



International Conference on the Great Lakes Region

Protocol on the Specific Reconstruction and Development Zone (SRDZ)

**FEBRUARY 2006 (rev. Nov 2006)
(Original: English)**

PREAMBLE

We, Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region;

Reaffirming the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region adopted and signed in the United Republic of Tanzania, on 20 November 2004;

Deeply concerned about the endemic conflict and persistent insecurity caused or aggravated by, *inter alia*, economic stagnation and extreme poverty, massive violations of human rights and other practices of exclusion and marginalization, gender inequality, poor management of the environment, and the illegal exploitation of natural resources;

Recognizing the efforts taken at the national, regional and international levels to bring about comprehensive and durable solutions to these endemic issues;

Reaffirming the obligations inscribed in the principles and directives of the United Nations Charter and in the Constitutive Act of the African Union such as territorial integrity, sovereignty, non-interference and non-aggression, prohibition of any Member State to allow the use of its territory as a base for acts of aggression and subversion against another Member State, as well as the need for a real and sustained political will to jointly seek peaceful solutions and especially to honour our commitments in a spirit of mutual trust;

Recognizing the right to development, as expressed in the United Nations General Assembly resolution no. 41/128 of 4th of December 1986, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two optional Protocols, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, especially on the matter of development and poverty eradication;

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Fully aware of the link between peace and development, and conscious of the numerous economic, political, reconstruction and development initiatives and efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in addressing the challenges of economic development and regional integration;

Convinced of the central role of the free movement of persons, labour, goods and services, within the Great Lakes Region;

Reaffirming, the commitment to build an integrated economic space so as to enhance economic efficiency, eradicate poverty and promote the regional reconstruction of productive sectors and infrastructure;

Aware of the need to ensure a common front to engage international partners in issues such as market access and debt cancellation;

Resolved to build a Great Lakes Region that is open to other regions of the world by building our cooperation on priority areas: Peace and Security, Democracy and Good Governance, Economic Development and Regional Integration, as well as Humanitarian and Social Issues within a Specific Reconstruction and Development Zone (SRDZ);

Agree as follows:

CHAPTER I: General Provisions

Article 1: Definitions

For the purposes of this Protocol, except where the context otherwise requires, the following mean:

- (a) **“Specific Reconstruction and Development Zone”**: the Specific Reconstruction and Development Zone as defined in paragraph 53 of the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration;

- (b) **Transborder Development Basin**”: a border entity established by common agreement by the Member States, in accordance with this Protocol and constituting one of the mechanisms for implementing the SRDZ;
- (c) **“Local Regionalism”**: cooperation between local entities within the Transborder Development Basins;

Article 2: Objectives of the Protocol

1. The objectives of this Protocol shall be to:

- (a) Give effect to the vision of the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration in transforming the Great Lakes Region through regional integration with a view to attaining sustainable economic development;
- (b) Create the political, legal, and general institutional framework necessary and desirable to make the SRDZ operational;
- (c) Promote growth and development through the revitalization and harmonization of existing Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the creation of Transborder Development Basins.

Article 3: Field of Application

1. The provisions of this Protocol shall apply to:

- (a) The creation and regulation of the SRDZ within the eleven Member States of the Conference;
- (b) All the territories of the Specific Reconstruction and Development Zone.

Chapter II: Specific Reconstruction and Development Zone

Article 4: Operationalizing the SRDZ

1. This Protocol shall operationalize the SRDZ constituted by the eleven core countries of the Conference of the Great Lakes Region;

2. The SRDZ shall be realized through the Pact as well as Transborder Development Basins (TDBs) in accordance with the principle of local regionalism.

Article 5: Aims and Objectives of the SRDZ

1. The SDRZ shall be consistent with the principles set out in the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration and the commitments of the Member States of the Great Lakes Region with a view to ensuring lasting peace and security, democracy and development.

2. The specific objectives are:

(a) To consolidate peace and security and to prevent conflicts in the Great Lakes Region;

(b) To promote social harmony and solidarity between the people of the countries of the Great Lakes Region, more particularly, in the Trans-border Development Basins;

(c) To strengthen the mechanisms of democratic management at the grassroots, national and regional levels;

(d) To launch initiatives aimed at encouraging sustainable economic growth in sectors that involve the participation of broad strata of the inhabitants of the region in order to rapidly resolve the problems of human poverty, and in sectors which enhance the process of local regional integration in the Great Lakes Region in harmony with other initiatives in the region, such as NEPAD, among others;

(e) To rapidly address humanitarian issues that characterize the Region, especially those that are potential causes of social and political instability.

