



FINAL COMMUNIQUE

RESOLUTIONS OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION (ICGLR) MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF MINES

Memling Hotel, Kinshasa, DRC
6th November, 2014

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. On the invitation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo and in collaboration with the ICGLR Secretariat, the third meeting of the ICGLR Ministers in charge of mines was held at Memling Hotel in Kinshasa, DRC, on 6th November 2014. The meeting was preceded by an experts meeting held on 5th November 2014.
- 1.2. The meeting was attended by Ministers in charge of Mines from the following ICGLR Member States: Republic of Angola, Republic of Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of Sudan, Republic of South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Uganda and Republic of Zambia. The meeting was also attended by the ICGLR Executive Secretary, the UN Secretary General Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, the Representative of the Special Envoy of the African Union for the Great Lakes Region and Special Representative of the African Union to the DRC, the European Union Representative, the Chair of the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct, the Representative of the Forum of Parliaments, and Representatives of Cooperating Partners..

- 1.3. The third meeting of the ICGLR Ministers in charge of Mines recalled the Nairobi Summit during which the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, incorporating the Protocol on the fight against Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, was signed by Heads of State and Government in 2006.
- 1.4. The third meeting of the ICGLR Ministers in charge of Mines recalled the mini-summit of Heads of State and Government held on 1st February, 2010, in the margins of the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which directed the ICGLR Secretariat to organize a Special Summit to make a thorough analysis of issues pertaining to illegal exploitation of natural resources and involvement of multinationals and its implications.
- 1.5. The third meeting of the ICGLR Ministers in charge of Mines recalled the first meeting of Ministers in charge of mineral resources held in Nairobi, Kenya in September 2010.
- 1.6. The third meeting of the ICGLR Ministers in charge of Mines recalled the Lusaka Special Summit held in December 2010 which approved the Regional Initiative on the fight against Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources, specifically the six tools whose main objective is to sever the link between the financing of armed groups and illegal exploitation of natural resources.
- 1.7. The third meeting of the ICGLR Ministers in charge of Mines recalled the Regional Inter-ministerial Committee (RIMC) meeting held in Bujumbura, Burundi, in February 2013, which urged Member States to speed up the implementation of the regional certification mechanism and further directed the Secretariat to establish a Natural Resources Unit.
- 1.8. The third meeting of the ICGLR Ministers in charge of Mines noted that the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Rwanda launched the ICGLR certificate in July and November 2013,

respectively. As of now, the Democratic Republic of Congo has issued 1,135 Certificates while Rwanda issued 26.

1.9. The third meeting of the ICGLR Ministers in charge of Mines recalled the fifth Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Luanda, Angola, in January 2014, which recommended the fast-tracking of the implementation of the six tools to fight against Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and rapid operationalization of the Natural Resources Technical Unit and recommended the extension of the certification process to other member States, including the necessary conditions which would give credibility to this process and strengthen the capacity of the ICGLR Audit Committee.

1.10. The third meeting of the ICGLR Ministers in charge of mines noted that the technical unit on natural resources was established at the Conference Secretariat, in accordance with the recommendation of the 2013 RIMC held in Bujumbura, Burundi, and the fifth Summit held in Luanda, Angola. The meeting further noted that the positions of Database Expert and the Audit Expert are not yet funded.

1.11. The third meeting of the ICGLR Ministers in charge of Mines noted that the Regional Audit Committee has accredited four auditing firms during their fourth meeting held in Bujumbura, Burundi, in August 2014. The meeting also noted that the Regional Audit Committee does not have funding to finance its regular meetings.

2. RESOLUTIONS

Following their deliberations, the Ministers:

2.1. Took note of the Report of the Regional Committee;

2.2. Took note of the exchange of experience and best practices on the certification process between Member States;

2.3. Took note of the progress made in the establishment of the ICGLR Auditing Mechanism, namely the accreditation of third party

auditors by the regional Audit Committee, and the ongoing establishment of the Independent Mineral Chain Auditor;

- 2.4. Took note of the progress made by the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Burundi in the Harmonization of National Legislations and urged other member States to harmonize their national legislations with the Protocol against Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources to speed up the implementation of the RINR;
- 2.5. Encouraged other Member States to implement the ICGLR Certification process;
- 2.6. Adopted the recommendation of the Regional Committee on Natural Resources on the self-financing mechanism of the regional certification mechanism and urged all Member States to carry out the necessary consultations with all the relevant stakeholders to pass a legislation authorizing the collection of the levy from natural resources exporters;
- 2.7. Took note of the establishment at the Conference Secretariat of the Technical Unit on Natural Resources and instructed the Conference Secretariat to take all necessary measures to increase its functional efficiency;
- 2.8. Encouraged member States to speed up the establishment of the Whistle-blowing Mechanism with the participation of the Civil Society;
- 2.9. Decided that a meeting of officials in charge of mineral fraud should be organized during the first quarter of 2015;
- 2.10. Instructed the Conference Secretariat to strengthen gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the RINR;
- 2.11. Encouraged Member States to ensure that children and women's rights are adhered to in the implementation of the RINR;

- 2.12. Took note of the compliance of some Member States with the EITI standard and further urged other member States to promote peer learning mechanisms and adhere to the EITI standards;
- 2.13. Encouraged Member States to implement reliable traceability mechanisms for gold to ensure its effective certification;
- 2.14. Decided to hold a meeting of Ministers in charge of Mines on a yearly basis;
- 2.15. Encouraged Member States to develop inter-State cooperation mechanisms to strengthen the credibility of the regional certificate;

Done in Kinshasa on 6th November, 2014