Chairman’s Summary
High-level Workshop on
Towards a More Effective Collective Response
to Peace and Security Threats in the Great Lakes Region
27 February 2017
Cairo, Egypt
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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUC-PCRD</td>
<td>African Union Center for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development</td>
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<td>AUPSC</td>
<td>African Union Peace and Security Council</td>
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<td>CAR</td>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
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<td>CCCPA</td>
<td>Cairo Center for Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa</td>
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<td>DDR</td>
<td>Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration</td>
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<td>DRC</td>
<td>The Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
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<td>EAC</td>
<td>East African Community</td>
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<td>EAPD</td>
<td>Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development</td>
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<td>FARDC</td>
<td>DRC Armed Forces</td>
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<td>ICGLR</td>
<td>International Conference on the Great Lakes Region</td>
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<td>MONUSCO</td>
<td>UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
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<td>OSAA</td>
<td>Office of the UNSG Special Advisor on Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRELT</td>
<td>Preventing Radicalization and Extremism Leading to Terrorism</td>
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<td>RECs</td>
<td>Regional Economic Communities</td>
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<td>RM(s)</td>
<td>Regional Mechanisms</td>
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<td>SADC</td>
<td>South African Development Community</td>
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<td>SSR</td>
<td>Security Sector Reform</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNSC</td>
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Background

1. The Great Lakes is at once a region of unmatched economic potential and grave threats to regional and international peace and security. The region has been home to some of Africa’s worst wars. Conflicts in the region are interconnected, dynamic, complex, and multifaceted; exacerbated by ethnic divisions, the spread of armed groups, illegal exploitation of natural resources, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and forced displacement of people.

2. The enormity of the threats, challenges and risks to peace and security in the region, and their ramifications for each of its countries, warranted enhanced regional cooperation, with the support of the international community. As a result, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) was established in 2000 under the umbrella of the United Nations and the African Union, with a view to harness and coordinate a regional approach to resolving conflicts and promoting stability.

3. In November 2004, the eleven Heads of State and Governments of Member countries of the ICGLR adopted the Dar-es-Salam Declaration, confirming their political will to “transform the Great Lakes Region into a space of sustainable peace and security for States and peoples, political and social stability, shared growth and development.” Since then, Member States of the ICGLR have taken important steps towards realizing this vision, most notably signing and ratifying the Pact on Security, Stability, and Development for the Great Lakes region (The Nairobi Pact – 2006).

4. While the abovementioned pact, and other frameworks, has resulted in some improvements on the ground, specifically with regards to monitoring border movements and dismantling some negative forces, significant challenges continue to exist. Of particular concern is the persistent presence of armed groups and organized criminal networks, the threat of radicalization and extremism leading to terrorism, extreme poverty and other developmental challenges.

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The High-Level Workshop

5. It is within this context that the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Offices of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Assistant Minister of African Affairs), the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD), the Secretariat of the ICGLR and the Cairo Center for Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA) organized a high-level workshop in Cairo on 27 February 2017.

6. The workshop, entitled “Towards a More Effective Collective Response to Peace and Security Threats in the Great Lakes Region”, aimed to review the progress and challenges facing national, regional and international efforts to achieve peace and security in the Great Lakes region, and to identify priority areas for future collaboration (Annex 1 - Workshop Agenda).

The workshop – held under the auspices of H.E. Sameh Shoukri Foreign Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt – brought together 75 participants, including H.E. Georges Chikoti, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Angola and Chairman of the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee of the ICGLR; H.E. Hamdy Loza, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for African Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt; H.E. Yves Kisombe, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Congo; H.E. Susan Kolimba, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania; H.E. Jean de Dieu Ndikumana, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Relations and International cooperation of the Republic of Burundi; H.E. Zachary Muburi-Muita, Executive Secretary of the ICGLR; H.E. Francine Muyumba, President of the Pan African Youth Union; H.E. Said Djinnit, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region; H.E. Jamal Benomar, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Conflict Prevention (including Burundi); H.E. Maman Sambo Sidikko, Special Representative of UN Secretary General for the Democratic Republic of Congo and Head of MONUSCO; H.E. Mohamed Edrees, Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt; H.E. Hesham Badr, Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Affairs and International Security of the Arab Republic of Egypt; and H.E. Ahmed Fadel Yaacoub, Assistant Foreign Minister and Director of the Department of Sudan and South Sudan of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

