

2009

Great Lakes News Letter des Grands Lacs



*For Peace, Security, Stability and Development
in the Great Lakes Region*

January-February



SPECIAL EVENTS

EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT IN ADDIS ABABA

January 31st 2009 was devoted to the 11th Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Great Lakes Region, alongside the African Union Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The purpose of the Summit was to consider the progress made by the team of facilitators.

The Summit also expressed satisfaction with the continued efforts and the role played by the facilitators in their search for sustainable solutions aimed at bringing lasting peace to Eastern DRC on the one hand and on the other, to identifying all the causes of the conflict once and for all. The Summit confirmed the ICGLR as the legal framework through which total support for the bilateral commitments between DRC and Rwanda can be channelled; common military operations must be in line with the Pact on Peace, Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, especially the Protocol on Mutual Defence and Non-Aggression. The Addis Ababa Summit also recommended that concerted efforts be made by the Governments of the DRC and Rwanda to normalise their diplomatic relations. The Executive Secretariat of the ICGLR was represented by Ambassador Liberata Mulamula as well as other officers of the Organisation.

SEMINAR TO VALIDATE STUDIES CARRIED OUT BY CONSULTANTS

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Zambia National Coordination Mechanism organised a Seminar on the Validation of the Feasibility study on the Regional Centre for the Promotion of Democracy and Good Governance, Human Rights and Civic Education as well as that of the Study on the Management Model in Lusaka, Zambia from 25th to 27th February 2009.

The purpose of this seminar was to collect and incorporate participants' views and considerations on the two studies and to proceed with their validation by the National Coordinators of the ICGLR. A visit to the site expected to accommodate the Centre was made during the seminar's duration. The Regional Centre for the Promotion of Democracy, Good Governance, Human Rights and Civic Education is one of the projects of the Democracy and Good Governance Programme of Action of the ICGLR, whose vision *rests on a Region characterized by the entrenchment of the values and principles of democratic governance and respect for human rights*

The ICGLR National Coordinators, representatives of the Executive Secretariat of the ICGLR and international partners involved in democracy and good governance attended the seminar. The National Coordinators validated the two studies and made recommendations on the same. Following the launch of the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Development Committee, the budget related to the launch of the Centre in question was adopted by the National Coordinators.



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

1) The Executive Secretary of the ICGLR attended the 11th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Great Lakes Region to discuss the situation in Eastern DRC, held alongside the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government, [in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia]. She also presided over the coordination and organisation of the Secretariat, in her capacity as the Organisation's Executive Secretary.

2) Ambassador Liberata Mulamula also represented the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region at the Summit in Addis Ababa.

3) She took part in various meetings in her capacity as the Executive Secretary of the ICGLR. At these meetings, she was involved in lobbying and advocacy for as well as presentation of the ICGLR. The Executive Secretary attended the following meetings in this regard:

- The Tripartite Plus meeting held in Kigali, Rwanda
- The meeting with the Special Envoy of Norway, Ambassador Arild Oyen Retvedt and the Special Envoy of the European Union to the Great Lakes, Ambassador Roeland Van der Geer. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the possible avenues for cooperation with and assistance to the ICGLR. This meeting was held in Bujumbura, in the Executive Secretary's office.
- The meeting with the Special Envoy to the Burundi Peace Process held at the Source du Nil Hotel in Bujumbura, Burundi
- The launch of the Regional Disarmament Committee in Kampala, Uganda where the Executive Secretary of the ICGLR made a statement.
- The meeting with the Director General of International Organisations and Special Representative of the Canadian Prime Minister for Africa, Mr. David Angell, accompanied by Mr. Richard Lebars, Head of the Political Department of the Canadian High Commission in Nairobi.
- The meeting with Mr. Kris Berwouts, Director of Eurac (European Network of NGOs). The purpose of this meeting was to engage in advocacy for Central Africa. Discussions revolved around preparations for an appeal intended for the current president of the European Union with a view to obtaining support for the ICGLR process. The meeting took place at the Executive Secretariat of the ICGLR.
- The Executive Secretary of the ICGLR took part in the handing over of the Report on partnership under the Strategic Plan for the Consolidation of Peace in Burundi
- The meeting, in her office, with His Excellency Professor Ambrosio LUKOKI, Ambassador of the Republic of Angola accredited to the Republic of Burundi, whose residence is in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- The courtesy call by the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Pierre Nkurunziza, whom she received in her office.
- The participation in a working session between representatives of the governments of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Attendance of the meeting of the CISSA, at its headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- In the context of a visit by President Olusegun Obasanjo, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General to the Great Lakes Region, the Executive Secretary accompanied him to all the places he visited.
- Participation in a symposium on "Global Migration in South Africa." The Executive Secretary presented a paper entitled "The Role of Migration in Shaping the Politics of the Great Lakes Region: Lessons on managing an international phenomenon from an African Perspective.



