



Auditors in Mineral supply chain in GLR to be accredited by ICGLR



ICGLR Executive Secretary Amb. Zachary Muburi-Muita (3IL sitting) in a group picture with Members of the Committee and staff of the Secretariat

ICGLR Regional Committee on the Regional Initiative on the Fight against Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR) of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) held its 15th Meeting from 25th to 27th July 2017 in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania.

The meeting attended by all ICGLR Member States, evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the six tools under the RINR, after the 14th meeting and recommended that, all

auditors in the mineral supply chains operating in ICGLR Member States should be accredited by the ICGLR Audit Committee and all mineral traceability service providers should confine themselves to their role of traceability and refrain from engaging into auditing of the same supply chains.

The meeting encouraged Member States to make more efforts to invite and promote more traceability and due diligence service providers for purposes of efficiency and cost reduction and re-

quested the ICGLR Secretariat to re-disseminate the Model Law for Domestication of the Protocol to fight against illegal exploitation of natural resources for effective harmonization of national legislations in all Member States.

The Regional Committee urged the ICGLR Secretariat to engage with the African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC) to look into possibilities for capacity building on the African Mining Vision for Members of the Regional



MS Supply chain accredited by ICGLR

Committee.

The Regional Committee took note of the report of the Audit Committee; the report on the Consultancy on the High-Level Requirements for the ICGLR Regional Mineral Tracking Database; the report of Independent Mineral Chain Auditor (IMCA); the report of the Regional Exporters Conference

Having taken note of the reports the Regional Committee encouraged the Audit Committee to continue the review of the RCM Standards, based on the related existing recommendations; encouraged the ICGLR Secretariat to fast-track the remaining process for the establishment of the database. The Committee further encouraged the ICGLR Secretariat to undertake administrative measures to streamline the reporting structure of the Office of the IMCA, and other ICGLR affiliated offices/units as per the existing reporting policy.

The Regional Committee took note and endorsed but with amendment of paragraphs 2 and 12 of the recommendations of the Regional Experts and Stakeholders' Consultations on natural resources held in Nairobi, Kenya from 5th to 6th July 2017 and encouraged Member States to closely follow up on the recommendations therein.

The meeting resolved to convene in Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan for the 16th meeting before end of November 2017. The 16th meeting will also amend the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee.

The meeting was officially opened by Honourable Prof. James E. Mdoe, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Minerals, United Republic of Tanzania. In his remarks, the Permanent Secretary said Tanzania has ratified the ICGLR Pact in 2008 and reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the Pact and all its Protocols.

He said "for the purpose of underpinning broad-based sustainable growth and socio-economic development in Africa, ICGLR Member States should draw attention to the African Mining Vision which requires the whole Africa to ensure the exploitation of mineral resources is done in a transparent, equitable and optimal manner.

On his part the ICGLR Executive Secretary, Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita, ICGLR, thanked the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for having invited the ICGLR Secretariat to hold the 15th meeting of the Regional Committee in the United Republic of Tanzania. He affirmed the

continued implementation of the Regional Initiative to fight against Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and urged Regional Committee to focus on the emerging challenges such as the duplication of audits and the resultant high costs in the implementation of the Regional Certification Mechanism.

The Chairman of the ICGLR Regional Committee, Mr. Paul Ndarihonyoye, expressed his appreciation to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for the warm welcome extended to all the delegates from the ICGLR Member States. He also expressed his gratitude to partners, namely GIZ, BGR, EU, PAC, USAID/TETRA TECH, and Swiss Cooperation for their technical and financial support in the implementation of the RINR.

In his welcome remarks, the Representative of Tanzania ICGLR National Coordinator Mr. Ali Ubwa Mussa renewed the commitment and assurance of the United Republic of Tanzania in the implementation of the Initiative to fight against Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources. He said, Tanzania is greatly honoured to host this important event.



ICGLR Ministers of Defence Meet in Angola to review security situation in GLR



Gen. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço Ministers of Defence of the Republic of Angola and the Chair of the Committee of the Ministers of Defence

The Committee of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Ministers of Defence held their ordinary meeting in Luanda, Angola, on 24th May 2017 to review the security and humanitarian situation in the Great Lakes Region, particularly in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Sudan and Republic of South Sudan.

Attended by Ministers or their representatives and chaired by Gen. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, Minister of National Defence of the

Republic of Angola who is the chairperson of the Committee, adopted the report of Chiefs of Defence Forces whose meeting preceded the meeting of ministers.

The meeting was also attended by the ICGLR Executive Secretary, the Commander of the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM), and representative of the Chair of the Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) of Directors General and Chiefs of Intelligence and Security Services and team Leader of the Joint Follow-up Mechanism (JFM) on the ADF.

