both the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Gender who made it possible. He also thanked UN WOMEN for the financial donation to help set up and run the Facility. Other speakers were: Alex Musaule, an official from the Government's Analytical Laboratory in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Tina Musuya of the Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVI), Lucy Ladira from the Secretariat of the Justice Law and Order Sector, Carol Bunga from the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda, Richard Mwokozi of Oxfam and a retired magistrate who has been involved in training especially mind set changes within judicial officers ■



Top: The Executive Secretary ICGLR greets the Minister of East African Affairs (left) while the UN Women representative (in yellow) looks on. Seated is the then Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

Bottom: A cross section of the guests at the official opening ceremony.



Newspaper coverage in Uganda and Rwanda of the RTF opening



Guests and participants at the RTF 2nd training on addressing sexual violence within the Military Justice System in the Great Lakes Region, held in August 2015 in Kampala. It was aimed at equipping military justice officers with the requisite knowledge and skills to effectively investigate and prosecute crimes of sexual violence.

ICGLR INSTRUMENTS ON SGBV & ICGLR-RTF (2004-2015)

DATE	TITLE	VENUE	MOST RELEVANT DÉCISIONS ABOUT THE RTF
19-20 November 2004	1st Ordinary Summit of the ICGLR: (Dar es Salaam Declaration)	Dar es Salaam	<p>Commitment (27): Protect vulnerable groups, women, children, the elderly, the disabled and the sick, the refugees and displaced persons, involving them in our peace efforts, addressing issues of sexual violence, implementing a Regional Strategy against the HIV/AIDS pandemic as a peace and security issue, in conformity with the relevant regional and international political and legal mechanisms, including Resolutions 1308 and 1325 of the United Nations Security Council, creating conditions for protecting the youth from all sorts of manipulation, particularly during armed conflicts.</p> <p>Commitment(35): Adopt deliberate policies and mechanisms for promoting gender equality at all levels and in all sectors, at the national and regional levels, in accordance with the Millennium Declaration, the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, the Beijing Platform for Action and the African Union's Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.</p>
 			<p>Commitment(55): Establish and strengthen national and regional mechanisms to mainstream gender issues in all sectors of economic development</p> <p>Commitment(67): Set up regional mechanisms, including relevant traditional support mechanisms, aimed at providing psychosocial support, medical and legal assistance to women and girls who are victims of rape as well as other acts of sexual violence and exploitation</p>
30th November 2006	ICGLR Protocol	Nairobi	Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children
15th December 2006	The Pact on security, stability and development for the great lakes region. (December 2006 as amended in November 2012).	Nairobi	Art (11): "The Member States undertake, in accordance with the Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Violence Against Women and Children, to combat sexual violence against women and children through preventing, criminalizing and punishing acts of sexual violence, both in times of peace and in times of war, in accordance with national laws and international criminal law."
18th June 2008	The Goma Declaration on Eradicating Sexual Violence and Ending Impunity in the Great Lakes Region.	Goma, RDC	<p>Recommendation (32): Member States to domesticate the Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children by reforming the Penal Codes to provide stiff punishment for crimes related to SGBV</p> <p>Recommendation (35): Pursuant to article 6.8 of the Protocol, Member States to create a regional facility, under the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Development, to prevent SGBV and assist survivors specifically in the area of training, legal assistance, medical treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of survivors of sexual violence, including the perpetrators of SGBV.</p>

15th-16th December 2011	Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the ICGLR at The Fourth Ordinary Summit and Special Session on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (Kampala declaration)	Kampala	<p>Commitment (2): “fully domesticate and implement the Protocol on Non-Aggression, and Mutual Defense, the Protocol on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children as well as the Protocol on Judicial Cooperation, in order to eradicate existing armed groups, combat Sexual and Gender Based Violence and cooperation in matters of extradition, judicial investigation and prosecution of perpetrators”</p> <p>Commitment (8): “Direct concerned ministries to establish and strengthen special courts, sessions and procedures in order to fast track SGBV cases in the police and judiciary (with adequate financing, facilities and gender sensitive officers) within 12 months after this summit and special session on SGBV (2011) to improve access to justice and protect SGBV victims/survivors in line with Article 6(5) of ICGLR Protocol (2006) on prevention and suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children”</p> <p>Commitment (14): “we take note of Uganda’s offer to host the Regional SGBV Training Facility and direct the ICGLR Secretariat to prepare the financial requirements (budget) for the establishment of the facility and present it to the next RIMC for decision”</p>
28 th July 2012	ICGLR Regional High Level Consultation of Ministers in Charge of Justice and Gender on the Kampala Declaration on Sexual and Gender Based Violence. (Kinshasa Final communique)	Kinshasa	<p>Commitment (1): The Ministers of Justice and Gender from the ICGLR Member States commit to simplify, translate and accordingly disseminate the provisions of the three Protocols, namely: the Protocol on non-Aggression and Mutual Defense, the Protocol on the Prevention and the Suppression of Sexual violence against Women and Children and the Protocol on Judicial Cooperation to all stakeholders and lobby all those involved in the domestication process within Government, Parliament, Law Enforcement Institutions, Regional Women Forum , Civil Society and the Citizenry for speeding up the domestication process;</p>
15 th January 2014.	Declaration of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the (ICGLR) on the Promotion of Peace Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region (5th ordinary summit)	Luanda Angola	<p>Decision (23): “Recommended the acceleration of the implementation of the Declaration and the domestication of the Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of SGBV, including the adoption of specific National Laws ; the putting in place of implementation of the Kampala Declaration National Committees multi-sectorial coordination and provision in National Budgets to support the implementation of the Kampala Declaration”</p> <p>Decision (24): Direct the Secretariat to monitor the implementation of the Kampala Declaration in each Member State and report to the next RIMC.</p> <p>Decision (25): Welcome the forth coming operationalization of the Kampala Training Facility for the fight against SGBV.</p>
PROVISIONS OF THE REGIONAL TRAINING FACILITY (RTF) IN ICGLR INSTRUMENTS (2004-2015)			
30th November 2006	Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children		<p>Art (6(9)): Member States agree to set up a special regional facility for training and sensitizing judicial officers, police units, social workers, medical officers and other categories of persons who handle cases of sexual violence in the Great Lakes Region.</p>

18th June 2008	The Goma Declaration on Eradicating Sexual Violence and Ending Impunity in the Great Lakes Region.	Goma, RDC	Recommendation (36): Pursuant to article 6.9 of the Protocol, Member States to put in place a special regional facility for training and sensitizing judicial officers, police and military units, social workers, medical officers and all others who handle SGBV issues.
15-16 Dec. 2011	Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the ICGLR at The Fourth Ordinary Summit and Special Session on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)- (Kampala Declaration)	Kampala	Commitment (14): "we take note of Uganda's offer to host the Regional SGBV Training Facility and direct the ICGLR Secretariat to prepare the financial requirements (budget) for the establishment of the facility and present it to the next RIMC for decision"
28 th July 2012	ICGLR Regional High Level Consultation of Ministers in Charge of Justice and Gender on the Kampala Declaration on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). (Final communique)	Kinshasa	Commitment (25): The Ministers of Gender and Justice request the ICGLR Secretariat to expedite the budget of the Regional Training Facility that Uganda had offered to host as per Decision 14 of the Kampala Declaration
15 th January 2014.	Declaration of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the (ICGLR) on the Promotion of Peace Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region (5th Ordinary Summit)	Luanda Angola	Decision (24): Direct the Secretariat to monitor the implementation of the Kampala Declaration in each Member State and report to the next RIMC. Decision (25): Welcome the forth coming operationalization of the Kampala Training Facility for the fight against SGBV.
10 th March 2015	10 th meeting of ICGLR National Coordinators	Luanda Angola	Recommendation 4(iv): The Conference Secretariat should integrate Kampala Regional Training Facility into the budget process of the Secretariat like Lusaka Centre in the upcoming budgeting of 2016. Recommendation 4 (vi): Member States should commit themselves to domestication and implementation of the priority in 2015 (Protocol on Non-Agression and Mutual Defence, Protocol on Judicial Cooperation, Protocol on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, Protocol on SGBV, Protocol on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide). Recommendation 7(ii): The release of the seed money for the Kampala Center should be expedited.

UTILIZING ICGLR MECHANISMS TO PREVENT AND FIGHT SEXUAL VIOLENCE

This article demonstrates that the ICGLR has sufficient mechanisms in place to prevent and deter the crime of sexual violence individually within, and collectively among member states. It highlights the ICGLR legal instruments supporting the programs of action on sexual violence as well as the institutional structure that confers obligations and responsibilities in the fight against sexual violence. The aim is to stimulate collective effort of the ICGLR to fight sexual violence.

The ICGLR

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) is an organization of 12 Member States founded on the basis of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region (2006), also known as the ICGLR Pact. Creatively crafted to address the interconnected and interwoven challenges of security, stability and development that had bedeviled the region for long, the Pact recognizes that the three situations are not mutually exclusive. Efforts to address one area have to necessarily put into consideration the others if any significant impact is to be made. The Pact includes the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration (2004), the 10 protocols, the four Programs of Action, the Follow up Mechanism and the Fund for Reconstruction and Development (see Art 3).

The Dar es Salaam Declaration (2004) identified four core challenges of the Great Lakes Region (later referred to as Programs of Action), while the 10 protocols provided each of the four challenges with at least a legal basis for its operationalisation. The 10 protocols point to non-aggression, democracy and good governance, judicial cooperation as well as prevention of genocide and war crimes, sexual violence and illegal exploitation of natural resources. There are also protocols addressing the management of information, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and development zones.

Sexual Violence as defined by the ICGLR

The ICGLR Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children (2006), defines Sexual violence as “any act which violates the sexual autonomy and bodily integrity of women and children under international criminal law including but not limited to: rape, sexual assault, grievous bodily harm, assault or mutilations of female reproductive organs, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy and enforced sterilization”. Sexual exploitation or coercion of women and children to perform domestic chores or to provide sexual comfort is also covered under sexual violence.

The Protocol also covers under sexual violence the trafficking in persons (especially women and children) and their exploitation; exploitation of prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor, or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.. This implies that any recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse power or position of vulnerability or giving or receiving of payments so that a person controls another for exploitative purposes is all part of Sexual and Gender based violence (SGBV).

The Protocol provides that sexual violence “includes gender based violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects woman disproportionately” (art 1(6)). Sexual violence and SGBV are sometimes used interchangeably.