- Participation in the ceremony marking the end of joint Rwanda/DRC military operations that took place in Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- The visit to the headquarters of the CEPGL in Gisenyi, Rwanda, where the two institutions held a working session. They were later joined by representatives from the UNECA, UNDP and other organisations on mission in Gisenyi.
- The working meeting with Ms. Yomekawa, Regional Director of JICA based in Nairobi, on a possible partnership between the ICGLR and Japan.
- The business lunch, in Bujumbura, with the international delegation from the IPPF during which issues relating to violence against women, reproductive and sexual health of women were discussed.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1) The Assistant Executive Secretary, apart from his normal duties of coordinating the Programmes and Units of the Executive Secretariat of the Conference, undertook to oversee the administrative, financial and organisational coordination of the following activities:

- The 11th Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Great Lakes Region in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- The Seminar for the Validation of the Feasibility Study on the Regional Centre for the Promotion of Democracy, Good Governance, Human Rights and Civic Education and the Study on Model management in Lusaka, Zambia.
- Launch of the Management Committee of the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Development.
- Round Table of Donors to the ICGLR.

2) During the first two months of 2009, the Assistant Executive Secretary also attended to special issues, namely:

- Follow-up of the translation of working documents of the ICGLR into Portuguese as requested by Angola. Indeed, in order for the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region to be considered by the Angolan Parliament, the documents are required to be in the country's working language.
- Finalisation of the Training Programme for young diplomats from the 11 countries of the ICGLR at the *Clingendael Diplomatic School* in the Netherlands. Actually, the Netherlands accepted to train young diplomats from the eleven Member States of the ICGLR and provided the funds required for that purpose. Two representatives from the Secretariat of the ICGLR will undergo the month-long training. The Assistant Executive Secretary and the Special Assistant to the Assistant Executive Secretary will be the first to attend the course in the Netherlands.
- Finalisation of the Operational Guide for Use of the Special Fund. The Guide will be used during the launch of the Management Committee of the Special Fund, slated for the beginning of the month of March.
- Finalisation of the Annual Report in collaboration with the Communications Officer and all the Programme Officers.
- Preparation of the documents to be submitted to the Group of Friends for funding. Each Programme Officer and Departmental Head prepared their annual activity budgets.
- Collaborative work with the CISSA.
- Collaborative work with the Swiss Development Cooperation.



PROGRAMME PAIX ET SECURITE

1) ICGLR, ISS, AFLI Consultative Meeting, Nairobi Feb 12-13

Meeting in Nairobi between the Programme Officer, Ms. Augusta Muchai, ISS Head of Mifugo Project and her Team, Mr. David Pulkol, Africa Leadership Institute (AFLI) Executive Director. The meeting discussed and agreed on modalities for strengthening partnership between the ICGLR, ISS and AFLI on the implementation of the ICGLR Project Road Map on Disarmament of Armed Nomadic Pastoralists and Promotion of Sustainable Development in Zone 3. Under the partnership agreement, ISS and ICGLR will soon sign a MoU. ISS will also support four studies identified in the project roadmap as well as zone 3 Regional Disarmament Committee (REDICOM) / Ministers/Parliamentarians meeting in Nairobi, in May 2009.

