

**Declaration of the Special Summit of the ICGLR Heads of State and Government on "the Fight against Youth Unemployment through Infrastructure Development and Investment Promotion"**

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**Nairobi, Kenya  
24<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

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**Preamble**

**WE**, Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014 for the ICGLR Special Summit under the theme "*the Fight against Youth Unemployment through Infrastructure Development and Investment Promotion*";

**DETERMINED** to implement all the commitments made under the *Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region* (2006), and specifically the need to involve the youth in the social, political and economic dynamics of the ICGLR;

**DEEPLY** concerned about the magnitude of Youth unemployment in our Member States and aware of the threat that this poses to social-economic fabric, peace and stability in our Region;

**DETERMINED** to take all the measures necessary to fight against Youth unemployment in our region, including through education and training, infrastructure development and investment programmes;

**RECALLING** the commitment made by the Heads of State and Government under the *Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region* (2006), especially the need to create jobs for the youth as a means of enhancing stability in the region, and determined to honour it;

**MINDFUL** of the commitment made at the level of the African Union to work towards the socio-economic transformation of the continent in the context of Agenda 2063 and its potential in terms of job creation for young people in our Region;

**AWARE** of the willingness of regional and international institutions to which we belong to initiate collective efforts to fight against youth unemployment;

**HAVING considered** the report and recommendations from the high level consultative meeting of ministers responsible for Youth, Labour/and Foreign Affairs held in Nairobi, Kenya, take measures to address Youth unemployment and marginalisation through Infrastructure development and investment promotion.

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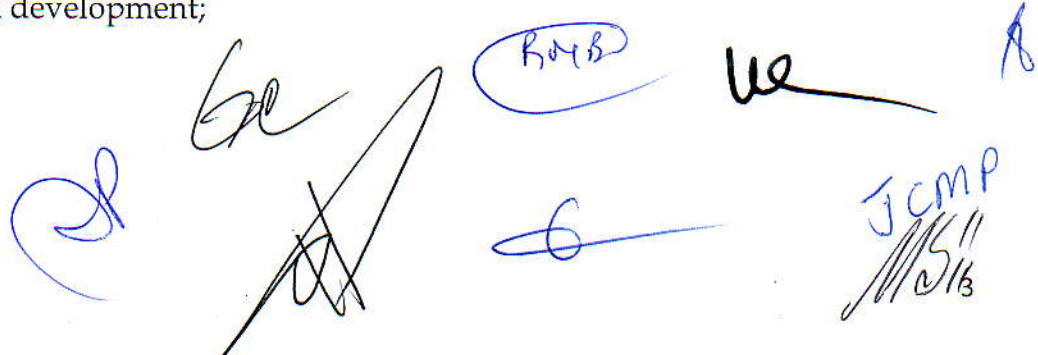
**DO HEREBY COMMIT TO THE FOLLOWING:**

**I. Key recommendations**

1. Consider the youth unemployment crisis as a disaster that can undermine our economies, threaten our peace and destabilize our institutions if it is not addressed;
2. Call upon the United Nations to address youth employment as a Stand Alone priority goal and deliverable in the post 2015 Development Agenda;
3. Commit to harmonize employment policies in the region including labour force management plans and develop guidelines for foreign direct investors on preferential employment of youth from the region;

**II. To create a favourable environment for investments and socio-economic development**

4. To foster peace, security, stability and democratic governance in the region through the implementation of the commitments of the ICGLR Pact in this regard;
5. To accelerate regional integration, including the free movement of persons and goods, to capitalize on the region's economic potential and to facilitate the transfer of technology and know-how;
6. Building the capacity and autonomy of the national institutions of statistics to provide timely and reliable data needed for better planning and decision making process;
7. Building the capacity and autonomy of the national employment and entrepreneurship management institutions to enable them to guide policy makers on the best way to enhance the employability of young people;
8. Develop and promote establishment of youth information Centers and better use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for youth development;

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**III. To harness infrastructure development in order to fast-track opportunities for decent jobs and inclusive growth**

9. To develop national and regional action programmes in key sectors of the economy namely agriculture and livestock, extractive industries, ICT, transport, tourism, in order to accelerate socio-economic development and job creation;
10. To establish regional projects for the joint exploitation of natural resources, infrastructure projects, and processing of products that are available in the Region;
11. To mobilise regional and international financial institutions involved in infrastructure development in the Great Lakes Region to put all available resources together in order to accelerate ongoing projects and meet urgent needs in this sector;

**IV. To review the education system and promote entrepreneurship and innovation**

12. To review the education system focusing on skills development, entrepreneurship and innovation, among other things;
13. To recast our curricula to ensure that our children, right from the time they enter school, are oriented to technical skills acquisition and informed on issues of land and agriculture;
14. To introduce mandatory national youth service programs in Member States focusing on short-term modules in technical skills, civic competencies and patriotism;
15. To expedite the harmonization of education policies in all Member States of the ICGLR in order to encourage the mobility of students and transfer of technologies;
16. To enhance technical and vocational education and training, early childhood role modelling, mentorship, and career guidance; within the education system;

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17. To promote public-private partnerships in the provision of training aimed at promoting the transfer of skills to the youth through internship programs and peer learning at the regional level;

**V. To facilitate young entrepreneurs' access to funding**

18. To strengthen national and regional mechanisms to provide technical support to address the needs of young entrepreneurs in different key areas and sectors of the economy;