The ICGLR Programs of Action include: Peace and security; democracy and Good governance; regional integration and economic development plus humanitarian and social issues. All these must mainstream cross cutting issues namely: Gender, human rights, youth, environment, human settlement and HIV/AIDS.

The “Follow up Mechanisms” constitute a chain of decision-making organs of the ICGLR, each feeding into the other. These are: The Summit, the Regional Inter-ministerial Committee (RIMC), the ICGLR Secretariat and the National Coordination mechanism (NCM). They make proposals/recommendations up to the summit where decisions/resolutions are made.

The ICGLR has decentralized offices such as the Lusaka Centre also known as the Levy Mwanawasa Center for Democracy and Good Governance and the Regional Training Facility on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence (ICGLR-RTF) also known as the Kampala Center. ICGLR Foras include the Regional Women Forum (RWF) based in Kigali, the Multifunctional Youth Forum (MFYF) based in Nairobi and the Civil Society Forum (RCSF) based in Dar es Salaam. There are also Protocol based committees such as the Committee on Prevention of Genocide and the Committee on Natural Resources. The decisions are therefore supposed to be implemented, monitored and progress reported accordingly from National Coordinators at national levels to the ICGLR Executive Secretariat at the regional level, to the ministers of Foreign affairs. The Pact also includes the (Special) "Fund" for Reconstruction and Development to implement the ICGLR projects and Programs of Action.

The ICGLR has sufficient mechanisms in place, as discussed below, to prevent and deter the crime of sexual violence. Even though sexual violence is not explicitly stated in the instruments of some of these mechanisms, nothing excludes the mechanisms from being utilized in the fight against SGBV as long as that works in disposing off a security, stability and development threat. What has been missing is partly the collective consciousness to integrate eradication of sexual violence in areas and spaces where it ought to have been integrated and enforced in the first place. The mechanisms discussed below can be creatively utilized to eradicate sexual violence from the region.

Eradicating Illegal Armed Groups from the Region

It is well known that negative forces commit crimes of sexual violence. The ICGLR Member States agreed under the Protocol on Non-aggression and mutual defense "...to abstain from sending or supporting armed opposition forces or insurgents on to the territory of other member states, or from tolerating the presence on their territories of armed groups or insurgents engaged in armed conflicts or involved in acts of violence or subversion against the government of a another state" (Art 1(b)). To this end, Member States prepared to build joint capacity for mutual assistance and defense aimed at enabling collective and effective responses to armed attacks against one or more of them by utilising the command structures of the African intervention force as well as those of the UN. This would imply that negative forces such as the FDLR, LRA and ADF, currently operating in DRC would neither be supported nor tolerated by any ICGLR Member States to exist or attack a country.



**Angolan Delegate,
attended RTF training
workshops**



**Virginie Ndessabeka,
Congo Brazzaville
attended RTF training
workshops**



**Amb. Thiik Giir Thiik,
ICGLR NC South Sudan,
attended RTF training
workshops**



**Amb. Mohammed Eisa
Edam, the then ICGLR NC
of Sudan, attended RTF
training workshops**



**Amb. Josephine Gaita,
ICGLR NC Kenya, attended
RTF training workshops**



**Amb. Desire Nyaruhirira,
ICGLR NC Rwanda
attended RTF training
workshops**



**Amb. Rosette Nyirinkindi
Katungye representing
Amb. Patrick Mugoya,
ICGLR NC Uganda,
attended RTF training
workshops**



**Zambia participant
attended RTF training
workshops**

It was also agreed that *“any armed attack against one or more of them shall be considered an attack against them all....and will assist the state so attacked by taking forthwith.... individually or in concert with the other Member States such action deemed necessary including use of force to restore and maintain the peace, security, stability and development of the Great Lakes Region”*. With this mandate, the region has an opportunity to ensure that those countries which are secure but threatened have regional support for protection from further violence (including sexual violence) originating from groups hiding in neighboring countries. This is a great opportunity to prevent sexual violence in the region as war is known to increase the vulnerabilities of mothers, daughters, wives and sisters who are usually the major victims.

Article 8 (1-11) of the same Protocol is dedicated to “measures against Armed Groups” whereby a range of actions including denouncing all armed groups, prohibition from using territory as a base to attack a neighbor, no assistance, apprehension and disarmament of these armed groups are included. In December 2011, the ICGLR Summit sitting in a special session on eradication of sexual violence, resolved *“...(to) eradicate existing armed groups in the region in conformity with the ICGLR Protocol on Non-aggression and Mutual Defense”* with in a specific time frame (see Res.1 of the Kampala Declaration on Sexual Violence (2011)). This was in addition to commitment to *“fully domesticate and implement the protocol on Non-Aggression and Mutual Defense, the Protocol on Prevention and suppression of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children as well as the Protocol on Judicial Cooperation, in order to eradicate existing armed groups, combat sexual and gender based violence and cooperate in matters of extradition, judicial investigation and prosecution of perpetrators”* (Res. 2 of the Kampala Declaration). Many of the ICGLR member states have specific laws to combat sexual violence while others,

by their own jurisdiction, can still use binding regional and international instruments to prevent and punish the crime and support survivors of sexual violence. Therefore, with these commitments and binding measures in place, only political will is required to enhance the state’s ability to respect, protect and fulfill the obligations. The enabling mechanism to protect women of the region from being raped and violated by the marauding militarized rapists in the region is available.

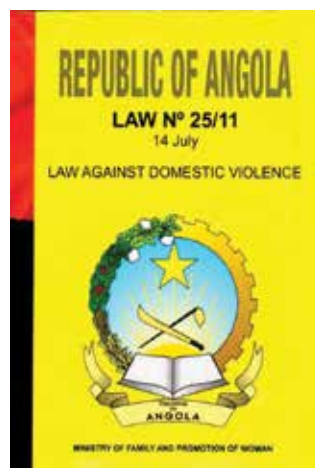
Denying illegal armed groups access to natural resources

Illegal armed groups do not only exploit minerals; they also sexually exploit women and children. The ICGLR Protocol on combating Illegal exploitation of Natural Resources (2006) is relevant to deny the illegal armed groups the means to strengthen themselves through illegal mining and trade in the strategic minerals in DRC and further diminish their capacity to sexual exploitation in the mining areas and beyond. By regularizing the mineral sector, it would be possible to remove illegalities in trade from the chain of supply where the armed groups thrive. Since whatever gives strength to illegal armed groups such minerals and other natural resources in the DRC and elsewhere “represents a serious source of insecurity, instability, tension and conflicts” including contributing to sexual violence, the total control of the mineral and natural resource sector to deny access to the illegal armed groups would enhance protection for potential victims of SGBV.

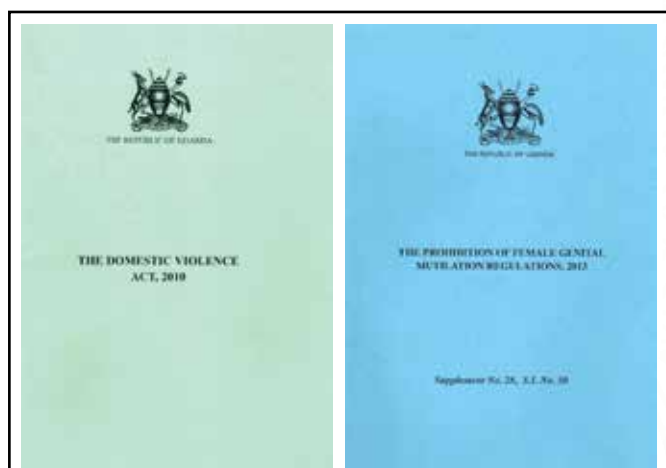
Concerted efforts are on-going through the Natural Resources project supported by the GiZ at the ICGLR to break this exploitative and abusive link. The Heads of States also resolved, in the Kampala Declaration, “to strengthen the inter-linkage between the Regional Initiatives on Natural Resources (RINR) and the



In Angola (From L-R) Maria Filomena de Fátima Lobão Telo Delgado Minister of family and promotion of women and the male is Manuel Domingos AUGUSTO Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs



Angola's law on domestic violence



Some of Uganda's laws on Sexual and Gender Based Violence

Regional Initiative on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)...". When this is fully integrated, after thorough research on the interconnectedness of the two and the related impact on the socio-political and economic milieu, appropriate measures would be found to mitigate and/or prevent the negative impact.

Strengthening the Regional Training Facility on SGBV

The Regional Training Facility (RTF) on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence (and variously called the Kampala Centre on Sexual Violence) hosted by Uganda, is now fully operational since April 2014. Three years since its inception, the RTF has achieved a lot. Seven regional trainings have been carried out and over 400 participated in sensitization and training. The next two years will see 12 Master Trainers and 96 country experts engaged to cascade the training to all professionals in the 12 Member States. By 2020, we expect to have trained more than 1000 cadres in the region. In all these we will need the financial, technical and human resource support from Member States and partners. By March 2017, the RTF, with the support of the World Bank and the Kingdom of Netherlands through the Netherlands Initiatives for Capacity Development in Higher Education (NICHE) had embarked on developing training manuals and curricula for police, judicial and medical officers plus social workers.

Funding ICGLR to fight Sexual Violence

The Special Fund for Reconstruction and Development (SFRD) was established by the ICGLR member states to which they pledged to contribute resources, and invited development partners, group of friends of the ICGLR, to also contribute in the support of the implementation of the agreed projects and programs. As of December 2010, six out of 12 member states had made their contribution and pledges to the SFRD which is hosted at the African Development Bank. The fund is for providing financial and technical support towards implementation of the Protocols and the priority Projects with in the Programs of action (art 10 (b) of the Pact. By 2010, 3.5 million dollars had been contributed by member states (ICGLR Annual Report 2010/2011 p.8). Nonetheless more contributions have not been forthcoming while the existing contributions have been used.

Sexual violence projects have partly been supported under the SFRD funds. Article 6(8) of the Protocol on Sexual violence requires "*creation of a special (financial) facility under the fund for reconstruction and development (hosted by the African Development Bank-AfDB) to*

provide counseling, rehabilitation and reintegration of survivors and victims of SGBV, medical treatment, training ...and compensation of victims..., " . While the window for funding activities to fight sexual violence exists under this arrangement, it is inconceivable that without partners and member states replenishing the Fund, this commitment will be achieved. The need to replenish the Fund is urgent.

