

SECRETARIAT
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION



SECRÉTARIAT
CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE
SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS

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PRESS RELEASE

ICGLR Statutory Meetings Underway in Lusaka, Zambia, Ahead of the 20th Ordinary Meeting of the Regional Interministerial Committee

Lusaka, Zambia - 15 October 2026 – The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Zambia and under the Chairmanship of the Democratic Republic of Congo, is holding a series of high-level statutory meetings in Lusaka from 8 to 19 October 2026, culminating in the 20th Ordinary Meeting of the Regional Interministerial Committee (RIMC) on 19 October 2026.

The meetings bring together Ministers, senior government officials, National Coordinators, security and defence officials, and representatives of the ICGLR Secretariat to deliberate on key regional priorities, including peace and security, the humanitarian situation, natural resource governance, institutional matters and regional cooperation.

The series commenced on 8 October with the 33rd Meeting of the ICGLR Regional Committee against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, held from 8 to 10 October 2026. This was followed by the Meeting of Experts of Intelligence and Security Services and the 10th Meeting of Ministers in Charge of Mines, both held on 12 October, as well as the 20th Meeting of the Regional Coordination Committee of Chiefs of Intelligence and Security Services, held on 13 October.

The statutory defence and security meetings continue, providing further opportunities for Member States to strengthen coordination and cooperation in addressing regional security challenges.

These technical and ministerial consultations contribute to preparations for the 20th Ordinary Meeting of the RIMC, which will bring together Ministers in charge of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and External Relations from ICGLR Member States.

The 20th RIMC is expected to review the prevailing security and humanitarian situation in the Great Lakes Region and consider concrete measures to strengthen collective regional responses. The meeting will also address institutional matters and priorities to enhance the ICGLR's effectiveness in fulfilling its mandate.

The ongoing Lusaka meetings reaffirm ICGLR Member States' commitment to dialogue, collective action, and regional cooperation in advancing the objectives of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region.

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About the ICGLR and the RIMC

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) is an intergovernmental organisation comprising 12 Member States, established to promote peace, security, stability and development in the Great Lakes Region.

The RIMC is the executive body of the ICGLR, comprising the Member States' Ministers of Foreign Affairs. According to the [ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region](#), the RIMC is expected to meet twice a year in ordinary session, but may also meet in extraordinary session at the request of the Member States. It is chaired by the Minister of a Member State in rotation

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