



**FIFTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE  
FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

**RESOLUTION 15OSPA/09/2025**

**CHALLENGES OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS AND  
HIV IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

The Plenary Assembly:

- **Considering** the provisions of Article 6(e) of the Inter-Parliamentary Accord establishing the Forum of Parliaments of the Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region signed in Kigali, Rwanda on 4th December 2008;
- **Recognizing** the importance of the implementation of the 2024-2025 Action Plan of the FP-ICGLR that was adopted during the 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly held from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April in Livingstone, the Republic of Zambia;
- **Considering** that sexual and reproductive health is fundamentally a rights issue, integral to women's health and overall well-being, and encompasses the right to make informed decisions about one's body, access to comprehensive health services, and the ability to participate in reproductive health programs free from discrimination, coercion, or violence;
- **Recognizing** that the Great Lakes Region faces significant challenges in sexual and reproductive health (SRH), including high HIV, HPV, and maternal mortality rates, limited access to contraceptive services, and widespread gender-based violence, which create significant barriers to achieving optimal health outcomes;
- **Aware** of the considerable impact of structural and institutional discrimination, deeply entrenched gender inequalities, patriarchal traditions, discriminatory norms, harmful stereotypes, and a broader disregard for the dignity of women and girls on access to sexual and reproductive health information and services;
- **Noting with concern** the impact of prolonged conflict, political instability, and natural disasters on health systems and the increased vulnerability of marginalized groups, especially women and girls, to adverse sexual and reproductive health outcomes;

Adopts the following recommendations:

1. **Urges** ICGLR Member States to review and amend national laws and policies to protect and promote sexual and reproductive health rights, particularly of women and girls, ensuring they align with regional and international standards, including the Maputo Protocol.

2. **Further urges** ICGLR Member States to take evidence-informed, comprehensive, multisectoral, and human rights-based measures to improve the sexual and reproductive health indicators of women and girls and to address structural and underlying causes and risk factors, paying particular attention to women and girls facing multiple forms of discrimination, including disability, HIV and social exclusion.
3. **Calls upon** ICGLR Member States Governments to disseminate information on the progress towards improving the sexual and reproductive health outcomes particularly for women and girls, including best practices and implementation efforts related to the fulfilment of the provisions in the Maputo Protocol and the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. **Further calls upon** ICGLR Member States hosting refugee and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) settlements, with the collaboration of relevant stakeholders, to continue their essential work with communities to respond to the sexual and reproductive health needs of women and girls.
5. **Implores** international partners to fulfill their commitment to providing adequate financing and quick disbursement mechanisms to address unmet humanitarian and development requirements and support the implementation of durable solutions.
6. **Encourages** ICGLR Member States to work with civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations to ensure that women and girls' sexual and reproductive health needs are identified and adequately addressed.
7. **Further implores** FP-ICGLR Member-Parliaments to continuously pay special attention to the specific situation and needs of displaced women and girls and to take action to effectively address pre-existing patterns and structures of gender-based discrimination and inequalities, such as limited access to information, education, health services and legal aid and discriminatory laws, policies, and practices;
8. **Mandates** the Secretariat General to organize a peer-learning workshop to increase the understanding of sexual and reproductive health and rights, particularly as they relate to women and girls.

Done in Luanda, April 25, 2025



Rt. Hon. Nelly Butete Kashumba Mutti, MP, SC, FAFRA

**Sitting President of FP-ICGLR**  
**Speaker of National Assembly of Zambia**