



## **Parliamentary Fact-Finding Mission on the Security, Humanitarian and Political Challenges in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo**

**Goma, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023:** The Forum of Parliaments of Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), has concluded the first segment of the Parliamentary fact-finding mission on the security, humanitarian and political challenges in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The said mission was conducted from July 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Goma, North Kivu Province.

The FP-ICGLR is an inter-parliamentary organization composed of 12 National Parliaments of the ICGLR Member States namely the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of the Sudan, the United Republic Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Zambia.

The main objective of the FP-ICGLR is to make a significant parliamentary contribution to the implementation of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region.

The FP-ICGLR intervenes in the following areas where it has corresponding committees: “Democracy and Good Governance”, “Peace and Security”, “Humanitarian and Social Issues”, “Economic Development, Natural Resources and Regional Integration” and “Issues of Gender, Children and Vulnerable persons”.

The Plenary Assembly is the supreme organ of the FP-ICGLR. In accordance with Article 6 of the Inter-parliamentary Accord Establishing the FP-ICGLR signed in Kigali, as amended to date, the Plenary Assembly is competent to deliberate on all matters falling within the scope of the Forum.

Pursuant to clause 13 of the resolution 13OSPA/02/2023 on the political, security and humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo adopted by the 13th ordinary session of the Plenary Assembly of FP-ICGLR held from March 31-April 1, 2023 in Juba, Republic of South Sudan; the Plenary Assembly decided to deploy a parliamentary fact-finding mission to the eastern DRC to document in an

independent and impartial manner the lingering insecurity, instability, various reports on armed violence in the eastern part of DRC in order to augment the ongoing regional efforts to bring peace and security in the area, namely: the EAC-led peace process as well as the ICGLR roadmap on the pacification of the Eastern Region of the DRC (Luanda Roadmap).

It's against this backdrop that the General Secretariat of FP-ICGLR organized the first segment of the parliamentary fact-fact finding mission on the ground basing in Goma, in the Province of North Kivu from July 10-14, 2023. The consultation and interactions held in Goma are the first in a series of contacts with various stakeholders with a view to fostering parliamentary diplomacy and constructive dialogue as a means of defusing the cycle of violence within and between ICGLR Member-States, thus protecting the primacy of human dignity over all other considerations.

The delegation, composed of Parliamentarians from the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Kenya (Head of the mission), the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Zambia, and the Secretary General of FP-ICGLR, had fruitful engagements with Honourable Parliamentarians of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Members of various civil society organizations in Goma, Representatives of the private sector, religious leaders; representatives of humanitarian organizations; representatives of internally displaced people; the ICGLR Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre (JIFC), as well as the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM) both based in Goma, and East African Regional Force.

The mission also plans to interact with key personalities in ICGLR member-states leading the ICGLR and EAC peace process, namely: Angola, Kenya and Burundi as well as other leaders from Uganda and Rwanda. At the end of the mission, the members of the mission will publish a final communiqué which will include the relevant recommendations aimed at contributing to the resolution of the conflict in Eastern DRC.

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For more information, please contact:

**Mr. Jeni Botha Toko**  
+243896182334  
Communication Officer  
General Secretariat,  
Forum of Parliaments of the International  
Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR),  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Crown Tower, Avenue Batetela,  
Kinshasa, DRC  
[www.fpcirgl.org](http://www.fpcirgl.org)