7. The workshop also saw the participation of senior officials from the Governments of the Republic of Sudan, South Sudan, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Zambia, the Republic of Kenya, the Central
African Republic (CAR), the Republic of Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Also present were representatives from the South African National Office for the Coordination of Peacekeeping Missions, the Office of the UNSG Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the diplomatic community in Cairo.

8. **Ambassador Hamdy Loza** welcomed participants to Egypt – a country that has always been at the forefront of advancing African causes and supporting its fellow nations on the continent. He highlighted the many challenges facing Africa today, whether in terms of peace and security, the environment, or development. He pointed out that the Great Lakes region – situated in the heart of Africa – has yet to achieve the stability that would enable it to contribute to continental integration and sustainable development.

9. **Loza** reiterated Egypt’s commitment to supporting the ICGLR and its Member States in their efforts to achieve peace and stability in the region. He highlighted Egypt’s political engagement bilaterally with ICGLR Member States, and multilaterally through its membership of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AUPSC). Furthermore, he referred to existing bilateral and regional cooperation through the EAPD, in support of African development and security priorities. He also highlighted the role of CCCPA in providing training and capacity building programs to national, regional and continental actors involved in peacekeeping and conflict resolution.

10. **The Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister** also noted that the workshop does not only aim to identify the different perspectives of national and regional stakeholders, but also – and more importantly – presents a unique opportunity to devise durable solutions, informed by the regional context and the continent’s aspirations. In this regard, **Loza** emphasized the importance of moving away from “managing conflicts” in the Great Lakes region towards “resolving conflicts” and enabling sustainable development. He concluded by expressing appreciation to the Republic of Angola for its competent leadership of the ICGLR under the patronage of **H.E. President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos**, President of the Republic of Angola. **Loza** also commended the tireless efforts of **Minister Chikoti** and **Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita** in advancing the shared aspirations for peace and security in the region.

11. **Minister Chikoti** welcomed the Egyptian initiative to host the workshop, which comes at a time of persistent violence and insecurity in the region.
Chikoti further acknowledged the important role that Egypt continues to play in advancing African peace and security issues, both as a member of the UNSC and AUPSC.

12. Chikoti outlined the main areas of action on the ICGLR agenda, covering political, economic and security measures to promote stability in the region. After sharing Angola’s philosophy on conflict resolution, he noted that since assuming presidency of the ICGLR in 2014, Angola has been keen on promoting dialogue and reaching consensus among Member States to restore and consolidate peace. The 7th High-Level Meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region, hosted by Angola in October 2016, reaffirmed the importance of the Framework Agreement as a mechanism for achieving sustainable peace and stability in the Great Lakes, and urged Member States to exert additional efforts aimed at neutralizing negative forces and building confidence within and across the region’s countries. He called for enhanced bilateral, regional and international cooperation to fight the scourge of terrorism, and to promote peace and security in the Great Lakes.

13. H.E. Zachary Muburi-Muita highlighted that while the Great Lakes is a region of unparalleled economic potential, it is also a region of many challenges to peace and security, including armed conflict, terrorism and violent extremism, as well as displacement and poverty. This, accompanied by the slow implementation of the peace agreements, has undermined efforts to transform the Great Lakes region into a space of durable peace, security and economic growth. Muita emphasized that the approach of the ICGLR is one of collective action, inspired by the fundamental principles of the UN Charter and the AU Constitutive Act, including territorial integrity, national sovereignty, non-interference and non-aggression. He stressed the importance of addressing the underlying causes of conflict and instability, sustaining political will to jointly seek peaceful solutions to disputes, and enhancing cooperation with regional and international organizations.

