



Office of the Special Representative
of the Secretary-General on
Sexual Violence in Conflict

Framework of Cooperation

**Between the International Conference on the
Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and
The United Nations Office of the Special
Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual
Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC)**

23 September 2014

Concerning the Prevention and Response to Conflict-related Sexual Violence in the Great Lakes Region

1. The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), and the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC), building on prior positive collaboration, in accordance with the 2006 ICGLR Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children; the Kampala Declaration on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (the 'Kampala Declaration') of 15 December 2011; United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010) and 2106 (2013); and in alignment with the Framework of Cooperation between the Office of the SRSG-SVC and the African Union Commission of 31 January 2014; agree to enter into a Framework of Cooperation (the 'Framework') to collectively address conflict-related sexual violence in the Great Lakes Region.
2. Under this Framework, ICGLR recognizes the Office of the SRSG-SVC as its primary interlocutor/focal point within the UN system on issues related to conflict-related sexual violence and the Office of the SRSG-SVC recognizes ICGLR as its primary interlocutor/focal point in the Great Lakes Region on issues concerning conflict-related sexual violence at Great Lakes regional level.

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- h. If the need arises, and when possible, facilitating access of the Special Representative of the SRSG-SVC to parties to conflict credibly suspected of committing acts of conflict-related sexual violence to seek commitments for prevention and response, in line with UN Security Council resolutions 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), and 2106 (2013);
 - i. Collaborating in the delivery of training for relevant actors, the production, harmonization and standardization of training materials; through the ICGLR sexual violence training initiatives, to enhance the capacity in the region to address sexual violence;
 - j. Supporting the consolidation of the Kampala-based Regional Training Facility (RTF)'s capacity and strengthening its competencies, including through provision of expertise, sharing of knowledge, experiences and information, in order to enhance joint efforts to build the capacity of actors in the region to address sexual violence;
 - k. Collaborating in training of peacekeeping units deployed in operations in the Great Lakes Region, as well as national security forces to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence, in cooperation with relevant partners such as the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center and other training institutions and centres of excellence;
 - l. Enhancing capacity of the criminal justice system of conflict and post-conflict countries in the Great Lakes Region to respond to suspected cases of conflict-related sexual violence, including through supporting special court sessions;
 - m. Cooperating in the mobilization of resources to support the implementation of agreed actions to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence in the Great Lakes region; and
 - n. Cooperating to strengthen health systems to provide services to victims including medical, psychosocial and legal.
4. To facilitate this cooperation, the Office of the SRSG-SVC and the ICGLR will each designate institutional focal points through which communication may be channelled. In addition, the ICGLR and the Office of the SRSG-SVC agree to develop an implementation plan annually, around key priorities mentioned in this framework.

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3. Under this Framework, the two parties agree to collaborate in a number of overarching priority areas including: combating impunity and promoting accountability as a critical aspect of deterrence and prevention; fostering political leadership and action; enhancing information on sexual violence as a basis for action at all levels; undertaking capacity building and training to enhance response at all levels; fostering better coordination at all levels; fostering national ownership, leadership and responsibility; and emphasizing multi-sectoral services for survivors; empowering women and girls; and countering the stigma of survivors. In this regard, the Office of the SRSB-SVC and ICGLR agree to join efforts on eradicating conflict-related sexual violence, including, *inter alia*:

- a. Cooperating in advocacy efforts with Member States of the ICGLR to combat impunity for conflict-related sexual violence through the ICGLR Secretariat;
- b. Supporting advocacy efforts with Member States of the ICGLR to increase the visibility of efforts to address conflict-related sexual violence, including through the expression of political will, provision of means, and taking concrete action at the highest level to eradicate this crime;
- c. Supporting efforts to enhance national and regional policies, legislation and institutions working on conflict-related sexual violence;
- d. Advocating for the integration of conflict-related sexual violence prevention safeguards and concerns in mediation and conflict-resolution efforts in ICGLR countries, and ensuring the participation of women in such efforts;
- e. Preventing and monitoring, with the support of the UN and ICGLR Member States, conflict-related sexual violence in the Great Lakes Region, and promoting more systematic reporting and regular exchanges of information and analysis on conflict-related sexual violence in the region;
- f. Cooperating in the promotion of key ICGLR instruments on addressing sexual violence, including the Kampala Declaration (2011) and the ICGLR Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children (2006);
- g. Promoting joint messaging on situations of concern involving the use of sexual violence as a tool of war in the Great Lakes Region;

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5. In case of disputes arising from the application, implementation or interpretation of this Framework, the Parties shall settle the dispute amicably by negotiations.
6. This Framework agreement may be amended upon mutual consent by both Parties.
7. This Framework may be terminated by either of the parties, following two-month prior written notification. In the event of a renunciation of the Framework, the obligations of the Parties with regard to on-going projects shall continue to be honoured in accordance with the provisions of this Framework until their completion.
8. This Framework shall enter into force on the date of its signing by the Office of the SRSG-SVC and ICLGR.

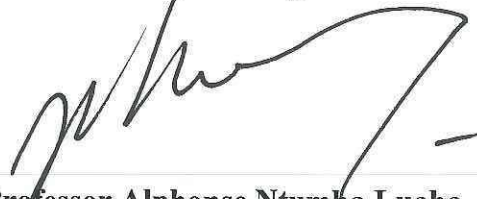
This Framework of Cooperation was signed on 23 September 2014

**For the United Nations Office of the Special
Representative of the Secretary-General on
Sexual Violence in Conflict**



**Zainab Hawa Bangura
Special Representative**

**For the International Conference
on the Great Lakes Region**



**Professor Alphonse Ntumba Luaba
Executive Secretary**