The Session was addressed by the Hon. Minister of Defence of the Republic of Angola and Chairman of the Committee of ICGLR Ministers of Defence and Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita, the Executive Secretary of the ICGLR.

In his opening statement during the opening session, the Executive Secretary (ES) expressed his profound appreciation to the Republic of Angola for the warm hospitality accorded to delegations and mentioned the significant milestones attained in the Great Lakes Region since the



ICGLR Ministers of Defence Meeting

December 2006 signing of the ICGLR Pact. He expressed his confidence in the progress of the Inter-Burundi dialogue including wide consultations that continues to be carried out, and highlighted the security challenges in the CAR and South Sudan and the current position in developing the ICGLR Counterterrorism strategy.

On his part, the Chairman welcomed the Ministers and their delegations to Luanda. He reiterated the importance of the meeting as part of the needed democratic consultations and coordination amongst all the member states in the quest to maintain and consolidate peace and security in the region.

He regretted that instead of celebrating the 10th years of ICGLR anniversary in peace, the region was still grappling with violence and instability particularly in the DRC with regards to the resurgence of the M23 and the activities of local militias including the Kamwuna Nshapu in the Kasai region, which are causing serious humanitarian crises in DRC and the neighbouring countries, including Angola.

He called upon the ICGLR Ministers of Defence to review the security developments in the region and make appropriate recommendations to the Heads of State.

The meeting urged the Democratic Republic of Congo armed force FARDC with the support of MONUSCO/FIB to launch military operations against Burundi rebels FNL who are operating in eastern DRC and continue to be a source of insecurity to Burundi.

The meeting urged training and equipping of the Central African Republic Army be enhanced as well as the management of reintegration of former fighters and appealed to the AU, the International Community and the neighbouring countries to exert pressure on the rebel leaders and their accomplices to stop violence;

The Ministers encouraged the ICGLR to continue lobbying the international community to lift the arms embargo against CAR in order to make operational the units already trained under the European Union Military Training Team to ensure the security of the civilian population and Called upon MINUSCA to incorporate the countries in South East Triangle (South Sudan, DRC and Uganda) in order to defeat the LRA

They called for maintenance of the FARDC operations with the MONUSCO/FIB, in line with new MONUSCO mandate, against all negative forces, and strengthened with a view to neutralizing

all armed groups, especially ADF, FDLR, FNL and prevent any new M23 incursions into the DRC territory;

The Ministers reiterated the decisions already taken by the ICGLR Heads of State and Government for the implementation of the Nairobi Declarations and appealed to the regional organisations and International Community to speed up the repatriation of ex combatants of FDLR to Rwanda or their relocation process. They directed the EJVM to carry out further verifications in the triangle comprising of parts of DRC, Rwanda, and Uganda where elements of M23 are located.

Encouraged necessary measures to be taken to prevent Pastor Ntumi's rebel group, from its consolidation and expansion in the Republic of Congo

They encouraged the ICGLR Member states to support national dialogue in South Sudan as a means to finding a peaceful resolution to the crisis and



Cross section of ICGLR Minister of Defence and Representatives of Ministers



ICGLR Ministers of Defence Meeting



ICGLR Executive Secretary Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita

Great Lakes region should support negative forces fighting against any Member state in line with the ICGLR protocol on non aggression and mutual defence;

In closing the meeting, the Chair of the Committee of Ministers of Defence thanked his colleagues and their representatives for their contribution that made the meeting achieve its indented objectives and wished them a safe return to their respective countries.

The Meeting expressed their profound gratitude to the Republic of Angola for the warm hospitality extended to the delegations and excellent facilities that enabled the success of the meeting

ICGLR Member States includes Republic of Angola, Republic of Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of Sudan, Republic of South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Uganda and Republic of Zambia.

urged MONUSCO and other UN agencies to repatriate South Sudanese rebels present in DRC or relocate them to other countries to avoid conflict with the DRC. The Ministers appealed for immediate provision of humanitarian assistance to the IDPs and refugees of South Sudan and recommended that pressure be exerted on the opposition to renounce violence and join the National Dialogue.

