FINAL COMMUNIQUE RELATING TO

High-level Consultation of the Ministers of Gender and Justice from the ICGLR Member States on the implementation of the Kampala Declaration

27 November 2019
Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

1. A High-level Consultation of Ministers of Gender and Justice from ICGLR Member States was held at Kintélé International Conference Center, in the Republic of Congo on 27 November 2019. The consultation was preceded by a meeting of experts that took place from 24th to 26th 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Congolese Abroad;

2. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Congo, and was attended by the Ministers of Gender and Justice or their representatives from all the ICGLR Member States, namely: Republic of Angola, Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, Republic of South Sudan, Republic of The Sudan, Republic of Uganda, and the Republic of Zambia;

3. In attendance were also the Minister of State in charge of Gender, Family and Child of the DRC, the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations in charge of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in conflict and two Officers from her office, two officers of the Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, the Representative of the Representative of the Chair of the African Union
Commission for the Great Lakes and Burundi, the Ambassador of Angola in Congo, the Ambassador of Sudan in Congo, the Chargé d’Affaires of Uganda in Congo, the ICGLR National Coordinators, the Advisor of the Prime Minister for Women’s Empowerment, Family, Minorities and Solidarity of Congo, Director of the Kampala Center for Prevention and Suppression of SGBV, Experts of the Gender and Justice Ministries from ICGLR MS, representatives of GIZ, UNWOMEN, Swiss Cooperation, CARE International, COCAFEM, Panzi Foundation-DRC, consultants, representatives of regional and international organizations, members of the Diplomatic Corps, Development Partners, Representatives of the ICGLR Forum of Parliaments, Women, Youth and Civil Society and Civil Society Organizations and ICGLR Secretariat Staff.

OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING

The purpose of the meeting was to assess and identify actions for the implementation of the landmark 2011 Kampala Declaration of Heads of State and Government on Sexual and Gender Based Violence and the 2012 Kinshasa Communiqué, with particular reference to decisions 2,3,8,9 and 11 of the Kampala Declaration. The meeting was to further adopt the report on the status of implementation of the Kampala Declaration on SGBV and a Guide to fast-track criminal procedures on SGBV.

Having considered the reports presented during the High-level Consultation which highlighted progress and challenges in the areas of prevention, ending impunity and providing multisectoral support to victims/survivors of SGBV;

Further reiterating the concerns expressed in the Kampala Declaration that Sexual and Gender Based Violence in its various manifestations occurs in peacetime, but also during and after conflict settings, and that SGBV poses a seriously threat to peace and stability in the Great Lakes region;

Recalling that responses should be survivors-centered, avoiding retraumatisation and stigmatization, and address root causes of SGBV, including discrimination, gender-based inequality, poverty and marginalization;
Recalling legal, policy and other commitments made at the international, regional and national levels, including the United Nations Security Council resolutions, human rights treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Framework of Cooperation between the ICGLR and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, joint Communiqués signed by the United Nations and the ICGLR Member States to address conflict-related Sexual Violence, and National Action Plans on Security Council Resolution 1325.

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Having considered the final report of the experts meeting, the Ministers of Gender and Ministers of Justice from ICGLR Member States have:

1. Approved the updated report of Member States on the implementation of the Kampala Declaration;

2. Approved the report on Special Courts, special sessions and procedures, which updates the status of implementation of Resolution 8 of the Kampala Declaration;

3. Approved the Model Law on the Establishment of Special Courts, Special Sessions and Special Procedures on SGBV and urged its application in the respective national contexts;

4. Approved the Regional Guide for Acceleration of Criminal Procedures cases of Sexual and Gender-based Violence;

Prevention of SGBV

5. Appreciated and expressed support to the efforts of the ICGLR Secretariat and the ICGLR Regional Training Facility (RTF) on SGBV in accelerating the implementation of the ICGLR instruments related to the fight against SGBV;
6. Urged that national legislation integrate measures taking into account provisions for the protection of children and vulnerable persons from SGBV;

7. Urged that prevention efforts include the negative impact of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) and media on young people;

8. Urged that teachers and community leaders are integrated into SGBV prevention training;

9. Emphasized that youth awareness on the Kampala Declaration and its implementation should be clearly mentioned in the Regional Guide to fast-track Criminal procedure in response to SGBV cases.

**Ending impunity for SGBV**

10. Urged that the confidentiality of SGBV case management throughout the criminal justice process is respected and protected;

11. Urged that the Regional Guide ensures that the compensation of victims is entrusted to competent and qualified structures;

12. Urged to refer and further support the commitments made by Member States on 15 May 2019 in Nairobi - with the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration on Justice and Good Governance - including those on the suppression of Sexual and Gender-based violence, access to justice and the right to reparation for the victims of these crimes (para IV of the Nairobi Declaration on Justice and Good Governance).

**Providing support to victims/survivors of SGBV**

13. Recommended that training on SGBV is provided to all service providers, including medical, psycho-social, police and justice officials, with focus on the specific needs of children and other vulnerable persons;
14. Urged the National Coordination Mechanisms to work with the RTF to ensure that the training of professionals is sustainable at the national level;

15. Promote a sustainable community-centered approach involving local structures to ensure reintegration and empowerment of survivors;

**Monitoring and Evaluation of the Kampala Declaration**

16. Urged that strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are implemented in each Member State as part of the implementation process of the Kampala Declaration;

17. Urged the Conference Secretariat and RTF to strengthen cooperation with Civil Society Actors and Development Partners as part of coordinated efforts against SGBV;

18. Urged the establishment of a Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism at the regional level for the implementation of the Kampala Declaration and the UNSCR 1325 through the Secretariat of the Conference and the Kampala Regional Training Facility on SGBV;

19. Urged the allocation of a substantial budget for the fight against SGBV, particularly to ensure free medical care and legal costs for SGBV cases;

20. Urged the institutionalization of the community psycho-social approach to empower local communities to protect, to help victims to access to appropriate holistic services and to reintegrate them later in order to avoid stigmatization and subsequent traumas;

21. Retained as an emergency, the collaboration between National Coordination Mechanisms and civil society actors and financial partners to strengthen actions on prevention, protection and community reintegration of SGBV cases.

**Vote of thanks**
The meeting expressed appreciation to the UN agencies, including the Office of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the UN Office of the Special Envoy on the Great Lakes region, UN Women, German Development Cooperation (GIZ), COCAFEM, Swiss Cooperation, Care International and all development partners that contributed to the organization of this meeting;

Expressed profound gratitude and appreciation to the H.E. Denis SASSOU-NGUESSO, President of the Republic of Congo and Chair of the ICGLR, to the Government and people of the Republic of Congo for the wonderful hospitality accorded to all delegates, and for the facilities availed to ensure the success of the meeting.

Done in Brazzaville, on 27 November 2019