



The United Nations acknowledgements the work of the Burundian forces in the peacekeeping mission



During an audience granted to him by the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye on friday may 05, 2023 at Ntare Rushatsi Palace on the eve of the holding of the 11th Summit of the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres expressed a deep admiration for the work done by the Burundian forces on the peacekeeping mission.

"The Burundian soldiers have demonstrated courage, generosity and an absolutely admirable commitment, we are proud to have them in the framework of the cooperation for peace of the United Nations and the African Union", he indicated after having welcomed the positive role played by Burundi in the region, in particular the efforts invested by the Burundian Head of State in his capacity as current President of the East African Community (EAC).

"We also welcome the projects under-

taken by the Government of Burundi in reforming the governance, improving the economic situation and accelerating the sustainable development of the country", continued the Secretary General of the United Nations before reaffirming his support for Burundi and his determination in mobilizing the donor countries and the international community in supporting and assisting the Government of Burundi in carrying out the projects undertaken.

During this audience, the Burundian Number One briefly presented the situation of the country on the political, socio-economic and security level while underlining the priorities of the Government to improve the living conditions of the population despite the negative impact of the unjust sanctions imposed on Burundi, Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine.

"Burundi is now on the international scene thanks to the efforts of the General Secretariat of the United Nations", suggested the Burundian Head of State who also positively appreciated the collaboration of Burundi with the agencies of the United Nations System in Burundi and the gesture that the United Nations has just made by awarding the First Lady of Burundi the population award.

Speaking of the security situation in

In this Edition:	page
The United Nations acknowledgements the work of the Burundian forces in the peacekeeping mission	1
President Ndayishimiye receives the Facilitator Uhuru Kenyatt	2
Handover to the presidency of the Regional Monitoring Mechanism of the Framework Agreement for the DRC	3
Infertility care in Burundi: a major concern for the First Lady	5
34 th meeting of the Technical Support Committee of the signatory countries of the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation for the DRC and the region	7
Celebrating World Press Freedom Day	7

the East of the DRC and in the Region, the President of the Republic reassured him as to the capacity of the regional force in stabilizing the East of the DRC but with especially the logistical support of the International community.

Other topics discussed included the crisis in Sudan where the Secretary General of the United Nations "called on the international community in supporting the Sudanese in their quest for peace and a return to the democratic transition." (www.presidency.gov.bi)

President Ndayishimiye receives the Facilitator Uhuru Kenyatt



The Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience on Sunday May 7, 2023 at the Kiriri Palace, the designated Facilitator of the East African Community (EAC) in the Nairobi process for peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Former President of Kenya, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, to discuss the preparation of the next Summit of that organization. That meeting, which takes

place the day after the holding of the 11th Summit of the Monitoring Mechanism of the Framework Agreement for Peace and Security in the DRC, was an opportunity for the two High personalities to analyze the possibilities of integrating the conclusions of that Summit in the next East African Community Summit, the former President Kenyatta revealed after leaving the audience.

The Facilitator in the Nairobi process for peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo also spoke about the holding of the 11th Summit of the Monitoring Mechanism of the Framework Agreement for Peace and Security in the DRC, which aimed to revitalizing the Framework Agreement signed in 2013 for ensuring the stability of the Democratic Republic of Congo in general and the eastern part of that country in particular:

"The recovery of peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo is very important not only for this country but also for the entire region of East Africa in order to ensure the integral development of the population", he indicated. . (www.presidency.gov.bi)

Handover to the presidency of the Regional Monitoring Mechanism of the Framework Agreement for the DRC

The 11th high-level meeting of the Regional Monitoring Mechanism of the Framework Agreement for the DRC was held on Saturday in Bujumbura where there was a transfer of powers between the President of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye and His Congolese counterpart His Excellency Felix Tshisekedi.

In addition to the guarantors of the Framework Agreement such as the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Antonio Guterres and the President of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Community of Development of Southern Africa (SADC), the Summit of the Heads of State saw the

participation of five out of the thirteen Heads of State signatories to the Agreement, while the others were represented. These are the Presidents of the DRC, South Africa, Uganda and the Central African Republic.

