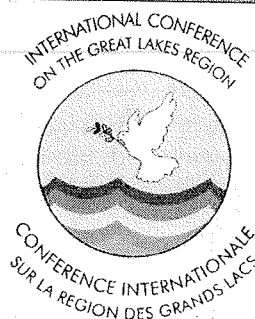


**SECRETARIAT
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION**



**SECRÉTARIAT
CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE
SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS**

**REPORT OF THE 30TH MEETING OF THE ICGLR REGIONAL
COMMITTEE ON THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLEGAL EXPLOITATION
OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

28TH – 30TH APRIL 2025

HYATT REGENCY NAIROBI WESTLANDS HOTEL

NAIROBI, REPUBLIC OF KENYA

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The 30th Meeting of the ICGLR Regional Committee against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources was convened from 28th to 30th April 2025 at the Hyatt Regency Nairobi Westlands Hotel in the Republic of Kenya. The meeting was conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Protocol against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, which constitutes an integral component of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region as well as in line with the Rules of Procedures of the Regional Committee against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources.

1.2 The main objectives of the meeting were as follows:

1.2.1 to receive updates on the implementation of the six tools from Member States, the Conference Secretariat, the ICGLR Audit Committee, the Regional Database Technical Working Group and the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the Assessment of the RINR.

1.2.2 to receive the report of the Ad Hoc Sub-committee meeting on AFP held in accordance with recommendation 4.8 of the 29th meeting of the ICGLR Regional Committee.

1.2.3 to consider the request made by the Democratic Republic of Congo concerning the alleged smuggling of minerals between the DRC and Rwanda.

1.3 The following Member States participated in the meeting: the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of Sudan, the Republic of Uganda, and the Republic of Zambia. The Republic of Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania were not present. A representative of the ICGLR Regional Women Forum and the Chairpersons of the ICGLR Audit Committee and the Regional Database Technical Working Group also participated in the meeting. The partners on the RINR, namely IMPACT and GIZ, were also present as observers.

2. OPENING SESSION

2.1 The opening ceremony was honoured by several distinguished guests, including Mr. Harry Kimtai, Principal Secretary, State Department for

Mining, Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs and Guest of Honour, and Amb. João Samuel Caholo, the ICGLR Executive Secretary. Also present were Mr. Abdishakur Hussein, the ICGLR National Coordinator in Kenya, and Mr. Quesnay de Jésus Akabahinga, the Chairperson of the ICGLR Regional Committee against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources.

- 2.2 The ICGLR National Coordinator, **Mr. Abdishakur Hussein**, extended a warm welcome to all delegates gathered in Nairobi. He commended the ICGLR Secretariat and partners in organising the meeting. He noted that issues of discussion were central to the ICGLR PACT, noting that the Founding Fathers had wisely included Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources as a Protocol to implement the ICGLR Pact. He pointed out that a major challenge of regional integration was harmonising national laws with regional objectives and expressed satisfaction that addressing this harmonisation was among the meeting's goals.
- 2.3 Mr. Hussein highlighted the importance of regular meetings and lauded the committee for convening within six months of its previous meeting and urged other Committees and Policy organs of the ICGLR to emulate this in order to maintain ICGLR's vibrancy. In closing, he urged all participants to conduct their deliberations with cordiality, warmth, and mutual respect to move forward as a unified block rather than as individual entities.
- 2.4 In his remarks, **Mr. Quesnay de Jésus Akabahinga**, the Chairperson of the Regional Committee against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, thanked the Kenyan government for hosting the 30th meeting of the Regional Committee in Nairobi and for the hospitality. He reminded all Member States that the central theme of the meeting was to monitor the implementation of the Protocol and the Lusaka Declaration and through the six tools adopted by Heads of State to combat illegal exploitation of natural resources.
- 2.5 He noted that this meeting followed the 29th meeting held in November 2024 in South Sudan and would provide an opportunity to exchange updates on the implementation status of the six tools in each Member State and to review previous recommendations, consideration of the report from the Audit Committee and also review the progress of consultations on evaluating the six tools of the RINR and the subcommittee's report on AFP. He emphasised that recommendations

from this meeting would be submitted to ICGLR Member States for approval and implementation, and called for extensive participation to ensure successful outcomes. Mr. Akabahinga reiterated the committee's determination and commitment to represent Member States and work closely with the ICGLR Executive Secretariat to achieve the objectives of the Lusaka Declaration.

- 2.6 The ICGLR Executive Secretary, **Amb. João Samuel Caholo** expressed gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Kenya for the warm welcome and for hosting the 30th meeting of the ICGLR Regional Committee in the beautiful city of Nairobi. He noted that the meeting presents a valuable opportunity for Members of the Committee to collaboratively address critical issues and work towards sustainable solutions for the benefit of the Great Lakes region and would also serve as a preparatory meeting for the draft agenda and technical reports for the extraordinary meeting of Ministers in charge of Mines, scheduled for the 2nd of May 2025, in Lusaka, Zambia. He extended appreciation to all the members of the Regional Committee and recognised the support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands through GIZ, and the European Union through IMPACT and their participation in the meeting.
- 2.7 Ambassador Caholo noted that over the years, the ICGLR Regional Initiative on Natural Resources (RINR) had primarily focused on preventing trade in conflict minerals and combating illicit financing of armed groups. He explained that the Regional Committee against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources was a key component established by the Protocol, playing a vital oversight role in implementing the Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR) framework and regularly assessing each Member State's situation.
- 2.8 The Executive Secretary called on Member States to ensure financial resources were available for the ICGLR Secretariat to fulfil its mandate. He also acknowledged the significant progress in implementing the Six Tools of the RINR, specifically the Regional Certification Mechanism. He concluded by reiterating his gratitude to the Government of Kenya for hosting the meeting and wished all participants fruitful deliberations.
- 2.9 The Guest of Honour, **Mr. Harry Kimtai, Principal Secretary in the State Department for Mining**, in his opening remarks, welcomed delegates to

