

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION**



**SECRETARIAT EXÉCUTIF  
CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE  
SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS**

## **FINAL COMMUNIQUE**

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE ICGLR COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS  
OF DEFENCE ON THE SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN  
THE GREAT LAKES REGION, WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE REPUBLIC OF  
BURUNDI, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
OF CONGO , THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN AND THE THREAT OF  
TERRORISM**

**Luanda, Angola, 12 May, 2015**

An extraordinary meeting of the ICGLR Committee of Ministers of Defence was held in Luanda, Angola, on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.

The meeting was held under the theme: *“The Security and Humanitarian situation in the Great Lakes Region with special focus on the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of South Sudan and the threat of terrorism.”*

The Meeting was attended by Ministers of Defence or their representatives from the following Member States: Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Sudan, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Zambia

### **Opening session**

The meeting was officially opened by the Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola, H.E. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, who welcomed all the delegates and urged them to consider the issues under discussion with particular emphasis on the eradication of all negative forces and to work together to save the region from the increasing threat of terrorism.

The meeting strongly condemned the heinous massacre of 150 innocent people, including 147 students, at the Garissa University College in Kenya, by the terrorist group Al Shabab, and expressed its condolences to the government and people of Kenya.

After consideration of the report of the Meeting of Chiefs of Defence Staff and Chiefs of Intelligence and Security Services, the Committee of Ministers of Defence recommended as follows:

#### **1. Recommendations:**

##### **1.1. On the Situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo**

The Meeting keenly followed the briefing from the Minister of Defence of DRC on the security situation in the country and appreciated the spirit of cooperation to achieve peace in the region and, adopted the following recommendations;

- i) The meeting encouraged the FARDC to continue military offensive against FDLR and other negative forces in the DRC with special emphasis on neutralizing their command structures;
- ii) The ICGLR to prevail upon MONUSCO, AU, SADC and other stakeholders to strengthen the capacity of EJVM and JIFC;
- iii) Without prejudice to the DRC sovereignty, the ICGLR and partners should encourage the FARDC to work closely with MONUSCO on eventual logistical support in order to sustain pressure on FDLR and all active negative forces and armed groups operating in Eastern DRC;
- iv) Encourage the speedy repatriation of FDLR elements in the transit camps (KANYABAYONGA, WALUNGU and Lt Gen BAHUMA camp) along with their dependents to Rwanda.
- v) Regarding the implementation of the Nairobi Declarations by M23 and DRC Government, the meeting recommended establishment of a mechanism (DRC, Uganda, UN and ICGLR Secretariat) to help expedite the repatriation of ex-combatant of M23 within the period of three months. The mechanism should explore repatriation or relocation to a willing third country out of the region.
- vi) The Meeting welcomed the capture of the leader of ADF, Shiekh Jamil Mukulu and commended the Republic of Tanzania for apprehending him. The meeting further welcomed the surrender of the founder of NALU to the Uganda government authorities.

**1.2. On the Central African Republic;**

- i) Recommendation to convene a joint ICGLR/ECCAS Summit on the situation in the Central African Republic;
- ii) ICGLR member States should financially contribute to the CAR Trust/Basket Fund to enable the Transitional Authorities to finance their program and ensure the establishment of solid republican institutions to guarantee the stability of the country;
- iii) ICGLR member States should provide support to the Central African Republic in the form of Military Assistance and Experts to assist the CAR in establishing a professional Defense and Security Force which can defend and exercise control over the national territory;
- iv) ICGLR member States, especially Francophone countries, should consider seconding renowned Judges and other legal experts from their respective countries to assist in the revival and stabilization of the country's legal system;

- v) The ICGLR should advocate for sanctions on rebel commanders and leaders perpetrating atrocities in the country;
- vi) The ICGLR should continue encouraging and supporting stakeholders to expedite the national reconciliation process in view of the forthcoming elections in the country;
- vii) The ICGLR and ECCAS should join the CAR in urging the UN Security Council to lift the arms embargo as an essential requirement to bring back stability to the country.
- viii) The meeting recommended the establishment of a Military Experts Committee from the ICGLR and its dispatch to the CAR to assess the military's needs and to draw a plan for technical assistance. The meeting further recommended that the report of the mission be tabled at the next meeting of the ICGLR Ministers of Defense.

