

**SECRETARIAT
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION**



**SECRÉTARIAT
CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE
SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS**

**REPORT OF THE 29TH MEETING OF THE ICGLR
REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE FIGHT AGAINST THE
ILLEGAL EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

4TH - 5TH NOVEMBER 2024

**PYRAMID CONTINENTAL HOTEL,
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN**



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In accordance with the Protocol on the fight against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, which is an integral part of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, and in line with the Rules of Procedures of the Regional Committee against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, the 29th Meeting of the ICGLR Regional Committee against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources was held from 4th to 5th November 2024 at the Pyramid Continental Hotel, Juba, Republic of South Sudan.

1.2 The main objectives of the meeting were:

1.2.1 to receive updates on the implementation of the six tools from Member States, the Conference Secretariat, the ICGLR Audit Committee and the Regional Database Technical Working Group.

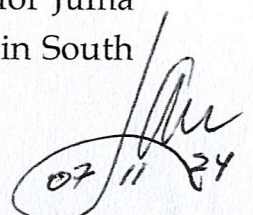
1.2.2 to review the Draft Regional Guidelines on Mineral Beneficiation, Value Addition, and Cross-Border Trade in the Great Lakes Region

1.2.3 to receive the report of the subcommittee established by recommendation 4.4 of the 28th meeting to propose the way forward of the AFP Project when the BGR support ends.

1.3 The following Member States participated in the meeting: the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania the Republic of Uganda, and the Republic of Zambia. The ICGLR Audit Committee and the Regional Database Technical Working Group Chairpersons also participated in the meeting. The partners on the RINR, namely AMGC, IMPACT, UN OSESG-GL and GIZ, were also present as observers.

2. OPENING SESSION

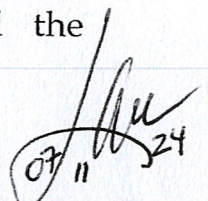
2.1 The opening ceremony was honoured by several distinguished guests, including Dr Cosmas Pitia Kujjo, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Mining and Guest of Honour, and Mrs Scholastica Nzembi Mwau, Representative of the ICGLR Executive Secretary. Also present were Ambassador Juma Dino Amoi, Representative of the ICGLR National Coordinator in South



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Sudan, and Eng. Estanislau Buio, Chairperson of the ICGLR Regional Committee on the fight against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources.

- 2.2 The Representative of the ICGLR National Coordinator, Amb. Juma Dino Amoi welcomed all participants to Juba, South Sudan, for the 29th ICGLR Regional Committee meeting. He reiterated that the Republic of South Sudan has maintained positive relations with the ICGLR since joining the organisation in 2012. He also commended the work being done by the ICGLR in general, particularly the ICGLR Regional Committee on the fight against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources. He ended his remarks by reassuring the country's commitment to cooperation with the ICGLR Secretariat and Member States.
- 2.3 In his remarks, Eng. Estanislau Buio, the Chairperson of the Regional Committee against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, appreciated the warm welcome extended to the delegates by the Government of South Sudan. He outlined the recommendations from the previous Regional Committee meeting held in the Republic of Rwanda in April 2024. The Chairperson stated that the Regional Committee against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources is a vital ICGLR organ established by the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region to oversee and monitor the level of implementation of the Protocol on the fight against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources. He ended his remarks by outlining the agenda for the meeting to the Committee members.
- 2.4 Representing the ICGLR Executive Secretary, Mrs. Scholastica Mwau expressed the ICGLR's gratitude to the Government of South Sudan through Dr. Cosmas Pitia Kujjo, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Mining and Guest of Honour, for the warm welcome and for hosting the 29th meeting of the ICGLR Regional Committee. She extended appreciation to all the members of the Regional Committee and development partners, particularly AMGC, GIZ, and IMPACT, for their participation in the meeting. Further, she commended the logistical arrangements and hospitality the Government and the people of the Republic of South Sudan extended to the meeting delegations. She also acknowledged the



significant progress in implementing the Six Tools of the Regional Initiative on the fight against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR), specifically the Regional Certification Mechanism. She concluded her remarks by recalling that the committee had guided the Natural Resources Technical Unit in developing crucial guidelines for mineral value addition and cross-border trade, an essential element for fostering economic growth and stability in our region and providing valuable feedback on enhancing the regional mineral market.