The meeting directed the EJVM to undertake a verification mission in Sudan focusing on the negative forces that attacked Sudan from 19th-21st May, 2017, and view the weapons and equipment as well as prisoners of war captured and encouraged the Sudan and South Sudan to remain committed

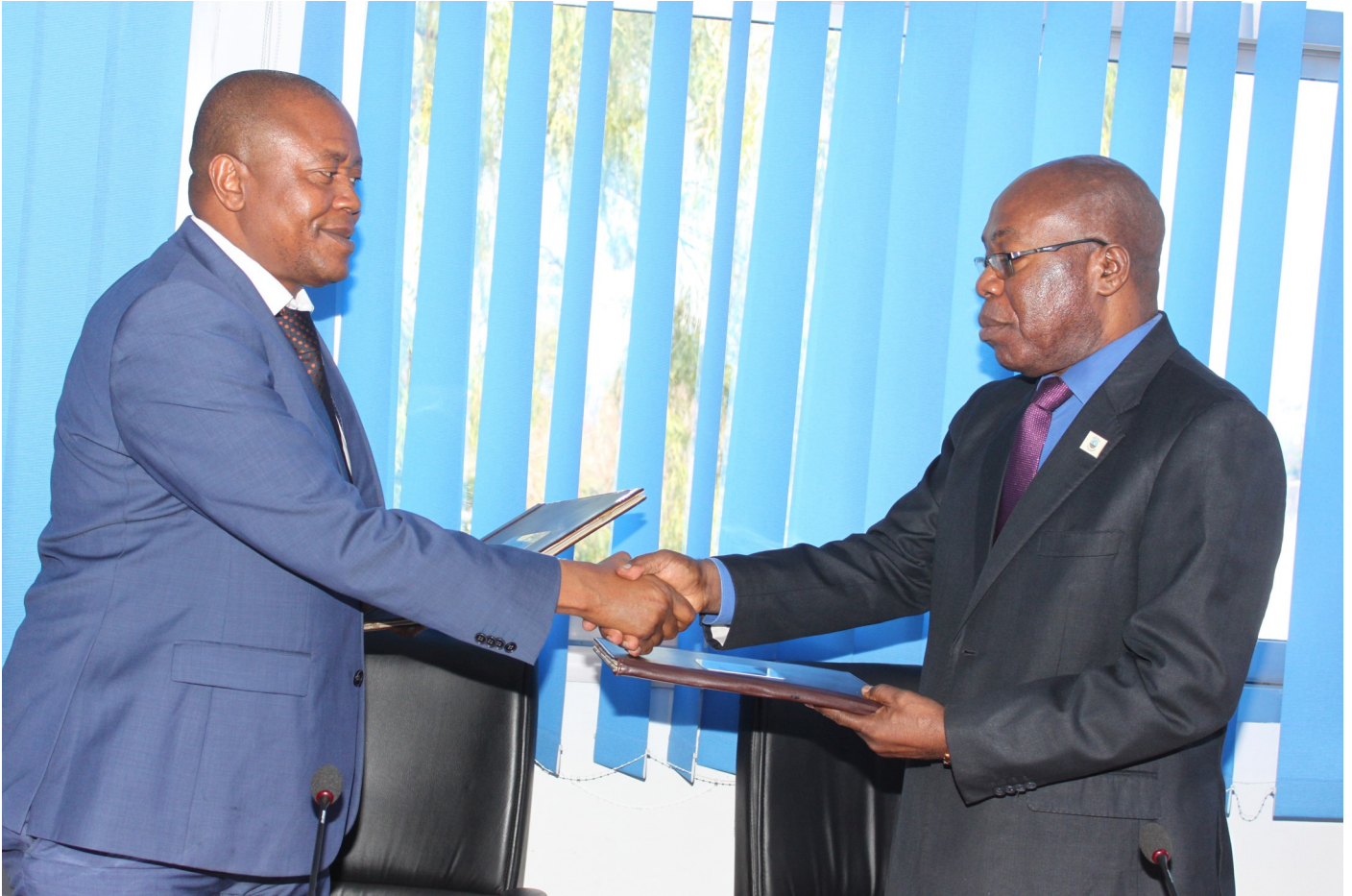
to the AU mediated mechanism to normalize their relations. The meeting reiterated that no Member State of the



ICGLR Executive Secretary Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita (L) with Angola Chief of the General Staff General Geraldo Sachipengo Nunda during the meeting of Chiefs of Defence



ICGLR sign MoU with EISA for Collaboration in electoral observation



EISA Executive Director, Mr. Denis Kadima (L) Exchange documents with Amb. Vincente Muanda, ICGLR Deputy Executive Secretary

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) for capacity building and research in areas of elections, political processes, rule of law and establishment of a joint technical team to participate in future elections.

The signing of the MoU by Mr. Denis Kadima the EISA Executive Director and Ambassador Vincente Muanda, the ICGLR Deputy Executive Secretary, on behalf of the ICGLR Executive

Secretary, Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita, came as a need by the two institutions to establish an effective mechanism of collaboration; joint actions in electoral observation; strengthening the crucial role of the ICGLR in promoting transparent and credible electoral processes and the resolve to promote democratic principles, good governance, peace and political stability in the Great Lakes Region.