### **1.3. On the Republic of South Sudan**

- i) The ICGLR should declare the rebels of the SPLM-IO and all other South Sudanese militia as negative forces;
- ii) The whole spectrum of negotiation should respect the sovereignty and legitimacy of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan;
- iii) The Negotiation process should include other internal stakeholders (Civil society and private sector) and be fast tracked in order to enable the Government to address the negative impact of the conflict in rural areas;
- iv) Considering that 90 percent of differences have been bridged, the ICGLR should encourage the IGAD Mediation team to table the Peace Agreement and conclude it without any further delay;
- v) The ICGLR should exert pressure on the rebels of the SPLM/IO and other associated militia groups to respect the previous commitments in the cessation of hostilities agreement already signed;
- vi) While applauding the role played by the Governments of Norway, USA and UK, the ICGLR should strongly recommend that the Troika continues playing its supporting role to the mediation efforts and not be directly participating in the mediation process;

- vii) The ICGLR should mobilize financial and other resources to help stabilize the humanitarian situation in South Sudan;
- viii) The ICGLR should use its influence to avoid the proposed UN sanctions which will only serve to exacerbate an already worsening situation;
- ix) The ICGLR CS should intensify cooperation with IGAD Secretariat and remain seized of the situation in the Republic of South Sudan;
- x) There is need for the region and international community to exert pressure on the rebels and convince them to pursue a peaceful resolution instead of the current military confrontation;
- xi) The ICGLR should appeal for more humanitarian assistance for South Sudan in view of the increasing number of internally displaced civilians as a result of the conflict.
- xii) The ICGLR should urge the IGAD to speed up the deployment of the regional forces in the Republic of South Sudan to monitor and enforce the ceasefire agreement in the country;
- xiii) Recommend that the ICGLR Secretariat become part of the expanded IGAD-Plus mediation mechanism;
- xiv) Recommend that the ICGLR dispatch a high level delegation to the country to further ascertain the reality on the ground;

#### **1.4. On the Republic of Burundi**

- i) Encourage the government of Burundi to continue its efforts to pursue an electoral process that is peaceful, credible and transparent, and encourage all the defence and security forces to continue guaranteeing peace and security for all;
- ii) Urge the international community to extend the relevant support, and call upon the Government of Burundi to do its best to reassure the fearful population and hasten their return to the country;
- iii) Urge all stakeholders to avoid the use of violence, and commit to dialogue;

- iv) Urge all parties to strictly adhere to the rule of law and respect the institutions of the country;
- v) Recommend that the Chairman of the RIMC remain seized of the matter and report to the Summit of Heads of State.

#### **1.5. On the Situation in Sudan**

Following a presentation by the EJVM and JIFC, the following recommendations were made on the Republic of Sudan:

- i) The ICGLR should continue to call for suspension of any support to Sudanese negative forces (JEM,SPLM-N, SLM-AW & SLM-MM);
- ii) The ICGLR should encourage the efforts by the Government of Sudan to neutralize all Sudanese negative forces operating in Sudan;
- iii) The ICGLR should enhance cooperation with other regional actors and international organizations to tackle the possible proliferation of mercenary groups and arms trafficking, and negative forces that are targeting UN peacekeepers, humanitarian workers and civilians.

