



PRESS RELEASE ON RECENT ATTACKS IN THE EASTERN DRC BY A REBEL GROUP ALLEGED TO BE PART OF M23 REBELS

The Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region learned with dismay of the attacks that happened on the night of Sunday 21st and Monday 22nd November on two positions of the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC), in the territory of Rutshuru, in the province of North Kivu near the border between DRC and Rwanda.

The said two positions were set on fire by the said assailants who then left to an unknown destination. The Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region condemns this attack, which is the third in the past two weeks and which comes in a series of attacks attributed to the aforementioned rebel group who are said to belong to M23 rebels. The attacks follow those of Runyoni and a Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) in Bukima, on 8th November and 20th November respectively.

The Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region reminds the rebels who are said to belong to M23 to respect the Nairobi declarations of 2013 which calls for the withdrawal of their men from Congolese territory. The Conference Secretariat further calls on those rebels to refrain from any acts that would endanger the lives of the civilian population and exacerbate the humanitarian crisis due to the massive displacement of civilian populations.

Furthermore, based on the Protocol of Non-aggression and Mutual Defense in the Great Lakes Region included in the Pact on Peace Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region the Conference Secretariat calls on the neighboring countries of the DRC and all Members of the ICGLR to consolidate cooperation, coordination, and exchange of information to ensure stability in the border area.

Bujumbura 23rd November 2021