



**FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION
(FP-ICGLR)**

**ACTIVITY AND FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD, JANUARY – DECEMBER 2024**

Kinshasa, 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In application of Article 41, paragraph 2.a of the FP-ICGLR Internal Rules and Regulations, which stipulates that the Secretary General shall submit a report to the Executive Committee, it is my singular honour to present this report to Your Excellencies on the activities of the Secretariat over the January 1 to October 31, 2024 period.

The report gives an overview of the statutory meetings, those being the ordinary session of the Plenary Assembly, the meetings of the permanent committees and the Executive Committee. In addition, the Secretariat carries out other nonstatutory activities, through its organs and in partnership with other ICGLR organs and partners. It is also active on various international fora where it takes a vocal stance on issues that dovetail with its objectives.

The ongoing budgetary constraints, make it extremely difficult for the Secretariat to organize plenary sessions, partake in missions, and fund committee activities. The placed financial pressure also puts in jeopardy the everyday activities of Secretariat General, the financial well-being of its employees, and to fulfilment of the legislative and advisory roles the Forum within the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The Forum's ability to contribute meaningfully to the challenges of the region will be tested in the coming months, hence the importance of an urgent reassessment of the financial support.

It's expected that the upcoming statutory meetings produce recommendations on the strategic imperatives that will catalyse the performance of the FP-ICGLR in the short, medium and long term.

Despite of the challenges, the General Secretariat of the FP-ICGLR has, with effort and determination, dedicated itself to pushing forward this very distinguished task and seeks to reflect that, with transparency, sensitivity and professionalism, in the pages below.

This rapport sets out the different activities undertaken by the FP-ICGLR, in the order in which they took place.

General Introduction

This report contains the achieved activities and the financial status of the Forum of Parliaments of the Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR) during the period January to October 2024.

It is divided into two parts:

Part one revolves around activities carried out in the period;

Part two lays out the financial status of the FP-ICGLR.

PART ONE: ACTIVITIES ACHIEVED

I. ACTIVITIES PLANNED AND ACHIEVED BY FP-ICGLR

II.1. Ongoing Fact-Finding Mission on the Security, Political and Humanitarian Situation in Eastern DRC (Phase Three)

The FP-ICGLR conducted the 3rd phase of the Parliamentary fact-finding mission on security, humanitarian and political challenges in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The mission was carried out from February 26 to March 1, 2024, in the Republic of Rwanda. It was led by the Sitting President of FP-ICGLR and Speaker of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly of the Republic of South Sudan, Rt. Hon. Jemma Nunu Kumba, accompanied by Honourable Parliamentarians from the Republic of Angola, Kenya, South Sudan and Zambia as well as the Secretary General and Technical staff from the General Secretariat of FP-ICGLR. The Mission involved discussions with the Leadership of the Parliament of the Republic of Rwanda, officials and key stakeholders from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of National Unity and Civic Engagement. While in Kigali, the Mission also visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial in Gisozi, Mahatma Refugee Camp and Mutobo Demobilisation and Reintegration Centre in Musanze District.

II.2. 14th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly and Related Meetings

The 14th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly of the ICGLR was held from April 15th to 19th 2024, Livingstone, Republic of Zambia. The Plenary was chaired by the Sitting President of the FP-ICGRL Right Hon. Jemma Nunu Kumba, and was held under the theme "The Role of Parliament in Climate Change Adaptation in the Great Lakes Region," provided a platform for member states to discuss pertinent matters including the impact of climate change on the region. All the FP-ICGLR bodies convened during the Plenary, namely the Conference of Speakers, Executive Committee and Permanent Committees. During the Plenary, the Speaker of the Parliament of Zambia, Right Honourable **Nelly Butete Kashumba Mutti**, took over the Presidency of the Forum.

II.3. Planning / Orientation Meeting with the Sitting President of FP-ICGLR

Following the change of leadership at FP-ICGLR, the Secretary-General, Amb. Onyango Kakoba conducted an orientation/planning meeting in the National

Assembly of the Republic of Zambia. The purpose of the mission was to brief the new President of FP-ICGLR, Rt. Hon. **Nelly Butete Kashumba Mutti**, on the roles, functions, and expectations of her new office and discuss the Presidential Action Plan. Accompanying the SG was Mr. Jean Marie Baafo, the accountant of the Forum.

II.4. Partnership Meeting between the FP-ICGLR and the EALA

The Secretary-General, Ambassador Onyango Kakoba held a working meeting with the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Rt. Hon. Joseph Ntakirutimana, in Arusha, Republic of Tanzania, from June 4 to June 5, 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways to promote cooperation in areas of mutual interest between the FP-ICGLR and EALA. Mr Jules Byabagabo, Human Resources and Procurement Officer accompanied the SG.

II.5. Electoral Observation Mission to the 2024 Republic of Rwanda General Elections

The Electoral Observation Mission to the General Elections in the Republic of Rwanda held on 15th of July, 2024 deployed 26 observers from five (5) Member States namely: Central African Republic, Republic of Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of Zambia. Rt. Hon. Moses Moyo, Second Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Zambia, was the Head of the Mission.

The mission met various electoral stakeholders such as the National Electoral Commission, some Political Parties and civil society organizations to understand the state of preparations and preparedness towards holding the general elections. The observers were subsequently deployed in teams of four (4) to observe the polling proceedings in various areas of Kigali province.

The incumbent President Paul Kagame won re-election with 99.18 percent of the vote, as announced by the National Electoral Commission.