Genocide Prevention Committees

Sexual violence can be genocide and genocide includes sexual violence. The Protocol on sexual violence and that of genocide prevention provide details on what genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity mean. Genocide is more comprehensively covered under the protocol of sexual violence than in the genocide protocol, demonstrating the inextricable link between genocide and sexual violence in the context of the Great Lakes Region. In contrast to the SGBV Protocol though, the ICGLR *Protocol for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity and All Forms of Discrimination*, establishes, under Article 26, a Committee whose clear mission under Article 38 is "to prevent crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Great Lakes Region". In fulfilling its mandate, the ICGLR Genocide Prevention Committee regularly reviews situations in each country for purposes of preventing genocide. It also collects and analyses information related to genocide, alerts the summit in good time, and suggests specific measures to fight impunity and also including carrying out any tasks that the inter-ministerial committee may entrust it with.

Article 3 of the Statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda affirms that rape is a crime against humanity when committed as part of the widespread or systematic attack against any civilian population, based on political, ethnic, racial or religious grounds. In this respect, the Genocide Prevention Committee can actually address rape as part of its mandate; to prevent the rape in particular and sexual violence in general as a crime against humanity or the conditions that bring it about.

Protecting Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Refugee and IDPs camps are known hotbeds for SGBV. While the region remains with more than a fair share of displaced persons, the related instruments provide room for fighting sexual violence in those spaces. Indeed, Member States and international organizations such as UNHCR and IOM have interventions related to fighting sexual violence but they are not yet linked to ICGLR efforts for a combined assault on the vice.

The ICGLR Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons commits Member States to *“prevent arbitrary displacement and to eliminate root causes of displacement. And mitigate the consequences ... and bear primary responsibility for protection of physicalsafety in places of displacement, upon return, or resettlement”* (art 3 (1-3)). Article 4 requires adherence to international humanitarian law and human rights as well as respect of Security Council Resolution 1296 and 1325 *“applicable to the protection of women... in respect to their safety... and provide special protection of women, children, the vulnerable and displaced persons with disabilities.”*(art 1 (a-d). These are all windows of opportunity for crusaders against sexual violence. In addition, Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons prohibits *“direct or indiscriminate attacks or other acts of violence”* (art 3.2(b)) and commits member states to *“eliminate gender based discrimination against women”* in line with CEDAW, African Charter on Human and People’s Rights, and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the rights of Women in Africa” (art 5,2). ICGLR-RTF will have to make strategic partnerships with other stakeholders to fight SGBV in refugee and IDP camps.

Promoting judicial cooperation and better communication to fight impunity and stigma of sexual violence

The geography of the Great Lakes Region eases trans-border crimes and criminals easily commit crimes such as rape and hide in neighboring countries. The fugitives from the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda demonstrated this clearly. The ICGLR Protocol on Judicial Cooperation was aimed at facilitating matters of extradition, judicial investigation and prosecution of such suspects. Under such arrangements therefore no potential rapist should be safe both at national or regional level.

Furthermore, the Protocol on Management of information and communication was expected to promote free and professional media in the region through among other principles, *“preventing disorder and crime”*. From the perspective of sexual violence professionalism, reporting on sexual violence should be sensitive and respectful of the situation and rights of the victim without glorifying the perpetrator. It is high time the ICGLR established a Regional Information and Communication Council for the Great Lakes Region in line with Article 2 (9) of the Protocol on Management of information and communication.

Empowering Women to Join the Armed Forces

Involving women in peace and security sector is one of the indicators of good governance. This is in line with the ICGLR Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance. Besides, in the Dar es Salaam Declaration, Heads of States committed to *“protect vulnerable persons, women, children, elderly... and.. involving them in our peace effort and .., addressing issues of sexual violence...”* It has also been established that forces that have a reasonable number of women in their rank and file experience minimum sexual violence, if any. In this regard, part of the solution is to recruit more women in the security sector and in the army as a way of empowering women and protecting potential victims of SGBV. This applies to government, rebels and peacekeepers.

Empowering the ICGLR Regional Women Forum mechanism

Even though it does not directly refer to SGBV, the ICGLR Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance enshrines democracy principles which when applied can save potential victims of SGBV. Article 44 of this instrument states that *“Member States recognize the empowerment of women and protection of their rights (to) guarantee development and peace in their society. To this end member States undertake to establish appropriate mechanisms and adopt a regional gender policy to promote women’s rights and to eliminate all forms of prejudices, degrading and discriminatory practices against them in accordance with appropriate national and regional, and international standards in force.”* It is also recognized that *“good governance is essential for ensuring social justice, prevention of conflict, safeguarding political stability and peace as well as strengthening democracy”* (art 36).

In order to ensure mainstreaming of gender in all ICGLR programs and projects, the Regional Women Forum (RWF) was established. During the Special Summit of Heads of State in September 2010 in Lusaka Zambia, the RWF asked for a special summit on SGBV to which the Heads of State agreed. Consequently the special session on SGBV during their ordinary session of December 2011. The Summit, whose theme was *‘United to Prevent, End Impunity and Provide Support to the Victims of SGBV’* ended with issuing a critical instrument: the Kampala Declaration (KD) on SGBV (2011). This demonstrated the will of the Heads of States to fight SGBV. It encourages the region to ask and they will be given the ammunition to fight SGBV.

The Kampala Declaration on Sexual Violence and its Preventive Measures

The KD has 19 Resolutions, six of which are on



Women in peace keeping forces

“prevention”, three on “ending impunity”, three on “providing support to victims/survivors of SGBV” and seven are “general resolutions” related to ending sexual violence. Implementing these resolutions in earnest will test the extent of the member states commitment to zero tolerance to SGBV.

In prevention, priority was put to eradication of negative forces, domestication the protocols on sexual violence, non-aggression and judicial cooperation. The Heads of State also resolved to increase financial and technical support to judicial and security sector reforms on human rights, women’s rights and SGBV eradication. In addition they directed responsible institutions to strengthen or establish (where they do not exist) their national level structures that would facilitate reporting and documentation of SGBV cases on top of addressing prevention, protection and support of women and children against SGBV.

The KD declares a Zero tolerance campaign to end sexual violence (that is inclusive of men); establishment of special courts, special court sessions and procedures for handling sexual violence cases as a fast tracking measure to the exceedingly heavy backlog of cases related to sexual violence in most countries in order to improve access to justice for victims/survivors. The KD by calling for the establishment of appropriate mechanisms to investigate and prosecute sexual violence crimes, including crimes that amount to genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity

committed in the region” considers genocide prevention critical for prevention of SGBV.

The importance of the Levy Mwanawasa Centre on Democracy and Good Governance, the Regional Training Facility (RTF), the media, the inter-linkages between natural resources and Sexual violence and the role of the civil society were seen as bedrocks for the prevention of sexual violence.

Commitment to the responsibility to protect

For long, Heads of State in Africa were criticised for their inaction. Violations of human rights including SGBV would not ignite States to protect the population. Realities in the region of the Great Lakes of Africa made the region aware of the responsibility to protect at an earlier date. That is why monitoring and sanctions are part of the ICGLR Pact on crucial issues to do with human rights violations. In situations where for instance, a member state was “unwilling” to comply with the Pact it would be compelled to explain to the summit or its extraordinary Session and where necessary action will be taken.

Indeed the region had started to show signs of action. During the humanitarian crisis in eastern DRC in 2008, the Heads of State during their extraordinary session in Nairobi, Kenya on the then Situation in Eastern DRC warned that *“The Great Lakes region would not stand by to witness incessant and destructive acts of violence by any armed groups against innocent people of DRC; if and when*

necessary the Great Lakes Region will send peace-making forces into the Kivu Province of the DRC.” This did not take place partly because the situation was brought under control just in time, thanks to the initiatives of the UN, AU and ICGLR with former Presidents Olusogu Obasanjo and Benjamin Mkapa representing UN and ICGLR respectively on eastern Congo. These initiatives did not only prevent an escalation but actually stopped a humanitarian disaster under whose cover all violations including sexual violence take place.

Furthermore, in 2012, during the M23 insurgence in eastern DRC, the Heads of State further threatened sanctions against obstructing peace. In their 7th-8th August 2012, Summit they decided to “undertake vigorous efforts with a view to ensure that there is complete halt to fighting in Eastern DRC; without excluding the possibility of sanctions against those who obstruct the peace process.” Every war situation is a breeding ground for sexual violence, among other heinous crimes. To halt war is to save women, children, girls and boys and all vulnerable populations. This is the momentum that must continue to stop atrocity crimes such as sexual violence.

Other follow up mechanisms

The convening of Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee every six months in which they, together with national coordinators, security and political situations are reviewed in respective countries helps to bring to light the challenges and how to address them. Other meetings by stakeholders about the implementation of the Protocols, and specifically the SGBV protocol, help the Secretariat to have a grasp on the state of SGBV within the Member States. All these however act as early warning signs, while the real decision to act lies with the Summit at regional level and Member states at national level. What is clear though is that when they have convened, the mechanism have been steadfast in their recommendations and decisions including on SGBV.

The ICGLR Fora

The ICGLR Fora include the Regional Women Forum (RWF), the Multifunctional Youth Forum (MFYF) and the Civil Society Forum (RCSF). By their very nature and functions, sexual violence is inevitably their area of focus. Women and the civil society are already actively fighting SGBV, but the youth forum is yet to demonstrate their preoccupation with sexual violence even when they are both the perpetrators and the victims. Currently preoccupied with resolving questions of unemployment, the youth need to take keen interest in and join the fight against sexual violence to bring in their youthful energy and determination.



Ms Nancy Keizirege
Chairperson
of the Regional Youth Forum

Conclusion

There are ongoing regional efforts to recover from conflict but the challenge of SGBV remains both in time of conflict or in peace. When confronting crimes in the region, the ICGLR Pact has to be read together as a whole and applied in a holistic manner. Fighting sexual violence should not be a preserve of only the efforts under the Protocol on Sexual violence to be left to the institutions thereunder. Sexual violence is a big challenge that has to be tackled from all angles through all the mechanisms, space and resources with all the necessary will to do it. There are cultural, security, political, economic, sociological, biological and humanitarian considerations to the problem of SGBV that need attention and Member states need to utilize existing ICGLR mechanisms to prevent SGBV.

In this regard, the RTF is ready to train and sensitize all those mentioned in the ICGLR structures and mechanisms on how best to contain and prevent sexual violence in their respective jurisdictions ■

Fighting sexual violence should not be a preserve of only the efforts under the Protocol on Sexual violence. Sexual violence is a big challenge that has to be tackled from all angles through all the mechanisms, spaces, resources and legitimacy, with all the necessary will to do it. Member states need to utilize existing ICGLR mechanisms to prevent SGBV.

STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNEES AT THE ICGLR-REGIONAL TRAINING FACILITY

The RTF on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence in the Great Lakes Region, was established by the Heads of States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes (ICGLR). The Facility was launched on February 18, 2014 in Kampala, and has since been hosted by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. Below are the staff, volunteers and internees of the RTF since it opened; under the stewardship of Nathan M Byamukama (pictured right) who is the Acting Director. This team has been helpful in the realization of the RTF objectives.



SYLVIA NAMPEERA
Accountant
June 2015 - To date



SANYU NKINZI KAGWA
Program Advisor/
Communication
April 2014 - June 2014



ISMENE NICOLE ZARIFIS
Gender Expert
June 2015 - Dec 2015



KATAHWEIRE OSCAR
Volunteer - I.T and
Knowledge management
June 2014 - To date



OURIDA VICTORIN
Volunteer - Research
June 2014 - Sept 2014



ASIIMWE NANKUNDA SHARON
Volunteer - Training
Sept 2014 - To date



BAHIIRA PATIENCE
Volunteer -
Communication
Jan 2015 - To date



NATAMBA DERRICK
Volunteer - Research
Feb 2015 - To date



MATINA LORIMER
Volunteer - Research
10 Oct 2016 - 30 Oct 2016



RICHARD MUHWEZI
Volunteer - Research
Oct 2014 - Dec 2015



JOEL BUTEGWA
Volunteer - IT
Sept 2014 - Aug 2015



SAGAL HASH
Volunteer - Research
June 2015 - Aug 2015

There is need to support the RTF and other mechanisms for fighting sexual violence – Executive Secretary ICGLR



The Great Lakes Region is grappling with the problem of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). This has been a concern of the Great Lakes Region since its inception in the 1990s. The ICGLR was established in 2004. In an interview, the Executive Secretary of the ICGLR Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita (pictured) discusses how the ICGLR acknowledged the problem of SGBV and made various interventions to fight it. He discusses the achievements and challenges of this struggle, as well as the strategies in place to ensure that access to justice is enhanced and impunity eradicated.

QUESTION: How prevalent is sexual and gender-based violence in the Great Lakes Region?

ANSWER: The problem of sexual violence is endemic. It is worse in conflict settings but it is also common in peace times, in our homes, in our institutions, in our communities, in our schools and at times in our places of worship. It negatively impacts on our economic, social, cultural, political and security conditions as a people. We must collectively fight it. There are always new statistics and usually alarmingly high in each country showing both reduction and increment depending on particularities of each. The situation

is always increasingly changing for the better as countries get determined to eradicate it. When the circumstances change into war however, the situation deteriorates for women and children especially as they become easy targets of sexual violence.

Briefly explain how the 12 member states in the region came together to address SGBV as a major concern of the ICGLR.

The problem of sexual violence has been around since time immemorial but the region was more resolute to fight it after the Rwanda Genocide in 1994 and the

subsequent wars in the DRC in late 1990s where it was clear that rape was used as a weapon of war. When the leaders of the Great Lakes Region met in Dar-es-Salaam in 2004, they identified sexual violence as one source of insecurity and that its eradication would contribute to peace, stability and development. The leaders working together with many stakeholders including the AU, UN, civil society, religious leaders endorsed the Pact on Security, Stability and Development which committed them to prevent and punish all forms of sexual violence. They also endorsed a specific Protocol, the first of its kind, to fight sexual violence: The Protocol on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children. On this they added the Goma Declaration on Sexual Violence in 2008 and the Kampala Declaration on Sexual Violence in 2011. It is now time to implement the commitments.

The ICGLR has a progressive legal framework to enhance access to justice for SGBV and fight impunity. What are the mechanisms for enforcement of this legal framework?

Implementation or enforcement of the obligations under the ICGLR legal instruments is by member states which are required to respect, protect and fulfill provision under those instruments. They either domesticate the Pact and the protocols or implement it as it is (depending on legal system of the Member states). Many countries now have a law to fight sexual violence. They cooperate to fight sexual violence through the Protocol of judicial cooperation.

You might have heard that suspected criminals have been extradited from one country to another to face serious crimes including sexual violence. We have a National Coordinator in each member state through

whom we work with their respective countries. We have Regional inter-ministerial committees (RIMC) where Foreign Ministers of the 12 countries meet to share their progress and challenges in implementing the Pact on security, Stability and Development and above all we have a Summit which can even impose sanctions over failure to implement the Pact and protocols, when the explanation is not satisfactory to them. The Secretariat is only a technical and coordinating arm of the ICGLR. We have the convening power in all this.

How easy is it to coordinate these regional efforts on SGBV? Share your experience on the adequacy of the coordination arrangements, the major challenges and what can be done to enhance the regional coordination efforts

It is easy because there is the necessary political will to fight sexual violence. The Member States gave us the convening power to coordinate them. They respond when we call on them. You should not forget that in 2004 sexual violence was identified as one core area to address if the region was to have sustainable peace and development. The Member States committed to prevent and punish the crime of sexual violence in 2006; they also put in place a binding instrument, the first of its kind, on prevention and suppression of sexual violence against women and children. In 2011 they went ahead and put in place the Kampala Declaration to fight sexual violence. With all this commitment, it is the easiest thing to rally the region against the cause. They are determined to see zero tolerance on sexual violence. The only challenging situation is having some of our member states in conflict, which inhibits their own capacity and commitment to fighting all forms of violence.



Participants in a group discussion during a symposium on Access to Justice and Fighting Impunity of SGBV in the Great Lakes Region, Lake Victoria Serena Golf Resort, Entebbe-Uganda, 7-9th July 2016.

If we put what we have agreed in practice we shall eradicate sexual violence. Let us support the RTF and the ICGLR mechanisms in general to fight sexual violence.

How is the ICGLR addressing the disparity in progress made by each member state in improving access to justice and ending impunity for SGBV?

We know that ICGLR Member States are not homogeneous. The different stages of development at which they are, present opportunities for us. We use this to learn from the best practices so that we aspire to achieve them and inspire many towards the direction of best practices. We also learn from the challenges from our different member states in order to avoid them. We share both knowledge and challenges so that we can all move together knowing that there are standards below which we should not be. In the case of SGBV, we are developing training manuals and curriculum under the RTF that will provide minimum standards below which we should never be. It is a struggle in which we all have to be engaged.

What major successes have been achieved in implementing the Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children?

The Protocol is a short instrument with about 7 articles only but it is a solid weapon to fight sexual violence. Most countries have legislated against sexual violence; we now have the Regional Training Facility, governments and civil society have used the Protocol to sensitise and train different stakeholders against sexual violence. We have also further elaborated the protocol by putting in place more enabling instruments such as the Goma declaration and Kampala declaration to better implement the protocol. Members are measuring their performance against the commitments in these instruments. In fact some countries have action plans about these instruments. We keep monitoring and evaluating and reporting to the responsible organs of the ICGLR such as the RIMC and Summit for future guidance and support as the case might be.

What are the major challenges that the ICGLR faces in its efforts to end impunity for SGBV?

Conflicts that keep cropping up in Member States make the struggle difficult. In conflict, the state is neither fully operational nor effective. The organs of the state, such as the police, courts and the general law and order, all break down. Yet that is when sexual violence is rampant and impunity reigns. We also still have challenges of culture and corruption that makes it difficult to access justice. In some cases, there are no enabling laws to fight sexual violence.

How do you ensure that best practices are identified, shared and replicated?

We allow the exchange of experiences of professionals through convening meetings in different countries. We also use the national structures to share reports and then monitor and ensure that they report on progress every six months in RIMC and the Summit

What are you planning to do to consolidate these successes and address the challenges?

We intend to vigorously support the existing structures namely the RTF, the Regional Women Forum and the Department of gender, women and children which are working on different aspects of sexual violence. In particular the RTF will be supported to train and sensitise the major stakeholders in the prevention and punishment of sexual violence as well as supporting the survivors. We will also keep coordinating, collaborating and encouraging national structures in all the 12 Member States to implement the ICGLR Instruments on sexual violence. We will encourage our Member States and partners to push this agenda forward.

How much more should the Member States do to support the coordination structure and mechanisms in place for ending impunity?

They should keep the political will alive and also provide the funding necessary for the structures to keep running as per the already agreed resolutions, declarations and protocols of the ICGLR.

Your last word?

Let us stop the shame that this heinous crime is putting on our Member States both in conflict and in peace. Let us stop it in our homes, schools and work places. If we put what we have agreed in practice we shall eradicate sexual violence. Let us make the next years, years of action. Let us support the RTF and the ICGLR mechanisms in general to fight sexual violence ■

ICGLR-RTF CONVENES REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND FIGHTING IMPUNITY OF SGBV



The Regional Training Facility (RTF) of the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) convened a symposium under the theme 'Access to Justice and Fighting Impunity of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in the Great Lakes Region' at the Lake Victoria Serena Golf Resort, Entebbe in Uganda from the 7th to the 9th of July 2016. A total of 65 participants from 19 countries participated in the symposium which was supported by the African Union and the United Nations.

In her opening address, Ambassador Rosette Nyirinkindi who was representing the ICGLR National Coordinator for Uganda revealed that 12 Member States had already adopted the Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children. She said that it was envisaged that this measure would contribute to reducing the widespread incidence of sexual violence in the region and its destructive impact on the lives, health, physical, sexual, psychological, social and economic well-being of women and children.

ICGLR's Ambassador Zachary Muburi Muita lauded the cause of the ICGLR pointing out its unique roles within the Member States. Raising a concern about the handling of SGBV perpetrators and citing the absence of corrective therapies related to these crimes, he wondered whether there were no systemic/ institutional/ legislative weaknesses that lead to merely treating the consequences and not the causes of sexual violence.

The Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region (O/SESG-GL) was represented by Ms Madeleine Schwarz who stood in

for Ambassador Said Djinnit. She focused on the work of the Peace and Security Cooperation Framework in addressing the root causes of conflict, calling on the Heads of State to neither harbour nor protect perpetrators of sexual violence and to facilitate their extradition through judicial cooperation.

The Under Secretary General (USG) Zainab Bangura was represented by Mr. Innocent Zahinda, the Director UN Team of Experts on Sexual Violence in Conflict. He updated the participants on the trainings that the United Nations Team of Experts of the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict had conducted. On how the impediment of national capacity could be tackled, Mr. Zahinda noted the main entry point as ensuring adequate law reform and review, enhancing investigative capacity, the importance of military justice, protection of witnesses and victims, reparations for survivors and experience sharing/ cooperation.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in Uganda, Honourable Justice Mike J. Chibita, discussed the legal framework of SGBV in Uganda giving an overview of the challenges and gaps encountered in the trial and prosecution of SGBV cases. He cited, among others, the stigma, lack of witness and victim protection structures, lack of capacity of law enforcing entities and a very adversarial court system.

The Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development who was represented by Honourable Peace Mutuuzo, the Minister of State for Gender and Culture reassured the participants of the commitment of the Government of Uganda to the eradication of gender based violence. She briefed the participants of the measures taken by the Government of Uganda to achieve that.

The symposium was held in response to the unresolved issues of access to justice for the survivors of sexual violence. It provided a platform for Member States to share experiences and mechanisms for accessing justice for SGBV given that the operating environment in the region is such that there is no uniform legal system. It was an opportunity for the Member States to share information, learn from each other's successes as they resolve common challenges and share best practices on access to justice and fighting impunity of SGBV in the Great Lakes Region.

The focus was on the existing measures, good/best practices and major challenges of addressing sexual violence in the Member States of the Great Lakes



Hon. Janat Mukwaya, Uganda's Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development



Pius Bigirimana, Uganda's Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development



Dr. Onzivua Sylvester a participant from Uganda during one of the training workshops



Madeleine Schwarz, Human Rights/Justice advisor, representing Amb. Said Djinnit, Special Envoy of O/SESG-GL during Symposium on Access to Justice and Fighting Impunity of SGBV in the Great Lakes Region

Region, in order to inform the development of training material for the newly created RTF so as to better support and effectively assist Member States in the fight against impunity for sexual violence crimes.

The main objectives of the Symposium were to: Share the progress and challenges existing in the ICGLR Member States related to fighting impunity in sexual violence related cases; discuss case law related to sexual violence in Member States of ICGLR and beyond and the impact it has had on access to justice; identify good practices to adopt among Member States and also suggest how through research and training at RTF, the misconceptions and challenges related to fighting sexual violence can be addressed; and identify potential experts to train judicial and police officers, medical and social workers and other categories of persons handling cases of sexual violence.

A wealth of information was shared concerning the national legal frameworks of each country represented as well as the status of the implementation of regional instruments legislating on SGBV. Whereas some Member States had functional and implementable laws governing SGBV, there were still gaps identified in either the legislation or the enforcement of legislation.

Some of the specific areas discussed were: An analysis of the situation of victims and survivors of SGBV and the mechanisms of justice available to them; laws and policies in place as well as institutional, administrative and financial frameworks and any other measures in place to address access to justice for victims and survivors of SGBV taking into consideration preventive/suppressive as well as remedial aspects.

Country experiences were shared with a good number reporting good coordination of implementing bodies through multi-sectoral coordination. In the countries where this was weak, better frameworks were suggested to enhance such coordination since it was deemed a more effective way to improve implementation of SGBV laws.

The country experiences indicated that countries emerging from conflict required transitional justice mechanisms to address the justice needs of the victims of SGBV. Some countries had established effective one-stop victim care centres; and that facilities for specialised care for SGBV victims including psychosocial counselling were available in most countries although legal aid for victims was not readily available across the Member States.



Symposium participants take a group photo during the opening ceremony, Lake Victoria Serena Golf Resort, Entebbe-Uganda, 7th July 2016.

Countries also shared the major cases and judgements that have been decided in the courts/judiciary that have a major impact on the rights of the victims and survivors of SGBV in civil or criminal cases. They also discussed the measures in place to enhance or improve access to justice for victims and survivors in the respective jurisdictions.

Among the resolutions of the symposium were that:

- There should be mandatory and/or pro bono legal aid for SGBV cases either across the board for all lawyers or from a special pool of lawyers especially selected for this purpose as was the case in Madagascar.
- The SGBV perpetrators, just like the victims also needed psychosocial assessment to get to the root cause of their violent acts.
- Law reform was required to stiffen the penalties against perpetrators of SGBV and refraining from out of court settlements for SGBV cases
- Victim compensation was a good way forward
- Innovations for broadening and quickening the reporting of SGBV cases, such as use of toll free lines were encouraged.
- SGBV manuals should be developed for prosecutors, medical personnel and police in order to increase dissemination of information on SGBV to ensure a common understanding of content, context, procedure and language.
- SGBV cases should be fast-tracked through either special courts or regular, specially selected court sessions to ensure crimes are addressed in a timely manner for the sake of justice ■



Nathan Byamukama, Ag. Director RTF making opening remarks during the Symposium



Justice Mike Chibita - DPP, Uganda, making opening remarks during the Symposium



Antonia N'Gabala-Sodonon - AU, Coordinator Gender, Peace and Security Programme, P&SD, AUC



Kaitu Antidius, a participant from Tanzania during one of the training workshops

ICGLR-RTF: THREE YEARS OF ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS OF MAJOR MEETINGS & TRAININGS FEBRUARY 2014-MARCH 2017

Dates	Activity and remarks	Dignitaries at the opening and closing ceremony	Participants
18 th February 2014	<p>Opening/Launch of the Regional Training facility:</p> <p>The RTF was officially opened. The opening ceremony was held at Imperial Royale Hotel, in Kampala and thereafter to RTF headquarters on 7th floor of Simbamanyo house, George street for the cutting of the ribbon.</p> <p>On 28th February 2013, the RIMC received the concept and budget from ICGLR Secretariat and “approved the establishment of the Regional Training Facility in Uganda...” The Conference Secretariat (CS) was directed to mobilize resources for the Facility...” UN WOMEN provided funds for furnishing and opening the Facility. Other partners promised to support as soon as the office opened. The RIMC also directed the CS to provide seed funds including for the staff of the RTF, who would in the course of their work also mobilize more resources from partners”. US\$100,000 was approved under the ICGLR Special Fund for Reconstruction and Development (SFRD) as seed money for this purpose. The RIMC further directed the Secretariat to identify relevant partners including those organizations specializing in DNA scientific technology in order to train all stakeholders in handling SGBV cases, in particular the police and the judiciary, on the techniques related to DNA evidence-based technology for easy prosecution of the suspects. (Refer to Decision 5 Pg. 7 of the RIMC Report). Bode Technologies was to finalize modalities with ICGLR to provide this service. With Uganda ready, the Summit of January 2014 in Luanda Angola welcomed the operationalization of the Facility in Kampala, Uganda (par 24 & 25 of the Summit Declaration) hence the facility was opened on 18th February 2014.</p>	<p>Hon Mary Karooro Okurut (Minister of Gender), Hon Shem Bageine (Minister of State for East Africa Affairs) and Hon Nakadama (Minister of State for Gender). The Executive Secretary of ICGLR, Prof Ntumba-Luaba, Mrs Diana Ofwona representing Mrs Christine Musisi, the Regional Director UN Women and Pernilla Rydeo representing Mary Robinson, the Special Envoy of the Secretary General to the Great Lakes Region. Mrs. Elizabeth Kyasiimire the Commissioner for Gender and Ambassador Ben Lukwiya representing Ambassador Mugume of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</p>	<p>Government officials, UN Women representatives, ICGLR representative, Civil Society Organisations, UNDP, UNAFRI, UN-RCO, UNFPA, Oxfam and Care. Embassies represented: Japan, South Africa, Great Britain, Angola, Burundi, South Sudan and The Netherlands.</p>



April 8 th 2014	<p>RTF Kampala Meeting with Civil Society Organizations to discuss the draft strategic plan for RTF. This was aimed at defining the goals, mission, objectives and actions for the RTF. A strategic planning meeting was conducted with several governmental, non-governmental and international organizations. During the meetings, a draft for a strategic plan including a three year work plan was presented and discussed. The workshop also enabled RTF to map out what each partner, in Uganda, was doing and identified their respective partners in the Great Lakes Region and areas for future collaboration. In addition, a draft strategic plan was put in place and it was later discussed in October 2014, in a consultative meeting in Nairobi. This consultancy report was the basis for the World Bank support of the RTF from October 2014.</p>	<p>The Acting Director, Nathan M Byamukama chaired the meeting. Ms Viktoria Perschler a consultant was hired with support from World Bank's Learning on Gender and Conflict in Africa (LOGICA) Program. She was hired on the request of ICGLR in 2011 to help operationalise Art 6(9) of the ICGLR-Protocol on sexual violence.</p>	<p>Government representatives, MGLSD, UN Women, RCI/ GAPS, , UNICEF, ISIS-WICCE, CEDOVIP, ACCORD, Hope after Rape and AMWA.</p>
27 th August 2014	<p>ICGLR-RTF/OSEGLR Civil Society meeting on Establishment of a coalition of civil society from DRC, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda to implement, monitor and evaluate the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSF) Framework. It was organized by Akina Mama wa' Africa in collaboration with UNDP, RTF, Care Uganda, NPI-Africa and CECORE and facilitated by the OSEGLR. The discussions were facilitated by Helen Kezie-Nwoha of Isis-WICCE. It was held at Imperial Royale, Kampala</p> <p>The ICGLR represented by Nathan Byamukama Ag. Director ICGLR RTF appealed to the participants to support RFT. "If you support the peace and security framework, you will have supported ICGLR mission for peace and development in the Great Lakes Region", he said. He highlighted how ICGLR appreciates the work of CSOs by promoting their effective participation and by making reference to civil society 16 times in the Dar Declaration (2004). He pointed out that during the preparatory phases of the ICGLR, the Member states mandated CSOs to be part of the preparatory committee for the finalization of the ICGLR Pact and its Programmes of Action. The ICGLR protocol also mandates CSOs in monitoring and detecting illegal exploration of natural resources adding that it requires CSOs to be given opportunity to participate in electoral processes like observation and voter education, and provision of information on early warning signals on genocide prevention. He pointed out the existing platforms within the IGGLR Framework like the women, youth, and CSO Forums that foster the promotion of peace in the region.</p>	<p>UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Representative in Uganda Ms Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, the Ambassador of the Netherlands Mr. Alphons Hennekens, and the Senior Program Management Officer - Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region Gabor Beszterczey.</p>	<p>The meeting involved 30 representatives from CSOs, government ministries and institutions, embassies and the UN.</p>



Mr. Joseph Butiku, Chairperson, ICGLR Regional Civil Society Forum attended the Workshop

