



**COMMUNIQUE OF THE
MEETING OF THE ICGLR REGIONAL INTERMINISTERIAL
COMMITTEE**

BRAZZAVILLE, OCTOBER 15TH, 2019

We, Members of the ICGLR Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee from all Member States met in plenary today, Tuesday 15th October, 2019, in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo in order to review the security and political situation in the Member States.

Cognizant of the critical role of the ICGLR as a conflict prevention and resolution mechanism of the Member States of the region, and following extensive deliberations on various submissions from the Member States, the meeting:

1. Assessed the security and political situation in the Member States of our organization and noted several positive developments that merit encouragement and support;
2. Commended the Democratic Republic of Congo for the organisation of successful and transparent self-financed elections that led to a peaceful handover of power;
3. Commended the recently signed MOU between the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Rwanda to begin the process of resolving misunderstanding between the two countries;
4. Commended H.E. Yoweri K Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, and H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda for their brotherly and reconciliatory spirit, and urged the two sisterly countries to fully implement the provisions of the MOU towards restoring the historically strong relations between them;

5. Commended H.E. Denis Sassou N’Guesso, President of the Republic of Congo and Chair of the ICGLR, H.E João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, and H.E. Felix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, for the brotherly intervention to ensure the peaceful resolution of issues between the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Rwanda;
6. Expressed support to the ongoing peace process in the Republic of South Sudan, and appealed to all parties to respect the Revitalized Peace Agreement and expedite the establishment of the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGONU) to consolidate sustainable peace for the long-suffering people of South Sudan;
7. Called on the United Nations, the United States and the EU to lift the arms embargo on the state and sanctions imposed on individuals in the Republic of South Sudan as an incentive for the peace process in the country at this critical juncture, and in light of the current positive role played by the Republic of South Sudan in the ongoing peace process in the Republic of Sudan;
8. Commended and congratulated the African Union (AU) and the Government of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia for their joint successful mediation in the Republic of the Sudan that ensured the transition to civilian rule;
9. Saluted the positive developments in the Republic of Sudan since the establishment of the transitional government, and appealed to all Member States and the international community to extend support and encouragement to the Sudan as it works to consolidate peace in the rest of the country and revive the economy.
10. Expressed appreciation for the launch of the mediation process between the Government of the Sudan and Opposition Forces (armed and civil) under the auspices of H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan, in Juba, and called on the region to continue supporting this process;
11. Called on the United States of America to expedite the removal of the Republic of the Sudan from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, which are no longer justified after the transition to a civilian government that is committed to international law, peace and stability;

12. Called on Member States and the broader international community to support the peace process in the Central African Republic, to ensure that there is no relapse to conflict;
13. Commended the recent partial lifting of the UN Arms Embargo on the CAR, and expressed the hope that the peace process will be sustained to ensure complete lifting in the near future;
14. Called on the International Community to extend humanitarian assistance to the Member States hosting huge numbers of refugees, and called for addressing the root causes of refugees fleeing their home countries;
15. Commended the Republic of Burundi on the prevailing peace and tranquillity throughout the country;
16. Noted with satisfaction the voluntary return of Burundian refugees to the country, and the ongoing opening of the political space and return of opposition figures from exile;
17. Called on the EU to lift unilateral sanctions imposed on the Republic of Burundi;
18. Called on the region and the broader international community to positively engage with the Government of the Republic of Burundi on consolidating peace and ensuring a fair, free and transparent electoral process in 2020;
19. Commended the political courage exhibited by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta in meeting and agreeing with former Prime Minister Raila Odinga on reconciliatory steps to consolidate stability in the Republic of Kenya;
20. Called on all Member States of the ICGLR to ratify the Protocol on Amendment to the Constitutive Act of the African Union Charter for the adoption of Swahili as an official language;
21. We hereby express gratitude to H.E. Denis Sassou N’Guesso, President of the Republic and Chair of the ICGLR, and the government and people of the Republic of Congo for the generous hospitality and excellent facilities accorded to ensure the success of our meeting.

Done in Brazzaville on 15th October, 2019.