14. The first panel discussion addressed “Challenges and Opportunities of Peace and Security in the Great Lakes Region: Enhancing Collective Response.” While acknowledging the many challenges facing the region, panelists welcomed the workshop’s focus on “opportunities” for transforming the Great Lakes into a peaceful and prosperous region. Among the many opportunities that exist, the ones repeatedly highlighted include the political settlement in the DRC, the ongoing political dialogue in Burundi, the democratic transition in CAR, and the government-led dialogue with armed groups in South Sudan.
15. Participants noted that another major opportunity is the sustained attention that the region continues to receive from the international community, which has – by and large – been responsive to the region’s security needs. UN peacekeeping missions are deployed to the DRC, South Sudan and the CAR, while an AU/UN peacekeeping mission is deployed to Darfur. Participants also highlighted the important role played by the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs), most notably the South African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC) in promoting peace and security in the region. Moreover, Angola, Egypt, Tanzania, Rwanda, and South Africa continue their commendable efforts of mediating conflicts in the region. In short, the region does not lack regional or international responses. What is needed is a more effective collective response.

16. The discussions identified the failure to align the strategic objectives of national, regional, and international actors and stakeholders as a complicating factor. Participants opined that a better understanding of what “collective” means and represents could lead to more effective responses. There is also a need to ensure the complementarity of efforts and avoid duplication.

17. The discussions then shifted to the situation in the DRC. Participants emphasized the centrality of the DRC to the stability of the Great Lakes region. Recent political agreements (18 October and 31 December 2016) represent an important milestone in breaking the lengthy stalemate in the country. While some participants commended the forthcoming elections in the DRC, others expressed concern over the divisive and destabilizing nature of elections, and the problems that might ensue. Some participants asserted that the DRC is committed to holding democratic elections, reflective of the sovereignty of the Congolese people. As such, the international community should support the DRC in this endeavor, without interfering in its internal affairs.

18. It was noted that consolidating peace in the region requires political will and a strong commitment to the implementation of the DRC Framework of 2013, particularly with regards to provision 2 “to neither tolerate nor provide assistance to armed groups”; provision 6 “to neither harbor nor provide protection to any person accused of war crimes or crimes against humanity”; and provision 7 to “facilitate the administration of justice through judicial cooperation in the region.”
19. Further discussion addressed the issue of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR). Participants opined that DDR programs in the Great Lakes region have not achieved the desired results. Participants urged DDR practitioners to engage host countries in the design and implementation of their programs, so as to ensure effectiveness and sustainability. Some participants highlighted the challenge of reintegrating ex-combatants, without sacrificing justice. As such, a new generation of DDR is required to address the growing threat of armed groups in the region, while strengthening judicial cooperation when dealing with leaders of armed groups responsible for massive human rights abuses.

20. Attention was also drawn to the issue of forced displacement and the refugee crisis in the region. Approximately 200 refugees enter the DRC from South Sudan per day, which further aggravates insecurity in the DRC. While there has been considerable media attention to the refugee crisis besieging the Arab world, the magnitude of the refugee problem in Africa has somewhat been overlooked and underestimated. Participants opined that addressing the humanitarian crisis in the region is an important step towards fostering peaceful relations among countries of the region.

21. Participants stressed the need for confidence-building measures across countries of the region, with the aim of defusing tensions. In addition to ongoing initiatives at the bilateral level, the ICGLR has a key role to play in promoting confidence-building at the regional level. A notable example is the first Private Investment Conference in the Great Lakes Region that was held in Kinshasa in February 2016. There is also a need to explore other innovative confidence-building mechanisms in other fields, including defense and security.

22. While there has been a consensus on the importance of military responses to current security concerns in the Great Lakes region, participants equally emphasized the primacy of politics. As such, security-based interventions need to go hand in hand with local, national and regional processes to promote peace and reconciliation. These include strengthening governance structures, resolving land-related issues, and addressing historical injustices.

