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## PRESS RELEASE

### SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN DOHA PEACE PROCESS BETWEEN DRC AND AFC/M23

**Bujumbura, Burundi, April 18, 2026** – The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) commends the significant strides made in the Doha Peace Process between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Alliance Fleuve Congo/March 23 Movement (AFC/M23). This progress was underscored by the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the ICGLR, the Government of the DRC, and AFC/M23 to operationalise the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism Plus (EJVM+) in eastern DRC, under the auspices of the Doha Declaration of Principles, on April 14, 2026, in Montreux, Switzerland.

The ICGLR recognises this Memorandum of Understanding as a key step towards formal collaboration. This partnership aims to integrate the Ceasefire Monitoring and Verification Mechanism of the Doha Framework Agreement with the ICGLR's Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM). The EJVM Plus's mission is vital for monitoring and reporting on the permanent ceasefire in eastern DRC, investigating alleged violations, and coordinating measures to prevent further escalation and infractions. The EJVM remains intact and fully operational, and it continues to carry out its mandate outside eastern DRC in accordance with the revised Terms of Reference signed by the ICGLR Member States in Kinshasa on 6th November 2025.

The ICGLR would like to express its gratitude to the Government of the State of Qatar, the United States of America, the Swiss Government, the African Union Commission, and MONUSCO for their ongoing commitment to peace and stability in the Great Lakes region. Guided by the principles enshrined in the Pact on Stability, Security, and Development, the ICGLR remains deeply committed to security in eastern DRC and to actively promotes a sustainable political solution for the whole region.

Finally, this collaborative effort reflects united determination to uphold peace and stability in the Great Lakes region, ICGLR looks forward to further progress in this ongoing peace process for the benefit of the people of DRC and the whole region.

**END**