11 th Sep- tember, 2014	RTF attended a validation meeting for a report on monitoring the implementation of Goma Declaration and UNSCR 1325, 1820. The meeting, held in Kampala Uganda, was aimed at generating feedback from stakeholders on the progress of the Uganda National Action Plan on implementation of Goma Declaration and UNSCR 1325, 1820 and track the progress that Uganda had made in implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda. It was also to generate data and information for evidence-based advocacy and hold duty bearers accountable for delivering on women's peace and human security. The RTF was represented by Katahweire Oscar, who contributed to the review and update of the report.	Joy Mukisa, Executive Director, CEWIGO (Centre for Women in Governance)	Over 20 CSOs in Uganda, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations.
16 th -17 th , September 2014	A regional consultative meeting with the Uganda CSOs on Conflict Early Warning Early Response & The Peace Security Cooperation (PSC) Framework. The Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) in partnership with the Nairobi Peace Initiative Africa (NPI-Africa), Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE) organised the workshop in Kampala Uganda. The RTF represented by Nathan Byamukama, the Ag Director made a presentation on the <i>"Role of ICGLR as a region mechanism for Peace and Security and Development."</i>	Walter Odhiambo, NPI-Africa Executive Director Angeline Nguedjeu; ICCO; Madeleine Gabor, UNoSE; UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative; Rose Othieno, CECORE Executive Director.	Over 20 representatives of CSOs and key government institutions in Uganda, 16 countries from East and Central Africa were represented
13 th -15 th October 2014	The Capacity Building Workshop for ICGLR National Coordination Mechanisms and Programme Officers. It was held at Radisson Blue Hotel Lusaka, Zambia with a goal to improve understanding of the key roles of NCMs within the ICGLR, and strengthen capacities in achieving results. Mr Byamukama who attended from RTF briefed National Coordinators on the progress at the RTF-Kampala. At the end of the workshop, members agreed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All ICGLR Member States shall domesticate the pact and 8 of 10 protocols by the end of 2016. • The CS, the National Legal Focal Points and National Coordinators of all MS elaborated a roadmap for domestication with clear roles and responsibilities of these three organs involved in the domestication process. • To pave the way for the domestication of all Protocols in a harmonized way, legal harmonization in the related fields within the Great Lakes Region was crucial. • With a spirit of mutual respect and dedicated commitment to the Pact and Protocols, they needed to support the ICGLR Conference Secretariat and Members State's efforts in domestication process. 	Minister of Foreign Affairs of Zambia; The National Coordinator of Zambia and the Deputy Executive Secretary of the ICGLR Conference Secretariat.	National Coordinators of MS of ICGLR and Programme Officers

21 st -24 th October 2014	<p>A stakeholder consultative and brainstorming meeting in Nairobi on the ICGLR-RTF for the Prevention and Suppression of SGBV. With support from UN Women RTF organized the meeting with the main objective to involve SGBV stakeholders in the region to contribute to the conceptualization of the mapping exercise (baseline survey) about anti-SGBV training infrastructure in the region. A report on the discussions, outcomes and action points was compiled which led to another collaboration with the OSESG-GL especially in organizing a meeting on access to justice later in 2016</p>	<p>Opened by Jenet Kem, UN-Women and officially Closed by Ms. Simone Ellis Oluoch-Olunya, Deputy Regional Director; representing Ms. Christine Musisi, UN Women Regional Director, Eastern and Southern Africa.</p>	<p>Representatives of UN-Women, World Bank, ICGLR Secretariat, RTF/PSSGBV, IGAD, COMESA, EAC, FEMNET, CEDOVIP, Swiss Development Cooperation, UNFPA, OSESG-GLR.</p>
24 th -27 th November 2014	<p>A capacity building workshop on Conflict management, Gender, and Human Rights for the Uganda Human Rights Commission and Human Rights NGOs from Uganda and the Democratic republic of Congo. The RTF was invited to participate in the training course and was represented by Asimwe Sharon and Richard Muhwezi, both interns at the RTF. The objectives of the training were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build and strengthen participants' knowledge and understanding of the concepts of peace, conflict resolution, human rights and conflict management; • Enhance the conflict resolution and mediation skills of participants to equip them to address the specific conflicts their institutions currently face. • Explore the challenges that participants face in building peaceful communities in the post conflict contexts of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. • Bring a gender lens to conflict resolution; and • Identify strategies of using the institutional frameworks of the UHRC and the Human rights, NGOs to support greater inclusion of women in peace building and post-conflict reconstruction efforts. 	<p>Mr Paul Mulindwa, Senior Project Officer: Conflict Intervention and Peace building Support, Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR); Ms. Rebecca Agnes Tino, Ag. Directorate of Complaints, Investigations and Legal Services, Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)</p>	<p>Dignitaries from the Uganda Human Rights Commission, government officials, representatives of NGOs from Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, government agencies.</p>



9 th -13 th December 2014	1st RTF SGBV training in Forensic Evidence Management for Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence in the Great Lakes Region for the police and medical officers in the Great Lakes Region. The RTF with support from the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC) and African Union Commission (AUC-P&S Department) organised the training held in Entebbe, Uganda. The objectives were: To sensitize police officers about relevant global and regional instruments about sexual violence and its related crimes such as war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and human trafficking and train on the relevance of forensic evidence in successful prosecution and management of cases of sexual violence and its other related crimes.	The training was opened by Gen. Kale Kayihura, the Inspector General of Police in Uganda and officially closed by Hon: Mary Karoro Okurut, Ugandan Minister for Gender. Prof Ntumba Luaba the Executive Secretary of the ICGLR, Mr. Innocent Balemba Zahinda, Team leader of the UN Team of Experts on Rule of Law on Sexual violence in Conflict, Mrs. Miranda Tabifor (Senior Gender Advisor Office of the UN SESG-GLR) also attended the opening ceremony.	Government officials, Police officers from the Member States of the Great Lakes Region, trainers from BODE Technology Ltd including: Glenn Vendegrift, Ed Huffine and Augustine Mukama and others from the (SRSG-SVC)
7 th January 2015	Hosted Ambassador Djinnit Said, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region at the RTF offices, Kampala, Uganda	He remarked: <i>"I came to show my support to the center and express my readiness to cooperate with them"</i> . RTF has been closely working with him since.	
7-9 th January 2015	The Genocide and Atrocity Crimes Prevention training in Kampala, Uganda. The RTF attended the training organized by the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) in collaboration with the UN for the Regional committee on prevention of genocide. RTF's Nathan Byamukama, who was a former secretary of the genocide committee, was invited and made a presentation on the overview of the progress of the committee and linked genocide to SGBV. He called for collaboration between AIPR and RTF	Dr. Ashad Sentongo, Director for Africa Programs of the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), Ms. Angela Bruce-Raeburn, Program Officer, Stanley Foundation, Dr. James Waller, Cohen Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Keene State College and Director of Academic Programs, AIPR	AIPR, UN Women, representatives from member states of the ICGLR on genocide committee.
10 th February 2015.	The launch of the 'He For She' Campaign in Nairobi, Kenya. UN Women invited the RTF to attend a regional launch of the 'He For She' Campaign to commemorate the 20 th anniversary of the Beijing Platform For Action. Nathan Byamukama, the RTF Ag. Director made a presentation at and also participated in a panel discussion on 'Men looking in'.	Ms. Christine Musisi, UN Women Regional Director, Eastern and Southern Africa; Simone Ellis Oluoch-Olunya, Deputy Regional Director, UN Women ESARO;	



12 th February 2015	<p>A courtesy call by Mr. Nathan Byamukama the Ag. Director of ICGLR-RTF to the First Secretary/Rule of Law and Political Affairs at the Netherlands Embassy, Mr. Theo Oltheten and his colleague Ms. Joyce Ngaiza . The meeting was held at the Netherlands embassy in Kampala to further explore areas of cooperation and support. Matters of mutual interest and strategies on cooperation in the fight against SGBV were discussed. Mr Theo observed: " <i>I'm pleased to inform you that I had a very informative meeting yesterday afternoon with Nathan, his assistants (Patience Bahiira) and my colleague Joyce Ngaiza. Very interesting what's happening and certainly makes sense to further explore and discuss opportunities</i>". The RTF has since grown this cooperation under the NICHE programme</p>	Nathan Byamukama, Theo Oltheten, Joyce Ngaiza and Patience Bahiira	Nathan Byamukama, Theo Oltheten, Joyce Ngaiza and Patience Bahiira
			
9-10 th march 2015	<p>A meeting of National Coordinators of ICGLR held in Luanda, Angola. The RTF attended the meeting whose purpose was to review the implementation of the ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region; analyze the ICGLR Conference Secretariat's Annual Report of 2014, the action plan for 2015, the state of financial contributions to the Conference Secretariat and its institutions, to receive the roadmap for the recruitment of the new Executive Secretary and to prepare for the 10th Ordinary meeting of the RIMC.</p> <p>Ag Director RTF made a presentation on the status of the RTF and submitted the Annual Report of 2014 which was adopted after extensive discussion , with the following recommendation: " <i>The Conference Secretariat should integrate Kampala Regional Training Facility into the budget process of the Secretariat like Lusaka Centre in the upcoming budgeting of 2016</i>".</p>	Mr. Evaristo Dias Malheiros da Silva, the Angolan National Coordinator, Executive Secretary of ICGLR, the Chairpersons of the ICGLR fora, Commander of EJVM, and the Representative of JIFC,	National Coordinators of the following countries: Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia.
11 th March 2015	<p>Regional Inter-Ministerial Meeting in Luanda, Angola. The RTF attended the meeting organized to review the implementation of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region; analyze the ICGLR Conference Secretariat's Annual Report of 2014, the action plan for 2015, the state of financial contributions to the Conference Secretariat and its institutions and to endorse the roadmap for the recruitment of the Executive Secretary. With the theme ' <i>Strengthening the capacity of ICGLR institutions for the implementation of the pact on security, stability and development of the Great Lakes Region</i>' the RIMC received and took note of the report and recommendations of the National Coordinators including recommendation 4 (iv): " <i>The Conference Secretariat should integrate Kampala Regional Training Facility into the budget process of the Secretariat like Lusaka Centre in the upcoming budgeting of 2016</i>".</p>	H.E George Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, Minister of External Relations of Angola, RIMC Chairperson; Executive Secretary of ICGLR; The Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for Great Lakes Region; the representative of SADC Executive Secretary	Ministers of foreign affairs of Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia.

