



## **Fourth Meeting of Heads of Intelligence and Security Services of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania**

**5-6 July 2021**

**Bujumbura, Burundi**

### **Communiqué**

1. The Heads of Intelligence and Security Services of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania held their fourth meeting on 6 July 2021 in Bujumbura, Burundi, to review and adopt the Action Plan of the Contact and Coordination Group on non-military measures to complement military efforts by countries in the region (CCG). This meeting was preceded by an expert consultation held on 5 July 2021 in the same location.
2. The meeting was facilitated by the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) as Guarantor Institutions of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the region. The DRC National Oversight Mechanism, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the ICGLR Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM) also took part in the meeting.
3. Expressing their gratitude to H.E. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the DRC, for accepting to host the CCG operational cell in Goma, the Heads of Intelligence and Security Services as well as the representatives of the Guarantor Institutions of the PSC Framework reiterated the imperative of adopting a comprehensive approach to ensure the neutralisation of negative forces.
4. The mission of the CCG as a key vehicle of this comprehensive approach, is to identify and implement non-military measures in complement to enhanced military action by the countries of the region. The participants stressed the need for the CCG to work in complementarity and coherence with existing national, regional and international mechanisms.
5. The Heads of Intelligence and Security Services discussed and adopted the CCG's two-year Action Plan. The main axes of intervention of this Action Plan are: i) the facilitation of disarmament and repatriation processes of negative forces through an approach involving local communities and civil society; ii) the prevention of the resurgence of negative forces through the disruption of supply networks of arms, troops and finances; iii) the reinforcement of Disarmament,



Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programmes; iv) the reinforcement of cross-border cooperation with a view to generating economic opportunities, particularly for young people.

6. Participants agreed that the adoption of the Action Plan is the first concrete step in the implementation of the comprehensive approach to the neutralisation of negative forces in the Great Lakes region.
7. They further agreed that the experts seconded to the operational cell, which is mandated to implement the activities related to the preparation and implementation of the engagement strategy with negative forces, will be designated and start their work within one (1) month from the date of this communiqué.
8. A technical workshop dedicated to consider the modus operandi and funding of the activities of the operational cell, will be held in Goma in August 2021.
9. The Heads of Intelligence and Security Services agreed to maintain this consultative framework and decided to hold their fifth meeting in Kigali, Rwanda.
10. The participants in the meeting expressed their deep appreciation to the Office of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, the Office of the AU Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region and the ICGLR Executive Secretariat for their continued support to regional security cooperation.
11. The participants paid tribute to Ambassador Basile Ikouébé, AU Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, for his contribution to the implementation of the PSC Framework, especially in the area of security cooperation.
12. The Heads of Intelligence and Security Services thanked the Government of the Republic of Burundi for the exceptional welcome and hospitality extended to their respective delegations.