This 11th Summit coincides with the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Framework Agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region.

In their speeches, these distinguished guests converged on the need for a return to peace, security, stability and the protection of the resources of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The President of the DRC, and the outgoing President-in



-Office of the Regional Monitoring Mechanism of the Framework Agreement for the DRC did not hesitate when he accused before this High-level Assembly, the role of Rwanda in terms of the significant support to the M23 Movement, even though it is on the list of signatory countries of the said Mechanism. He thus urged the international community to do everything so that the East regains its peace and security, before handing over the baton to the President of Burundi.

“The ten years have been marked by the significant geopolitical changes and achievements remarkable recorded in the search for peace in the DRC, but also, by the obstacles and the challenges that are still observed today. We can mention, among other things, the accession of the DRC to the EAC”, introduced the Number One Burundian.

“The question of peace and security in the DRC is a part of the agenda of the East African Community.

Indeed, since the DRC officially became one of ours within the East African Community, the Community has naturally been involved in contributing to the pacification efforts of a brotherly country”, added President Ndayishimiye directly, making note that in addition to the forces of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission (MONUSCO) which intervene in the DRC, Contingents of the East African Force have also been deployed there in contributing to the return and maintenance of peace in that Sister Nation.

“We will not fail to highlight poverty and unemployment, common enemies of all Congolese citizens, which have been aggravated by the illegal and illicit exploitation of natural resources which should be used to curb these problems. In addition, the persistence of the negative forces and the resurgence of fighting carried out by the M23 has exacerbated an unhealthy climate between the DRC and Rwanda, which adds drama to the drama”, insisted the Burundian Number One reassuring that to all these challenges, solutions must be found.

The Head of State of Burundi reminded that the African wisdom challenges them to find African solutions to African problems, and that it is in this same logic that regional solutions are needed to regional problems.

Starting from the fact that Burundi has been able to emerge from a sad history marked by the unprecedented repetitive massacres, the discrimination, the persecution and the serious violations of the human rights, the President of Burundi remains confident that the DRC, too will get out of it.

“Burundi reiterates its firm determination to do everything possible to contribute significantly to the return of peace and stability to the DRC and the entire Region. This will undoubtedly happen through the effective implementation of the decisions taken concerning peace and security in our region”, concluded President Ndayishimiye before seeking for the financial and the logistical support from the international community and more specifically from the United Nations. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

The Presidential Couple enhances the ceremonies of the celebration of the Labor and Workers' Day in Bururi

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he President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye ac-

companied by the First Lady of the country, chose joining the population of the Province of Bururi, on Monday may 1, 2023, in celebrating the International

Day of Labor and Workers . The festivities took place at the Kabuye stadium where a large crowd stood out, mixing the young and the old, the senior army and the police officers, the senior Government Officials, the private sector as well as the members of the diplomatic and consular Corps.



These ceremonies were marked by a long parade of the workers from both the public and the private sectors, who came not only from the various communes of Bururi Province, but also from other localities in the country. Most had honored the loincloth, "made in Burundi", holding in their hands the fruits of their labor. The drummers of Kigutu and Gishora, as well as

the cultural club Umuco of Bururi embellished the whole.

That day was also a good opportunity for the employers on the one hand and the employees on the other hand in making a self-assessment, with the aim of increasing production in all sectors of the country, always respecting the dialogue framework for resolve any disputes.

Celebrated under the theme: "Leaders, be the model among those who increase productivity", the Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, in his speech, reiterated his appeal to the entire Burundian population in general and all the leaders in particular for working tirelessly, 24 hours a day, to continue in transforming the image of the country, which by 2040 will be an emerging country.