25 th May - 20 th June 2015	RTF hosting the World Bank and ICGLR mission to Kampala. The mission was organized with support from World Bank by the RTF and ICGLR team in collaboration with the World Bank project team. The main was to recruit four key positions namely: Project Coordinator, Procurement specialist, Project Accountant, and Financial Management Specialist and also review the Project Implementation Manual.	Members of the mission were: Mr. Robert M. Simukoko, Administrative and Finance program Officer, Chair; Amb. Eliane Berthe Mokodopo, Program Officer Gender; Nathan Byamukama, Ag. Director RTF Kampala; Ms. Evelyne Mbata, Personal Assistant to the Executive secretary, Ms. Yvonne Niyonsaba, Programme Assistant Support staff, supported by the 2 interns from the RTF Oscar Katahweire and Patience Bahiira.	UN Women, UNHCR were on the panel of interviewers. From the world bank side, we were with Leanne Bayer and Sabrina Qinyu Cao.
13 th -16 th July 2015.	RTF Capacity building training workshop on 'Effective Violence Against Women Prevention' for SGBV stakeholders in Africa including CSOs, Government and NGOs. The Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) and Raising Voices, Uganda organised the four day training course at Metropole Hotel in Kampala, Uganda with field study tours to places where they operate. Katahweire Oscar and Patience Bahiira, both interns at the RTF were trained and made presentations during the course.	Natsnet Ghebrebrhan, VAW Prevention coordinator, Raising Voices, Tina Msuya, Executive Director, CEDOVIP, Lori Michau, co-founder and Co-Director of Raising Voices.	CSOs from Eastern and Southern African countries, Governmental and Non-governmental organizations and individual consultants in the field of prevention of VAW.
29 th June - 10 th July 2015.	RTF capacity building course on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). The International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) and African Union Mission for Somalia (AMISOM) organised a course at the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC), Kenya. The RTF was represented by Nathan Byamukama, the A.g Director; and Izeme Zarifis, the Gender Expert at the RTF, attend the course and made presentation during the training. RTF networked with more experts who were later to train in the RTF-organized sessions with security forces in Kampala, Uganda.	Experts from IPSTC.	
14 th -15 th July 2015	RTF Capacity building training in Kigali, Rwanda. The Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Development in Higher Education (NICHE) organized a handbook workshop and invited the RTF to participate in its grant obligations, annual planning and reporting eligibility of costs and audit statements. The RTF was represented by Nathan Byamukama the Ag. Director and Sylvia Nampeera, the Accountant. From this meeting and thereafter, RTF started negotiations with the Royale Netherlands for the NICHE project. This first meeting led to a 1million Euro support for four years, ending 2020.	Mr Armand Gaikema , Senior Program Administer EP-NUFFIC (Netherlands) and Catherine Viz, then with Royal Netherlands Embassy, Kigali	Participants were largely from Rwanda

10 th -12 th August 2015.	The 2nd training in addressing SGBV in the Great Lakes Region. The RTF with support from the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC) organized training on addressing sexual violence within the Military Justice System in the Great Lakes Region. The main goal of the training was to equip military justice officers with the requisite knowledge and skills to effectively investigate and prosecute crimes of sexual violence.	Hon. Frederick Ruhindi, Uganda's Attorney General, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs representing the Prime Minister of Uganda. It was closed by Uganda's Chief of Defence Forces Gen. Katumba Wamala.	Military criminal justice officers from conflict-affected Member States in the Great Lakes Region, namely: Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and Uganda the host.
13 th -14 th August 2015	The 3rd training on SGBV. The RTF with support from the British High Commission in Kampala organized a "Training workshop for Ugandan Military and Police officers in protecting Women and Girls from sexual violence during Conflict" , the main objective of the training was to equip both Ugandan military and Police with the knowledge and tools needed in dealing with cases of sexual violence in conflict.	Hon. Kamanda Bataringaya Uganda's State Minister for Labour in charge of Industrial Relations. It was closed by Ms. Evelyne Bamba, Head of Office - MONUSCO, Kampala - Uganda	Uganda military and police officers
12 th -20 th December 2015	Implementation support mission for the Great Lakes Emergency Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Women's Health Project. The mission undertook the development of the work plan and budget for 2016, the detailed plan for main project activities that include conferences to take place in 2016, the launch of the two SGBV campaigns in 2016 and the roll-out of the training from the RTF in Kampala and Undertake FM and procurement review of the project.	Pia Peters, Sr. Social Development specialist; Leanne Bayer, Sr. social development specialist; Amb Elaine Mukodopo, Tchim Tabaro, WB Project Coordinator, Rose Mbazira, Marie Gorret Muhitira, Seraphine Hatumana, Plus Nathan Byamukama, Oscar Katahweire, Sylvia Nampeera and Patience Bahiira from ICGLR Secretariat and the RTF Kampala respectively	The same team as stated
14 th -18 th December 2015	RTF hosted the African Union Commission (AUC) which undertook an assessment mission to the RTF to discuss possible areas of support. In their report they concluded that: <i>"RTF has a strong leadership, though most of the staff are interns and even though it is a relatively young institution that has not received considerable funding from its parent organization (the ICGLR), the RTF has secured funding from different partners to organize a number of activities"</i> The report further stated: <i>"RTF has a unique role that needs to be recognized and harnessed more efficiently for the GLR, it is the only institution that is established to address SGBV in a comprehensive and holistic manner through research, training, sensitization, advocacy and awareness creation among others."</i>	The two-person team was headed by Dr Linda Akua Opongmaa Darkwa from Ghana.	

<http://www.icglr-rtf.org/publication/view/assessment-mission-to-the-icglr-regional-training-facility-rtf-on-the-prevention-and-suppression-of-sexual-violence-gender>

7 th March 2016	RTF paid a courtesy call to UNWOMEN-Kampala office. Discussed and shared a project to jointly implement, namely: Rehabilitation of sexual violence offenders. This is still under discussion.	Hoddan Addou country representative UN Women, Claire Hawkins Gender and Humanitarian Specialist UN Women, Nathan Byamukama Ag. Director ICGLR-RTF and Patience Bahiira from ICGLR-RTF	The same team as stated
14 th March 2016	Meeting on the SGBV NICHE program at the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Uganda. It was also an introductory meeting between Adokorach Elsie Judith policy officer Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights/Gender at the Netherlands Embassy and Nathan Byamukama the Ag director ICGLR-RTF. Carolien Vis, the Great Lakes SRHR Policy officer, who was based in Kigali and coordinating/collaborating with ICGLR-RTF over the Regional NICHE SGBV Program, had completed her tour of duty.	Adokorach Elsie Judith Policy officer Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights/Gender, Nathan Byamukama Ag. Director ICGLR-RTF and Patience Bahiira from ICGLR-RTF	
19 th -20 th March 2016	A regional conference on judicial cooperation of member states of ICGLR in Nairobi, Kenya. It was organized by the ICGLR in collaboration with the office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General in the Great Lakes for general prosecutors and police directors from ICGLR member states. The objective was to initiate an in-depth discussion on judicial cooperation on criminal matters in the Great Lakes and develop recommendations and concrete action at different levels. Nathan Byamukama made a presentation on ICGLR instruments and the judicial cooperation, examining the protocols on Genocide, sexual violence, non-aggression and mutual defense and on illegal exploitation of natural resources	Director of the RTF	Directors of public prosecution from ICGLR members states, plus South Africa and Interpol
May 4 th 2016	Collaboration meeting between RTF and the Danish Ambassador. The meeting held at the Danish embassy between the Ambassador and RTF's Nathan Byamukama discussed matters beneficial and areas of collaboration with to the RTF. Mr Nathan Byamukama appealed for cooperation and technical assistance to the RTF in the fight against SGBV in the region	Ambassador Mogens Pederson of Denmark, Nathan Byamukama Ag. Director ICGLR-RTF and Patience Bahiira from ICGLR-RTF.	The same team as stated



7 th -9 th July 2016	<p>RTF convened a Symposium on Access to Justice and fighting impunity of SGBV in the Great lakes Region at Lake Victoria Serena, Entebbe.</p> <p>The main objectives of the symposium were to: Share the progress and challenges existing in the ICGLR Member States related to fighting impunity in sexual violence related cases; discuss case law related to sexual violence in Member States of ICGLR and beyond and the impact it has had on access to justice; identify good practices to adapt among Member States and also suggest ways, through research and training at RTF, of addressing misconceptions and challenges related to fighting sexual violence and identify potential experts to train judicial and police officers, medical and social workers and other categories of persons handling cases of sexual violence.</p>	<p>Amb. Zachary Muburi Muita, The Executive Secretary ICGLR, Amb. Rosette Nyirinkindi ICGLR Coordinator, Ms. Madeleine Shwarz, office of the special Envoy of the Secretary General for the GLR, Secretary General representative, Innocent Zahinda Balemba, the Director UN Team of Experts Rule of Law on sexual violence in conflict, Hon Justice Mike J. Chibita, the Director of Public Prosecutions in Uganda and Hon Peace Mutuzo, State Minister for Gender and Culture.</p>	<p>It was attended by participants from all the countries in the Great lakes Region in addition to</p> <p>Mali, Madagascar, South Africa Chad, Liberia, Guinea Bissau and Angola.</p>
2 nd Sep- tember 2016	<p>Meeting in Kampala to Launch the Tu Wezesha Akina Dada Afrika UK Young women's leadership and Empowerment movement project.</p> <p>The launch formally marked the inception of the Tu Wezesha project and provided an opportunity for consortium partners to share and discuss the objectives.</p> <p>It was an opportunity for the project stakeholders to identify potential collaborators and linkages with other ongoing initiatives.</p>	<p>Attended by the Ag, Director.</p>	<p>Government representatives, development partners, religious and cultural leaders, media, CSO representatives from Uganda that are working on issues of gender, women and girls rights, violence against women and women empowerment</p>
5 th -6 th Septem- ber 2016	<p>Planning meeting to identify ways of harmonizing strategies and activities and strengthen synergy and complementarities between ICGLR Institutions to fast track the implementation of the Pact and its protocols in all ICGLR member states. It was held in Bujumbura Burundi with Conference Secretariat officials.</p>	<p>ICGLR Secretariat Executive Secretary,</p>	<p>Deputy Executive Secretary, Executive Director, Lusaka Centre, Directors of CS Departments, Ag. Director RTF, Assistants</p>



