



**FIFTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE  
FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION HELD IN LUANDA, THE  
REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA FROM 20-25 APRIL 2025**

**THEME: “Inclusive Leadership and Decision Making in the Great Lakes  
Region”**

**FINAL DECLARATION**

The Plenary Assembly,

- **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 15 December 2006 in Nairobi, the Republic of Kenya;
- **Aware** of 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 4 December 2008 in Kigali, the Republic of Rwanda;
- **Considering** the Final Declaration of the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly of the FP-ICGLR held in Luanda, the Republic of Angola;
- **Having considered** and **deliberated**, during the Fifteenth Ordinary session of FP-ICGLR held from **20-25 April 2025** in Luanda, the Republic of Angola, on items of its agenda;

The Plenary Assembly:

1. **Takes note** of the:
  - a) Recent evolution of the Political, Security and Humanitarian Situation in the Great Lakes Region with a focus on ICGLR Member States plagued with conflicts;
  - b) Report on the FP-ICGLR Parliamentary Fact Finding Mission on the Armed Conflicts in the eastern DRC;
  - c) Summary presentations on the activities of the Permanent Committees of FP-ICGLR; and
  - d) Debated the Country Reports on the theme of the year and shared best practices that promoted inclusiveness and leadership at all the levels of governance.

2. **Adopts** resolutions on the political, security and humanitarian situation in the:
  - a) Central African Republic;
  - b) Democratic Republic of the Congo;
  - c) Republic of South Sudan; and
  - d) Republic of the Sudan.
3. **Further adopts** resolutions on:
  - a) Governance and Institutional Building in the Great Lakes Region;
  - b) Parliaments as Crucial Partners in Supporting Infrastructures for Peace in the Great Lakes Region;
  - c) Energy Transition in the Great Lakes Region;
  - d) Public Education Systems in the Great Lakes Region; and
  - e) Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and HIV in the Great Lakes Region.
4. **Approves** the Report of the 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly of FP-ICGLR held from 15-19 April 2024 in Livingstone, the Republic of Zambia;
5. **Cognisant** of the combined Report of the Executive Committee of FP-ICGLR on the:
  - i. Activity and Financial Report for the year 2024 of the General Secretariat of FP-ICGLR;
  - ii. Financial Report for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2025;
  - iii. 2024 Financial Report
  - iv. 2025-2025 Action Plan;
  - v. 2025 Budget; and
  - vi. Report on Resource Mobilisation and Fundraising Strategy;
6. **Reaffirms** the decision by the Finance and Resource Mobilisation Committee to set up the Working Group made up of the Republic of Angola, Republic of Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Republic of Uganda to monitor the Forum's financial management;
7. **Decides** that funds monitoring and improvement of internal controls must adhere to the following:
  - a) The General Secretariat must submit the updates Report and accounts of the Financial year 2024 to the Finance and Resource Mobilisation Committee of FP-ICGLR by 21 June 2025 for submission to the Executive Committee;
  - b) Use the Action Plan and Budget approved by the Plenary Assembly of the FP-ICGLR as valid tools;
  - c) Request an opinion from the Finance and Resource Mobilisation of FP-ICGLR whenever expenditure is not included in the budget;
  - d) The Quarterly cash Plan be presented at the Beginning of each quarter and that Quarterly Budget Execution be drawn up and presented to the Finance and Resource Mobilisation Committee at the end of each quarter