2) ICGLR, ISS and Kenya National Coordinator Meeting, Nairobi, 19th February

The meeting discussed and made suggestions for the dates of the forth coming Zone 3 REDICOM, Ministers and Parliamentarians meeting. It also explored preliminary ways in which ISS can support capacity enhancement for the Kenya National Coordination Mechanism, and the role of ISS in the REDICOM. It was noted that there is need for the Kenya NCM to hold further discussions with officials from the ISS so as to strengthen its capacity to coordinate implementation of ICGLR peace and security projects within the country. An interim preparatory committee was also suggested to prepare for the Ministers meeting.

3) RECSA Partners' Consultative Forum, Nairobi, February 16th

The Programme Officer presented a paper during RECSA's Partners consultative Forum in Nairobi, on ICGLR Programme Activities related to Small Arms and Light Weapons. Later, he met with RECSA senior officials and finalized discussions on a joint proposal for funding of RECSA's implementation of some of the project roadmap activities related to SALW particularly in the four ICGLR Member States not signatories to the Nairobi Protocol. The proposal has now been submitted to the ICGLR Special Fund for consideration for funding.

4) ICGLR Donors' Briefing, Kampala, February 25th

Under the framework of the implementation of the project on Disarmament of Armed Nomadic Pastoralists in Zone 3, the ICGLR Peace and Security Programme represented by the Programme Officer for Cross Cutting Issues, made a presentation to the Donors' Working Group on Northern Uganda, with a view to informing them about the project roadmap activities and budget, and to seek their support for the project's implementation. The response from the donors present was very enthusiastic, and some of them have already expressed desire to come onboard to support the implementation of the project.

5) JMG-TF Meetings, Goma, February 6th and 20th

The ICGLR Programme Officer continued to participate in the Joint Monitoring Group Task Force (JMG-TF) meetings in Goma, DRC to monitor the implementation of the Nairobi Communiqué signed by the Governments of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The meetings noted the improved relations between the DRC and Rwanda, exemplified by the then ongoing joint military operations against FDLR rebels. The meetings also took stoke of the DDR process, including the total numbers so far disarmed and the ex-combatants and their families thus far repatriated to Rwanda.



3) Another meeting was organised with the EGL (Great Lakes Energy Organisation of the CEPGL) to discuss the provision of its expertise in the implementation of priority energy projects of the Great Lakes Region.

4) A meeting with bishops who are members of the Association des conférences épiscopales de l'Afrique Centrale (Association of Episcopal Churches in Central Africa - ACEAC) was held in Bujumbura. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the importance of the ICGLR and her contribution to the restoration of peace, security and development in the Great Lakes Region .

5) The Programme Officer took part in meetings of the Joint Group on the Follow-Up of the Nairobi Process between the DRC and Rwanda

6) Effective participation in the XIIth Summit of the Heads of State and of Government of the African Union in Addis Ababa on the theme: Infrastructure Development in Africa.

7) A meeting between the Executive Secretariats of the CEPGL and of the ICGLR took place in Gisenyi. This involved a visit to the CEPGL Headquarters, discussions on the progress of respective activities and the consideration of issues related to the effective revival of the CEPGL.

8) A meeting with the Secretariat of the EASSy project (Sub-marine Fibre Optic Cable System for Eastern Africa) was held to review the current status of the project in Bujumbura, at the ICGLR headquarters.

9) A meeting was held with the GTZ Expert. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the modalities governing the relationship to be established with the ECA for the realization of the Cross-border Basin project.

HUMANITARIAN, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES PROGRAMME

1) The Programme Officer worked on the issue of the roundup and deportation of foreigners from Burundi from 19th January. There had been complaints from nationals from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania. Partners from the United Nations, specifically UNICEF, had called upon the ICGLR. The strategy consisted in working hand in hand with the Burundi National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) and BINUB (the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi). From the end of February, the situation has improved, following the meeting that the Director General of the National Police organised to assess the situation, upon his return from a mission outside the country. This was a meeting during which there was sharing of information between the police team, the ICGLR, the NCMs and the UN.

