



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

ZAMBIAN DELEGATION

TO THE

12TH ORDINARY SESSION

OF THE

PLENARY ASSEMBLY

OF THE

FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES

OF THE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON THE

GREAT LAKES REGION (FP-ICGLR)

NAIROBI, KENYA

2ND TO 6TH APRIL, 2022

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item	Page
1.0 Introduction and Background of the FP-ICGLR	1
2.0 The Zambian Delegation	2
3.0 Official Opening Ceremony	2
4.0 Adoption of Agenda	4
5.0 Presentation on the theme, “The Role of Parliaments in Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region”: By Prof. Yasin Olu (PhD), Fulbright Scholar, Consultant, FP-ICGLR	4
6.0 Consideration of the Report of the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly Virtually held on May 7, 2021	7
7.0 Presentation and Debate on the Political, Security and Humanitarian Situation in The Great Lakes Region: By His Excellency Ambassador João Samuel Caholo, Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region	7
8.0 Consideration and Adoption of Draft Resolutions on the Political, Security and Humanitarian Situation in the: Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo; Republic of South Sudan; and Sudan	10
9.0 Presentation and Adoption of the Combined Report of the 24 th Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee	10
10.0 Date and Venue of the 13 th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly	11
11.0 Statements by Leaders of Delegation	11
12.0 Consideration and Adoption of the Nairobi Declaration	11

REPORT OF THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION TO THE 12TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION, (FP-ICGLR) HELD IN NAIROBI, KENYA FROM 2ND TO 6TH APRIL, 2022

1.0 Introduction and Background of the FP-ICGLR

Guided by the Security, Stability and Development Pact in the Great Lakes Region, signed on 15th December 2006 in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya, which came into force on 21st June 2008, the Speakers of Parliaments of the member Countries of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, mandated by their respective Parliaments, stressed the point that democratically elected Parliaments could play a major role and make significant contributions in the promotion of peace, security, stability, mutual understanding and friendship among the African people, as well as solidarity, brotherhood and good neighbourliness among the States of the Great Lakes Region.

It was within this framework that the Forum of the Parliaments of ICGLR was established on 4th December 2008 in Kigali, Republic of Rwanda with the purpose of promoting, keeping and reinforcing peace and security in the Great Lakes Region, as expressed by the Heads of States and Governments in the Security, Stability and Development Pact of the Great Lakes Region. Therefore, the major role of the Forum of Parliaments of ICGLR was to make significant parliamentary contributions by putting in place mechanisms for the better implementation of the Pact, protocols and programs of action outlined in the Pact.

The Goals of the FP-ICGLR include, but are not limited to the following:

- i. To serve as the framework for dialogue, experience sharing and conflict resolution for the Parliaments of member countries;
- ii. To build capacity of the Members and civil servants in the Parliaments of the Region;
- iii. To contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Resolutions on respect and protection of the rights of women, children and vulnerable persons in conflict times.

For the effective achievement of the objectives set out in Article 2 of the Inter Parliamentary Accord and as defined by its respective permanent committees, the FP-ICGLR has five main areas of intervention with corresponding Permanent Committees whose bureaus and membership are composed of Members of Parliament. The committees are:

- i. Peace and Security;
- ii. Democracy and Good Governance;
- iii. Humanitarian and Social issues;
- iv. Economic Development, Natural Resources and Regional Integration; and
- v. Gender, Children and Vulnerable Persons issues.

2.0 The Zambian Delegation

The Zambian delegation to the 12th Ordinary Plenary Assembly was led by the Rt. Hon. Ms Nelly B.K Mutti, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia. Other delegates were:

1. Mr Chaatila Chibulo Fred, MP;
2. Mr Sitwala Morgan Sitwala, MP;
3. Mr Roy Ngulube, Deputy Clerk (Administration);
4. Mr Stephen C Kawimbe, Principal Clerk (P&IR);
5. Mr Sage C. Samuwika, Executive Assistant to the Hon. Madam Speaker;
6. Mr Francis S. Nabulyato, Acting Principal Clerk of Committees (SC) and outgoing Desk Officer;
7. Mr Chishimba Charles, Acting Senior Committee Clerk (SC) and In-coming Desk Officer; and
8. Ms Caroline M. Silenga, Aid-de-Camp to the Hon. Madam Speaker.

3.0 Official Opening Ceremony

The Conference was officially opened by His Excellency, Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, represented by Dr Fred Ma'tiangi, Minister of Interior and Government Coordination.