23. The second panel discussion addressed “Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Efforts in the Great Lakes Region.” Participants acknowledged the role of peacekeeping as an important tool for maintaining peace and stability in the region. Nonetheless, it was pointed out that peacekeeping is just a tool in a larger continuum of peace interventions that include peacemaking, peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Without this
integration, conflicts are more likely to become “frozen” instead of progressing towards peaceful resolution.

24. Several interventions referred to the need to reconfigure the UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO). The current conventional posture of MONUSCO poses serious limitations to its ability to combat negative forces. Participants emphasized the need to bring in more specialized experts and mobile special forces that are better equipped to fight armed groups in an asymmetrical warfare setting. Participants further underlined that peacekeeping cannot substitute national efforts to achieve peace. In this regard, some participants referred to the key role played by the DRC military in fighting M23 rebels and lauded the resumption of coordinated military operations between MONUSCO and FARDC (DRC Armed Forces).

25. The discussions also touched upon the issue of Security Sector Reform (SSR) in the context of UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations. In particular, some participants commended the efforts of the DRC in reforming its security forces to champion human rights and the rule of law. However, participants emphasized the need to ensure that SSR remains a demand-driven and nationally-led process. National ownership was also deemed to be crucial to the viability of any SSR program.

26. The issue of adapting peacekeeping missions to the ever-evolving security environment on the ground was discussed at length. New and emerging threats, including terrorism, human trafficking, and organized crime, pose serious questions for the future viability of peacekeeping operations. Participants emphasized the need to engage troop and police contributing countries – through a more institutionalized mechanism – in doctrinal and policy debates of peacekeeping. Accordingly, the views of these countries must be taken into consideration in all discussions pertaining to new concepts in peacekeeping, such as the use of modern technology, intelligence capabilities, and the expansion of the use of force.

27. Participants also stressed the need to consider exit strategies for peacekeeping missions and to ensure a smooth transition from conflict to post-conflict. It was noted that sustained international engagement in peacebuilding efforts is key to preventing a relapse into conflict.

28. During the discussion of what “sustaining peace” would practically mean in the context of the Great Lakes region, participants highlighted that peace and stability in the region depends to a large extent on reconciling security needs with the development priorities of the countries in the region. At the
same time, achieving sustainable peace would require an integrated regional approach to address asymmetries and coordinate sharing of resources. In this context, participants welcomed Egypt’s initiative to establish the African Union Center for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AUC-PCRD).

29. While much of the world’s attention is directed to ‘robust peacekeeping’, more attention must be given to a ‘robust development approach’, based on the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the African Union’s Agenda 2063. In this regard, a number of priority areas had been identified in the United Nations Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework, including sustainable management of natural resources, economic integration and food security, mobility and displacement, youth and gender, judicial cooperation, and conflict prevention.

30. Participants further underscored the importance of addressing the underlying causes of conflict and instability in the region. Some participants pointed out the need for strengthening the role of regional organizations, and developing their prevention and mediation capabilities to address crises before escalating and turning into protracted conflicts.

31. The third panel discussion addressed “The Role of Community in Conflict Resolution and Peaceful Coexistence.” Local communities play a key role in all stages of conflict prevention and resolution (peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding). Important community actors include civil society organizations, influential local leaders, women, youth, and religious communities. These actors have the ‘local knowledge’ and are better able to comprehend the specific needs, sensitivities, assets and limitations of a particular area. As such, the responsibility of the international community is to build the capacity of local communities to enable them to solve their own problems and to lead the process of reconciliation and nation building.

32. The issue of youth engagement in peace processes received considerable attention. Participants commended the initiative of Deputy Minister Loza, to invite young Egyptian diplomats to attend the panel discussions and share their perspectives on the role of youth in conflict resolution in Africa. Some of the young diplomats emphasized the need to support youth

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entrepreneurship and facilitate exchange programs between youth in the region to promote dialogue and strengthen relationships between societies.

33. Youth constitute more than 60 percent of the population in the Great Lakes region. Accordingly, they can be active agents for change in their communities, either as spoilers or as peace ambassadors. Young people are often the victims of political manipulation, damaging their own future and causing further instability in the region. As such, greater attention should be paid to supporting youth-led programs, including sports events, music festivals and educational activities to foster a culture of citizenship among youth in the region.

34. Other participants highlighted the need to address structural issues – most notably poverty and unemployment – that hinder youth from reaching their full potential, and possibly forcing them to pick up arms. Participants also emphasized that youth empowerment is key to achieving peaceful coexistence and ending the cycles of violence in the Great Lakes region. Examples were drawn from the African continent, including the establishment of the Youth National Development Fund in Kenya, and the convening of the National Youth Conference in Cairo under the auspices of H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

35. With regards to women’s participation in conflict resolution, participants indicated that while there has been considerable progress in the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in Africa, the focus in the Great Lakes region has instead been on preventing sexual violence and abuse. Participants emphasized the need to ensure women’s meaningful participation in all stages of peace processes. The Declaration of the Women’s Platform for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region (adopted 12 July 2016, Goma, DRC) presents a positive step towards achieving this goal. In addition, there was general agreement that the broad objectives of inclusivity in peace processes need to be fully integrated within the ICGLR. Piecemeal interventions in support of women and youth empowerment are not sustainable and lack the necessary structures for accountability.

36. Sustainable and predictable funding was recognized as a risk factor for advancing the youth and women, peace and security agendas in the region. While several states have expressed their political will to support the youth, and women, peace and security agendas, financial commitments have been rather modest.
37. The discussions also addressed the threat of terrorism at the community level. Participants agreed that local imams and community leaders could play an important role in preventing radicalization and recruitment to terrorist organizations. In this regard, participants commended the important role played by CCCPA, and the remarkable success of its unique training program on preventing radicalization and extremism leading to terrorism (PRELT), that is grounded in the tolerant teachings of Islamic Sharia. The training is designed to equip local community leaders in Somalia and Nigeria with the necessary knowledge and skillsets to construct and deliver inclusive peace narratives.

**Recommendations**

Based on the discussions, some practical recommendations to achieving a more effective collective response to peace and security threats in the Great Lakes region were expressed:

1. **Emphasizing the primacy of political solutions, based on national ownership.** The security-based approach to instability in the Great Lakes region alone is not enough to end the cycle of conflict. Military interventions need to be complemented with nationally-owned, internationally-supported political processes aimed at finding peaceful solutions and addressing the root causes of conflict.

2. **Strengthening bilateral, regional, and international cooperation.** Recognizing the internal, regional and global dimensions of conflicts in the Great Lakes, it is necessary to foster and enhance cooperation at different levels. In the same vein, it is important to ensure the complementarity of efforts in addressing long-standing drivers of conflict, as well as new and emerging threats, such as terrorism. A key issue in this regard is the alignment of objectives among relevant stakeholders to ensure ‘an effective collective response.’

3. **Intensifying confidence-building measures and promoting dialogue within and among countries of the region.** Despite numerous initiatives and agreements to end conflicts, no comprehensive solutions to security threats in the Great Lakes region have been reached. As a result, the ICGLR should continue to serve as an inclusive platform that promotes dialogue and contributes to consensus and confidence-building measures between the signatories to the 2006 Nairobi Pact.

4. **Enhancing the engagement of host countries and troop and police contributing countries in doctrinal/policy debates on peacekeeping.** A
more institutionalized mechanism is required to ensure that the views of host countries, and troop and police contributing countries are incorporated in policy and doctrinal developments regarding peacekeeping.

