



Bujumbura Declaration

**2nd Regional Parliamentarians meeting
Bujumbura 3-4th March 2008**

We, representatives of the Parliaments of the Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, namely **ANGOLA, BURUNDI, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, REPUBLIC OF CONGO, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, KENYA, RWANDA, SUDAN, THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, UGANDA AND ZAMBIA**, meeting at Bujumbura on 3-4th March 2008, in the framework of the 2nd Regional Forum of Parliamentarians of the Great Lakes Region, organised by the Executive Secretariat of the International Conference on Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), in collaboration with the Parliament of Burundi and the with Association of Western European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA);

Mindful of the importance of and provisions of the Pact on Security, Stability Peace and Development in the Great Lakes Region signed by the Heads of State and Governments on 15 December 2006 in Nairobi- Kenya;

Acknowledging the importance of the Regional Forum of Parliaments of the Great Lakes Region and the need to fulfil the objectives of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region;

Recognising the importance of the Kinshasa Declaration, signed on February 28th 2007 which, among others, committed Parliaments to work towards the rapid ratification, sensitisation and implementation of the Pact;

Congratulating and commending the member states that have ratified the Pact and encouraging the other member states to do the same;

Expressing our sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Burundi for hosting the Executive Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

Reaffirming the decisive role of Parliaments, particularly the role of the Regional Forum of Parliaments of Member States of the Great Lakes Region, in the monitoring of the implementation of the Pact, and conscious of the oversight roles of legislature over the actions of the Governments;

Cognisant of the important role women play in the promotion of peace, security and development; and that gender dimension constitutes an essential factor in the implementation of the Pact;

Declare the following:

1. To form a Follow- up Committee that will finalise the modalities for setting up the Regional Forum for Parliaments of the Great Lakes Region taking into account the general principles discussed in the meeting.
2. The Follow- Up Committee will be composed of 11 members one from each of the 11 member states, chaired by Burundi.
3. Resolve to use our over-sight function in preventing conflicts and ensuring that the agreements and other instruments signed, by the Executive, for peace and security are respected.
4. Commit to foster the domestication of the Pact and its Protocols in the laws and policies of our respective governments.
5. Encourage member states of ICGLR, in line with the Dar Es-Salaam Declaration, to accede to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for conflicts prevention and resolution:
6. Encourage our respective governments to nominate an eminent person from ICGLR to be part of a panel of experts for APRM.
7. Extend our profound gratitude to the Government, Parliament and the People of Burundi, for the warm welcome and hospitality.
8. Express our gratitude to AWEPA, for their financial support to the organization of this meeting and reiterate our gratitude to the Group of Friends, the United Nations System, the African Union and other international partners for their continued support and contribution towards the implementation of the Pact
9. Our next meeting is to take place in Kigali- Rwanda.

Done in Bujumbura on the 4th of March 2008