



REF ICGLR \ 2026 \ MEDIA \ 08  
Bujumbura, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## **ICGLR Strengthens Partnership with AU Mediation through High-Level Visit of H.E. Mokgweetsi Masisi**

**Bujumbura, Burundi – 08<sup>th</sup> April 2026** – The Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) hosted today H.E. Mokgweetsi Masisi, former President of Botswana and one of the five members of the Panel of Facilitators supporting the African Union (AU) Lead Mediator for the peace process in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, in a high-level visit aimed at reinforcing collaboration in support of regional peace and stability. H.E. Masisi's focus in this visit is on regional economic integration and responsible resource governance as drivers for peace in the region.

The visit to the ICGLR Secretariat marked a significant step toward strengthening the working relationship between the ICGLR and the AU-led mediation process, particularly in advancing economic integration and the governance of natural resources, key drivers of sustainable peace. H.E. Masisi held strategic discussions with H.E. Dr Mubita Luwabelwa, the ICGLR Executive Secretary, and senior leadership, focusing on aligning regional initiatives with the AU-led unified mediation framework. President Masisi expressed deep appreciation to ICGLR and to Burundi, the seat of ICGLR, and highlighted that his recent engagements with regional leaders have secured a shared commitment to advance regional peace, integration, and cooperation on natural resources.

The meeting brought together high-level representatives from the African Union, European Union, United Nations, civil society and private sector actors. Participants underscored the critical role of regional economic integration and responsible resource governance through the effective implementation of the ICGLR Regional Initiative on the Fight Against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in addressing the root causes of conflict and unlocking the Great Lakes region's economic potential.

The meeting was concluded with a shared commitment to strengthening coordination mechanisms, advancing priority initiatives, and supporting the implementation of the ICGLR Action Plan on the regional integration and responsible mineral supply chains across the region.

This engagement reaffirms the ICGLR's central role as a convening platform and strategic partner in advancing peace, stability, and economic transformation in the Great Lakes Region.

**END**