REPORT OF THE 15TH MEETING OF THE ICGLR REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

25TH – 27TH JULY 2017

ARUSHA

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The 15th Meeting of the ICGLR Regional Committee on the Regional Initiative on the Fight against Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR) of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) was held from 25th to 27th July 2017 at Mount Meru Hotel, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. The meeting was officially opened by Honourable Prof. James E. Mdoe, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Minerals, United Republic of Tanzania.

1.2 On 24th July 2017, at the same venue, the ICGLR Secretariat organized a meeting of partners of the Regional Initiative on the Fight against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources. The following partners attended the meeting: GIZ, PAC, USAID/TETRA TECH, and Swiss Cooperation.

1.3 The purpose of the 15th meeting of the Regional Committee was to evaluate the progress made on the implementation of the six tools of the RINR, after the 14th meeting.

1.4 The meeting was attended by Regional Committee members from the following Member States: Republic of Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of South Sudan, Republic of the Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Uganda, Republic of Zambia and the Representative of the Regional Women Forum. The Vice-Chair of the ICGLR Audit Committee and the Partners indicated above also attended as observers.

2. OPENING SESSION

2.1 The meeting was officially opened by Honourable Prof. James E. Mdoe, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Minerals, United Republic of Tanzania. The opening session was also
addressed by the ICGLR Executive Secretary, Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita, the Chairperson of the ICGLR Regional Committee, Mr. Paul Ndarihonyoye and the Representative of ICGLR National Coordinator in the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr. Ali Ubwa Mussa.

2.2. In his opening statement, the Guest of Honour, Honourable Prof. James E. Mdoe, expressed his warm welcome to all delegates and mentioned that Tanzania has ratified the ICGLR Pact in 2008 and remains committed to the implementation of the Pact and all its Protocols. He also called upon ICGLR Member States to draw attention to the African Mining Vision which requires the whole Africa to ensure that the exploitation of mineral resources is done in a transparent, equitable and optimal manner in order to underpin broad-based sustainable growth and socio-economic development.

2.3. Ambassador Zachary Muburi-Muita, the Executive Secretary of ICGLR, thanked the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for having invited the ICGLR Secretariat to hold the 15th meeting of the Regional Committee in the United Republic of Tanzania. He stated that the implementation of the Regional Initiative to fight against Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources is going on well, but emphasized on the need for the Regional Committee to focus on the emerging challenges such as the duplication of audits and the resultant high costs in the implementation of the Regional Certification Mechanism.

2.4. The Chairman of the ICGLR Regional Committee, Mr. Paul Ndarihonyoye, expressed his appreciation to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for the warm welcome extended to all the delegates from the ICGLR Member States. He also expressed his gratitude to partners, namely GIZ, BGR, EU, PAC,
USAID/TETRA TECH, and Swiss Cooperation for their technical and financial support in the implementation of the RINR.

2.5. In his remarks, the Representative of ICGLR National Coordinator in the United Republic of Tanzania informed participants that the United Republic of Tanzania is greatly honoured to host this important event and renewed the commitment and assurance of stepping up the implementation of the RINR.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

After presentation of the agenda by the Chairman, it was considered and adopted as follows:

- Report on the Status of Implementation of the six tools of the RINR in ICGLR Member States.
- Report on the Status of Implementation of the six tools of the RINR at the regional level.
- Report on the activities of the ICGLR Audit Committee.
- Review and Adoption of the Consultancy Report on the Regional Certification Mechanism Cost Analysis.
- Review and Adoption of the Consultancy Report on Formalization of the Artisanal and Small Scale Mining Sector in ICGLR Member States.
- Updates on the Consultancy on the High-Level Requirements Definition for the ICGLR Regional Mineral Tracking Database.
- Updates on the activities of the IMCA Office.
- Review and Amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee.
- Election of the Vice Chair of the Regional Committee
4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Regional Committee on Natural Resources deliberated fully on all the agenda items and consequently made the following recommendations:

1. All auditors in the mineral supply chains operating in ICGLR Member States should be accredited by the ICGLR Audit Committee.

2. All mineral traceability service providers should confine themselves to their role of traceability and refrain from engaging into auditing of the same supply chains.

3. Member States are encouraged to make more efforts to invite and promote more traceability and due diligence service providers for purposes of efficiency and cost reduction.

4. The ICGLR Secretariat should re-disseminate the Model Law for Domestication of the Protocol to fight against illegal exploitation of natural resources for effective harmonization of national legislations in all Member States.

5. The ICGLR Secretariat to engage with the African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC) to look into possibilities for capacity building on the African Mining Vision for Members of the Regional Committee.

6. Members of the Regional Committee to submit their inputs on the Regional Guide on ASM Formalization, by 27th August 2017. The Guide is approved subject to incorporation of the inputs from Member States.

7. The Regional Committee took note of the report of the Audit Committee and encouraged the Committee to continue the review of the RCM Standards, based on the related existing recommendations.

8. The Regional Committee took note of the report on the Consultancy on the High-Level Requirements for the ICGLR
Regional Mineral Tracking Database and encouraged the fast-tracking of the process by the ICGLR Secretariat.

9. The Regional Committee took note of the report of Independent Mineral Chain Auditor (IMCA) and encouraged the ICGLR Secretariat to undertake administrative measures to streamline the reporting structure of the Office of the IMCA, and other ICGLR affiliated offices/units as per the existing reporting policy.

10. The Regional Committee took note of the report of the Regional Exporters Conference and encouraged Member States to closely follow up on the recommendations therein.

11. The Regional Committee took note and endorsed but with amendment of paragraphs 2 and 12 of the recommendations of the Regional Experts and Stakeholders' Consultations on natural resources held in Nairobi, Kenya from 5th to 6th July 2017.

12. The Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee should be amended at the next meeting.

13. **Venue and tentative date of the next meeting:** The 16th meeting of the Regional Committee will be held in Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan before end of November 2017.

Done in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, on 27th July 2017.

Signed by

Mr. Paul Ndarihonyoye
Chairman

Mr. Bethsmith Aliga William
Rapporteur