In his address, the President of Kenya, indicated that the Conference come at a unique time in the history of the World and the Region. Globally, efforts to build economies back after the COVID-19 Pandemic had been slowed down by a myriad of events on the International stage; events which had put multi-lateralism, as it was known under stress. Therefore, the Twelfth Plenary of the Forum of Parliaments of the Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR) was timely and its theme: "The Role of Parliament in Conflict Resolution", was most apt. He went further to state that Parliaments were an expression of the sovereignty and majesty of the People. Through those Legislative Chambers, the soul and the consciousness of the nation were brought to the fore. Parliaments were the voice of the citizens, the hands of their will, and the guardians of the cherished principles and values that defined who they were and where they wanted to go as nations and peoples.

The President opined that the theme of the 12th Plenary Assembly, "The Role of Parliament in Conflict Resolution", like an African stool, encapsulated the three-legged foundation of firm and stable actions necessary for progress. Firstly, an appraisal of the collective condition of the Great Lakes Region informed that the region remained relatively stable, albeit with some limited instances of instability, insecurity, and armed conflicts. Secondly, at interstate level, where once relations amongst some of the nations had been lukewarm, it could be pointed to a thawing of tensions and movement towards brighter and more collaborative engagements. Thirdly, the Region had turned a corner from the recurring conflicts and tensions that once caused easily avoidable deaths and displacement of many peoples within and across borders; as well as the large-scale destruction of property and misuse of resources.

He stated that the Assembly had the task of providing the twelve nations with a comprehensive and achievable road map to Parliaments, contributing more towards conflict resolution. This would only be achieved if the 12th Plenary Assembly was made into a questioning conference. In that regard, he proposed a five-point questioning framework for the Conference, namely;

- i. Is the role of Parliament preventive or responsive after the fact?;
- ii. When Parliament intervenes, at what stage in the conflict cycle should it intervene and how?;
- iii. Alive to the Latimer House Principles, how should Parliament's intervention role be exercised within the context of the Rule of Law and the Separation of Powers and Roles?;
- iv. What collegiate and peer review mechanisms can Parliaments in the Region adopt to both support each other and also hold each other accountable? and
- v. How do we inculcate public participation by citizens; bring in civil society, international partners, and regional, continental, and global associations; and built in shared bonds into this conflict prevention and conflict resolution framework?

In his closing remarks, the President urged the parliamentarians to be the voices that champion for a conflict free Great Lakes Region; one which is typified by peace, cohesion, social justice, and the realization of the Pan-African dreams of the Founding Fathers. (Full speech at appendix I)

4.0 Adoption of the Agenda of the 12th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly

On a proposal by Angola and seconded by Zambia, the Agenda, at appendix II, was adopted without amendments. (See appendix II).

5.0 Presentation on the theme, “The Role of Parliaments in Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region”: By Prof. Yasin Olum (PhD), Fulbright Scholar, Consultant, FP-ICGLR

Prof. Olum told participants that in order to effectively achieve the objectives set out in Article 2 of the Inter-Parliamentary accord and as defined by its respective permanent committees, the FP-ICGLR had five main areas of intervention and that the one that focused directly on conflict resolution was the Committee on Peace and Security. In this regard, the definition of conflict resolution was very important.

He stated that by definition, conflict resolution was a process or way by which two or more parties engaged in a disagreement, dispute or debate reach an agreement in resolving it. It was the methods and processes involved in facilitating the peaceful ending of conflict and retribution, adding that the notion of conflict resolution may also be used

interchangeably with dispute resolution, where arbitration and litigation processes were critically involved.

Giving a background to the causes of conflicts in the Great Lakes Region, Prof. Olum , said that the causes of conflict in the Great lakes Region were both direct and indirect, expressing themselves in the political, economic and socio-cultural spheres, including forced displacement and migration, which were regional phenomenon requiring regional solutions and deserving dedicated attention. He added that historically, the Great lakes Region had interlinked conflicts and common fundamental problems that emanated from post-colonial challenges to both state and national building, as such they were dynamic in nature. He postulated that these conflicts had common causes and features, namely;

- i. Ethnic divisions;
- ii. Inequitable access to land;
- iii. Exploitation of natural resources;
- iv. Transitional links and the diffusion of violent conflicts; and
- v. Democratisation and governance issues.