2) For a week, an evaluation team from UNIFEM worked with the Unit to explore the kind of collaboration that UNFEM could develop with the ICGLR, identifying strengths and weaknesses.

3) Last year, the Regional Office of UN-OCHA in Nairobi informed the Programme Officer that the ICGLR could organise a large workshop on Internally Displaced Persons given that



this was a phenomenon causing great concern. The workshop will take place from April 20th to 24th in Nairobi. The Assistant United Nations Secretary General in charge of Human Right is supporting the ICGLR in the entire process.

4) The Programme Officer was involved in preparations for the meeting of the Steering Committee whose lead agency is UN OCHA. Indeed, since June 2008, the seven members of this committee have been meeting every three months in Nairobi and preparing Agreements for collaboration with the ICGLR. These Agreements have been undergoing their final touches from January and their signature is expected to take place in April 2009. The 7 agencies are requesting that the Roadmaps that came out of the ICGLR Workshop on Humanitarian, Social and Environmental Issues held in June last year be transformed into achievable projects. The agencies are going to review the Roadmaps and consider ways of mobilising funds to support the ICGLR in the implementation of the Pact.

5) The process of preparation of the document with the Group of Friends (GoF) co-chaired by Canada and Norway is ongoing. Indeed, the GoF has asked the ICGLR to propose projects with operational budgets so that they may consider ways of funding them. The projects should be completed in time for the Round Table of June 2009.

6) Under the cooperation with UNIFEM, the Programme will benefit from the support of a gender expert who will work in an effective manner on issues relating to women and vulnerable groups, namely children in difficult circumstances. It has been necessary to work on the Terms of Reference of the consultant in charge of the project pertaining to rape and sexual violence against women and children.

7) The training programme on negotiation techniques and international relations for junior diplomats has been improved. From January, the Institute of Advanced Studies in International Relations and Development based in Geneva in Switzerland gave its approval for the training of young diplomats from the eleven Member States of the Great Lakes Region . The training is scheduled for November 2009. Two representatives from this organisation will come to Bujumbura to finalise all the arrangements related to this issue.

8) In the month of February, the Programme Officer attended the IIth biannual meeting organised to review the Strategic Framework for the Consolidation of Peace in Burundi. Participants considered an overview of the activities undertaken thus far to consolidate peace in Burundi . The country was on the right track and was going to receive the full support of development partners. The meeting was conducted through video-conference with New York.

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES PROGRAMME

1) Additional Funding from UNIFEM and recruiting a junior gender expert

Following termination of the earlier cooperation agreement in November 2008, UNIFEM continued to support gender as a cross cutting issue in all projects and also specifically the project on “Prevention and Fight against Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Gender- Based Violence and assistance to the victims”. A new cooperation agreement was signed on 9th December 2008. US\$ 500,000 was approved to cover gender in all projects of ICGLR. Specifically it is intended to:



- Support the domestication and the implementation of the Protocol on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children and Regional Programme on eliminating Sexual Violence in the Great lakes region as per formulation under H&Is cluster,
- Advocate for and support a mass campaign against SGBV in the Great Lakes Region in accordance with the Goma High Level Consultation of June 2008 and the Declaration thereof.;
- Support the revitalisation of the women movement in the great lakes for targeted interventions in peace building, economic security and political participation in the context of women Forum adopted by the member states of the ICGLR under the governance cluster;
- Upscale gender issues, their analysis and mainstreaming in the cross cutting perspective under the Pact;
- Engage gender advisory services- (Processes are underway to recruit a junior gender expert to start in April 2009)

This activities start in February 2009 with the steering Committee meeting in Kigali from 19th-20th march 2009.

2) Deployment of a Human rights advisor- February 2009

The Office of the High commission for Human Rights has deployed a human rights advisor to the ICGLR. Human rights is a cross cutting issue to be mainstreamed in all the projects of the ICGLR. Ms Isabell Krempf is has been with the ICGLR from its inception and preparatory stages in Nairobi leading to the Pact, Protocols and projects. She has a vast experience in human rights work and the Great Lakes Region. The ICGLR will benefit from her vast experience and expertise.