3. To attain the above objectives, the SDRZ shall adopt the following strategies:

(a) At the local level, promoting local regionalism with sufficient multi-dimensional aspects to attain the objectives of peace and security, and those of democracy and human development in the trans-border regions of the SDRZ;

(b) At the regional level, pursuing a policy of wider and more open regional development, accompanied by social and economic progress in a regional context of peace and security;

(c) At the international level, ensuring interaction with ongoing programmes such as those of regional economic organisations and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Chapter III: Special Reconstruction and Development Fund

Article 6: Establishment of Special Reconstruction and Development Fund

1. A Special Fund for Reconstruction and Development (SRDF) is hereby established. The legal statute of such a Fund shall be defined in a separate document
2. The SRDF shall support activities under the four priority areas as specified in the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration namely: Peace and Security; Democracy and Good Governance; Economic Development and Regional Integration; and Humanitarian, Social and Environmental Issues.

Article 7: Aims and Objectives of the SRDF

1. The aims and objectives of the SRDF shall be consistent with article 5 of this Protocol.
2. SRDF shall, *inter alia*, support activities aimed at the rehabilitation, reconstruction, and development as well as promote public and private investments in the Region.

Article 8: Organization and Management of the SRDF

1. The SRDF shall be administered and managed by an existing African financial institution.
2. The modality of the operationalization of the Fund shall be determined by a specific legal framework to be agreed with the African Development Bank.

CHAPTER IV: Trans-border Development Basins

Article 9: Creation of Transborder Development Basins (TDBs)

1. The Specific Reconstruction and Development Zone shall be operationalized, *inter alia*, through the creation of Transborder Development Basins (TDBs).
2. TDBs shall ensure the voluntary integration of the border territories of two or more Member States on the basis of a shared history, or common interest in the management or exploitation of resources whether natural, human or financial, and motivated by the desire to reconstruct and develop the territory constituting a TDB.
3. A TDB shall only be established following an agreement between two or several Member States.

Article 10: Objectives of Transborder Development Basins (TDB)

1. Pursuant to the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration, the objectives of a TDB shall be to:
 - a) Achieve local regionalism through local economic cooperation and integration;
 - b) Spur development and ensure peace and security, as well as the inclusive and participative development of the communities in the regions concerned;
 - c) Ensure the development of adequate local physical and commercial infrastructure in order to stimulate investment;
 - d) Develop a private sector capable of realizing market opportunities, expand exports to markets beyond the TDB area and contribute to bringing into being new consumption centres within the TDB area.

Article 11: Autonomy and Flexibility

1. The geographical parameters of a TDB may be specified after their creation by the mutual consent of the respective States Parties.

2. Each TDB shall remain autonomous from the others and from the central authorities of the respective States Parties.
3. However, in case of conflict of jurisdiction, the principles of sovereignty shall prevail.

Article 12: Governance of the TDB

1. Each TDB shall be governed by a Commission which shall comprise at least three representatives from each participating States selected from the Private, Public and Civil Society Sectors.
2. In determining the composition of its representatives on the Commission, the Member States shall draw from the Private Sector as the engine of economic growth, the Great Lakes Regional Civil Society Forum, the Regional Youth Forum and the Regional Women's Forum.

Chapter V: Cooperation and Consultations

Article 13: Relations with the Civil Society Forum, the Youth Forum, the Women's Forum and Those of Other Socio-professional Organizations and Associations

1. The SRDZ, notably through TDBs, shall cooperate with the Private Sector, socio-economic organizations and associations, including the Regional Civil Society, Youth and Women Fora as well as with Trucker, Workers, Employers, Craftsmen, Universities associations, Media and their professional organizations with a view to ensuring their involvement at the national and regional levels in the reconstruction and development of the region.
2. To this end, the SRDZ shall establish through TDBs, mechanisms for consultation with such socio-professional organizations and associations, the Private Sector and Civil Society.

Article 14: Final Provisions

1. This Protocol shall be an integral part of the Pact and shall not be subject to separate signature and ratification by the Member States.
2. For any Member State which has ratified the Pact in terms set out in Article 30 of the Pact, this Protocol shall automatically enter into force at the same time as the Pact in accordance with Article 33 of the Pact.
3. Nothing contained in this Protocol shall be construed to be contrary to the provisions of the Pact, the Constitutive Act of the African Union, and the Charter of the United Nations.