



PRESS STATEMENT ON THE ESCALATION IN SOUTH KIVU IN THE EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Bujumbura, Burundi, 12th December 2025 – The Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) wishes to express its profound concern over the increasingly troubling security situation in South Kivu, particularly following the capture of Uvira by the AFC/M23 coalition, a strategic town close to the DRC–Burundi border. The ongoing conflict risks destabilising the whole region. It has initiated widespread displacement, forcing many individuals and large numbers of families to flee to Rwanda and Burundi, leading to a rise in refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who are now in urgent need of assistance.

The ICGLR vehemently condemns the violence inflicted upon innocent civilians. We urge all involved parties to take immediate steps towards de-escalation and to honour their responsibilities in line with international humanitarian law. It is essential to prioritize the protection of civilians and to fulfill the commitments outlined in peace agreements, notably the Washington Accords recently signed between the DRC and Rwanda, as well as the Framework Agreement finalized in Doha on November 15, 2025, between the Government of the DRC and AFC/M23 coalition.

In this critical moment, ICGLR calls upon all parties to uphold the ceasefire and demonstrate a genuine commitment to dialogue. The ICGLR stands ready to facilitate diplomatic efforts aimed at fostering peace, with a particular focus on ensuring the safety and well-being of civilians in South Kivu and the wider Great Lakes Region.

ICGLR encourages all ICGLR Member States to continue their unwavering support for the ongoing peace process in eastern DRC, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 2773 and other agreements in this regard.

Finally, ICGLR appeals to the international community to urgently increase humanitarian assistance to the affected populations and to work collaboratively to ensure safe and unhindered access to those who are suffering during this crisis.

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