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**THE EXPANDED JOINT VERIFICATION MECHANISM PLUS (EJVM+)
CONDUCTS TWO SUCCESSFUL FIELD MISSIONS IN MINEMBWE AND
MASISI, IN EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.**

Bujumbura, Burundi, September 20, 2026 – The Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) is pleased to announce the successful completion of two field verification missions conducted through the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism Plus (EJVM+) in Minembwe (August 24-25, 2026) and Masisi (September 10-12, 2026) areas in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. The missions marked progress toward fostering trust and achieving sustainable peace in eastern DRC.

These verification missions demonstrate the commitment of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and AFC/M23's to the July 19, 2025, Doha Declaration of Principles and the November 15, 2025, Framework Agreement. The success of the Missions demonstrates that the Ceasefire Monitoring can effectively fulfil its mandate with continued political will. These missions mark a milestone in the Doha Process and are a key step towards operationalising the Ceasefire Monitoring and Verification Mechanism established after the October 14, 2025, signing.

The ICGLR extends its sincere gratitude to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the AFC/M23 for their cooperation in facilitating the safe and unimpeded access by the verification teams to Minembwe and Masisi. ICGLR also commends the invaluable support provided by the United States of America, the Swiss Confederation, and the State of Qatar. ICGLR also acknowledges and appreciates the logistical assistance provided by the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the support of the Togolese Republic in its role as the African Union Mediator. The Conference Secretariat uploads and appreciates the backing and oversight role played by ICGLR Member States as well as the African Union for this vital process.

Looking ahead, the ICGLR will conduct regular verification missions in conflict-affected regions to build trust and support a lasting ceasefire. ICGLR reaffirms its commitment to peace efforts and to collaborating with all partners to achieve sustainable stability in the Great Lakes Region.

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