

**Peacebuilding Commission written advice to the Security Council
on judicial cooperation in the Great Lakes region**

12 April 2024

As part of its continuing engagement in the Great Lakes region, the Peacebuilding Commission reiterates in full the written advice it offered to the Security Council in October 2023 and further advises the Council to consider the following:

1. Recalling its strong support for regional initiatives aiming at deescalating tensions and creating the conditions for sustainable peace in the region, such as the Luanda and Nairobi processes.
2. Encouraging the ongoing efforts to revitalize the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region (“the Framework”).
3. Reiterating the need for the Framework’s signatories to fulfill their commitments to promote judicial cooperation among the countries of the Great Lakes region and welcoming the support provided by the Framework’s guarantor institutions, as appropriate.
4. Encouraging the Framework’s signatories to address shared difficulties to judicial cooperation in the region with support from the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes (“the Office of the Special Envoy”).
5. Stressing the commitments by the Framework’s signatories to neither harbor nor provide protection of any kind to persons accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity, acts of genocide or crimes of aggression, nor persons falling under United Nations sanctions regimes.
6. Recognizing the collaboration between the UN and the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to strengthen complementarity and synergies between the Framework and the ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region (“the Pact”) and deepen the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network (“the Network”).
7. Encouraging the UN and ICGLR to build partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations, such as the African Union (AU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), to deepen the Network.
8. Reaffirming the Commission’s support for the commitments expressed by the Ministers of Justice from the countries of the Great Lakes region in the 2019 Nairobi Declaration on Justice and Good Governance (“the Nairobi Declaration”) and the 2022 Kinshasa Declaration for Enhancing Judicial Cooperation (“the Kinshasa Declaration”).
9. Welcoming the establishment of a review committee for the implementation of the Nairobi and Kinshasa Declarations, as well as the adoption of draft guidelines for mutual legal assistance and extradition requests analysis.
10. Encouraging the Network’s members to fully utilize the mechanism for enhancing cooperation on specific cross-border cases.

11. Taking note of the efforts by national and local authorities, with UN and ICGLR support, to identify specific cross-border cases and the required steps to advance prosecution and adjudication through cross-border judicial cooperation.
12. Welcoming the intention of the Network to develop a standard prosecution policy for the region as an essential mechanism to enhance cooperation on priority cases.
13. Encouraging countries of the Great Lakes region to assess their capacity-building and training needs in judicial cooperation matters, create national action plans and improve training programs for legal practitioners.
14. Calling upon the international community to provide adequate funding, active support and substantial technical assistance to enhance judicial cooperation among the countries of the Great Lakes region.
15. Encouraging the continuation of efforts underway in strengthening the role of women in political and peace processes in the region and the importance of youth inclusion.