

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



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

**REPORT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING AND
PEER-LEARNING WORKSHOP OF THE ICGLR
REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

25th – 27th November 2015

Grand Legacy Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The ICGLR Regional Committee on the Regional Initiative on the fight against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR) held its Extraordinary Meeting and a Peer-Learning Training Workshop from 25th to 27th November 2015 in Kigali, Rwanda.
- 1.2. The Extraordinary Meeting was convened in order to finalise the recruitment process of the Independent Mineral Chain Auditor (one of the regional verification systems of the implementation of the Regional Certification Mechanism in ICGLR Member States), before the forth coming meeting of the Regional Inter-ministerial Committee (RIMC).
- 1.3. It was organised alongside a Peer-Learning Training Workshop for members of the ICGLR Regional Committee on the RINR on the implementation of Regional Certification Mechanism (RCM), one of the six tools for the fight against the illegal exploitation of natural resources. These two events were supported by GIZ and Partnership Africa Canada (PAC) with financial contributions from the European Union, IOM and USAID.
- 1.4. The Extraordinary Meeting and Training Workshop were attended by members of the Regional Committee from the following Member States: the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of Sudan, the Republic of Uganda, the Republic of Zambia and the Regional Women Forum.
- 1.5. Also in attendance were the Representative of ICGLR Executive Secretary and relevant staff of the Conference Secretariat and partners including USAID/TETRA TECH, BGR, GIZ, PAC and IOM.

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2. OPENING SESSION

- 2.1. The Extraordinary Meeting was officially opened by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources of Rwanda, Madam Fatina Mukarubibi, on behalf of the Minister of State in charge of Mining.

In her opening remarks, she reiterated the commitment of the Government of Rwanda to the implementation of the RCM and particularly the ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region.

She also urged participants to share experience, discuss achievements, challenges, and issues of the RCM and other mineral transparency schemes and their harmonisation so as to ensure the credibility of the ICGLR certificate. She appreciated the ICGLR Secretariat for promoting the RCM peer-learning among Member States and thanked all delegates for their participation.

- 2.2. The opening ceremony was also addressed by the Rwanda's ICGLR National Coordinator, Ambassador Olivier Nduhungirehe, who welcomed participants and wished them a pleasant stay in Rwanda.
- 2.3. In his opening remarks, the Acting Chair of the ICGLR Regional Committee on the RINR, Mr. Bethsmith Aliga William thanked the Government of Rwanda for the warm welcome accorded to delegates from Member States.
- 2.4. Addressing the meeting, the Representative of the ICGLR Executive Secretary, Ambassador Ambeyi Ligabo, thanked the Government of Rwanda, for responding positively to the ICGLR request to host the Meeting and commended the Government for the elaborate logistical and protocol arrangements provided to participants on arrival in Rwanda.

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3. MAIN ITEMS OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman introduced the main items of the agenda of the Peer-Learning Training Workshop and the Extraordinary Meeting as follows:

- Introduction to the ICGLR Regional Certification Mechanism.
- Chain of custody implementation, challenges and lessons learned.
- Member States experiences of 3Ts within RCM challenges and strategies.
- Challenges of 3Ts versus gold in the context of the implementation of the RINR.
- Peer-learning and lessons learned from some Member States in regard to ASM gold administration.
- Presentation of the report of the Pre-Selection Committee of the IMCA candidates.
- Consideration of the report and Selection of the best IMCA candidates.

4. OFFICIAL CLOSING SESSION

- 4.1. The closing ceremony was officiated by Dr. Michael Biryabarema, Member of the ICGLR Regional Committee, on behalf of the Minister of State in Charge of Mining of Rwanda. Also present was the Rwanda's ICGLR National Coordinator, Ambassador Olivier Nduhungirehe; the Acting Chairman of ICGLR Regional Committee, Mr. Bethsmith William Aliga and the Representative of the ICGLR Executive Secretary Ambassador Ambeyi Ligabo.
- 4.2. The Acting Chairman of ICGLR Regional Committee thanked the participants for their good team spirit they demonstrated throughout the 3 days of the Peer-Learning Workshop and

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Extraordinary Meeting of the Regional Committee. He also thanked the Government of Rwanda for arranging for the delegates to visit the Genocide Memorial Museum in Kigali.

- 4.3. The Rwanda's National Coordinator, Ambassador Olivier Nduhungirehe, in his remarks said that what was learnt will help to enhance the integrity of the Regional Certification Mechanism. He congratulated the Committee for having successfully finalized the short-listing process of the IMCA.
- 4.4. Ambassador Ambeyi Ligabo, extended the appreciation of the ICGLR Executive Secretary to the Republic of Rwanda and its people for the hospitality received by delegates. He further thanked the Ministry of Natural resources for having been present at the highest level and emphasized that the Peer-Learning Training Workshop and Extraordinary Meeting came up with practical guidelines and recommendations.
- 4.5. On his part, the Guest of Honor, Dr. Michael Biryabarema, informed that it has been a pleasure for the Republic of Rwanda to host the Extraordinary Meeting and that the recommendations of the meeting with respect to the superiority of the Regional Certification Mechanism will go a long way to strengthen ICGLR position in international forums. He finally recalled the commitment of the Republic of Rwanda to host the next Regional Committee meeting in Rubavu, Rwanda and declared the meeting closed.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

After exhaustive deliberations, the Regional Committee made the following recommendations.

1. Based on the recommendation of the Pre-selection committee of the Independent Mineral Chain Auditor (IMCA), the Regional Committee recommended three candidates to the Executive Secretary for final selection for the position of the IMCA.

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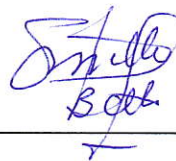
2. ICGLR Secretariat with support of key partners will work towards a standard approach to working with Chain of Custody providers.
3. Member States should create conducive environment for the formalization and legalization of ASM gold sector.
4. The ICGLR Secretariat initiates arrangements to develop a regional gold strategy.
5. Member States harmonize their fiscal regimes governing the ASM gold sector.
6. Member States initiate national consultations with all stakeholders along the ASM gold supply chains to ensure effective development of the Regional Strategy on Gold.

Adopted in Kigali, Rwanda, on 27th November 2015.

Signed by



For Mr. Paul Ndarihonyoye
Chairman



Mr. Bethsmith Aliga William
Rapporteur