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## PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ

**Livingstone, Zambia. 07<sup>th</sup> January 2026** – The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) will hold an Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee of Ministers of Defence on 10 January 2026 in Livingstone, Republic of Zambia, to deliberate on the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and its wider regional implications. This important gathering brings together the 12 ICGLR member States, namely Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, DRC, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

The Extraordinary Meeting seeks to forge a unified and coordinated regional response, in line with the [ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development](#) and the [Protocol on Non-Aggression and Mutual Defence](#). Ministers of Defence will assess the security and humanitarian situation on the ground, review the formulation of the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism Plus (EJVM+) and the Terms of Reference of the Ceasefire Oversight and Monitoring Mechanism signed in Doha, Qatar, on 14 October 2025 between the Government of DRC and the AFC/M23. The EJVM+ is designed to serve as the operational body of the Ceasefire Oversight and Monitoring Mechanism agreed in Doha. It operates within the current ICGLR EJVM, with the inclusion of balanced representation from the FARDC and the AFC/M23, supported by MONUSCO for logistical support.

In accordance with ICGLR statutory procedures, the Ministers of Defence meeting will be preceded by an Extraordinary Meeting of the Specialised Committee of Defence Experts on 8 January 2026, and an Extraordinary Meeting of the Chiefs of Defence Forces/Staff on 9 January 2026, both to be held in Livingstone.

The meetings will bring together Defence representatives of ICGLR Member States, officials of the ICGLR Secretariat, including the ICGLR Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM) and the ICGLR Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre (JIFC). The ICGLR Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Zambia, is coordinating all organisational and logistical arrangements, including facilitation of media coverage.

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