With regard to the role of parliaments in conflict resolution in the Great Lakes region, Prof Olum stated that whereas the Member-states of the ICGLR had acknowledged the issue of conflicts in the Great Lakes region and had made several attempts to restore lasting peace and security in the region, the parliaments had not been fully involved in the process and yet they were extremely critical in the resolution of conflict in the region. On the essential role of parliament in conflict matters, prof Olum quoted Mel (2013), who postulated that, ‘contrary to conventional wisdom that the Executive branch authorities bear sole responsibility for all potential sources of conflict...parliaments have an essential role to play by virtue of their place within the structure, functioning, and activities of the state. As representatives of the people, parliaments also enjoy legal, political and social legitimacy...parliaments should be mindful of this legitimacy in determining the scope of their activity,”

In this regard, parliaments of the Great Lakes region could and should do several things to resolve conflicts as follows:

- i. Heighten vigilance with regard to the rule-of-law;
- ii. Legislate on human rights;
- iii. Enhance legislative governance;
- iv. Demand accountability and transparency;
- v. Instill the spirit of tolerance, discipline and respect for electoral verdicts in political parties;
- vi. Avoid exacerbating conflict escalation;
- vii. Terminate interstate conflicts and enforce peace accords;
- viii. Engage in conflict prevention rather than conflict resolution;
- ix. Ensure negotiations and settlements;
- x. Address post conflict recovery;
- xi. Engage in transitional administrations;
- xii. Reflect on the composition of society as a whole;

- xiii. Partner with international bodies;
- xiv. Engage in several reforms; and
- xv. Attend to persons in distress.

Prof Olum reported that since its inception in 2012, the FP-ICGLR had several measures to resolve conflicts as follows:

- i. Mobilised Member-Parliaments to domesticate protocols in the Pact on Security, Stability and development;
- ii. Through relevant Committees, held statutory and other meetings and workshops that have led to resolutions on what should be done about the various conflict resolutions in the region;
- iii. Monitored the political, security and humanitarian situation in South Sudan, Central African Republic Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan;
- iv. Has undertaken fact-finding missions in conflict prone areas, as follows:
 - a) Republic of Burundi, July 2018;
 - b) Central African Republic, April 2019; and
 - c) Republic of South Sudan, October/November, 2019.

In concluding his presentation, Prof. Olum stated that the Great lakes Region had some similarities that may explain their interconnected endemic violent conflicts, the causes of which ranged from ethnic divisions, inequitable access to resources. He contended that without using appropriate mechanisms for conflict resolution and mediation, the conflicts would continue unabated and that in the end, it was the people of the Great lakes Region that would suffer. (See Appendix III for the full paper).

6.0 Consideration of the Report of the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly Virtually held on May 7, 2021.

On a proposal by Angola and seconded by South Sudan, the Report of the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly was adopted without amendments. (See appendix IV for detail)

7.0 Presentation and Debate on the Political, Security and Humanitarian Situation in The Great Lakes Region: By His Excellency Ambassador João Samuel Caholo, Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region

The Executive Secretary informed the Conference that the process of establishing peace in the Great Lakes Region, as envisaged by the Heads of State and Government in the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, in 2004 and 2006 respectively, had been slow despite their desire to make the Region a sphere of peace, security and development. This slowness had been noted particularly with regard to the neutralisation of armed groups in the eastern DRC, CAR and South Sudan. He added that the situation in the region was a major concern for the Conference Secretariat with regard to the resurgence of new violence, conflict, terrorism and radicalisation of the region. These repeated conflicts had led to an increase in the displacement of people, both within their own country and in neighbouring countries, massive human rights

violations, and violence of all kinds, in particular Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), and that the main victims were women and children. He went further to state that the Great Lakes Region was faced with various security challenges emanating mainly from activities of some negative forces and armed groups operating in parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR) and Republic of South Sudan.

On the security front, the Executive Secretary reported that the DRC was facing a resurgence of attacks by armed groups, rebel forces, and Islamist terrorists who were sowing terror by massacring and abducting civilians, burning villages, etc., particularly in the eastern part of the DRC. These included the following armed groups: CODECO, the Patriotic Resistance Forces of Ituri (FRPI), the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the Red Tabara, the Mayi Mayi groups, the M23, etc.

This situation had led the President of the Republic, in accordance with the prerogatives granted to him by the Constitution of the Republic in its Article 85, to declare a “State of Siege” on May 3, 2021 over part of the national territory, including North Kivu and Ituri. The civilian government gave way to the military government in the above-mentioned provinces. The Parliament renewed the state of siege every 15 days, and a Government-Parliament Commission had been set up to evaluate it. Thus, the country had made progress in the security sector, and the DRC's armed forces, with the support of MONUSCO forces, had regained control of several villages. He went further to report that in November 2021, the armed forces of Uganda and the DRC launched a joint air operation against the Allied Democratic Forces, a terrorist group responsible for massacres in both countries.

