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PRESS RELEASE

THE ICGLR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ADDRESSES UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL HIGH-LEVEL OPEN DEBATE ON NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

Bujumbura, 22 July 2026 – Today the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), Dr Mubita Luwabelwa, participated in the United Nations Security Council High-Level Open Debate on "Natural Resource Governance as a Foundation for Peace, Security and Prosperity," held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Convened by the Democratic Republic of the Congo during its Presidency of the United Nations Security Council for July 2026, the debate was presided over by Her Excellency Ms Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Francophonie and Congolese Diaspora of the Democratic Republic of Congo. It brought together senior government officials, senior United Nations officials, regional organisations and international partners to examine how responsible governance of natural resources can contribute to conflict prevention, sustainable peace and shared prosperity.

The objective of the debate is to advance a more coherent international approach to addressing the links between natural resource governance, peace and security, while promoting transparent, accountable and sustainable management of natural resources.

The participation of the ICGLR Executive Secretary reflects the Organization's recognized leading role in leveraging responsible natural resource governance and regional cooperation as tools for peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and sustainable development. During the debate, Dr Luwabelwa shared the ICGLR's experience in combating the illegal exploitation of natural resources through regional instruments, including the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, the Protocol against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, and the Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR).

"The Great Lakes Region has demonstrated that responsible governance of natural resources is fundamental to lasting peace and sustainable development. The ICGLR remains committed to sharing its regional experience in support of stronger international cooperation and more effective global governance frameworks." –indicated Dr Mubita Luwabelwa, Executive Secretary, ICGLR.

The ICGLR welcomes this timely initiative of organising the said High-Level Open Debate on Natural Resource Governance and reaffirms its commitment to working with the United Nations, the African Union, its Member States and international partners to ensure that natural resources become a catalyst for peace, stability and shared prosperity across the Great Lakes Region and beyond.

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