As it has become a tradition for a few years, the Burundian Number One closed the Labor and the Workers' Day ceremonies with the awarding of the awards to the workers from various sectors of the country who have distinguished themselves by their bravery within their service during that year. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

Infertility care in Burundi: a major concern for the First Lady



On Wednesday, May 3, 2023, a workshop was held in Kibimba to raise awareness of health professionals and administrators on the management of infertility in Burundi, coupled with the inauguration of the In-vitro Fertility Center at the UMUGIRANEZA polyclinic in Kibimba. Several guests of honor including Dr. Rasha Kalej, CEO of the Merk Foundation, were there.

In his speech, Dr. Kalej thanked the First Lady Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye for her initiatives aimed at improving the health of the population. "She primarily fights for improving access to equitable, quality healthcare solutions and building healthcare capacity," she said. Dr. Rasha Kalej also said that the First Lady is very dynamic in all her activities aimed mainly at serving the Burundian people.

All stakeholders in this sector have appreciated the initiatives of the First Lady, especially the fact that she is taking the lead in helping people access health care.

These activities were the opportunity to officially launch an infertility care center in Burundi at the Umugiraneza Polyclinic in Kibimba. This first center, which offers access to In-Vitro Fertilization, will be able to help the infertile couples in seeking the treatment here in Burundi without however going abroad.

In her speech for the occasion, the First Lady Her

Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye warmly thanked everyone who contributed, directly or indirectly, to the outcome of that workshop. She first mentioned the Merck Foundation for its material, professional and moral support to provide the quality care to people who need it.

Regarding the infertility in Burundi, the First Lady said that the infertility is a real problem in our country and a source of stigma in families and communities, especially towards women. It is the women who are blamed for the absence of the child and this has several socio-cultural and economic consequences. She then indicated that the UMUGIRANEZA Polyclinic introduced that In-Vitro Fertilization service with the

aim of making it accessible to all those who need it, especially since some families were forced to travel to other countries at the very high costs, the high travel and medical expenses.

“We want to give infertile couples the chance to exercise their reproductive rights through access to the facilities offered to us by modern technology in the field of infertility, in particular assisted reproductive technology,” she added. She took the opportunity to call on all those who have infertility problems to contact the health professionals in time for the appropriate care. (www.presidence.gov.bi)

Meeting of the Ministers of the signatory countries of the Framework Agreement for Peace and Cooperation for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region.



On thursday may 04, 2023, Bujumbura, the economic capital of Burundi, hosted the Council of Ministers of the signatory countries of the Framework Agreement for Peace and Cooperation for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region, signed in Addis Ababa 10 years ago. This council was held as a prelude to the 11th Summit of the Monitoring Mechanism of the Framework Agreement for peace, security and cooperation for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region, of Heads of State and Government in the presence of partners lead by the Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations for the Great Lakes region Mr. Huang Xia.

At the opening of that Council of Ministers of the signatory countries of the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement, all the speakers, those the executive Secretaries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Mr. Elias Magos, of the Interna-

tional Conference for the Great Lakes Region (CIRGL) Joao Samuel Caholo and the High Representative of the African Union in the Great Lakes Region have converged on the need to revitalize these agreements so that the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region recover the peace.

In his speech for the occasion, the Representative of the United Nations in the Great Lakes Region His Excellency Huang Xia indicated that that meeting was held prior to the resumption of the serious crisis in eastern Congo such as the continuation of the M23, ADF, FDLR, Red Tabara and other local groups that perpetuate the insecurity and the intolerable suffering of civilian populations. Tensions between some countries in the Region persist and have led to the rise of hate speech, incitement to violence and fueled tensions. The Special Envoy is delighted that the Region has mobilized to ease tensions and find solutions to the multiple military and humanitarian challenges, added Huang Xia, United Nations Representative in the Great Lakes region. He also welcomed the strengthening of coordination between the Luanda and Nairobi processes to continue the efforts of consultation and coordination of security mechanisms in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo in order to ensure the objective of eliminating the armed groups and returning the displaced populations.

