

**FINAL DECLARATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE
GREAT LAKES REGIONS (ICGLR) AND THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN
DEVELOPEMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATES**

HELD IN BRAZZAVILLE ON THE 26th DECEMBER 2018

1. Upon the invitation of their Excellencies Messrs **Denis SASSOU N'GUESSO**, President of the Republic of Congo, current Chairman of ICGLR and **Hage G. GEINGOB**, President of the Republic of Namibia, current Chairman of SADC and, a Mini-Summit was held on December 26th, 2018 in Brazzaville and attended by :

- His Excellency Dr. **Hage G. GEINGOB**, President of the Republic of Namibia, current Chairman of SADC ;
- His Excellency Mr. **Denis SASSOU N'GUESSO**, President of the Republic of Congo, current Chairman of ICGLR ;
- His Excellency Mr. **Edgar Chagwa LUNGU**, President of the Republic of Zambia ;
- His Excellency Mr. **Jõao Manuel Gonçalves LOURENÇO**, President of the Republic of Angola ;
- His Excellency, Dr. **Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi**, President of the Republic of Botswana.

The summit was also attended by :

- His Excellency, Mr. **Richard SEZIBERA**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda ;
- His Excellency, Mr. **Abel Mxolisi Shilubane**, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa in DRC ;
- Major General **Julius CHIHANDAE**, Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Uganda in the Republic of Congo, residing in Kinshasa.
- His Excellency, Mr. **AMBA ABDOU ABARRY**, Ambassador of the African Union in DRC, representative of the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union ;
- Ambassador **Berthe Eliane MOKODOPO**, Deputy Executive Secretary of ICGLR.

2. The Heads of State considered the political and security situation in the Great Lakes region and the Southern African Development Community. In this respect, they reaffirmed the importance of peace, security and stability in these regions which are key to development.

3. Concerning the electoral process in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Heads of State raised their deep concerns in view of acts of violence which occurred during the electoral campaign in some localities, which may compromise conducive environment for the holding of elections.
4. The Heads of State recalled the need to fulfill the commitments made within the context of the pact on peace, security, and stability and the framework agreement on peace, security and development in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Great Lakes Region.
5. The Heads of State strongly encourage the Government of DRC to assure security of all candidates in the upcoming elections.
6. They welcomed the start of the electoral process as well as the opening of the political space in DRC. As a result, they strongly condemned the acts of violence perpetuated in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo by armed groups against civilians and the UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO).
7. The Heads of State also called the International Community to fully support DRC Government in their fight against the epidemic of Ebola. They expressed their solidarity and compassion towards victims of Ebola in the Region of Béni.
8. They deplored the destruction of some of the electoral materials on December 13th, 2018 in Kinshasa. They reaffirmed their profound commitment to the holding of peaceful, free, democratic and transparent elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
9. In this respect, the Heads of State noted the postponment of presidential, legislative and provincial elections from 23rd to 30th December, 2018.
10. The Heads of State called on political parties and civil society to exercise restraint in order for the elections take place in a peaceful environment.
11. The Heads of State reiterated their commiment and availability to support DRC during this electoral process. They also decided to send a delegation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Congo, representing the IGCLR, and of the Republic of Zambia, representing the SADC to Kinshasa, in

order to deliver a message on the outcome of the Summit to H.E Mister Joseph KABILA, President of DRC.

12. The Heads of State welcomed the deployment of observation missions by the African Union, SADC, ICGLR and ECCAS in the period leading up to the elections.
13. They expressed their satisfaction for the role played by the African Union in the search for durable solutions to the issues in the Great Lakes and SADC Regions and assigned the current Chairperson of the African Union Commission to keep on working for peace, security and development of the concerned countries.
14. The Heads of State expressed satisfaction regarding the meeting which took place in a brotherly and cordial atmosphere.
15. President **Denis SASSOU N'GUESSO** thanked his counterparts of Namibia, Angola, Zambia and Botswana for attending the meeting.
16. Their Excellencies, Messrs **Hage G. GEINGOB**, President of the Republic of Namibia, current Chairman of SADC ; **Egdar Chagwa LUNGU**, President of the Republic of Zambia ; **Jão Manuel Gonçalves LOURENÇO**, President of the Republic of Angola ; **MOKGWEETSI ERIC KEABETSWE MASISI**, President of the Republic of Botswana thanked His Excellency Mr. **Denis SASSOU N'GUESSO**, President of the Republic of Congo and the Congolese people for their welcome and hospitality, also granted to their delegations.
17. The Heads of State agreed to continue their consultations.

Done in Brazzaville, December, 26th 2018