- e) Improve the process of disbursing funds to the requesting areas by means of a written request for funds authenticated by those responsible in the organisational hierarchy; and
  - f) The entitlement of benefits for the Forum's high-level official must be well defined and approved upon the opinion of the Finance and Resource Mobilisation Committee of FP-ICGLR.
8. **Welcomes** the pledge and generosity by the Parliament of the DRC to secure a Plot (Land) and subsequent construction of the Permanent Headquarters in Kinshasa and **further instructed** the General Secretariat to officially engage the Senior Leadership of the DRC Parliament on the matter.
9. **Decides** that:
- a) The tenure of the Secretary General shall be three (3) years non-renewable and the decision is with immediate effect from the appointment of the new Secretary General;
  - b) The recruitment of Secretary General shall be on a rotational basis in English alphabetical order provided the eligible Member Parliament meets the required statutory obligations in line with Founding documents and Internal Rules and Regulations of the FP-ICGLR; and
  - c) The position of Secretary General be delinked from the rest of the position in the organisation; and
10. **Further decided** that the assumption to the position of the Sitting President of FP-ICGLR be delinked from hosting the Plenary Assembly and related Meetings.
11. **Requests** the Joint East African Community (EAC)/ Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Summit to include the selected Speakers from the FP-ICGLR to participate in the ongoing peace negotiations by the Panel of Facilitators to find lasting solutions to the security challenges in the eastern DRC;
12. **Commits** to support the EAC Chairperson, His Excellency, Dr. William Samoei Ruto in his noble advocacy to reform the African Union Peace and Security Council to strengthen and enhance peace interventions in the continent;
13. **Resolves** to work with United Nations and any other organisations to organise the African Women Conference in the countries plagued by insecurity and instability in the Great Lakes Region;
14. **Further reaffirms** the decision that the InterParliamentary Accord and Internal Rules and Regulations of FP-ICGLR be reviewed in the next Plenary Assembly;
15. **Further resolved** to work with the Conference of Speakers and Presidents of African Legislatures (CoSPAL) Secretariat to organise the Special Meeting to be hosted in **Kampala**, the **Republic of Uganda** which will critically deliberate and seek lasting solutions to the political, security and humanitarian challenges the African continent is grappling with.
16. **Endorsed** the decision to engage whenever possible, a credible and internationally recognised auditing firm from within the ICGLR Member States to audit the accounts of the Forum in any given financial calendar year and **decided**

that the Executive Committee of the FP-ICGLR will approve the engagement of the auditing firm.

17. **Decided to deploy** a Parliament Fact Finding Mission to Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Republic of South Sudan and Republic of Sudan;
18. **Empowers** the Executive Committee of the FP-ICGLR to approve the 2025-2026 Workplan and Budget at their planned Meeting in June 2025.
19. **Approved** the nomination of Dr. Deo Osmund Mwapinga from the United Republic of Tanzania as the next Secretary General of the FP-ICGLR for a term of three (3) non-renewable.
20. **Congratulates** the people of the Republic of Rwanda on the successful organization of the 2024 General Elections and His Excellency Paul Kagame, for being re-elected as the President of the country.
21. **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.
22. **Extends** the term of the office of the Incoming Sitting President of the FP-ICGLR from the current one (1) year to two (2) years, effective 25 April 2025.
23. **Endorses** the democratic transfer of the Presidency of FP-ICGLR from the Outgoing President of the Forum and Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, Rt. Hon. Nelly Butete Kashumba Mutti to the new Sitting President and Speaker of the National Assembly of the Angola, Rt. Hon. Carolina Cerqueira, until the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly.
24. **Registers** its gratitude to Rt. Hon. Nelly Butete Kashumba Mutti, Out-going President of FP-ICGLR and Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, for ably steering the organization during her tenure.
25. **Expresses** deep appreciation to the Acting Secretary General of FP-ICGLR, Mr Ronald Mwelwa Tembo, for accepting to take up the responsibility of Secretary General and **commends** him for the leadership, hardwork and dedication demonstrated during the transitional period.
26. **Acknowledges** the positive contributions of the former Secretary General of FP-ICGLR, Ambassador Onyango Kakoba who worked with utmost dedication and coordinated staff of the General Secretariat in a manner that propelled the Forum to be a strong institution to this day.
27. **Further Commends** the General Secretariat of FP-ICGLR and the Parliament of the Republic of Angola for the successful organisation of the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly;
28. **Expresses** its sincere appreciation to His Excellency, President João Lourenço as well as the Parliament and People of the Republic of Angola for their hospitality and support to the organization of this Plenary Assembly.

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29. **Determines** the venue and dates of the Sixteenth Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly as Kampala in the Republic of Uganda in April 2026 on dates to be decided.

**Done in Luanda, on 25 April 2025**



**Rt. Hon. Nelly Butete Kashumba Mutti, MP, SC, FAFRA**  
**Sitting President of FP-ICGLR**  
**Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia**