



SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA

Bujumbura, Burundi 26th April 2025 -The Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) welcomes the signing of the declaration of principles between the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda in Washington on 25th April 2025 and expresses sincere appreciation to the Government of the United States of America for its pivotal role in facilitating signing said declaration.

This declaration marks a significant advancement, founded upon six interrelated pillars designed to promote peace, stability, and integrated economic development within the eastern region of the DRC. Such endeavours are crucial in addressing protracted conflicts and unlocking the region's inherent potential.

We commend the DRC and Rwanda for their mutual commitment to resolving disputes through diplomatic means, that is a commendable step forward. By acknowledging the legitimate security concerns existing along their shared border, both countries are exemplifying proactive engagement to fostering dialogue and collaboration.

Furthermore, ICGLR is delighted that both governments have expressed their intention to facilitate the safe and voluntary return of Internally Displaced Persons to their homes in eastern DRC once peace is restored. This commitment encompasses all DRC citizens displaced by conflict, irrespective of their current locations, thereby ensuring compliance with international legal standards.

ICGLR is confident that dialogue efforts will advance under the framework of the merged Luanda-Nairobi peace process and the ongoing peace talks in Doha. As ICGLR, we firmly uphold that the people of the Great Lakes region are entitled to live in a peaceful and harmonious environment.