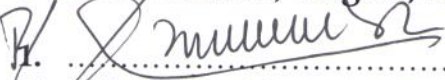
#### **1.6. On the Threat of Terrorism**

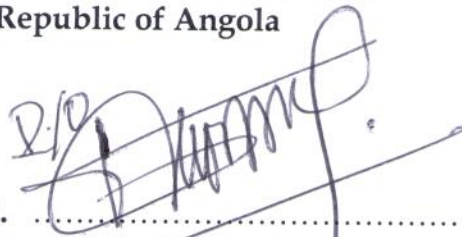
- i) The ICGLR member states should endeavour to encourage timely sharing of intelligence on terrorism, monitoring of cross border movements and enhance security warning mechanisms;
- ii) Urge tall governments of the ICGLR member states to share intelligence information with other intelligence agencies of ICGLR member states, and enhance regional cooperation in the fight against this threat;
- iii) Recommend the expansion and strengthening of the existing regional counter-terrorism mechanisms, and expand their reach to cover the whole ICGLR region.
- iv) Recommend that the ICGLR Chiefs of Defence and Chiefs of Intelligence and Security Services develop a regional counter-terrorism strategy;
- v) The ICGLR should note the documented nexus between the Al Shabab, ADF and Al Qaeda terrorist organizations, and it should factor robustly in the counter-terrorism efforts in the region.


**1.7. General Recommendations**


- i) Member States which have not yet fulfilled their financial and human resources obligations to the EJVM to expedite their contribution;
  - ii) Recommend that the position of Deputy Commander of the EJVM be rotational among the ICGLR member States;
- 1.8. The Committee of Ministers of Defence commended Angola for hosting the meeting and for all the facilities availed to the various delegations.


Done in Luanda, Angola, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015


1.   
Hon. Gen. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço  
Minister of National Defense  
**Republic of Angola**


3.   
Hon. Marie Noëlle Koyara  
State Minister of National Defence, Army  
Reconstruction, Former Combatants and  
War Victims  
**Bangui, Central African Republic**

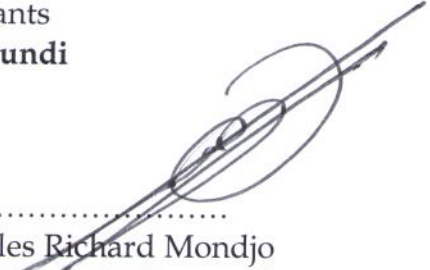
5.   
Hon. Aimé NGOI MUKENA Lusa-Diese  
Minister of Defense, Former Combatants and  
Resettlement  
**Democratic Republic of Congo**


7.   
Hon. Gen. James Kabarebe  
Minister of Defense  
**Republic of Rwanda**

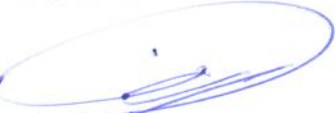
9.   
Hon. Gen. Kuol Manyang Juok  
Minister of Defense and Veteran Affairs  
**Republic of South Sudan**

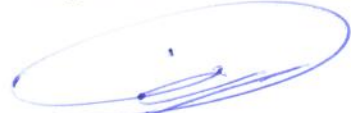
11.   
Hon. Dr. Crispus Walter Kiyonga (MP)  
Minister of Defense  
**Republic Uganda**

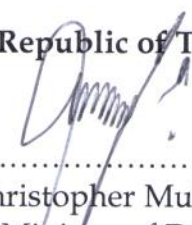
2.   
Hon. Maj. Gen. Pontien Gaciyubwenge  
Minister of National Defense and  
Former Combatants  
**Republic of Burundi**

4.   
Hon. Gen. Charles Richard Mondjo  
Minister at Presidency in charge of  
National Defense  
**Republic of Congo**

6.   
Hon. Amb. Raychelle Omamo  
Cabinet Secretary for Defense  
**Republic of Kenya**

8.   
Hon. Gen. (Msc.Psc) Abdel Raheem M.  
Hussein  
Minister of Defense  
**Republic of The Sudan**

10.   
Hon. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi (MP)  
Minister of Defense and National  
Service  
**United Republic of Tanzania**

12.   
Hon. Christopher Mulenga  
Deputy Minister of Defense  
**Republic of Zambia**