The air offensive targeted the group's hideouts in the provinces of Ituri and North Kivu, in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, where massacres had recently been blamed on the rebels. The attacks came just two weeks after bombings that killed several people in the Ugandan capital, Kampala. Authorities said terrorists allied to the ADF were behind the operation that killed four people.

The resurgence of the M23 rebel group in North Kivu on Tuesday 29th March, 2022, was an issue of concern for the region. The rebels attacked military positions Tshanzu and Runyoni in eastern DRC causing loss of lives and displacement of locals in these villages. On 1st April, 2022, the group announced a unilateral ceasefire on the front lines of the Jomba grouping in the Rutshuru territory.

In the Central African Republic (CAR), the security situation remained a source of concern following activities of armed groups in some parts of Northern, North-eastern, Western, Central and Eastern CAR. The MBORORO, for instance, were noted to be assisting the UPC, 3R and were also trafficking arms within CAR. Clashes were noted frequently between rival ethnic armed groups who were for or against the implementation of the Khartoum Peace Accord.

He reported that the ICGLR, through the leadership of His Excellency João Manuel Lourenço

Goncalves, President of the Republic of Angola in his capacity as the Chairperson of the ICGLR, had hosted three (3) Mini-Summits on the Political and Security Situation in the Central African Republic on 29th January, 20th April and 16th September 2021. These High-Level Meetings resulted into the declaration of a unilateral cessation of ceasefire on 15th October 2021, by His Excellency Faustin Archange Touadera, President of the Central African Republic, in accordance with the Joint Road Map adopted at the end of the 16th September Mini-Summit.

The Executive Secretary told the Conference that he had the honour to brief the United Nations Security Council during a special briefing Session which was convened on 22nd February, 2022, to review the situation in the CAR. Despite the Declaration of the Ceasefire, there continued to be a violation of the Joint Roadmap and cases of violence were still being reported in the country. The warring parties were urged to respect the Implementation of the Joint Roadmap and support the technical team comprising the Republic of Angola, the Central African Republic and the Republic of Rwanda on the follow-up of the implementation process of the Joint Roadmap on the Central African Republic.

With regard to South Sudan, he reported that the situation remained volatile. A week earlier there were reports of escalating tensions and clashes between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement in Opposition (SPLA/M-IO) in the Upper Nile State counties, in full violation of the 2018 Peace Agreement. Further, the elements of the National Salvation Front (NAS) continued to perpetrate atrocities against civilians and carry out attacks of South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) positions in violation of the 2018 ceasefire Agreement. NAS was involved in killings, abductions, extortions and burning of vehicles along Kaya-YeiJuba and Juba-Nimule roads. That notwithstanding, the Government of South Sudan continued to implement the Revitalized Agreement. He was quick to point out, however, that the Republic of the Sudan was in a transitional period after the revolutionary change in December 2018. The revolution put Sudan on the path of democratic transformation and peace stability but Sudan was still facing challenges in the area of peace and economic development. However, ICGLR was happy to witness some achievements such as the signing of Juba Peace Agreement on the 3rd of October 2020 and the hosting and facilitating of the peace negotiations that culminated in the signing of the Re-vitalized Peace Agreement for South Sudan.

He concluded by stating that it was his hope that the resolutions emanating from the meeting would enable the Great Lakes Region to collectively work to advance the objectives of the ICGLR in order for the citizens of the region to live in greater peace and security and development. (See Appendix V for more details)

8.0 Consideration and Adoption of Draft Resolutions on the Political, Security and Humanitarian Situation in the: Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo; Republic of South Sudan; and Sudan

For details on the resolutions see appendices, VI VII, VIII and IX.

9.0 Presentation and Adoption of the Combined Report of the 24th Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee

The documents listed hereunder were unanimously adopted.

- i. Annual Activity and Financial Report of the FP-ICGLR for 2021; (Appendix X
- ii. Action Plan and Budget for 2022-2023; (Appendix XI) and
- iii. Strategic Plan for 2022-2026. (Appendix XII)

10.0 Date and Venue of the 13th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly

It was resolved that the 13th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly, would be held in South Sudan between 6th and 10th March, 2023.