10 th -15 th September 2016	Meeting with the World Bank mission Team in Bujumbura to discuss the progress of the WB/ICGLR -RTF project. The RTF also met Ms Verna Phipps, Social Development Specialist of the World Bank for the first time	Ms Verena Phipps, Nathan Byamukama (Ag Director-RTF), Mr Tchim Tabaro (Project Coordinator), Ms Rose Mbazira (Financial Specialist) and Sylvia Nampeera (RTF accountant) and Arcade Bigirindavyi (Procurement Specialist)	The same team as stated
6 th October 2016	Hosted Ms Almaz Gebru, UNDP country Director (Uganda) and discussed possible collaboration between UNDP and RTF. It is important to note that Almaz was there in Lusaka when a Summit decision (2010) was made to hold a special session on sexual violence. From UNDP -Southern Africa, ICGLR Regional Women Forum (RWF) was convened with UNDP support, requested and was given the Special Summit which was convened as a Summit Session in December 2011 from where the Kampala Declaration on SGBV was born. No wonder on this day Almaz wrote: <i>"Nice to get back and plan to work together"</i> .	Nathan Byamukama, Almaz Gebru and the RTF team	Same team as stated
10 th -11 th November 2016	Conference in Nairobi on strengthening Judicial cooperation in the Great Lakes Region. Held at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya, this was the 2 nd meeting with the objective of establishment of a Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network.	Amb. Said Djinnit, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Amb. Zachary Muburi Muita, Executive Secretary, ICGLR, Attorney-General/Minister of Justice of Kenya.	Attended by the Ag. Director RTF, Prosecutor generals from ICGLR and South Africa, Interpol, UN MICT.
14 th -15 th November 2016	ICGLR Experts meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya. It discussed Human Resources staff rules and regulations; Human Resources management guidelines; and the ICGLR Human Resource Manual.	Amb Zachary Muburi-Muita, Executive Secretary, Amb Vicente Muanda, Amb Ligabo Ambeyi, Mr .louis Barakuvye, Conference, Mr. Robert Musonda Simukoko, Dr Frank Okuthe, Mr. Nathan Byamukama, Mr. Gerald Coyitungiye, Ms. Inabeza Yuhire and Ms. Claudine Nahayo	Attended by the Ag. Director RTF.
21 st -22 nd November 2016	ICGLR Institutional Retreat held in Gitega, Burundi. The retreat discussed strategies on strengthening the management of the ICGLR Secretariat and harmonizing strategies between the ICGLR Organs.	Executive Secretary Deputy Executive Secretary Lusaka Center Director, Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator of the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism, Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator of the Joint Intelligence Fusion and Chairperson of Civil Society Forum	Directors of CS, Ag Director RTF, Assistants, staff of ICGLR secretariat

5th-6th
Decem-
ber 2016

Colloquium on Documentation, Investigation and Reporting of sexual violence in the Great Lakes Region. The major objectives of the meeting were to: provide a platform for sharing best practices and challenges in documenting and investigating sexual crimes to ordinary/non-technical stakeholders in the respective ICGLR member states' jurisdictions; identify training needs for different stakeholders for the RTF training materials and curriculum development to prevent sexual violence both in peace and conflict situations; promote awareness about the ICGLR Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children as well as the International Protocol on the Basic Standards of Best Practices on the Documentation of Sexual Violence as a Crime under International Law. Other objectives were to develop a regional guidance note on utilization of the ICGLR Protocol on Sexual Violence and the International Protocol on the Basic Standards of Best Practices on the Documentation of Sexual Violence as a Crime under International Law; validate of the RTF draft report on SGBV legislation, special courts and remedies in ICGLR member states; and promote awareness about human trafficking in women and children and mechanisms of combating it in the Great Lakes Region.

Honorable Karooro-Okurut, Uganda's Minister for General Duties in the Office of the Prime Minister's Office who represented Hon. Janat Mukwaya, the Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), Director of the ICGLR-RTF Kampala and Dr. Frank Okuthe, Director of the Lusaka Center of Democracy representing ICGLR Executive Secretary- Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita.

Facilitator: Mrs. Florence Butegwa, a gender and development consultant from Uganda,

Presenters: Dr Undie Chi Chi, Senior Associate Reproductive Health Program, Population Council, Kenya; Susan Alupo, Refugee Law Project; Carol Ajema and Grace Wairimu of LVCT Health in Kenya; Rachel Ploem, Rutgers; Aloys Mahwa- Country Director, Living Peace Institute in Democratic Republic of Congo; Mr. Moses Binoga, Chairperson of National Task Force of Human Trafficking and Senior Police Officer with Ministry of Internal Affairs; Dr. Irene Ovonji Odida, Chief Executive Officer, Association of Women Lawyers in Uganda (FIDA-Uganda); Mrs. Lilian Adriko-Byarugaba, Coordinator of trafficking at FIDA- Uganda

Government representatives (ministers, ambassadors,) lawyers, medical personnel, police, judicial officers (judges, social workers, civil society) FIDA-Uganda, ICGLR staff from both Bujumbura and Lusaka offices, development partners who included, European Union, UN Women, MSM.

Judiciary, Police, Military, Medical Practitioners, social workers, Civil Society and Media. All the 12 Great Lakes Region countries were represented.



12 th -13 th Decem- ber, 2016	National stakeholders workshop on lessons learned, challenges and way forward in the clinical management of Gender Based Violence (GBV)/ Violence Against Women (VAW) in Uganda. It was held at Hotel Africana, Kampala, Uganda	Ag. Assistant Commissioner-RH Division, MOH, Dr Olive Sentumbwe-Mugisa, (WHO), Mugisha James (MOH), Miriam Namugeere (MOH, Uganda), Roselidah Odeko (UNFPA), Representatives from MGLSD, CEDOVIP, ICGLR-RTF, ULRC, UNICEF, UPF, UWONET, UN WOMEN and FIDA	Ag. Director Mr. Nathan Byamukama
9 th Febru- ary 2017	A half-day stakeholders consultative workshop on Gender Based Violence Prevention project. The meeting was aimed at strengthening sector leadership and governance as well as advocacy; strengthening provider capacity to respond to gender based violence; strengthening programming to prevent interpersonal violence; improving Gender Based Violence information and evidence. The Ag. Director RTF made a presentation about the ICGLR-RTF.	Ag. Assistant Commissioner, Reproductive Health (RH) division, MOH, Dr. Olive Sentumbwe Mugisa from World Health Organisation (WHO), Mugisha James from Ministry of Health (MOH). Representatives from MGLSD, CEDOVIP, ICGLR-RTF, ULRC, UNICEF, UNFPA, UPF, UWONET, UN WOMEN, FIDA Uganda.	A.g Director ICGLR-RTF.
15 th -17 th Feb 2017	A training on International Protocol on Documentation and Investigation of sexual violence cases at Grand Imperial Hotel, Kampala. The meeting was organized by the Uganda Refugee Law project. Nathan Byamukama Ag Director RTF made a presentation to sensitize the over 60 participants about the role of the RTF		Civil society organizations from Uganda Ag. Director RTF
20 st February 2017	The RTF hosted the ICGLR Executive Secretary, Amb Zachary Muburi Muita at the RTF offices. He was accompanied by the ICGLR Director for Peace and Security. During the meeting with Nathan Byamukama Ag Direcotr RTF ,the ES was briefed about the progress made and the challenges. At the end of the meeting the ES observed: <i>"I am very pleased that the Kampala center on the SGBV (is) working for the broader objectives of the ICGLR"</i> .	The ES, the Ag. Director, the Director of peace and security the RTF staff and volunteers	The same team as stated
21 st February 2017	ICGLR-RTF meeting with the Ugandan President, HE Yoweri Kaguta Museveni at State House Entebbe. Mr Nathan Byamukama Ag Director RTF was part of the four person delegation, headed by Ambassador Muburi-Muita. The ES briefed the President about the good work of RTF and ICGLR in general.	HE Yoweri Kaguta Museveni Amb Zachary Mubiru-Muita Nathan Mwesigye Byamukama Wilson Kajwengye and Bernadette Mwesige (NCM -Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	The same team as stated

4 th March 2017	Public lecture on the role of security organs in ending violence against women and girls. It was held at Makerere University Business School (MUBS) main hall and attended by Nathan Byamukama Ag. Director RTF.		Ag. Director, RTF
1 st – 3 rd March 2017	Exhibition for stakeholders in the management of SGBV. Exhibitors included UPF, UPDF, ICGLR-RTF, Uganda Prisons Services, Makerere University Joint AIDS Program (MJAP) among others. It was organized by the UPF as part of weeklong events towards the KICD Annual general meeting (AGM)	Guest of Honor was the Deputy Inspector of Police, John Martin Okoth-Ochola, Senior Commissioners of UPF, Senior Commissioners of UPS Senior Army officers Civil society organizations ICGLR-RTF	Ag. Director, and other ICGLR-RTF volunteers Derrick Natamba, Katahweire Oscar and Sharon Nankunda Asiimwe
6 th -7 th March 2017	The 6th Kigali International Conference Declaration Annual meeting at Kampala Serena Hotel. Held under the theme of ' <i>Combating violence Against women and girls: The Role of security organizations and community</i> ', the meeting highlighted and reaffirmed the role and responsibilities of security agencies such as the police, army, and Prisons (singly or jointly) in ending violence against women and girls on the African Continent. 10 resolutions were passed and signed by all the 24 Police Chiefs from African Countries. Mr Nathan Byamukama Ag. Director RTF chaired the first session on 6 th March 2017 on human trafficking and associated challenges.	The conference was officially opened by H.E The president of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. In attendance were: Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Hon. Obiga Kania and Minister for Gender and Culture, Ms. Peace Mutuuzo. The Outgoing Chairperson, Director General of National Police of Algeria, the Inspector General of Police Uganda, Gen. Kale Kayihura who is the incoming Chairman of KICD. The workshop was officially closed by the Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga.	Police Chiefs and other security officials from over 24 African countries. The ICGLR-RTF Ag. Director, Mr. Nathan Byamukama and two volunteers at the ICGLR-RTF, Mr. Katahweire Oscar and Mrs. Sharon Asiimwe Nankunda.
13 th -14 th March 2017	Workshop in Nairobi with the University of Leicester aimed at building international collaborations and be prepared for upcoming funding opportunities. Nathan Byamukama Ag Director RTF attended as a follow up to a proposal earlier submitted to the university for a collaborative project: <i>PaTHFIInDeR: Partnerships and technology Hubs for Infrastructure, Development and Resilience</i> . This is for enhancement of the capacity of RTF to train in forensic management of sexual violence cases to fight impunity. Further collaborate was agreed on between the university and the RTF for research in forensics plus connecting natural resources and sexual violence. There could also be opportunities for further training at Masters and PhD levels for the RTF staff.	Dr Lisa Smith, associate Professor in Criminology, University of Leicester and associate Director Alec Jeffrey Forensic Science Institute is our interlocutor.	About 50 professors and related academics from Universities of Leicester, South Africa, Malawi, Nairobi, Makerere and civil society and ICGLR-RTF

