



## Press Statement

**Livingstone, Zambia – January 13, 2026** – The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) held an Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee of Ministers of Defence on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026, in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Zambia, in Livingstone, Zambia. This meeting aimed to address the critical security and humanitarian issues in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and their regional implications.

Ministers from ICGLR member states—Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, DRC, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia—discussed creating a unified regional response aligned with the ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability, and Development, Doha Peace Framework, and Washington Accords. The ministers adopted measures to improve regional stability, including:

- (a) Approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the ICGLR and the Government of the DRC and AFC/M23 as parties of the Doha Declaration of Principles on the operationalisation of the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism Plus (EJVM+) and the Terms of Reference for the Ceasefire Oversight and Verification Mechanism by EJVM+; and
- (b) Endorsing the appointments of the new EJVM Commander, Brigadier General Charles Simuyuni Nakeempa, from the Republic of Zambia, and his Deputy Commander, Colonel Arlindo Sebastião Vandunem Fernandes, from the Republic of Angola.

Over and above, the Ministers of Defence reaffirmed their commitment to the ICGLR Protocol on Non-Aggression and Mutual Defence; comply with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2773, and expressed their support to the Doha Peace Framework Agreement, and the Washington Accords.

The ICGLR reaffirms its dedication to addressing the multifaceted challenges within the region while fostering security, stability, and sustainable development.

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