3) Elaborating on the Issues of Forced Migration in Great Lakes Region- 19th February 2009

At the invitation of Mr HA Dennis , the Director General of South African Secret Service, , the Program officer Cross cutting Issues together with the Executive Assistant to the ES accompanied the Executive Secretary, to South Africa for a workshop on the theme **Global Migration: Consequences for Development, Human Rights and Security**. The ES presented a paper on “The Role of Migration in shaping the politics of the Great Lakes Region: Lessons on Managing an international phenomenon in an African Perspective” . The meeting took place on 19th February 2009. It was attended mostly by intelligence officers from SA and the region. The guest of honor was Prof. Tibeijuka of UN HABITAT. The ES presnation brought in a dimension of “forced migration” that was characteristic in the Great Lakes region. She argued that other than voluntary migration, where migratts were looking for jobs, in the Great Lakes region it is forced migration as people run away from political persecution leading to refugees and IDPs. She called for respect of and compliance with international treaties on migration, refugees and IDPs

4) Budgeting for environment as a cross cutting issue in Zone 3- 25th February 2009

On 25th February 2009, the Programme Officer had an opportunity to address Development partners in Kampala, Uganda. The presentation covered five parts namely the background to the ICGLR with its relevant instruments including the Pact, Protocols and Projects. Second the presentation covered a specific project on “*Disarmament of Armed Nomadic Pastoralists and the promotion of sustainable Development in Zone 3*” (otherwise known as Project No. 1.1.2). as already reported by the PO P&S. Thirdly, it covered the project road maps pointing out the immediate activities that needed immediate funds to implement.. Fourthly part of the road map that had medium and long term activities was also presented. Fifthly and crucial



had medium and long term activities was also presented. Fifthly and crucial for cross cutting issues a project on Environmental Restoration within the context of Project 1.1.2 . This project is a regional project that covers communities of Uganda (Karamojong), Kenya (Turkana) and Sudan (Toposa) as per the definition of Zone 3. However, for the success of the project, Ethiopia (for the Nyangatome community) was also co-opted. Already there is an MoU between Office of the Prime Minister in Uganda and the Conference Secretariat of ICGLR to ensure that the model of the Karamoja Integrated Disarmament and Development programme (KIDDP) which is highly developed serves as a model in the other countries. The EU has been supportive in this. A delegation is expected to travel to Addis Ababa, Khartoum and Kenya to sensitise and drum support for the coordination and cooperation in implementing Project 1.1.2

5) Acting on Behalf of the Executive Secretary 30-4th February and 5th-15th March, 2009

When the ES and the D/ES were in Ethiopia during the Ordinary Session of Heads of State and the HoS meeting on the DRC, the Programme Officer was Acting ES. This was from 30th-4th February 2009. Furthermore, when the ES travelled to Monrovia, Liberia for an International Colloquium on Women's Leadership, Empowerment, Peace and Security (5/7th-8th March 2009) and then later from 9th-14th March 2009, to Paris for a series of meetings with OECD and UNESCO, the Programme Officer was left in the Acting Position. The D/ES had also travelled to Netherlands for training in Diplomacy.

6) Accreditation of the ICGLR to the AU- January –February 2009.

After consultations as to the Status of the ICGLR to the AU, letters were later prepared for submission to the AU. The letters were two; one for *Accreditation of Ambassador Liberata Mulamula as the Representative of the ICGLR at the AU* and another on “*Request for Accreditation of the ICGLR to the AU*”. The letters duly signed on 12th January 2009 by Hon Moses Wetang'ula, MP and Minister of Foreign Affairs republic of Kenya and the Chair of the Regional Inter- Ministerial Committee of the ICGLR. These letters were received by the Commission of the AU and we were informed as per the *Note verbal* dated 30th January 2009 that through the Embassy of Kenya we “will be informed in the near future when it is convenient for the Chairperson of the Commission to receive the letters of accreditation”

