



Seventh Joint Statutory Meeting of the Committees on Humanitarian and Social Issues and Gender, Children and Vulnerable Persons of the Forum of Parliaments of the Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR)

**August 7-8, 2023
Kampala, Republic of Uganda**

Final Communiqué

The Committees on Humanitarian and Social Issues and Gender, Children and Vulnerable Persons,

- **Pursuant** the provisions of Articles 4 and 22, paragraph 1 of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, signed on 15th December, 2006 in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya;
- **Recognizing the importance** of the implementation of the 2023-2024 Action Plan of the FP-ICGLR that was adopted during the 13th Plenary Assembly held from March 27th – April 1st, 2023, in Juba, Republic of South Sudan;
- **Appreciating** the participation of representatives of Parliaments of the Member States of the ICGLR, namely the Parliaments of the Republic of Angola, Republic of Burundi; Central African Republic; the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Uganda, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of South Sudan, and the United Republic of Tanzania;
- **Having considered and deliberated** on the items on the agenda of its Seventh Joint Meeting held on August 7th-8th, 2023 in Kampala, Republic of Uganda.

Adopts the following Final Communiqué:

1. **Conducted** a Fact Finding Mission to the Nakivale Refugee Settlement, in South-western Uganda, as recommended by the 5th Joint Statutory Meeting;

2. **Adopted** the report of the fifth statutory meeting of the Committee, held on October 26th-27th in Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi;
3. **Received and examined** the Research Report on the “Child Marriage in the Great Lakes Region”;
4. **Further Received and examined** the Research Report on the “Challenge of the Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons: Focus on Refugee/IDP Camps”;
5. **Shared** perspectives on the Refugee Question with the Country Representative of the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to Uganda;
6. **Considered** the draft resolution on the “Role of Parliaments in the Fight Against Child Marriages in the Great Lakes Region”;
7. **Further considered** the updated draft resolution on “Challenges of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region”;
8. **Urged** Member-Parliament of FP-ICGLR to continue to use their political and democratic legitimacy to ensure the implementation of laws and domestication of treaties related to the fight against child marriages;
9. **Commended** the Republic of Uganda for its refugee protection model of Refugee Settlement based on self-reliance and economic inclusion as opposed to Refugee Camp and **Recommended** to ICGLR Member States hosting refugees to consider the adoption of the same model of Forcibly Displaced People management;
10. **Noted with concern** the prevalent conflicts in some part the Great lakes Region and called upon Member States to address the factors that drive conflicts;
11. **Delivered** a message of peace and solidarity to the people of the Republic of Sudan, who are facing the direst security and humanitarian situation;
12. **Further delivered** a message of hope and perseverance to all refugees and internally displaced persons in the Great Lakes Region, especially those in Nakivale Refugee settlement;
13. **Expressed gratitude** to the Government and Parliament of Uganda, the General Secretariat of FP-ICGLR and other stakeholders for facilitating the organisation of the field visit to Nakivale Refugee Settlement;
14. **Further expressed gratitude** to the Secretary General and Staff of FP-ICGLR for the coordinated approach of organising Committee Meetings by involving leaders and Members of other Committees due to the cross-cutting nature of issues considered and **applauded** the President of the Committee on Peace and Security his participation in the Joint Meeting and Field Visit;

15. **Registered sincere appreciation** to His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, the Government, Parliament, and people of the Republic of Uganda for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to the delegates.

Done in Kampala, on August 8th, 2023.

Hon. Eng. Ezra John Chiwelesa



President of the Committee on
Humanitarian and Social Issues

Hon. Belyse Carine Dukundane



Vice-President of the Committee on
Gender, Children and Vulnerable
Persons

