

Regional Training Facility on  
Prevention and Suppression of Sexual  
and Gender Based Violence  
in the Great Lakes Region



Centre Régional de Formation sur  
la Prévention et Suppression des Violence  
Sexuelles Basées sur le Genre dans  
la Région des Grands Lacs

## ICGLR-REGIONAL TRAINING FACILITY ON PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION OF SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



TURNING  
COMMITMENT  
INTO ACTION

**END** SEXUAL AND  
GENDER BASED  
VIOLENCE

# Introduction:

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) is an intergovernmental organization comprising twelve (12) Member States.

The Member States of the ICGLR are: **Angola, Burundi, Central Africa Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia.**

ICGLR also has co-opted Members: Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, and Zimbabwe.

**The ICGLR was formed by the African Union, the United Nations together with Member States.**

**The process started in the Year 2000 with UN Security Council Resolutions 1291 and 1304 of 2000. This was followed by the Conference in Dar Es Salaam in 2004 which laid a foundation for signing the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region in Nairobi Kenya in 2006.**



*The ICGLR Executive Secretary, Amb. Zackary Muburi-Muita (left) and ICGLR-RTF Regional Director, Mr. Nathan Byamukama*



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## The Regional Training Facility on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (ICGLR-RTF) was established pursuant to:

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Article 6(9) of the Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children, 2006 (SGBV Protocol);

Article 11 of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development for the Great Lakes Region, December 2006 Amended November 2012 (the Pact);

Resolution 14 of the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, 2011 (Kampala Declaration)

The ICGLR has several thematic priorities which are primarily executed through its decentralized organs. These organs include The Regional Training Facility on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (ICGLR-RTF), which is based in Kampala, Uganda.

“The Member States undertake, in accordance with the Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression Against Women and Children, to combat sexual violence against women and children through prevention, criminalizing and punishing acts of sexual violence, both in times peace and in times of war, in accordance with national laws and international criminal law.” **Article 11 of the Pact**

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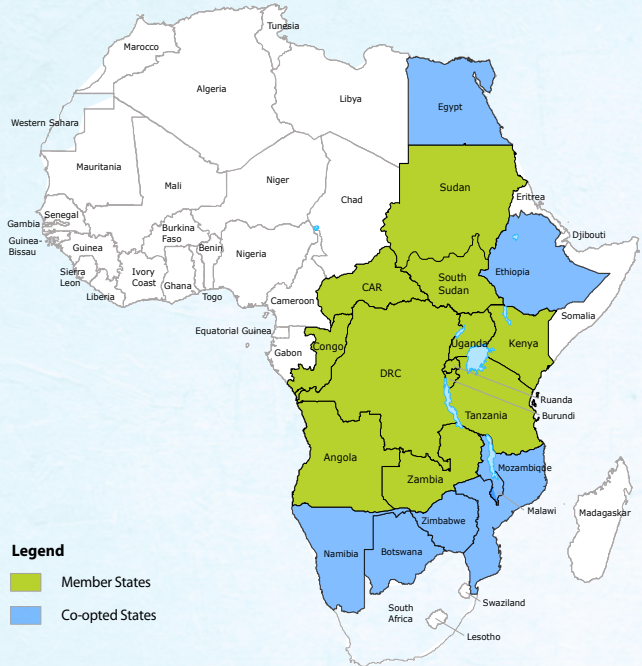
**Member States agree to set up a special facility for training and sensitizing judicial officers, police units, social workers, medical officers and other categories of persons who handle cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in the Great Lakes Region.**

