



## OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION



### WOMEN DISCUSS THEIR EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL PROCESSES AND DECISION-MAKING



*Two participants at a training on Mediation and Negotiation Skills in Kigali, Goma 6 September 2021  
(Photo: Eugene Uwimana/UNDP Kigali).*

On 20 December, the Office of the Special Envoy facilitated a virtual advocacy engagement among the ICGLR Regional Parliamentary Forum, regional women representatives and youth to discuss sexual and gender-based violence as well as women's effective participation in political processes and decision-making. The Chair of the Regional Parliamentary Forum pledged to lead a campaign to strengthen gender sensitivity within parliaments. At the end of the meeting, women representatives submitted an advocacy document outlining specific areas requiring parliamentary engagement, including on eliminating existing barriers to gender equality, repealing discriminatory laws, strengthening leadership and meaningful representation of women, marginalized groups and people with disabilities, and enacting positive measures to achieve gender balance in programmes for prevention and care linked to COVID-19.