In his speech for the occasion, the Burundian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO

indicated that the presence of any participant is an eloquent testimony to the attachment to peace, stability and coordination in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region, a shared will of the States of the sub-region to contribute to the solutions of the problems which undermine the peace and the socio-economic development of the sub-region. According to the Minister, the meetings of this Council of Ministers would make it possible to assess the progress already made, review the difficulties encountered, the challenges to be overcome and future projections by defining the concrete actions in the short and long term to the well-being of the peoples of the sub-region.

According to him, the success of peace in the sub-region requires attacking the root causes that feed these conflicts and the growing extremism that finds its roots in exclusion, inequalities, poverty and unem-

ployment, the crisis in governance, the illegal exploitation and illicit trade in natural resources.

Minister SHINGIRO urged the parties in conflict in Sudan to cease hostilities, guaranteeing the humanitarian access and starting the frank and sincere dialogue to save the lives of peaceful citizens. As the new leader of the Council of Ministers signatories to these Agreements, Albert SHINGIRO advocates cheaper preventive diplomacy to the detriment of playing firefighters to iron out disputes and to reduce the risk of war before they start.

This Council of Ministers was preceded by a two-day meeting of the Technical Support Committee preparatory to the meeting of the Regional Control Mechanism (ROM), which was held behind the closed doors.

34th meeting of the Technical Support Committee of the signatory countries of the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation for the DRC and the region

On Tuesday May 02, 2022, the 34th meeting of the Technical Support Committee of the signatory countries of the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation for the Democratic Republic of Congo was held in Bujumbura. The meeting was co-chaired by the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region His Excellency Mr. Xiang Xia, the High Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission in Burundi Mr. Sghair Ould M'Bareck. .

That 34th meeting was held prior to the ministerial meeting of May 4, 2023 and the Summit of the Heads of States and the Government which took place on Saturday May 6, 2023 in Bujumbura. For two days, experts from thirteen African countries, those from the African Union, those from the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region and those from the United Nations, who will work on different aspects of regional life, in the field of peace, security and development.

In his speech, Mr. Huang Xia, the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region, praised the efforts of the authorities of Burundi, under



the leadership of His Excellency the President of the Republic Mr. Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE for having facilitated the reception of all the delegations and the organization of those seats. "We are already invited to contribute significantly to this revitalization through the roadmap at our disposal and which will be our compass to delve into the actions defined by our respective hierarchies" underlined His Excellency Huang Xia.

All the speakers, those are the Representative of the African Union Liaison Office for Burundi and the Great Lakes Region Mr. Sghair Ould M'Bareck, the Representative of the Executive Secretary of the In-

ternational Conference for the Great Lakes Region (CIRGL) Ambassador Yasir Ibrahim Ali Mohammed, and the President of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mr. Elias Magos, they all pointed out that that meeting will make possible to more effectively address the multiple persistent challenges at the level of the Great Lakes, by eradicating the root causes of the recurring conflicts. The three

organizations will remain committed alongside the other institutions including the UN, East African Community, etc. in the implementation of that roadmap, as well as the action plans for the revitalization of the Framework Agreement for the peace, security and cooperation for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region signed in Addis Ababa on may 24, 2023.(MFADC)

Celebrating World Press Freedom Day



Burundi joined the world on wednesday may 3, 2023 in celebrating the World Press Freedom Day, which was celebrated on may 3, 2023 each year. As part of the celebration of this world day, the Ministry of Communication, Information Technologies and the Media in collaboration with the house of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Burundi organized a day of reflection in order to consolidate that inalienable right to the Burundian press.

According to the Representative of the UNESCO House in Burundi in that activity, ensuring that information remains common good in the digital age, the member countries have committed, with the declaration of 2021, for supporting the independent journalism in ensuring the greater transparency. And to add that we cannot do it without the actors who largely condition access to the information: the digital platforms. That is why the UNESCO organized on last february the conference "for the Internet of trust", which was an essential step in the development of the principles for the regulation of the digital platforms." The issue is fundamental because it was a question of both the protecting freedom of expression and the combating of the disinformation and the hate speech", he added.

