



FINAL COMMUNIQUE

FIFTH MEETING OF ICGLR MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF MINES

Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

7th December 2018

38, Boulevard du Japon, B.P. 7076, Bujumbura, Burundi
Tel : +25722256824/79, Mob +25779344901
Email : secretariat@icglr.org Website : www.icglr.org

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Congo, in collaboration with the ICGLR Secretariat, the Fifth Meeting of ICGLR Ministers in charge of Mines was held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, on 7th December 2018. The meeting was preceded by the 18th Meeting of the Regional Committee on the Fight against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources from 5th to 6th December 2018.

1.2. The Ministers in charge of Mines or the Representatives of the following Member States took part in the meeting: Republic of Angola, Republic of Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of South Sudan and Republic of Uganda.

1.3. The Fifth Meeting of Ministers in charge of Mines in the Great Lakes Region recalled the Fifth Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Luanda, Angola, in January 2014, which encouraged the acceleration of implementation of the six tools to fight against the illegal exploitation of natural resources and recommended the extension of the certification process to other Member States, including the necessary conditions to guarantee the credibility of the process and strengthen the capacity of the ICGLR Audit Committee.

1.4. The Fifth Meeting of ICGLR Ministers in charge of Mines referred to the Third Meeting of Ministers in charge of Mines held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, on 6th November, 2014, which decided to hold meeting of Ministers in charge of the ICGLR Mines on annual basis.

1.5. The Fifth Meeting of Ministers in charge of Mines in the Great Lakes Region recalled the Sixth Ordinary Summit held in



Luanda, Republic Angola on 14th June 2016 which urged Member States to expedite the provision of the necessary financial and technical support for the implementation of the Six Tools of the Regional Initiative on Natural Resources and reiterated that the sustainability of the Initiative requires robust local and regional ownership; and, in addition, called on Member States to take greater ownership of the Regional Initiative on Natural Resources and its implementation in their respective countries, and to avail the necessary resources to guarantee its success.

1.6. The Fifth Meeting of ICGLR Ministers in charge of Mines recalled the Fourth meeting of Ministers in charge of Mines held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, on 21st October, 2016 which instructed the Secretariat of the ICGLR to find a lasting solution for the Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining in the Great Lakes Region and adopted the recommendation of the Regional Committee on Natural Resources regarding the Self-Financing Mechanism for the Regional Initiative on Natural Resources.

1.7. The Fifth Meeting of ICGLR Ministers in charge of Mines recalled the Seventh Ordinary Summit held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, on 19th October, 2017, which adopted the Self-financing Mechanism of the Regional Initiative on Natural Resources and the Model of Memorandum of Understanding between Member States and mineral traceability service providers.

2. RESOLUTIONS

By the end of the proceedings, the Ministers:

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- 2.1. Adopted the report of the 18th Meeting of the Regional Committee on the Fight against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo from 5th to 6th December 2018;
- 2.2. Committed to work with the national treasury offices or respective Ministries of Finance to agree on the modalities for implementing the decision of the 7th Ordinary Summit of ICGLR Heads of State and Government on the Self-Financing Mechanism for the Regional Initiative on Natural Resources;
- 2.3. Committed to review their Memorandums of Understanding with Supply Chain Tracking Systems based on the ICGLR Model Memorandum of Understanding;
- 2.4. Committed to take the necessary steps to ensure that traceability service providers immediately cease conducting audits on 3T mineral exporters in order to avoid duplication of audits, and therefore may not require any related levies;
- 2.5. Committed to take appropriate measures to require that exporters comply with ICGLR Third-Party Audits and encouraged 3T mineral exporters to subscribe to third-party ICGLR audits.
- 2.6. Approved the ICGLR Strategy for the Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining and urged Member States to take ownership of the recommendations and activities of the Strategy, with particular focus on those earmarked as high priorities.
- 2.7. Took note of the implementation of the Artisanal Gold Traceability Initiative (ITOA) in the Democratic Republic of Congo and encouraged the ICGLR Secretariat to conduct an evaluation of the Initiative for purposes of exploring the possibilities of its experimentation in other Member States.



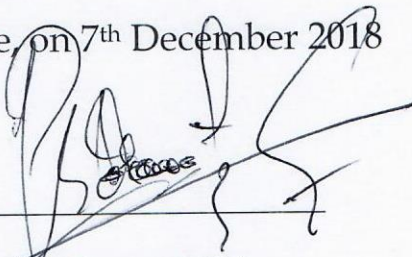
- 2.8. Invited the ICGLR Secretariat to commission a study on the harmonization of their gold-related fiscal policies;
- 2.9. Welcomed with satisfaction the offer of the Democratic Republic of Congo to host in July 2019 a Regional Forum to prepare the implementation of the ICGLR Strategy for the Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining.
- 2.10. Invited the ICGLR Secretariat to continue consultations in Member States on the revision of the Manual of the Regional Certification Mechanism and urged Member States to support and facilitate logistical arrangements for the consultations;
- 2.11. Urged Member States to take ownership of the Regional Guide for the Formalization of the Artisanal and Small Scale Mining Sector in the Great Lakes Region;
- 2.12. Urged the ICGLR Secretariat to remain the reference platform for linking the Regional Initiative on the Fight against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources with international mechanisms and regulations for responsible sourcing of minerals;
- 2.13. Urged Member States which have not yet presented their national roadmaps to finalise them and submit them to the ICGLR Secretariat by the next meeting of the Regional Committee. Binding provisions should be developed and applied to Member States which are not advanced in the implementation of the Regional Initiative on Natural Resources;
- 2.14. Took note of the proposal of the Regional Committee to integrate "gender" as the 7th Tool of the Regional Initiative on Natural Resources and committed to submit the proposal to the next Summit of ICGLR Heads of State and Government for approval.



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- 2.15. Took note of the request of the Republic of Angola for the ICGLR Secretariat to accompany them in the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining.
- 2.16. Invited the ICGLR Secretariat to update the Business Plan on the Implementation of the Regional Initiative on the Fight against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources.
- 2.17. Welcomed with satisfaction the offer of the Republic of Burundi to host the 19th meeting of the Regional Committee on Natural Resources in April 2019.

Done in Brazzaville, on 7th December 2018



His Excellence Pierre OBA

Minister of Mines and Geology of the Republic of Congo and Chair of
the Meeting