



Regional High Level Consultation of Ministers in Charge of Justice and Gender on the Kampala Declaration on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

Final Communiqué

- I. The ICGLR Regional High Level Consultation with Ministers in Charge of Justice and Gender from the Great Lakes Region met in Grand Hotel, Kinshasa 28 July 2012 to follow up on the ICGLR Heads of State and Government Kampala Declaration on SGBV and its Work Plan, in particular the implementation of Decisions 2, 7 and 8. The Meeting was opened by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Budget of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), HE Daniel Mukoko Samba and chaired by Hon Frederick Ruhindi, Minister of State of Justice & Constitutional Affairs of Uganda;
- II. In attendance were: H.E. Ms. Ana Canene Meireles de Vasconcelos Deputy Minister of Justice of Angola; Ms. Petro Koni Zeze, Zarambaud Minister of National Solidarity and Social Affairs and Gender from Central Africa Republic; H.E Ms. Wivine Mumba Matipa Minister of Justice & Human Rights, DRC; H.E.Hon. G  nevi  ve Inagosi Bulu Ibambi Minister of Gender, Family and Children of DRC; H.E. Moubangat Moukonzi Alphonse Dinard Permanent Secretary for State Ministry of the Republic of Congo; H.E. Madeleine Yila Boumpoto Minister for Women Promotion and Women integration in Development of the Republic of Congo; H.E. Hon. Keya Atanas Manyala, Minister for Gender & Children, and Social Development of Kenya; H.E. Ibrahim Adam Ibrahim State Minister at the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security of Sudan; H.E. Julienne Munyaneza Permanent Secretary/ Ministry of Gender & Family Promotion of Rwanda; H.E. Hon. Sophia Simba, Minister of Community Development, Gender & Children of Tanzania; H.E. Hon. Aboubakar Khamis Bakari, Minister of Constitutional Affairs and Justice of Tanzania; H.E. Hon. Rukia Isanga Nakadama, Minister in Charge of gender, Labour & Social Development of Uganda; H.E. Hon. Anjellah J. Kariuki, Deputy Minister for Justice & Constitutional Affairs of Tanzania; H.E. Hon. Alfreda Kansembe, Deputy Minister of Justice of Zambia; H.E. Hon. Esther Mwilwa Banda Deputy Minister of Gender & Child Development of Zambia; Ms. Victoire Nahimana Permanent Secretary of Burundi Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender; H.E. Hon. William Cheptumo Deputy, Minister for Justice, National Cohesion & Constitutional Affairs Kipkorir, of Kenya; Mr. Essam Aldeen Abdulgadir Undersecretary of the Minister of Justice of Sudan;
- III. Several personalities have taken floor at the High Level Consultation, namely: the Justice Minister of Uganda, the Gender Minister of Uganda, the Justice Minister of DRC, the Gender Minister of DRC, the ICGLR Executive Secretary, the Chairperson of the Regional Women Forum, and the Representative of UNWOMEN in DRC;