- 2.5 In his opening remarks, the Guest of Honour, Dr. Cosmas Pitia Kujjo, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of South Sudan and thanked the ICGLR Secretariat for holding the 29th ICGLR Regional Committee meeting in Juba. He stated that South Sudan has been a full member of the ICGLR family shortly after its independence when it endorsed the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region in February 2013. He also recalled that the mining sector is the backbone of most African countries, especially the Great Lakes countries. He assured the meeting that his government was fully committed to implementing the RINR to provide sustainable, conflict-free mineral exploitation and trade. He also recognised the challenging task of the Regional Committee. He concluded his statement by inviting all members to participate in the forthcoming Regional Forum on Mineral Value Addition and Cross-border Trade, which will take place on 6th-7th November 2024 at Pyramid Hotel and the Ministerial Meeting scheduled for 8th November 2024.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

After the opening ceremony, the meeting adopted the agenda as Annex I (Approved agenda of the 29th meeting of the Regional Committee on the fight against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources).

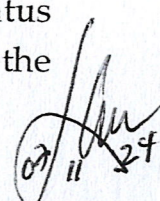
4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee thoroughly discussed all agenda items and made the following decisions and recommendations:

- 4.1. Given the current critical financial situation at the Conference Secretariat, Member States must fulfil their financial commitments for ensuring

smooth implementation of ICGLR activities. The meeting resolved to put the item of Member States' contributions on the agenda of the Ministers in charge of Mines to be held on 8th November 2024.

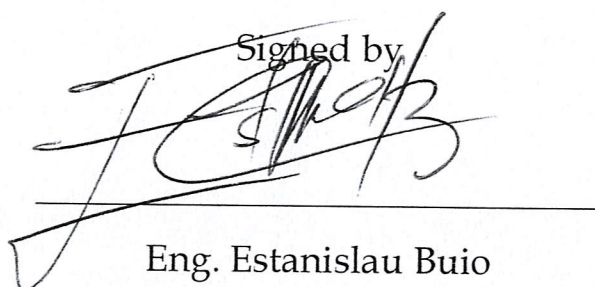
- 4.2. Based on the updates on the national roadmap on the implementation of the six tools, the ICGLR Secretariat is requested to organise advisory and technical support on the implementation of the RINR for the Republic of Angola and the Republic of Burundi, specifically on the ICGLR Strategy on ASM gold. The Secretariat should also organise advisory and technical support for the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of Sudan especially on the harmonisation of its legal framework with the provisions of the Protocol on the fight against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources.
- 4.3. Based on the presentation made by the Central African Republic on the implementation status of the Six Tools, the Committee directed that the Conference Secretariat, with the support of its partners, provide technical and advisory support for the effective implementation of the Regional Certification Mechanism in the Central African Republic.
- 4.4. The Regional Committee noted the recent sensitisation workshops organised in Burundi on the ASM Gold sector and requested the Conference Secretariat to continue supporting Burundi in implementing recommendations from these workshops.
- 4.5. The Regional Committee took note of the report of the Republic of Kenya on the status of implementation of the six tools of the RINR and reiterated the need for a regulation on transit minerals, given that Kenya is a major transit country for gold from ICGLR Member States.
- 4.6. The Regional Committee commended the Democratic Republic of Congo for the significant progress in implementing the Regional Certification Mechanism, especially the Third-Party Audit Program. The Committee encouraged the Audit Committee to work with relevant institutions in the DRC to implement the remaining audits.
- 4.7. Based on the Republic of Zambia's updates on the implementation status of the Six Tools, the Regional Committee noted, with satisfaction, the



offer of the Republic of Zambia to host the next Forum on the EITI in 2025.

- 4.8. Following the discussion on the presentation of the report of the subcommittee on the AFP in accordance with the recommendation of the 28th meeting of the Regional Committee, the meeting recommended to send the report back to the subcommittee for further consultation, with the addition of DRC as a member and inclusion of Angola as observer. AMGC will be invited to the work of the subcommittee to share its preferred option on financial capacity to run the analytical laboratory.
- 4.9. Based on the presentation of the report on the development of the Regional Guidelines on Mineral Value Addition and Cross-Border Trade, the meeting requested the Conference Secretariat to organize a virtual meeting by the first week of December 2024 to review and approve the Guidelines. For this, Member States are requested to submit written inputs on the report to the consultants for incorporation by 30th November 2024.
- 4.10. **Venue and date of next meeting:** The 30th meeting of the Regional Committee on Natural Resources will be held in in April 2025 in the Republic of Kenya. The ICGLR Secretariat will consult the Government of the republic of Kenya through diplomatic channels.

Done in Juba on 5th November 2024

Signed by


Eng. Estanislau Buio

**Chairperson of the Regional Committee against the Illegal
Exploitation of Natural Resources**