



**Statement by Amb Yasir I.A Mohammed Deputy Executive
Secretary of ICGLR at Opening Session of the Launching
Seminar of the Contact and Coordination Group**

Goma- DRC 3rd of May 2021

Honorable Governor of North Kivu Province

Honorable Representative of the National Oversight Mechanism

Honorable Representative of the African Union

Honorable Representative of UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes

Honorable Heads of Delegations of Signatory States

Honorable Representative of EJVM

Dear Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

All protocols observed

Good Morning

It gives me great pleasure to address you today at this launching Seminar of the Contact and Coordination Group and to convey to you greetings of H.E João Samuel CAHOLO the Executive Secretary of ICGLR.

I would like first of all to express thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of the Democratic Republic of Congo for accepting to host this important Seminar and to provide all facilities needed to ensure its success.

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Ladies and Gentlemen

This Seminar comes in the context of the efforts exerted by the ICGLR, AU and OSSEG to address issues of conflicts and consolidation of peace and stability in the Great Lakes region through concerted and coordinated efforts of military and non-military institutions.

The need to establish the CCG emerged from the agreement among the Chiefs of Intelligence and Security Services in GLR that military pressure alone would not achieve needed results in the area of consolidation of peace and stability, and that there is a need for a comprehensive approach to deal with peace issues; therefore, it was recommended that military pressure be supported and complemented with non-military measures to put an end to activities of negative forces in the Great Lakes Region.

It worth mentioning that the operationalization of the CCG had been recommended by the meeting of the ICGLR Committee of Ministers of the Defense on 14th October 2020 that was done following wide consultation among the Chiefs of Military and Civilian Intelligence of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The expected role of the CCG is to coordinate the implementation of non-military measures towards the eradication of negative forces, and to facilitate regular contacts between key stakeholders with the aim of consolidating peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region.

The aim of this Seminar is to discuss and adopt work method of the CCG; and to develop and adopt an action plan for the CCG. That will be done through discussion and consultations on the best ways and means to operationalize the CCG and make it effective and pertinent to the needs of our region and its population in the field of consolidation of peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region.

Ladies and Gentlemen

To achieve our objectives in the in the areas of peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region we need to coordinate our efforts, put hand in hand and join efforts to reach our supreme goal of having a lasting peace and stability in GLR.

I would like to assure you that the ICGLR will continue its efforts to support the consolidation of peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region and will join hands with regional and international organizations and institution to reach a lasting peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region

Finally, I wish you all success in this Seminar.

Thank you