*Article 6(9) SGBV Protocol*

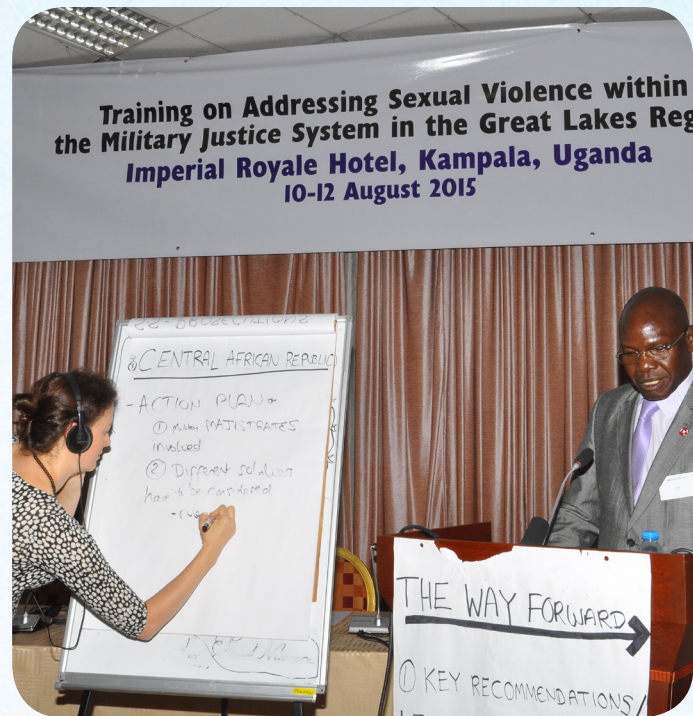
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“We take note of Uganda’s offer to host the Regional SGBV Training Facility and direct the ICGLR Secretariat to prepare the financial requirements (budget) for the establishment of the Facility and present it to the next meeting of Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee (RIMC) for decision.” **Resolution 14, Kampala Declaration**





\*Boundaries and names shown on this map do not represent the official position of the ICGLR



## PREVALENCE OF SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION:

The incidences of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in the Great Lakes remain alarmingly high, despite the existence of Institutional, Policy and Legal Frameworks for the Prevention of SGBV and punishment of perpetrators. In most cases, sexual violence which includes gender- based violence deliberately targets women and children.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence has destructive impact on the lives, health, physical, sexual, psychological, social and economic well-being of survivors. It also poses a serious threat on security and development of the Great Lakes Region.

**The Kampala Declaration on Sexual Violence recognizes the importance of strengthening institutional and capacity and accountability to protect women, girls, men, and boys from Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in peace time, during conflict, and post-conflict situations.**

## DEFINITION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE:

Sexual Violence: an act which violates the sexual and bodily integrity of women and children under international criminal law, including, but not limited to:

- a. Rape;
- b. Sexual assault;
- c. Grievous bodily harm;
- d. Assault or mutilation of female reproductive organs;
- e. Sexual slavery;
- f. Enforced prostitution;
- g. Forced pregnancy;
- h. Enforced sterilization;
- i. Harmful practices, inclusive of all behaviour, attitudes and/or practices which negatively affect the fundamental rights of women and children, such as their right to life, health, dignity, education and physical integrity, as defined in the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;
- j. Sexual exploitation or the coercion of women and children to perform domestic chores or to provide sexual comfort;
- k. Trafficking in, and smuggling of women and children for sexual slavery or exploitation;
- l. Enslavement by the exercise of any or all the powers attaching to the right of ownership over women and includes the exercise of such power in the course of trafficking in women and children;
- m. Forced abortions or forced pregnancies of women and girl children arising from the unlawful confinement of a woman or girl child forcibly made pregnant, with the intent of affecting the composition of the identity any population or carrying out other grave violations of international law, and as a syndrome of physical, social, and psychological humiliation, pain and suffering and subjugation of women and girls;
- n. Infection of women and children with sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS; and
- o. Any other act or form of violence of comparable gravity.



*UN Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region, Amb. Said Djinit (3rd from right) visit to ICGLR-RTF, 2018.*



Sexual violence also includes gender-based violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty, as defined by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, in General Recommendation 19.

**Article 1(5) Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children, 2006.**

## ICGLR-RTF MISSION & OBJECTIVES:

**The ICGLR-RTF is a Regional Center of Excellence that researches, trains, and sensitizes relevant stakeholders and the general population in Africa on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.**

The work of the ICGLR-RTF is guided by international and regional instruments, standards, and norms that aim to promote accountability and end impunity for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in the Great Lakes Region and Africa in general.

The ICGLR-RTF which is the decentralized organ of the ICGLR Secretariat, is based in Kampala, Uganda. The ICGLR Secretariat is based in Bujumbura, Burundi; the Secretariat coordinates, facilitates, monitors, and ensures the implementation of Pacts and other initiatives in order to attain peace, security, stability, and development in the Great Lakes Region.

## ICGLR-RTF MISSION STATEMENT:

To train and equip stakeholders with skills to effectively promote accountability and fight impunity for Sexual Violence; generate knowledge about the challenges of Sexual Violence; and sensitize stakeholders to change stereotypes and attitudes from marginalization to empowerment of women, girls, men and boys to live in dignity respect and freedom at all times and in all situations.