According to the Assistant to the Minister of Commu-

nication, Information Technologies and the Media, Mr. Thierry Kitamoya, the World Press Freedom Day was celebrated that year under the theme: "Shaping a future of rights: freedom of expression as the driving force behind all other the human rights."

Mr. Thierry Kitamoya said that this day of freedom of the press in Burundi is an opportunity to concretize the progress made and to discuss the challenges that oppose freedom of the press for identifying solutions together.

The Assistant to the Minister of Communication, Information Technologies and Media Thierry Kitamoya also indicated that the Government on his part spares no effort in the promotion of freedom of the Press. Mention should be made of the ongoing projects aimed at improving and strengthening the legal framework governing the sector to removing all the challenges that would oppose that freedom. He also cited the Government's commitment to the improving and supporting the work of the media, especially since the Head of State has already certified that the media are essential in development when he highlighted the particular role of the media by the understatement "never without the media" which is a simplified form used to amplify his deep conviction of the contribution of the media to the overall development of the country.

The Freedom of the Press is a continuous process from which it is always necessary to reflect on the concrete actions and initiatives to be taken to support and promote the prospects in terms of freedom of the press and freedom of expression, the security of journalists and the development of the media, concluded Mr. Thierry Kitamoya.(www.rtnb.bi)

**Communiqué of the 11th High-Level Meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region
Bujumbura, 6 May 2023**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Signatory Countries of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region (hereinafter the PSC Framework), held our 11th meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism (ROM) of the PSC Framework on 6 May 2023 in Bujumbura, Burundi. The meeting was hosted by His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi. The purpose of the meeting was to review recent developments in the region as well as progress and challenges in the implementation of the PSC Framework, ten years after its signing on 24 February 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Heads of State and Government or Representatives of the following Signatory Countries participated in the meeting:

Republic of Angola

Republic of Burundi

Central African Republic

Republic of the Congo

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Republic of Kenya

Republic of Rwanda

Republic of South Africa

Republic of South Sudan

United Republic of Tanzania

Republic of Uganda

Republic of Zambia

The Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), the Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission, the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in charge of corporate affairs also participated in the deliberations as Guarantor Institutions of the PSC Framework.

We

1. Reaffirm our respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, notably intangibility of borders, and the political independence of all countries in the region;
2. Express concern over the tensions between the DRC and the Republic of Rwanda and called for restraint, de-escalation of tensions, and pursuit of dialogue between the two countries;
3. Commend His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, Chairperson of the ICGLR, AU Champion for Peace and Reconciliation in Africa, and mediator designated by the AU to maintain dialogue between the DRC and Rwanda, for his engagement; and urge both countries to implement the decisions reached under the “Luanda Process”;

4. Condemn the occupation by the M23 of territories inside the DRC and call for its withdrawal to positions in accordance with the Communiqué of Luanda of 23 November 2022 and the decisions of the Nairobi Process; Express our concern over the worsened security situation in Eastern DRC since then as well as its serious humanitarian consequences. We further condemn the actions of foreign and local armed groups operating in Eastern DRC, including the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)-Madina at Tauheed Wau Mujahedeen (MTM), *les Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda* (FDLR), *Résistance pour un État de Droit au Burundi* (RED Tabara), *Coopérative pour le développement du Congo* (CODECO), Zaire militia and Mai Mai, and urge them to immediately cease hostilities without conditions, engage in the process of voluntary disarmament and community reintegration for Congolese armed groups, in the case of foreign armed groups, the repatriation to their countries of origin. We direct the Operational Cell of the Contact and Coordination Group on non-military measures to pursue its engagement with foreign armed groups in this regard in full transparency with the Congolese government;
5. Further condemn the massacres perpetrated against the peaceful civilian population in Kizimba in the territory of Masisi, DRC during the night of 3 to 4 May 2023 and demand an independent investigation, in collaboration with the Government of the DRC and with the support of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), the EAC Regional Force, and the Ad Hoc Verification Mechanism, in order to ensure that the perpetrators of these odious crimes are brought to justice.
6. Express our compassion following the disappearance of dozens of people in Rwanda due to floods linked to the effects of climate change.
7. Welcome and encourage the East African Community (EAC)-led Nairobi Process under the aegis of His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, EAC Chairperson and AU Champion for Youth, Peace and Security, and His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, EAC Facilitator and former President of the Republic of Kenya; and urge all the parties to remain committed to this peace process and to honor the commitments made to cease hostilities during the Nairobi III consultations.
8. Reiterate our support to the Luanda Process and the EAC-led Nairobi Process;
9. Urge all partners to support these initiatives and their outcomes, including with regard to assistance towards demobilization of combatants of armed groups and their reinsertion and reintegration into civilian lives;
10. Reiterate our request to MONUSCO, the EAC Regional Force and the Ad Hoc Verification Mechanism to continue to enhance coordination and synergies with the *Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo* (FARDC) in order to impress upon all armed groups to disarm. We also encourage other troops deployed through bilateral arrangements to fully commit themselves to the same; Encourage the DRC to authorize the continuation and the finalization of the deployment of the Regional Force;
11. Further express our deep concern over the escalation of violence between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the Republic of the Sudan and call for an immediate cessation of hostilities, a return to dialogue and a peaceful political transition. We encourage the AU, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the UN Trilateral Mechanism on Sudan's political transition to pursue their efforts to avoid a further escalation of violence;
12. Welcome the progress achieved by the parties to the Revitalized Peace Agreement for the resolution of conflict in the Republic of South Sudan;
13. Take note of progress and challenges in the implementation of the PSC Framework since its signing ten years ago and reiterate its pertinence as a vehicle for addressing the root causes of

instability in the region and request the Technical Support Committee (TSC) to conduct an independent, frank, and sincere assessment of the implementation of the PSC Framework, highlighting its strengths and weaknesses, and of adherence by the signatory countries to its principles and commitments;

14. Request the inclusion of the conclusions and recommendations of the aforementioned assessment in the Roadmap for the Revitalization of the PSC Framework drafted by the TSC and to report at the next high-level meeting of the ROM for endorsement;

15. Welcome the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan (2021–2023) of the UN Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region (2020–2030), aimed at supporting the countries and people of the region in their efforts to achieve lasting peace, security and development;

16. Express support for the full participation of women and youth in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and political dialogue in the region, including the Nairobi and Luanda Processes, as well as the efforts for the revitalization of the PSC Framework, and encourage the AU Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security and the co-chairs of FemWise to work closely with the Guarantor Institutions and Signatory Countries in this regard;

17. Encourage the Republic of Burundi as incoming ROM chair to organize a platform for dialogue with women and youth of the region to allow them to contribute to the region's peace efforts;

18. Note that Angola will host on 25-26 May 2023 a forum on women, peace and democracy as well as on its role in peacebuilding and conflict prevention in Africa.

19. Welcome the initiative of His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, Chairperson of the ICGLR, to convene on 15 May 2023 an extraordinary Summit of ICGLR to address latest developments in the region, particularly the political and security situation in Eastern DRC and in the Republic of the Sudan;

20. Welcome and encourage efforts to deepen regional socio-economic integration and promote a responsible, transparent management of natural resources through the full implementation of the recommendations of the high-level regional workshop on this matter that was held in 2021 in Khartoum, The Sudan;

21. Direct the Ministers of Justice and relevant authorities to step up the fight against impunity in the region through the full implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration on Enhancing Judicial Cooperation in the Great Lakes Region signed in June 2022;

22. Express gratitude to His Excellency Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the DRC, for his leadership as Chair of the ROM from February 2022 to May 2023;

23. Also extend appreciation to His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, to the Government and people of Burundi for hosting the 11th ROM High-Level Meeting as well as for the warm welcome, the hospitality and all the courtesies extended to us during our stay in Bujumbura;

24. Finally, we agree to meet again in Kampala, Uganda, in 2024 to further review the implementation of the PSC Framework.

Bujumbura, 6 May 2023

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