

Thank you very much honourable Chairperson.

“Honorable Mwenyekiti” Jakaya Kikwete, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tanzania
Distinguish Ministers
Ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of H.E Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit minister of foreign affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt , I would like to welcome your decision to grant Egypt the status of a Co-opted member to the international Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

I would like to seize this opportunity to reaffirm Egypt’s commitment to enhance peace ,stability and economic and social development in the Great Lakes Region .This is an supported and historic commitment that we are tied to since our assistance to the liberation movements in all Africa and the Region, as well our participation in peace keeping operations, including ONUC in Congo in 1960-1961, as well as MINURCA in Central Africa in 1998-2000, UNAVEM in Angola in 1991-1993 and 1995-1999, UNAMIR in Rwanda in 1994, ONUB in Burundi since 2004, and again in the DRC since November 1999, as well as the African Union Observatory Mission in Darfur, Sudan, and a major participation in the United Nations operations in the South of Sudan is expected in due course.

Egypt, being a direct neighbour to a core country, Sudan, looks forward to continue working with all the stakeholders to raise economic and social performance in the region that regional cooperation and integration is a key factor towards development. I recall in this regard the role played by the Egyptian Fund for Technical Assistance to Africa since its creation in 1980 and reiterate its readiness to work through bilateral and multilateral forms of cooperation to expand its existing technical programs in the Great Lakes region with our development partners.

Finally I would like to express my appreciation for you sir and distinguished ministers, heads of delegations and friends who conveyed their condolences for me and the people of Egypt on the horrendous act of terrorism that occurred yesterday in Sharm el Sheik. I will certainly convey your sentiments to my government.

Thanks you very much

Egyptian head of Delegation