5. **Supporting women and youth empowerment as a tool for conflict resolution and peaceful co-existence.** It has become increasingly apparent that women and youth can play a positive role in bringing communities together. As such, there should be strategic programs and concrete activities for youth empowerment at the regional level. Similarly, greater attention needs to be directed towards supporting the participation of women in peace processes. With this in mind, women and youth empowerment initiatives should be institutionalized within the work of the ICGLR to ensure progress and sustainability.
Annex I:

Workshop Agenda
Towards a More Effective Collective Response to Peace and Security Threats in the Great Lakes Region
27 February 2017
Cairo, Egypt

9:30 – 10:15 Opening Remarks
- H.E Sameh Shoukri, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt.
- H.E. Georges Chikoti, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Angola, Chairman of the Regional Inter-ministerial Committee of the ICGLR.
- H.E. Zachary Muburi-Muita, Executive Secretary of the ICGLR.

10:15 – 10:45 Coffee break and group photo

10:45 – 12:45 Round Table 1: Challenges and Opportunities of Peace and Security in the Great Lakes Region: Enhancing Collective Response

Lead Discussants:
- H.E. Georges Chikoti, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Angola, Chairman of the Regional Inter-ministerial Committee of the ICGLR.
- H.E. Susan Kolimba, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, the United Republic of Tanzania.
- H.E. Said Djinnit, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region.

Chair:
- H.E. Hamdi Loza, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for African Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt.

Guiding questions:
- What are the main challenges and opportunities for peace and security in the Great Lakes Region?
- How can the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) serve as a platform to enhance regional responses to threats to peace and security? How can it enhance the collective response to transnational threats, including terrorism? How can the ICGLR Secretariat support the implementation of the Dar El Salam Deceleration and Pact on Peace, Security and Development?
- How to strengthen already-existing regional mechanisms in countering threats to peace and security? (Joint Security Management of Common Borders, Development of Border Zones...
What is the role of regional actors in assisting Member States of the ICGLR in countering armed groups in the Great Lakes region?

How much progress has been made towards the implementation of the UN Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework 2016-2017?

12:45 – 13:45  Lunch break

13:45 – 15:15  Round Table 2: Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Efforts in the Great Lakes Region

Lead Discussants:
- H.E. Yves Kisombe, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Democratic Republic of Congo.
- H.E. Maman Sambo Sidiko, Special Representative of UN Secretary General for DRC and head of MONUSCO.

Chair:
- H.E. Zachary Muburi-Muita, Executive Secretary of the ICGLR.

Guiding questions:
- What are the political, security and operational challenges facing UN peacekeeping missions in the Great Lakes region?
- How to support an exit-strategy for UN peacekeeping missions in the region?
- What role can RECs/RMs play in facilitating national dialogue and reconciliation in the region?
- How can the objectives of the Lusaka accords be operationalized to realize the disarmament of negative forces and repatriation of armed nomadic pastoralists in the region?
- How to strengthen judicial cooperation between the ICGLR member states (extradition of negative forces, etc.)?

15:15– 15:30  Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00  Round Table 3: The Role of Community in Conflict Resolution and Peaceful Coexistence.

Lead Discussants:
- H.E. Jamal Benomar, the United Nations Secretary-General Special Adviser to Burundi.
- H.E. Jean de Dieu Nzikobina, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Relations and International cooperation of the Republic of Burundi.
- Ms. Francine Muyumba, President of Pan African Youth Union.
- Mr. David Clapp, Coordinator for the UNDP Platform for East and Southern Africa.
Chair:

- **H.E. Mohamed Edrees**, Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt.

Guiding questions:

- What does conflict prevention and sustaining peace practically mean in the Great Lakes Region?
- What is the role of community leaders in conflict resolution and national reconciliation?
- What is the role of community leaders in combating radicalization and extremism leading to terrorism?
- How can we facilitate a bigger role for women and youth in peacebuilding efforts and post-conflict reconstruction? To what extent are the recommendations of the Declaration of the Women’s Platform for Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework of 2016 useful in this perspective?