



NOTE TO THE MEDIA

WHAT?

Regional Forum on the Implementation of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) Gold Strategy.

The ICGLR Secretariat and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo are organizing a regional forum on the implementation of the ICGLR ASM Gold Strategy under the theme, *“A Regional Mineral Supply Chain Tracking System, a Sustainable Solution to Responsible Artisanal Gold Trade in the Great Lakes Region”*.

The Strategy aims to contribute to efforts towards realising the ASM gold sector’s potential as a driver of economic growth and development in the Great Lakes region.

Following the adoption of the ICGLR ASM Gold Strategy by the 5th meeting of ICGLR ministers in charge of mines held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, on 7 December 2018, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo offered to host and finance a Regional Forum on the Implementation of the Strategy.

The overall purpose of the Regional Forum is to strengthen the ownership by stakeholders at the national, regional, and international levels of the ICGLR ASM Gold Strategy and to agree on its effective implementation modalities with a focus on the development of a regional gold tracking system. The strategy is implemented by Member States following the orientations of the ICGLR Regional Initiative on the Fight Against the Illegal Exploitation of natural Resources (RINR).

WHO?

This Regional Forum, organized in two segments: an experts meeting followed by a high officials’ gathering, will be hosted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo in collaboration with the ICGLR Secretariat, with the support of the Office of the United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands through GIZ.

Participants include representatives of the ICGLR Member States, regional organizations and mechanisms, private sector including women and young people intervening in the Artisanal and Small-scale Mining gold sector, civil society organizations, as well as regional and international partners in the fight against the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the

Great Lakes region. La stratégie est mise en œuvre par les États Membres conformément aux orientations de l'initiative régionale de la CIRGL sur la lutte contre l'exploitation illégale des ressources naturelles (RINR).

WHERE?

The Regional Forum will be held at Hilton Hotel in Kinshasa, DRC.

WHEN?

Tuesday, 12 September – Friday, 15 September 2023

12-14 September 2023: experts meeting

15 September 2023: high officials' segment
