



Batetela Avenue, Crown Tower Building, 10th Floor, 1004-1007, Gombe
Commune
Kinshasa- Democratic Republic of the Congo
Contacts: +243 97 10 45 151-2
Email: secretariat@fpcirgl.org/fpcirgl@gmail.com
Website: www.fpcirgl.org

The International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality.

This year, the theme for International Women's Day, 8 March, 2025 (IWD 2025) is, "**For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment**", highlighting the 30 years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The Forum of Parliaments of the Member-states of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR) wishes to seize the opportunity of this celebration to reiterate the importance of gender equality in the Region which is still influenced by the deep-seated inequalities that affect women, especially when faced with patriarchy or traditional beliefs that promote women repression and inculcate bias towards women and young girls.

Our 15th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly, which is scheduled to take place in Lubango, Angola, from April 25 to April 30, 2025, will table this important issue. The theme for this session, "**Inclusive Leadership and Decision Making in the Great Lakes Region**," has been carefully chosen to reflect our commitment to promoting equitable representation and participation in governance, and to reinforce the empowerment of women through parliamentary actions actively engaging their participation in essential peace and security efforts within the region.

In the context of the Great Lakes Region, the Forum continues to pay special tribute to the Right Honorable Speakers of its Member Parliaments who are women as they stand as proud examples that women can aspire to the highest positions of responsibility within organisations that are at the helm of the State. They demonstrate that women can efficiently lead Parliaments which respond to multiple governance issues, including issues of inclusivity and power charring.

For the years to come, the Forum pledges to continue to act for Parliaments to be monuments of female leadership, empowerment and inclusion.

Happy International Women's Day 2025!

Kinshasa, March, 2025.