II.6. 13th Statutory Meeting of the Committee of Peace and Security

The General Secretariat organized the meeting in Dar es Salaam, Republic of Tanzania, on August 26-27, 2024. The Committee discussed the political, security, and humanitarian situation in the ICGLR Member States and adopted the report of its 12th Statutory Meeting.

Furthermore, the meeting received an update on the ongoing Parliamentary Fact-Find Mission to the conflict in Eastern RDC, and debated the presentation on Parliament as a Crucial Partner in Supporting Infrastructures for Peace in the GLR. Draft Resolutions were presented and considered, and will be submitted to the 15th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly.

II.6. 12th Statutory Meeting of the Committee of Democracy and Good Governance

The meeting took place on August 29 – 30, in Juba, Republic of South Sudan. During the meeting, the Committee reviewed and adopted the report of the 11th Statutory Meeting. They also had an interactive reflection on the report of the 2024 Electoral Observation Mission conducted in the Republic of Rwanda. Additionally, the Committee received a presentation on the Research Report on Governance and Institutional Building in the Great Lakes Region: Way Forward, and considered proposals for improvements, as well as discussed the resolutions that will be submitted to the 15th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly.

II.7. 8th Statutory Meeting of the Committee of Economic Development, Regional Integration and Natural Resources

The meeting was held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda from October 23 – 24, 2024.

During the meeting, the report of the 7th Statutory Meeting was adopted, and the research report on “on Sustainable Energy Transition in the Great Lakes Region: Challenges and Opportunities” was considered.

Additionally, members of parliament conducted a Field Visit of the Oil Exploration Infrastructure in Hoima District in the western part of the Republic of Uganda to benchmark effective ways and customized best practices of petroleum exploration in the Great Lakes Region. The committee also discussed the resolution to be submitted to the 15th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly.

II.11. 8th Statutory Meeting of the Committees of Humanitarian and Social Issues and Gender, Children and Vulnerable Persons

The meeting was held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda, from October 25-26, 2024.

During the meeting, the research reports on “Public Education Systems in the Great Lakes Region” and “Sexual and Reproductive Rights and HIV in the Great Lakes Region” were debated. The Committees also deliberated on the resolutions that will be submitted to the 15th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly.

II.12. 29th Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee

The meeting was held in Luanda, Republic of Angola, held from December 5-6, 2024, and deliberated on the administrative and financial situation of the Forum, as well as prepared the agenda for the 15th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly to be held in Luanda, Republic of Angola, in April 2025.

The Acting Secretary General, Ronald M. Tembo and the staff of the Secretariat participated in the meeting.

III. ACTIVITIES ACHIEVED WITH PARTNERS OF FP-ICGLR

III.1. Alternative Mining Indaba

The Secretary General attended the 15th Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) in Cape Town, South Africa, from 5 to 8 February 2024. The AMI was held under the theme: “Embracing the power of positive disruption: A bold new future for African mining”, in pursuit of a fair energy transition, challenging communities to reclaim power and unlock potential as well as execute the mandate to hold business and government accountable. In its final declaration, the AMI re-affirmed a long-standing demand to for a human-centred approach to achieve a just energy transition, approach climate change challenges that would “make natural resources work for the people” and that which respects our core principle of “People First Not Profits” to alleviate poverty among communities and improve the quality of life for all. Mr Jean Marie Baafo, Accountant and Mr Jeni Botha Toko, IT and Communications Officer, were also part of the delegation.

III.2. 148th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly

The 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and its related meetings was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 23 to 27 March 2024. The general debate focus on the overall theme **Parliamentary diplomacy: Building bridges for peace and understanding** and provided a platform for delegates to deliberate, exchange views and galvanize parliamentary action in this area. The Assembly adopted resolutions on the emergency item and on the subject items taken up by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security entitled *Addressing the social and humanitarian impact of autonomous weapon systems and artificial intelligence* and by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development entitled *Partnerships for climate action: Promoting access to affordable green energy, and ensuring innovation, responsibility and equity*.

The Secretariat was represented by the Secretary General, Ambassador Onyango Kakoba, and Mr Jeni Botha Toko, IT and Communications Officer.

III.3. 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly

The 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and its related meetings was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from October 2024. The general debate focus on the overall theme **Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future**. The Assembly also adopted resolutions on the emergency item and on the subject items taken up by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights entitled *the impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law*.

The Secretariat was represented by the Secretary General, Ambassador Onyango Kakoba.

III.4. 56th Plenary Assembly of the SADC Parliamentary Forum

The 56th Plenary Assembly Session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) was hosted by the Parliament of the Republic of Zambia from 6th to 15th December 2024 at the Radisson Blu Hotel and Resort in Livingstone, Zambia, under the theme: **“Leveraging Technology and Innovation for Smart, Inclusive and Responsive Parliaments in the SADC Region.”**

The Plenary Assembly deliberated on and adopted resolutions pertaining to multiple matters of interest pursuant to its consideration of various reports. Country Reports on progress made on the implementation of the Resolutions of the 55th Plenary Assembly were considered. Other reports considered were those submitted by the Forum’s Organs, including the Executive Committee, Standing Committees, the Regional Women’s Parliamentary Caucus (RWPC) and the Regional Parliamentary Model Law Oversight Committee.

The Secretariat was represented by the Acting Secretary General, Ronald M. Tembo, and Cedric Bueya, Event Coordinator.

Kinshasa, 2024