



**THIRTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE
FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

RESOLUTION 13 OSP/06/2023

**THE IMPACT OF ILLEGAL EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES ON
CONFLICTS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

The Plenary Assembly.

- **Considering** the provisions of Article 48 of the Inter-Parliamentary Agreement Establishing the Forum of Parliaments of Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region signed in Kigali, Rwanda on 4th December, 2008;
- **Recognizing** the importance of the implementation of the 2022-2023 Action Plan of the FP-ICGLR that was adopted during the 12th Plenary Assembly held on the 2-6 April, in Nairobi, the Republic of Kenya;
- **Cognisant** that the ICGLR Member States committed to curb the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Great Lakes Region by implementing the Lusaka Declaration signed by the Heads of State and Government on 15th December 2010;
- **Recalling** that the Lusaka Declaration committed the Member States to domesticate the ICGLR Protocol on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the Great Lakes Region;
- **Aware** that twelve years after the Lusaka Declaration significant strides have been made but more still remains to be done to ensure its effective implementation by all ICGLR Member States;
- **Further Considering** that the ICGLR Pact was born out of the realization that a lasting resolution of the conflicts in the region required a comprehensive and shared response including the fight against illegal exploitation of natural resources and
- **Noting** that illegal exploitation of natural resources continues unabated in some parts of the region particularly in Eastern DRC and is fuelling violent conflicts resulting in mass violations of human rights including sexual violence and displacement of vulnerable populations;

Adopts the following Resolutions:

Calls upon Member States to:

1. **Recommit** to effectively implement the ICGLR Protocol on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the Great Lakes Region and all related subsequent decisions of the ICGLR Organs and Mechanisms;
2. **Initiate** legal instruments for the domestication of the Pact and its Protocols where applicable;
3. **Strengthen** regional judicial cooperation mechanisms to fight against impunity for crimes related to illicit mineral trade;

Calls upon Member-Parliaments to:

4. **Play their role** in the domestication of the Pact and its Protocols where it has not been done and **oversight** on its implementation where domestication has been affected;
5. **Ensure** that the domestication of the Protocol on the illegal exploitation of natural resources is supported by appropriate government policy and strategies;

Calls upon the International Community to:

6. **Support** the efforts of the ICGLR Member States in engaging the governments of the alleged destination countries in the illegal trade of natural resources, particularly minerals, due to the linkage with financing of armed groups and criminal networks;
7. **Support** the efforts of the Member States aimed at strengthening regional integration, elimination of trade barriers and enhancement of free movement of goods and persons;

To the FP-ICGLR Secretariat:

8. **Mandates** the FP-ICGLR Secretariat to provide a report at the next General Assembly of the Forum on the status of domestication of the Protocols and policy framework in each Member State in line with resolutions 2 & 4 above.

Done in Juba, on April 1st, 2023


Right Honourable Amason Jeffah Kingi, EGH, MP

President of FP-ICGLR