



COMMUNIQUE OF THE 1st MEETING OF THE GUARANTORS OF THE PEACE, SECURITY AND COOPERATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO AND THE REGION

ADDIS ABABA, 1 DECEMBER 2014

1. The Guarantors of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region (PSC Framework) held their first meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the Headquarters of the African Union (AU), on 1 December 2014, in order to review the recent developments in the region and take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the PSC Framework.
2. The meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador Saïd Djinnit, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) for the Great Lakes Region, and Ambassador Smail Chergui, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security. Also present were H.E. Georges Rebelo Chicoti, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Angola, and Honorable Simbarashe S. Mumbengegwi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zimbabwe, in their capacity as representatives of the countries chairing the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), respectively; Honorable Mr. David Mahlobo, Minister of State Security of the Republic of South Africa, Current Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation; as well as Ambassador Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra, AU Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, H.E. Professor Ntumba Luaba, Executive Secretary of the ICGLR, and H.E. Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary of SADC.
3. The Guarantors noted the volatility of the security situation in Eastern DRC, particularly in Beni and its surroundings, with the recent attacks perpetrated against civilians and gross violations of human rights, including women and children. The Guarantors expressed deep concern at the prevailing situation, and warned the armed groups against continuing their criminal activities. They called on the DRC Armed Forces (FARDC) and MONUSCO to take decisive actions in order to neutralise all the negative forces in the DRC, in accordance with the decisions taken by the regional leaders and the UN Security Council. The Guarantors urged all the partners to ensure that those who commit murder, rape and other human rights violations are prosecuted.
4. Recalling the imminent deadline of 2 January 2015 set by the Heads of State of the Region for the voluntary disarmament of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Guarantors expressed their deep concern over the slow pace in the disarmament process. They noted the transfer, on 27 November 2014, of 157 combatants and families in the transit centre in Kisangani, and strongly urged the FDLR, particularly its leadership, to fully disarm within the agreed time limits. The Guarantors further stressed the binding and non-negotiable character of the 2

January 2015 deadline, and underlined the need to constantly remind the FDLR of the countdown in this regard. In this respect, they recalled that MONUSCO and the FARDC have been tasked to take the necessary action for the neutralization of the FDLR should they not comply with the agreed deadline, in line with the relevant provisions of resolutions 2098 (2013) and 2147 (2014), as well as the ICGLR Mini-Summit of 14 August 2014 and the SADC Summit of 17 and 18 August 2014.

5. In light of the above, the Guarantors requested the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) to consider the situation, with a view to taking the necessary action. The Guarantors reiterated their full support to the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General, and requested him to submit the conclusions of this meeting for the consideration of the Heads of State and Government of the Region.

6. The Guarantors noted the meeting held on 7 November 2014 in Kinshasa initiated by the ICGLR Secretariat and the National Oversight Mechanism to take stock of the progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Declarations of 12 December 2013, and deplored the absence of M23 at the said meeting. They noted the efforts of the Congolese Government in implementing the commitments of the Nairobi Declarations, and encouraged the DRC Government to accelerate the process, in particular on the issue of amnesty and repatriation of the ex-M23 in Rwanda and in Uganda. The Guarantors called on the UN and the AU to champion the process of engaging prospective third party countries willing to receive former FDLR elements unwilling to return to their country of origin and have not been touched by national and international justice.

7. The Guarantors agreed on the need to identify immediate possibilities for peace dividends that could contribute to a return to stability and the ultimate success of the PSC Framework. In this regard, they stressed the vital importance of regional cooperation and economic integration. To this end, they called for greater transparency in the mineral sector, due diligence and regional protocol for the fight against illegal exploitation of natural resources, as well as a conference on Private Investment in the Great Lakes Region. The Guarantors underscored the urgent need to hold a Summit of the “Communauté économique des Pays des Grands Lacs” (CEPGL) to further regional economic development programmes.

8. The AU and the UN, working together with the ICGLR and SADC, will step up their efforts in order to mobilise the international community for the effective implementation of the PSC Framework in a coordinated and coherent manner. In addition, the Guarantors will work to encourage international partners to support the disarmament of all armed groups and efficient DDR programmes that can lead to a lasting reintegration in the DRC.

9. The Guarantors also expressed their determination to find a lasting solution to the issue of refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) in the DRC and the Region. They called for greater attention to this issue and a greater mobilisation of the international community for an initiative centred on this issue.

10. The Guarantors took note of the empowerment of women through the Women Platform, which remains an indicator of success in the implementation of the PSC Framework and Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. They highlighted the need to strengthen the partnerships with existing mechanisms in the Region, such as the ICGLR Regional Forum of Women.

11. The Guarantors underlined the PSC Framework remains the most viable tool for lasting peace and stability in the DRC and the Region. In that respect, they urged all concerned parties to work towards its effective implementation. They welcomed the first progress report on the implementation of the PSC Framework, and highlighted the importance of the recommendations therein. They exchanged views on the format and the efficiency of the Regional Oversight Mechanism (ROM), and made concrete suggestions on how to make it more interactive and focused on thematic areas. They requested the Technical Support Committee (TSC) to explore further the proposals made before the fifth meeting of the ROM, planned in January 2015 in Addis Ababa.

12. The Guarantors thanked the UN and the AU for their initiative to convene this meeting. They agreed to meet regularly to review the situation and ensure an enhanced support to the implementation of the PSC Framework.

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