The two institutions seek to work closely in areas of technical assistance to ICGLR through designing election

observation training and capacity strengthening programmes for Member States Long and Short Term Election Observation Missions. Further, the two institutions seek to Support and capacity strengthening of the Program for Democracy and Good Governance in areas of Electoral Observation; Capacity strengthening and facilitation of exchanges between election management bodies and institutions in charge of the promotion of democratic governance in Member States; and Capacity strengthening of electoral stakeholders in ICGLR Member States.



ICGLR-GVTC calls for tackling the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources



ICGLR Executive Secretary Amb. Zachary Muburi-Muita (L) and GVTC Executive Secretary Dr. Georges Muamba Thsibasus during their meeting

The Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita, paid a courtesy call on the Executive Secretary of the Greater Virunga Tran-boundary Collaboration (GVTC) Dr Georges Muamba Thsibasus, in Kigali Rwanda. The two principals agreed to cooperate in different fields including the tackling of the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Region.

The ICGLR and GVTC signed a Tripartite Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) in partnership with the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) in 2014 aiming at promoting cooperation between the Parties in the areas of environmental protection, conservation of biodiversity and the development of natural resources, conflict prevention and sustainable development of the Central Albertine Rift in the Great Lakes Region

In his welcoming remarks, Dr Thsibasus, recalled and appreciated the role played by ICGLR in support of GVTC

establishment in the Republic of Rwanda.

He said "in a recent past, the ICGLR supported GVTC to bring the three States members, i.e. DRC, Rwanda and Uganda to sign the Trans-boundary Collaboration Treaty".

Dr. Thsibasus continued to say that "the effective efforts made by the three countries, still requires support from ICGLR to be ratified by the Parliamentarians of the three countries, so that GVTC legal



ICGLR– GVTC Cooperation

personality and its credibility with various partners may be enhanced”.

On his part, Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita said he was very much satisfied to see the progress made by GVTC since its inception and promised to continue supporting it to meet its mission and objectives.

He said “conservation of natural resources and biodiversity is very crucial within the region” and emphasized that “without these natural resources and biodiversity, human lives within in the Great Lakes Region will be also threatened as endangered species”

Ambassador Muburi-Muita concluded his remarks by suggesting that “if natural resources are rationally exploited, they can inevitably contribute to the sustainable peace building and community development within the African Great Lakes Regions.

Under the MoU signed on the cooperation framework between the

ICGLR and the GVTC, and cognizant to the mandates, strengths, capabilities, organizational structures and internal regulations of the respective institutions, the cooperation Framework agreed to promote peace and security in the border areas including the eradication of armed groups and negative forces in protected areas and to develop and implement trans-boundary activities of environmental protection and conservation of biodiversity in the Central Albertine Rift also known as Greater Virunga Landscape which falls between Mount Rwenzori until the Virunga Massif and.

Further, the framework agreed to develop and support trans-boundary socio-economic activities in the areas referred to in Article 1 of the Protocol on Non-Aggression and Mutual Defense in the Great Lakes Region and Protocol on the specific reconstruction and development zone which includes zone one area comprising the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, The

West of Uganda and the West of Rwanda;

Zone nine area comprising the West of the United Republic of Tanzania, South of the Republic of Burundi, northern Republic of Zambia and the South East of the Democratic Republic of Congo and zone ten area which cater for the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Western Rwanda.

Great Lakes Region space consisting of all the territories of the 12 Member States of the ICGLR, namely the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Sudan, the Republic of South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda, the Republic of Zambia, as defined in the ICGLR Pact 2006 amended 2012.

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FOR PEACE, SECURITY, STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

Regional Civil Society Forum reviews the status of implementation of the Pact

The ICGLR Regional Civil Society Forum held its Regional Strategic Planning Meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 26th – 27 July, 2017 to review the status of implementation of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, and develop strategies to improve on the Follow-up Mechanism.

Established under the principles of ownership and inclusiveness, the Regional Civil Society Forum brought together Civil Society Organizations; representatives from the 12 member states; the ICGLR Secretariat; Youth, Women and Parliamentary forums; development partners and other stakeholders, to take stock of the



ICGLR Executive Secretary Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita giving his remarks

implementation of the Pact; develop

strategies to improve on the Follow-up Mechanism; discuss the security situation in South Sudan and advice on the appropriate interventions by all the stakeholders.

The meeting provided a platform for all the stakeholders to review the progress made by member states in implementation of their commitments focusing on the four thematic areas of Peace and Security; Democracy and Good Governance; Economic Development and Regional Integration; Humanitarian, Social and Environmental Issues as stipulated in the Pact.

The consolidated draft report compiled will be presented to the coming Summit of Heads of States and Government.



ICGLR Executive Secretary Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita greets the Former ICGLR Executive Secretary Ambassador Liberata Mulamula during the opening session

