



## **PRESS RELEASE ON JOINT MILITARY OPERATIONS OF THE CONGOLESE ARMY (FARDC) AND THE UGANDAN ARMY (UPDF) IN EASTERN DRC**

The Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region welcomes the decision taken by the authorities of the DRC and Uganda to fight together the terrorist group named the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the deadliest armed group in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which represent the so-called Islamic State (IS) as its branch in Central Africa and which is accused by Uganda of committing recent attacks in Kampala.

This joint military operation refers to ICGLR's previous communiqué dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 calling on the neighbouring States of the DRC to support efforts of DRC to neutralize negative forces operating in the East of the country in accordance with the Mutual Assistance and Non-aggression Protocols of ICGLR.

While supporting this collaboration, the Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region urges the two armies to scrupulously respect the principles of international humanitarian law in order to protect the civilian population from these military operations.

Bujumbura, 1st December 2021