



## 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/08/2025

### CHALLENGES OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

#### The Plenary Assembly:

- **Considering** the provisions of Article 48 of the Inter-Parliamentary Agreement 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 education is a fundamental human right enshrined in national laws and regional and international frameworks and that it is central to improving the livelihoods and future prospects of people, contributing towards community and national development;
- **Recognizing** that countries in the Great Lakes Region have made significant strides in increasing access to basic education for children, improving the infrastructure of public education facilities, reaching gender parity and closing the gap between rural and urban education;
- **Aware** of the impact of structural barriers including gender and social norms, socio-economic context, geographical locations and social stratifications on access to education for traditionally marginalized groups including girls and people with disabilities;
- **Noting with concern** the disruption of schooling, destruction of educational facilities and imminent personal danger on students posed by prolonged internal and external conflicts, emerging global challenges including COVID 19 and monkey pox, climate change induced natural disasters and other national disasters in the Great Lakes Region.

Adopts the following recommendations:

1. **Urges** ICGLR Member States to amend and ensure the implementation of national laws and policies to protect and promote public education paying particularly attention to traditionally marginalized groups including girls, people with disabilities and those in rural communities.
2. **Further urges** ICGLR Member States to allocate adequate portion of their national budgets to the education sector in accordance with the recommendations of international instruments they have signed and seek sustainable partnerships with international organizations.
3. **Calls upon** ICGLR Member States Governments to prioritize professional development programs, better salaries and incentives for teachers, particularly those based in rural areas to enhance teacher retention and improve the quality of education.
4. **Further calls upon** ICGLR Member States to invest in school construction and maintenance, particularly in rural and conflict-affected areas, is essential ensuring decent sanitary facilities particularly for girls, libraries, laboratories and classrooms.
5. **Encourages** ICGLR Member States to work with civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations to promote and expand gender equality initiatives that support girls' education, emphasizing community involvement and protection against early marriage.
6. **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 in the public education system.
7. **Further implores** FP-ICGLR Member-Parliaments to adopt robust policy frameworks with initiatives aimed at improving access to public education and integrate checks and balances to ensure that public funds are allocated and spent accordingly;
8. **Mandates** the Secretariat General to organize a peer-learning workshop to exchange reflections and strategies to improve public education systems and the learning prospects of everyone regardless of their gender, social stratification, disability or geographical location.

**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**