

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION



SECRETARIAT EXÉCUTIF  
CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE  
SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS

## COMMUNIQUE

# MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION (ICGLR) MINISTERS OF DEFENCE ON THE PROBLEM OF NEGATIVE FORCES IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011,  
KIGALI, RWANDA

1. The meeting of ICGLR Ministers of Defence on the problem of negative forces in the Great Lakes Region was held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in Kigali, Republic of Rwanda. The Meeting was co-chaired by Honourable Gen. James Kabarebe, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Rwanda and Hon. Crispus Kiyonga, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Uganda.
2. In attendance were: H.E. Gen. Pontien Gaciyubwenge, Minister of National Defence and former Combatants of the Republic of Burundi, H.E. Colonel Jean Francis Bozize, Minister of Defence of the Central African Republic (CAR), H.E. Charles Zacharia Bowao, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Congo, H.E. Charles Mwando Nsimba, Minister of National Defence and former Combatants of the Democratic Republic of Republic (DRC), Hon. Crispus Kiyonga, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Uganda, and Hon. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, Minister of Defence and National Service of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Admiral Gaspar Santos Rufino, Vice-Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Angola, Hon. David Musila, Assistant Minister of State for Defence of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Prof. Elias Nyamlell Wakoson, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of South Sudan was invited to participate as observer. The Republic of Zambia was represented by Dr. Nicolas Kwendakwema, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence and General Mubarak Abd Allah Babikir represented the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Sudan.
3. Also in attendance were Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, Executive Secretary of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), H.E. Amb. Welile Nhlapo, South Africa's Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region, ICGLR Defence and Security Experts, ICGLR National Coordinators, and representatives from African Union (AU), European Union (EU), United Nations Stabilization Mission in Congo (MONUSCO), RECSA, CEPGL, COMESA, Transnational Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme (TDRP-World Bank) and the USA Government.
4. The objectives of the meeting were among others, to share and exchange information on the nefarious activities of the negative forces in the region, assess progress made in combating the negative forces through the various bilateral and regional initiatives and to deliberate on the strategies that will enhance the capabilities of the Region to effectively fight against the negative forces.

5. The Ministers considered and adopted the report of the meeting of experts of Defence and Security on the problem of the negative forces.
6. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the efforts in the fight against negative forces in the region and committed themselves to expeditiously implement the ICGLR *"Protocol on Non -Aggression and Mutual Defence in the Great Lakes Region"*.
7. The Ministers resolved to work with the international and regional organisations to restrict freedom of movements and arrest negative forces, genocide suspects and war criminals within member countries.
8. The Ministers welcomed the AU initiative to deal with the LRA in the Great Lakes Region and urged the AU to extend the initiative to cover all the other negative forces in the region.
9. The Ministers undertook to support and facilitate implementation of the cessation clause on Rwandan refugees due in December 31, 2011.
10. The Ministers agreed to Integrate and implement the Best Practice Guidelines on Practical Disarmament developed by RECSA.
11. The Ministers resolved to include the fight against terrorism in the ICGLR Member States Regional effort against the negative forces.
12. The Ministers received an update on the security and humanitarian situation in Somalia and expressed sympathy and solidarity with the people of Somalia. They commended the AMISOM force for its contribution in stabilizing Somalia and called upon the ICGLR to solicit for support to AMISOM.
13. The Ministers appreciated the support of international community, in particular the United Nations, the United States and the European Union in efforts to fight the Negative Forces in the region.

Finally, the Ministers expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of Rwanda for hosting the meeting and for the warm hospitality.

**Done in Kigali, Republic of Rwanda  
On 9<sup>th</sup> September 2011**