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT

1) Finance

- The year began with the closing of the books of the 2007/2008 financial year.
- The Head of Administration worked on the explanatory note to the 2009 ordinary budget approved by the RIMC meeting held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo in December 2008.
- With regard to the Budget, the Unit worked on the development of the overall budget, since in December, during the meeting held in Nairobi, only the ordinary budget financed through contributions from Member States was approved. At the end of the exercise, the Unit will have a budget funded by donors, the budget funded by the Special Fund and the Ordinary Budget funded by the Member States.
- The Unit acquired a new accounting system.
- The fast-tracking of the process related to the use of the funds provided by the Norwegian government, in collaboration with the UNDP was also one of the activities that the Head of this Unit was involved in. These funds had to be secured, documents and instruments for its use developed. The same applies to the Swiss funds managed by the UNDP.



- A gratuity account was opened at the FINBANK and funds were deposited into it for the year 2008. Letters have been issued to all the ICGLR Member States, reminding them to remit their contributions for the year 2009.

2) Administration

- The Unit was involved in the recruitment of an internal auditor from Burundi to assist the Conference Secretariat in its preparations for the external audit exercise. The manual records are therefore in the process of being scrutinised and support documents identified etc..

3) Human Resources

- The head of Administration and Finance, over and above his duties related to the settlement of invoices, the preparation of Missions etc, also dealt with the finalisation of the contracts of two consultants who support the ICGLR Secretariat in Communication and Translation.
- The Unit also developed the Terms of Reference for two translators to be recruited. These persons are expected to join the ICGLR with effect from April 2009. The UNDP is in charge of the Norwegian Fund that will be used for the purpose of this exercise. The same applies to the recruitment of a national gender and vulnerability expert to be recruited using UNIFEM Funds.

4) Other activities

- Other activities revolved around the preparations for the 11th Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, the Workshop on the Validation of the Consultants' Studies, the Seminar on the Women's Forum, the Donors' Round Table (recruitment of a consultant) and the meeting related to the launch of the Management Committee of the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Development in the Great Lakes Region slated for March 03 to 04, 2009 in Bujumbura.
- The Programme Officer Humanitarian, Social and Environmental Issues and the Head of the Unit worked in collaboration on the project related to the training of young diplomats in the Great Lakes Region.
- The production of ICGLR working documents in Portuguese is ongoing and the Head of the Unit has been coordinating the production activities. The translation of the same documents into Arabic has also been discussed.
- The issue of UN dispensary has also been discussed in the Unit as it is desirable that the Executive Secretariat of the ICGLR become a member of the same. A meeting is planned with the WHO Representative in Bujumbura.
- The Executive Secretariat of the ICGLR has embarked on the construction of a parking lot for the adjacent building, which is part of the Secretariat's premises. Internet connectivity still remains a problem. The purchase of an antenna linking the two buildings is necessary. The request has been presented to the UNDP (for the Norwegian Funds). The same applies to the telephone service, where the purchase of more modern equipment is envisaged.
- With regard to the Website, the Head of the Unit worked on the Invitation to Tender with the Head of Communications. The Website is due to be redesigned and the ICGLR is seeking for a competent agency capable of providing the best product. The two Units are working in collaboration on the production of some of the communication tools.
- The requirements of the library have been identified and the Head of the Unit has embarked on the process of procuring the materials from the UNDP, using the Norwegian Funding.



COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

1) The month of January saw the Communications Unit receive a cheque valued at 100,000 US\$ from the Government of China through the Ambassador of the Republic of China to Burundi. This Government sought to assist the Executive Secretariat of the Conference in its efforts to make itself known.

2) The Communications Officer travelled to France on a mission to Paris where she met with various media groups for the purpose of establishing direct partnerships with the ICGLR. The Secretariat's working documents and various brochures related to the different programmes and projects were distributed. As a result of the mission, two articles are going to be published in two international magazines, namely Jeune Afrique and AMINA.