the 30th Meeting of the ICGLR Regional Committee against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in Nairobi. He emphasised that the meeting symbolised the collective responsibility to transform the region's natural wealth into a driver of peace, stability, and sustainable development.

2.10 Mr. Kimtai outlined the Six Tools of the Regional Initiative, including the Regional Certification Mechanism, and reported that Kenya was making significant progress in implementing these tools through strengthening legal frameworks and formalizing the artisanal mining sector. He highlighted Kenya's commitment to initiating the Regional Certification Mechanism and acknowledged the leadership of the Executive Secretary and the Chairperson of the Committee, as well as the support of development partners.

2.11 The Principal Secretary urged delegates to focus on achieving concrete outcomes that would benefit people in resource-rich yet underserved areas, and reaffirmed Kenya's unwavering commitment to the objectives of the Regional Initiative. He wished all participants fruitful deliberations and officially opened the meeting.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

After the opening ceremony, the meeting adopted the agenda as Annex I (Approved agenda of the 30th meeting of the Regional Committee against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources).

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee thoroughly discussed all agenda items and made the following decisions and recommendations:

4.1. Based on the presentations of Committee members on the implementation status of the six tools of the Regional Initiative on Natural Resources (RINR) in their respective Member States,

4.1.1. The Central African Republic is encouraged to share its legal and regulatory documents with the Conference Secretariat as part of the implementation of the RINR and to seek advisory and technical support to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Protocol against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources.

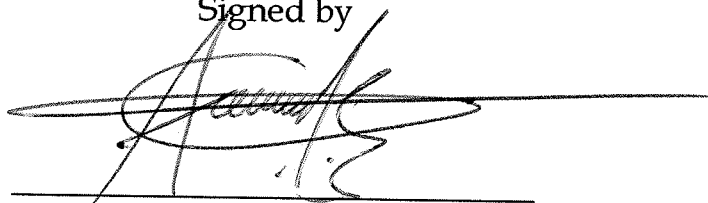
- 4.1.2. The Conference Secretariat should provide the necessary clarifications to the Republic of Uganda on the way the self-financing mechanism on the RINR should be implemented.
- 4.2. Based on the report by the Chairperson of the ICGLR Audit Committee on the DRC's request for an investigation into the alleged minerals smuggling between DRC and Rwanda, the Committee meeting reviewed the Terms of Reference on the subject and resolved to table the amended version to the Extraordinary meeting of the ICGLR Ministers in charge of Mines to be held on 2nd May 2025 in Lusaka, Republic of Zambia for consideration.
- 4.3. In line with the Rules of Procedures of the ICGLR Regional Committee on the fight against the illegal exploitation of Natural Resources, the United Republic of Tanzania is requested to regularly and physically attend the ICGLR Regional Committee meetings.
- 4.4. Based on the presentation of the report on activities carried out in the framework of setting up national and regional databases, Member States are encouraged to send an official request to the Conference Secretariat for technical assistance in setting up their national databases aligned with the Regional Mineral Database in line with the Conference Secretariat's correspondences to all ICGLR Member States.
- 4.5. Regarding the consultancy on the Regional Guidelines on Gold certification and Chain of Custody systems, the Regional Committee has tasked the Regional Database Technical Working Group to oversee the consultancy and provide feedback/updates to the Regional Committee.
- 4.6. Based on the briefing on the status of the consultancy on the Assessment of the RINR Six Tools, the consultant should continue the stakeholder consultations in the remaining Member States. The Committee requested the concerned Member States to facilitate this exercise.
- 4.7. With regard to the presentation of the report of the Ad-hoc subcommittee on the AFP:
- 4.7.1. The Committee meeting approved the proposal of the subcommittee to transfer the AFP analytical laboratory to the United Republic of

Tanzania which will host and manage it through the Geological Survey of Tanzania on behalf of the region.

- 4.7.2. The Republic of Rwanda was requested to officially respond to the Note Verbale sent by the Conference Secretariat on the status of the equipment of the AFP preparation laboratory set up in Rwanda in 2012, which was supposed to be transferred to the Republic of Uganda according to the recommendation of the previous meeting of the subcommittee.
- 4.8. The Regional Committee adopted, with amendments, the agenda of the extraordinary meeting of ICGLR Ministers in charge of Mines to be held in Lusaka, Zambia on 2nd May 2025.
- 4.9. **Venue and date of next meeting:** The 31st meeting of the Regional Committee on Natural Resources will be held in Lusaka, Zambia, in November 2025. The meeting will precede the ICGLR Regional Forum on the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI).

Done in Nairobi on 30th April 2025

Signed by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Akabahinga', written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Quesnay de Jésus Akabahinga
Chairperson of the Regional Committee against the Illegal Exploitation of
Natural Resources