Executive Secretariat

International Conference on the Great Lakes Region

Avenue du Gouvernement, B. P. 7076, Bujumbura, Burundi

Tel: + 257 22 25 6824/5/7/9, Mob +257 79 344 901 Fax: (00257) 22 25 6828

Email: secretariat@icglr.org Website : www.icglr.org

- IV. Also in attendance were representatives of regional and international organizations, Diplomatic Corps and ICGLR Civil Society, Youth, Parliament and Women Fora;
- V. The objective of the meeting was to strategise on the implementation of the Decisions made by the Heads of State and Government in Kampala Uganda on 15-16th December 2011 with particular emphasis on decision 2, 7 and 8 pertaining the need to accelerate the domestication process of the ICGLR Protocol on *Non aggression and Mutual Defence, the Protocol on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children as well as the Protocol on Judicial Cooperation*, in order to eradicate existing armed groups, combat Sexual and Gender Based Violence and cooperate in matters of extradition, judicial investigation and prosecution of perpetrators (**Decision 2**); to launch the **Zero Tolerance Now** campaign on SGBV crimes and impunity (**Decision 7**); and lastly on the establishing and strengthening of Special Courts, Sessions and Procedures in order to fast track SGBV cases in the Police and the Judiciary (with adequate financing, facilities and gender sensitive Officers) to improve access to justice and protect SGBV victims/survivors (**Decision 8**);
- VI. The High Level Meeting was addressed by Minister of Justice of Uganda, Minister of Gender of Uganda, the Minister of Justice of DRC, the Executive Secretary of the ICGLR, the Chairperson of the Regional Women Forum, the Minister of Gender of DRC;
- VII. The Ministers of Justice and Gender received, considered and adopted the recommendations of the Regional Experts Meeting;
- VIII. In their deliberations, the Ministers of Justice and Gender took cognizance of the importance of the Kampala SGBV Declaration on SGBV in general and **Decisions 2,7 and 8** in particular, namely: on domestication, special courts, sessions and zero tolerance on SGBV crimes and impunity, reiterating that Member States should as a matter of urgency address the issue of Negative Forces as envisaged in the Kampala

Declaration on SGBV (2012) and the Addis Ababa Extraordinary Summit Declaration (2012) on Negative Forces;

- IX. In order to implement the Kampala Declaration and to fast-track **decisions 2,7 and 8**, the Ministers decide as follows:

On Domestication Process (Decision 2)

1. The Ministers of Justice and Gender from the ICGLR Member States commit to simplify, translate and accordingly disseminate the provisions of the three Protocols, namely: the **Protocol on non-Aggression and Mutual Defence**, the **Protocol on the Prevention and the Suppression of Sexual violence against Women and Children** and the **Protocol on Judicial Cooperation** to all stakeholders and lobby all those involved in the domestication process within Government, Parliament, Law Enforcement Institutions, Regional Women Forum, Civil Society and the Citizenry for speeding up the domestication process;
2. The Ministers of Justice and Gender from the ICGLR Member States request the ICGLR Conference Secretariat to formulate Model legislations with a view to assist the domestication process;
3. The Ministers of Justice and Gender from the ICGLR Member States commit to develop Action Plans with measurable indicators/steps and a time frame to facilitate tracking of the domestication process within three (3) months after this Meeting;
4. The Ministers of Gender from the ICGLR Member States request the Ministers of Justice to designate a Legal Focal Point officer, where she/he doesn't exist, to work closely with the ICGLR National Coordinator in order to speed up the domestication process of the relevant ICGLR Instruments;

On Establishment and Strengthening of Special Courts, Sessions and Procedures on SGBV (Decision 8)

5. The Ministers of Justice from the ICGLR Member States commit to coordinate with their respective Chief Justices, where necessary, to establish and strengthen Special Courts to handle SGBV cases and provide progress reports to the Conference Secretariat by December 2012;
6. The Ministers of Justice from the ICGLR Member States Commit to strengthen existing Courts/ Tribunals, as the case may be, in each Member State by broadening the jurisdiction of relevant Courts; building the capacity of staff involved in case handling and designating specialized services so as to enable the Courts/ Tribunals to effectively handle SGBV cases;
7. The Ministers of Justice from the ICGLR Member States Commit to use existing institutions to organize Special Sessions, establish Mobile Courts by December 2012 to handle SGBV cases and allocate sufficient funds for operationalisation of SGBV Courts and Sessions;
8. The Ministers of Justice from the ICGLR Member States commit to create, where feasible, SGBV case procedures to deny any request for amnesty or parole for perpetrators of SGBV and amend national laws to make them more deterrent in order to comply with zero tolerance on SGBV crimes and impunity;
9. The Ministers responsible for Gender from the ICGLR Member States commit to establish National Coordination Committees on SGBV comprising of relevant stakeholders including: Ministry of Justice, Security, Social Affairs, Judiciary, Health, Police/Investigator, Medical Experts, Social Workers, Probation Officers, Lawyers, Military, Prison Officers, Psychosocial Officers, Community Based Organizations, media Non Governmental Organizations, National Human Rights Institutions and Faith Based Organizations, to coordinate SGBV prevention and response;