19. To support informal sector to facilitate its growth;

20. To establish mechanisms and support programmes enabling the transition of informal sector companies into the formal sector particularly those headed by the Youth (women and men) through incentive programs;

21. To promote creative industry (music, dance and drama), sports and games as potential employment creation sector;

22. To establish regional youth fund to support youth initiatives and programmes;

23. Enhance a savings culture among the youth and establish youth cooperatives;

24. Promote innovation, recognition and establish a regional award for outstanding young innovators;

**VI. Ensure youth representation in decision-making bodies**

25. To build capacity for youth representatives so that they are able to meaningfully and effectively promote the interests of those they represent

26. To ensure affirmative action in decision-making, especially in parliament, government and all key decision making organs;

27. To ensure youth representation in the dialogue among the government, private sector and trade unions with regard to employment policies;

28. To ensure youth participation in conflict resolution and peace building;

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## VII. Mobilise additional resources for youth issues

29. To make youth employment creation one of the key conditions to the tenders related to government projects;
30. To direct relevant ministries to take the necessary measures to promote the creation of decent jobs and income-generating programs for youth;
31. To seek new sources of funding and mobilize resources for the promotion of youth entrepreneurship;
32. To promote regional integration to ensure free movement of goods including those produced by youth;

## VIII. Monitoring, Evaluation and Coordination of Public Policies and Interventions

33. To strengthen the monitoring, evaluation and coordination of policies and programmes in order to promote youth employment in infrastructure development and investment and ascertain its impact, making corrections where necessary;
34. To integrate the interventions of development partners in the area of youth employment and infrastructure development into national policies for the purpose of promoting ownership, synergy, coherence and complementarity of efforts;
35. Establish a database to enable people from the region to access and share information on employment opportunities;

## IX. Good Governance and Transparency

36. Strengthen transparency mechanisms, enhance governance and reduce corruption in order to improve accessibility to employment opportunities for youth in Member States;

## X. General Recommendations

37. Direct the Conference Secretariat to monitor the implementation of these resolutions and to report regularly to the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee (RIMC) and the Summit during their ordinary sessions;

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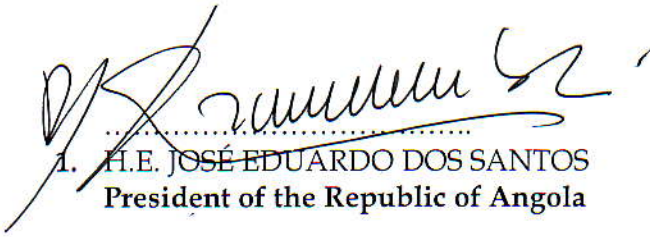
38. Welcome and endorse the establishment of the Regional Youth Forum and direct ICGLR Secretariat in consultation with member states to work with the youth on finalization of the Accord and operationalization of the Youth Forum;
39. Direct the Conference Secretariat, in consultation with Member States, to develop a regional strategy and action plan for addressing youth unemployment through infrastructure development and investment promotion and report to the next Ordinary ICGLR Summit in 2015;
40. Accept the offer made by the Government of Kenya and congratulate them for their willingness to host the Secretariat of the Regional Multifunctional Youth Forum and to meet the initial cost of its establishment.


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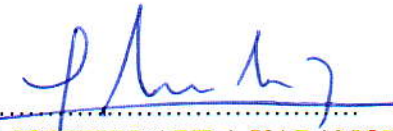
Done in Nairobi , Kenya, 24 July 2014

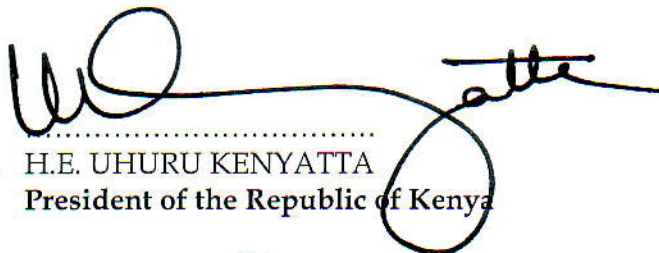
  
.....  
1. H.E. JOSÉ EDUARDO DOS SANTOS  
President of the Republic of Angola

  
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2. H.E. PIERRE NKURUNZIZA  
President of the Republic of Burundi

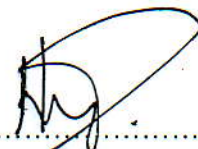
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3. H.E. CATHERINE SAMBA-PANZA  
President of the Central African  
Republic


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4. H.E. DENIS SASSOU N'GUESSO  
President of the Republic of Congo

  
FOR .....  
5. H.E. JOSEPH KABILA KABANGE  
President of the Democratic Republic  
of Congo

  
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6. H.E. UHURU KENYATTA  
President of the Republic of Kenya

  
FOR .....  
7. H.E. PAUL KAGAME  
President of the Republic of Rwanda

  
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8. H.E. OMAR HASSAN AHMED AL-  
BASHIR  
President of the Republic of The  
Sudan

  
FOR .....  
9. H.E. SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT  
President of the Republic of South  
Sudan

  
FOR .....  
10. H.E. JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE  
President of the United Republic of  
Tanzania

  
.....  
11. H.E. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI  
President of the Republic of Uganda

  
FOR .....  
12. H.E. MICHAEL CHILUFYA SATA  
President of the Republic of Zambia