## ICGLR-RTF OBJECTIVES ARE:

#1

Train and sensitize judicial officers, police units, social workers, medical officers and other categories of persons who handle Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in the Great Lakes Region.

#2

Create and maintain a data base, resource center, and depository on cases, policies, legislation, reports and experts working on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

#3

Research on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence to gather empirical evidence, inform training materials for practitioners in the management of SGBV cases; and document research findings to influence legislative policy and programmatic reforms in the Great Lakes Region.

#4

Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Partnerships for effective implementation of ICGLR-RTF mandate



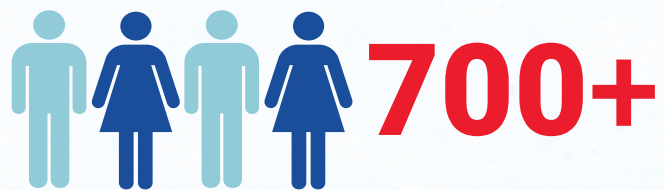
## ICGLR-RTF ACHIEVEMENTS:

The ICGLR-RTF's ultimate goal is to effectively train different relevant stakeholders in handling cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence to promote accountability and end impunity; conduct credible and accurate research on Sexual and Gender-Based violence; develop harmonize and standardize curricula on how cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence can be prevented and handled by different stakeholders; document, sensitize the general population on the impact of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence; and maintain a Resource Center; and a database on experts working on Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

### Some of the key achievements of ICGLR-RTF, in its four years of existence (2014-2018), are evidenced by:

- **Developed standardized manuals and curricula for security forces, judicial officers; social workers; schools; and medical officers.** Inclusion of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence content aimed at teaching approaches to preventing and effectively responding to Sexual and Gender Based Violence.
- **Trained Master and National Trainers in the 12 ICGLR Member States to strengthen and improve capacity to respond to and prevent Sexual and Gender Based Violence.** The Master and 10 National Trainers (in each ICGLR Member State) cascade training to other professionals at national level. By July 2018, National Trainers had been trained in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, and Zambia. Training in Angola; Burundi; Tanzania; Sudan; South Sudan; Central African Republic; Democratic Republic of Congo; and the Republic of Congo will be completed by September 2018
- **Increased media coverage on Sexual and Gender Based Violence in the Great Lakes Region.**

- **Influenced legislative and policy reforms in Member states** to address impunity and promote accountability for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
- **Successful advocacy for expedited establishment of special courts** dedicated to prosecuting Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in some Member States, such as Uganda.
- **Influenced establishment of special units in police stations and military forces** dedicated to investigating reports on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.
- **Acquisition of permanent office premises** with potential for expansion.
- **Mobilization and acquisition of financial resources from partners amounting to over USD \$6 million** (six million United States Dollars)-used for organizing over 11 regional high-level meetings, regional training workshops, colloquia and symposia, institutional building, and technical support, among others.



**Trained over 700 personnel, including judicial officers, security forces, medical officers and social workers on effective prevention and response to cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.**



## STAFF:

The ICGLR-RTF is headed by a Regional Director. The ICGLR-RTF's Staff consists of highly skilled professionals and experts in the field of Sexual and Gender Based Violence, including lawyers; judges; medical personnel; academics; and social workers. By end of 2018, RTF will have over 130 expert trainers (at least 10 from each Member State of ICGLR in addition to 12 Master Trainers.

## ICGLR-RTF

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Website: [www.icglr-rtf.org](http://www.icglr-rtf.org)**

*Dated: August 2018*

## PARTNERS & FRIENDS:

Since 2014, ICGLR-RTF has received funding from governments, international, regional and national organizations including NGOs. Specifically World Bank, the Government of Netherland (Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Development in Higher Education (NICHE), African Union Peace and Security Department), UK government (through British High Commission), UNWOMEN, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Office of Special Envoy of the Secretary General on the Great Lakes Region, Population Council-Kenya, GIZ, Fida-Uganda, AkinaMama Wa Afrika have supported the ICGLR/RTF.

Group of Friends countries are: Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The international organizations are: the European Commission, African Union Commission, African Development Bank, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA), and Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. By 2000 the GoF were Co-chaired by Canada and the Netherlands.



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