10. The Ministers of Justice from the ICGLR Member States commit to adopt common procedures for flagrant SGBV crime in all Member States with a time limit of investigation and trial not exceeding six (6) months;
11. The Ministers of Justice and Gender from the ICGLR Member States Commit to introduce scientific based evidence in the Justice System through the use of DNA technology and other effective measures as a mechanism for prevention and action against SGBV;
12. The Ministers of Justice from the ICGLR Member States commit to ensure access to justice for victims/survivors to include free legal representation and reparation;

On SGBV “Zero Tolerance Now” Campaign (Decision 7)

13. The Ministers of Justice and Gender from the ICGLR Member States commit to simultaneously launch the “**Zero Tolerance Now**” campaign in every ICGLR Member State on **25th November 2012**, coinciding with the 16 days of activism and ensure that the campaign is sustained for two (2) years;
14. The objectives of the campaign are to raise awareness, reduce stigma from survivors and occurrence of SGBV cases within communities; initiate training programmes in school curricula; strengthen and implement the law to end impunity and improve the living conditions of victims and assist to access justice;
15. Each country to decide on the venue to launch the **Zero Tolerance Now** campaign on SGBV crimes and impunity, bearing in mind that the venue must be of national significance;
16. The campaign to be coordinated by an Inter-Ministerial Committee and the launch to be led by the Heads of State and the First Ladies. The launch to involve all stakeholders, including: Ministries of Justice, Gender, Judiciary, Police/Investigator, Military, Health, Media and Security, Medical Experts, Social Workers, Probation Officers, Lawyers, Prison Officers,

Psychosocial Officers, Community Based Organizations, Non Governmental Organizations, Traditional Leaders, Women, Men, Youth, Political Parties, Human Rights Institutions, Vulnerable Groups, Persons with Disabilities and Faith Based Organizations;

17. The Ministers of Justice and Gender from the ICGLR Member States commit to work with all relevant public and private stakeholders, in particular with telecommunication companies in Member States to disseminate sharp anti-SGBV short messages to all mobile telephone users in different languages; Examples of anti-SGBV messages to include: (i) “Stop SGBV”, (ii) “say no to violence against women”, (iii) “weak men rape” (iv) “men of value don’t rape”, (v) “Rapist: How would you feel if it were your mother, sister or daughter?” (vi) “United to end SGBV impunity”;
18. The activities of the campaign to include but not limited to: SGBV caravans in all Member States; voluntary contribution of the equivalent of a one dollar per person in the ICGLR Member States and by well wishers for victims of SGBV;
19. Funds for the Zero tolerance campaign to be mobilized from Governments, Development Partners, Public and Private Sector;
20. The communication strategy to include Drama, Talk Shows, Songs, Adverts, Radio and TV Programs, Social Networks and other appropriate methods for targeted audiences;
21. The campaigns outcome to include more reported SGBV cases, more perpetrators prosecuted and convicted, new or amended national laws, policies and programmes responding to SGBV issues;

General

22. The Ministers of Justice and Gender from the ICGLR Member States commit to provide, on regular basis, gender disaggregated data and relevant information on the above recommendations, to enable the Conference Secretariat through the Levy Mwanawasa Centre to monitor, evaluate progress and report to RIMC on the Member States` implementation of these decisions in particular and the Kampala Declaration in general;
23. The Ministers of Justice and Gender from the ICGLR Member States request Development Partners to support the ICGLR Member States where necessary, by providing technical assistance, training and funding for the implementation of SGBV Special Courts and Sessions, the **Zero Tolerance Campaign** and domestication of Protocols;
24. The Ministers of Justice and Gender from the ICGLR Member States commit to strengthen the Regional Research and Documentation Centre on Women, Gender peace building in the Great Lakes Region so that it can fulfill its mandate;
25. The Ministers of Gender and Justice request the ICGLR Secretariat to expedite the budget of the Regional Training Facility that Uganda had offered to host as per **Decision 14** of the Kampala Declaration.

Done in Kinshasa, DRC
28th July 2012