



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION



Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission on the Great Lakes region



Huang Xia, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region.

The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), H.E. Mr. Mohamed Edrees, convened a meeting on the Great Lakes region with the aim to seek support from the members of the Commission for regional peacebuilding efforts and the implementation of the Action Plan of the United Nations Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region, including for Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants in the Great Lakes. Briefers at the meeting included Huang Xia, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region; Oscar Fernandez Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support; and Fodé Ndiaye, UN Resident Coordinator for Rwanda. Participants were current members of the PBC and countries of the Great Lakes region, including Burundi, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

In his introductory remarks, Ambassador Edrees, the permanent Representative of Egypt and Chair of the PBC, highlighted the critical role of the Great Lakes region for the stability and prosperity of the African continent and reiterated the Commission's commitment to support the region in the context of the implementation of Security Council resolution 2389 (2017) and the UN Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution. Special Envoy Xia briefed members of the PBC on the Action Plan for the regional Strategy, adopted by the Senior Policy Group on 8 July, as well as



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his engagements in and outside of the region to promote the Strategy and its Action Plan. Special Envoy Xia urged Member States of the Commission to support the implementation of the Action Plan not only through their political and technical support, but also through their financial assistance to mobilize sufficient resources. Further to this, he reassured them of his intent to continue his efforts to galvanize maximum support for the implementation of the Action Plan of the UN Strategy.

In his briefing, UN Resident Coordinator for Rwanda, Fodé Ndiaye, projected a short film showcasing the progress made in Rwanda towards the integration of Rwandan ex-combatants repatriated from the DRC thanks to funding from the Peacebuilding Fund. The DRC, represented by the National Oversight Mechanism for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region, briefed the participants on the outcomes of recent meetings to promote security cooperation in the region, including the establishment of the Contact and Coordination Group on non-military measures.

In the subsequent general discussion, participants welcomed the new UN Strategy and expressed readiness to partake in the implementation of its Action Plan through the various mechanisms in place and with the collaboration of all stakeholders. Representatives from the Great Lakes region, including Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda, and Kenya, expressed their full adherence to the regional Strategy and welcomed its alignment with the region's vision and aspirations for greater integration, peace and prosperity. Participants also emphasized the importance of the Action Plan's holistic approach on issues such as security cooperation wherein DDR programmes, are considered as mutually reinforcing with ongoing diplomatic efforts between countries of the region, and greater efforts towards regional economic cooperation for development and shared prosperity.