



*Batetela Avenue, Crown Tower Building, 1004-1007, Gombe Commune  
Kinshasa- Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Contacts: +243 97 10 45 151-2  
Email: [fpcirgl@gmail.com](mailto:fpcirgl@gmail.com) | [contact@fpcirgl.org](mailto:contact@fpcirgl.org)  
Website: [www.fpcirgl.org](http://www.fpcirgl.org)*

The International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality.

This year, the theme for International Women's Day, 8 March, 2024 (IWD 2024) is, “**Invest in women: Accelerate progress**”, highlighting that investing in women is a human rights imperative and cornerstone for building inclusive societies.

The Forum of Parliaments of the Member-states of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR) wishes to seize the opportunity of this celebration to reiterate the importance of gender equality in the Region which is still influenced by the deep-seated inequalities that affect women, especially when faced with patriarchy or traditional beliefs that promote women repression and inculcate bias towards women and young girls. In line with its Strategic Plan (2022-2026), the FP-ICGLR is committed to ensuring gender equality and women empowerment through consistent parliamentary initiatives which advance Sustainable Development Goal 5 relating to gender. Empowering women through parliamentary action will directly affect readying the world to promptly address climate change and disaster risk reduction, ending poverty, implementing gender-responsive financing and shifting to a green economy and care society.

In the context of the Great Lakes Region, the Forum also wishes to pay special tribute to Hon Speakers of its Member Parliaments who are women as they stand as proud examples that women can aspire to the highest positions of responsibility within organisations that are at the helm of the State. They demonstrate that women can efficiently lead Parliaments which respond to multiple governance issues, including climate change. For the years to come, the Forum pledges to continue to act for Parliaments to be monuments of female leadership, empowerment and inclusion.

**Happy International Women's Day 2024!**

The Forum of Parliaments of the Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR) is an inter-parliamentary organization bringing



together the National Parliaments of the 12 Member States of ICGLR, 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 of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda, and the Republic of Zambia respectively.

The Forum will be holding the 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of its Plenary Assembly and related meetings, April 2024, in Livingstone, Zambia.

**Kinshasa, March, 2024**

