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PRESS RELEASE

THE ICGLR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY INVITED AS PRINCIPAL BRIEFER AT UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ARRIA-FORMULA MEETING ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND PEACE

Bujumbura, 13 July 2026 – Today, the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), Dr Mubita Luwabelwa, served as a principal briefer at an informal United Nations Security Council Arria-formula meeting held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Convened in the context of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Presidency of the United Nations Security Council for July 2026, the Arria-formula meeting entitled *“Diagnosing the Normative Gap Linking Natural Resources and Peace: Foundations and Perspectives,”* was chaired by Her Excellency Madam Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Francophonie and Congolese Diaspora of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In his briefing, the Executive Secretary highlighted the experience of the ICGLR in addressing the relationship between the illegal exploitation of natural resources and conflict in the Great Lakes Region. He presented the regional legal, institutional and operational mechanisms established under the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region and the Protocol against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources.

Dr Luwabelwa also highlighted the contribution of the Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, including the Regional Certification Mechanism, mineral traceability systems and other tools developed to promote transparency, accountability, and responsible mineral supply chains.

The participation of the ICGLR Executive Secretary as a principal briefer reflects the Organization's recognised expertise and longstanding mandate in promoting responsible natural resource governance and addressing the links between natural resources, peace and security in the Great Lakes Region.

The ICGLR remains committed to working with its Member States, the African Union, the United Nations, and international partners to ensure that the region's natural wealth serves as a foundation for lasting peace, stability and inclusive development.

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