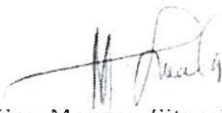
11.0 Statements by Leaders of Delegation

Leaders of delegation were given an opportunity to make statements. All the leaders of delegation thanked the Republic and the Parliament of Kenya for hosting the 12th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly and their hospitality and courtesies extended to their delegations. On her part, the leader of the Zambian delegation the Rt Honourable Ms Nelly B.K Mutti, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, thanked the Forum of Parliaments of the Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR) for being part of the observers during the August 2021 general elections in Zambia and the briefing she received from the Secretary General on the operations of the FP-ICGRL in November 2021, just after the elections.

She indicated that Zambia would endeavor to be up-to-date in her annual contributions in conformity to the new hybrid mode that would come into effect on 1st July, 2022. Madam Speaker also indicated Zambia's willingness to host the 14th Ordinary Plenary Assembly in 2024. She indicated that whereas Zambia would have liked to host the 13th Assembly, in 2023, the nation required time to recuperate from the elections of 2021 and allow the new Government to settle down in Office. She thanked FP-ICGLR for joining Zambia in mourning the death of the two former Presidents, Dr Kenneth David Kaunda and Dr Rupiah Bwezani Banda, the first fourth republican Presidents, respectively.

12.0 Consideration and Adoption of the Nairobi Declaration

Hereunder is the final communiqué considered and adopted by the conference.


Brig Gen Morgan Sitwala (Rtd), MP
DELEGATION LEADER

June
LUSAKA

TWELFTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION (FP-ICGLR)

FINAL DECLARATION

- **Pursuant** to the provisions of Articles 4 and 22, paragraph 1 of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, signed on 15th December, 2006 in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya;
- **Whereas** the provisions of Articles 2 and 6 of the Inter-parliamentary Accord establishing the Forum of Parliaments of the Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region signed on December 4th, 2008 in Kigali, Republic of Rwanda;
- **Having considered and deliberated**, during the Twelfth Ordinary Session held on 6th April, 2022 in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya, on items of its agenda;

The Plenary Assembly:

1. **Took note of:**
 - The update by the Executive Secretary of ICGLR on the recent evolution of the political, security and humanitarian situation in the Great Lakes Region;
 - The presentation by the Secretary General on the current financial situation of FP-ICGLR;
 - The presentation on the Role of Parliaments in Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region;
2. **Adopted** resolutions on:
 - a) Strategies to Jumpstart Economies post Covid-19;
 - b) The Role of Parliament in Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region

3. **Mandates** the Executive Committee to re-examine the resolutions on:
 - a) The political, security and humanitarian situation in Central African Republic;
 - b) The political, security and humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
 - c) The political, security and humanitarian situation in the Republic of South Sudan;
4. **Approved** the combined Report of the Executive Committee, hence adopted the:
 - Annual Activity and Financial report for the year 2021 of FP-ICGLR;
 - Strategic Plan for 2022-2026;
 - Action Plan and Budget of FP-ICGLR for 2022.
5. **Further approves** the proposal by the Executive Committee to transform the Ad hoc Committee on Finance of FP-ICGLR into a Permanent Committee;
6. **Undertakes to consider use** of Swahili during meetings and other activities of FP-ICGLR
7. **Extends** its deepest condolences to the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, and through it, to the Government and People of Uganda for the demise of Rt. Hon. Jacob Oulanyah, Speaker of Parliament
8. **Notes** with concern the deteriorating political, security and humanitarian situation in the Republic of Sudan and **calls** upon ICGLR member-states and the International Community to undertake further interventions aimed at addressing the situation;
9. **Welcomes** the progress made towards normalization of bilateral relations between some ICGLR Member States and diffusion of tensions as evidenced by the reopening the Gatuna-Katuna land border between Rwanda and Uganda, and the ongoing bilateral efforts to normalise relations between Rwanda and Burundi;
10. **Further welcomes** the gradual and careful lifting of confinement measures by ICGLR Members-States, and **calls for** further actions designed to re-open economies and foster trade with a view to recovering from the social, economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic;
11. **Registers** its appreciation to Member-Parliaments of FP-ICGLR that have paid their annual contributions and arrears and calls upon those with outstanding balances to fulfil their financial obligations for the proper functioning of the organization;
12. **Expresses** its sincere appreciation to the President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta as well as the Parliament and People of the Republic of Kenya for their hospitality and support to the organization of this Plenary Assembly;

13. **Determines** the dates of the Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly as March 6-10, 2023 in the Republic of South Sudan.

Done on 6th April, 2022
Right Honourable Kenneth Lusaka
President of FP-ICGLR

