



Final Communiqué of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region Roundtable Conference

**Bujumbura, Burundi,
5-6th November 2009**

Introduction

1- The Conference Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) with the support of the African Development Bank (AfDB) organized a Round Table Conference in Bujumbura Burundi from 5th -6th November 2009. The Roundtable was attended by Member States of the ICGLR, the Group of Friends and the Special Envoys, the United Nations and their agencies, the African Union, the International and Regional financial Institutions, the Co-opted Members and other ICGLR Partner organizations.

Objectives

2- The Objectives of the Roundtable Conference were to:

1. Review progress and remaining challenges in the Great Lakes Region;
2. Reaffirm the political support of the Member States for implementing the Pact;
3. Present project proposals for the priority areas that are currently unfunded and for which support will be required;
4. Re-engage the Group of Friends, other partners and stakeholders to reaffirm their continued support of ICGLR; and
5. Initiate a dialogue for the mobilisation of the required financial and technical resources through pledges and commitments to support the specific projects submitted to the Round Table.

Attendance

3- The Roundtable Conference was presided by the ICGLR Summit Troika composed of Zambia, Kenya and Uganda together with the Host, Burundi, and the sponsor, the African Development Bank (AfDB). H.E Rupiah Banda, the President of Zambia and the current Chair of the ICGLR and the host H.E Pierre Nkurunziza attended in person. President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya was represented by his Vice President, H.E Kalonzo Musyoka, while President Yoweri Museveni was represented by his First Deputy Prime Minister H.E Rt Hon Eriya Kategaya. H.E Dr. Donald KABERUKA, the President of the Africa Development Bank also attended in person. The UNSG Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region and Co-Facilitator of the DRC peace process, the Former President Olusegun Obasanjo was represented by General Lazaro Sumbeiywo, Special Adviser.

4- ICGLR Member States namely; Angola, Burundi, Central Africa Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia were also represented by Ministers or their representatives and the National Coordinators.

5- Egypt attended as the Co-opted member country of the ICGLR.

- 6- Representatives of the Group of Friends present and other countries and organisations that were represented included: Austria, Canada, Belgium, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Holy See, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, South Africa, Switzerland, Russia, United Kingdom and USA,
- 7- Other organisations represented included: DSBA, BADEA, World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB), China Development Bank, SDC-Swiss, EAC, JICA, CEPGL, COMESA, UNDP, UNIFEM, UNEP, UNDP, TTCA, UNHCR, UNECA, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNDP, UNDP, CICOS, GTZ, GLIA, FAO, RECSA, ISS, RTA, TTC, BINUB, UN-HABITAT, United Nations, African Union, European Union, CISSA, EURAC, CIG, the Graduate Institute of International Affairs and Development Studies, Geneva, BDGEL, UTI, USAID-Burundi, Special Envoys to the Great Lakes Region and the Group of Friends among others.

Outcome:

- (i)** The Round Table Conference reaffirmed the mandate of the ICGLR and urged the Conference Secretariat to continue doing its good work.
- (ii)** The support of the Member States in their implementation and compliance with the ICGLR pact was also reaffirmed.
- (iii)** The Group of Friends, the development partners, the UN bodies, the AU and the RECs all pledged their continued political, diplomatic, material, technical and financial support to the ICGLR.
- (iv)** The ICGLR priority projects were discussed and it was agreed that they are all essential for peace, security and development in the region.
- (v)** Several observations were however made with regard to the implementation and prioritization of the projects. These observations include:
 - (a) The projects that make up the Programmes of Action should be updated to take into account the changes that have taken place since the signing of the pact in 2006:
 - i) Progress in implementation,
 - ii) New developments with direct implications for the region such as priorities arising from decisions of the AU, UN, RECs and other relevant stakeholders.
 - (b) The need to harmonize with other implementing agencies and the RECs who are already involved in the similar projects.
 - (c) The need for the Secretariat to review and clearly define the execution and implementation arrangements for the Projects and Protocols in collaboration with other organizations in the

region notably the RECs and other regional mechanisms, so as to allocate responsibilities among all the stakeholders.

(d) Prioritize and focus on the projects starting with those that have a direct impact on sustainable peace, security and development in the region.

(e) The Conference Secretariat can work with individual partners to follow –up on the projects they are ready to support.

- (vi)** The ICGLR Secretariat will develop a framework to follow up on the pledges made during the Roundtable.
- (vii)** The Group of Friends suggested that it would in the future reconstitute itself to include the Special Envoys to the Great Lakes region, and would be called Group of Special Envoys and Friends (GoSEF) of the ICGLR.
- (viii)** The Roundtable Conference appreciated the work of the Conference Secretariat in convening the Roundtable.
- (ix)** The Roundtable Conference also appreciated the Government and the people of Burundi for their hospitality.

End

Done in Bujumbura on November 6th, 2009