3) This trip also facilitated the preparation of the partnership between the International Organisation of the Francophonie and the ICGLR concerning the Democracy and Good Governance Programme.

4) The Communications Unit, through different meetings and encounters organised by the ICGLR, produced communication tools, press releases or declarations, banners, brochures and information folders for the purpose of popularising the Pact on Peace, Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region. The same applies to all the external activities where it is present. The broadcasting of programmes in the eleven Member States of the ICGLR and presentations in secondary schools and universities have begun, following the Lusaka Workshop organised to validate the Consultants' studies.

5) During the first two months of 2009, the Communications Unit embarked on the publication of its Newsletter which will be produced on a monthly basis, and on that of its Magazine, to be published on a quarterly basis. The Unit is preparing the activities of the first half of the year 2009. In this regard, an editorial committee has been put in place.

6) The Unit worked on issues related to the Website, the production of publicity posters to be used in communication, information and education campaigns on the Pact scheduled for the month of April.

7) The Communications Unit worked in collaboration with all the programmes and units of the ICGLR to give the Organisation greater visibility.

CONFERENCE ET DOCUMENTATION

1) Conference

During the first months of 2009, the Conference Officer was involved in the organization of the following events:

- 2nd Extraordinary Summit of the ICGLR held in Addis Ababa on 31 January 2009
- Validation seminar of the studies of consultants on the establishment of the Regional Center for Democracy and Good Governance, Civic Education and Human Rights
- Launching conference of the Committee on the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Development

The Conference Officer was required to identify and arrange the Conference Room and other related facilities, organize for accommodation of delegates, organize protocol arrangements during meetings, as well as outsourcing qualified Translators and Interpreters to service the various meetings.



During the various conferences, the Conference Officer who is also a Translator/ Interpreter was involved in the interpretation services from English into French and vice versa.

During the period under review, Simultaneous Interpretation Equipment were also delivered and a German Engineer from the factory was dispatched to open the boxes, test the equipment and proceed with the training of the ICGLR IT Specialist. It should be noted that the testing was carried out live during the Launching conference of the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Development.

In addition to the routine translation of documents, correspondences, press releases and other documents, the Conference Officer was also involved in the preparation of the Terms of Reference for the recruitment of Translators who are expected to join the Secretariat towards April 09.

2) Documentation

In the month of January, the Documentalist embarked on the preparation of the classification plan, based on the departments existing at the ICGLR and the collection of documents from each department. The Documentalist had to identify the documents that had already been produced and determine whether or not they were useful to users or not.

In February, the Communications Officer created a database. Each time a document is created and sent to her, she records it and enters it into her database, which makes it easy for one to search for and retrieve any document. Given that some of the documents exist in several copies, she has been able to distribute these to anyone needing them.

Each time that the Documentalist completes the registration of a document, she classifies it on the shelves according to its topic. For instance: documents dealing with peace and security can all be found in the same section; the same applies to those on gender etc..In this way, everything is clearly and precisely ordered on every shelf.

PARTNERS

1) The GTZ team which came to boost the efforts of the ICGLR Executive Secretariat increased with the arrival of the new Special Advisor who came to replace Mr. Duda, whom everybody was familiar with and who left the Conference Secretariat in July last year for South Africa. The new Special Advisor, Mr. Marcus Wagner will officially take up his position with effect from 1 April 09. The GTZ team which shall now be composed of three units based in Bujumbura has been supporting the ICGLR since the beginning of the entire process, with the support of the GTZ Nairobi.

2) The main important activity during the last two months was the preparation of the coming meeting of Experts on the Regional Initiative against the illegal exploitation of natural resources scheduled to be held in Bujumbura, Burundi, from 2 to 3 April 09. Preparation of this meeting required tremendous efforts from the GTZ Advisor who is based in the Conference Secretariat since September last year.

3) The second activity which took much of the Advisor's time was the preparation of the meeting on « trans-border security and development », which is also supported by GTZ. The GTZ advisor informed the National Coordinators about the meeting and its objectives including the various stages required for the implementation of the project.

