

Peacebuilding Commission advice to the Security Council on the Great Lakes region

10 October 2023

As part of its continuing engagement in the Great Lakes region, and further to its last advice to the Security Council in April 2023, the Commission encourages additionally the Security Council to consider:

1. Reaffirming that the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework remains an essential mechanism and pathway to achieve durable peace, stability and development in the region including through addressing the root causes of conflict.
2. Underling the importance of implementation of existing accords that promote regional economic and financial integration and contribute to sustainable development, with support from the office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region.
3. Reiterating its concerns that unless the illegal exploitation and smuggling of natural resources is curtailed and that those responsible are held accountable, including the armed groups, the region will continue to suffer from recurring cycle of violences infringing upon any prospects of lasting regional peace and development.
4. Expressing concerns over the humanitarian situation in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo due to the ongoing hostilities by armed groups and increased cases of sexual and gender-based violence and calling upon all parties to armed conflict to engage immediately in a durable humanitarian pause, in order to enable the safe, timely, unhindered and sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance, and calling for significant humanitarian and development actions, including through the mobilization of resources for funding the Humanitarian Response Plans, as well as the disbursement of previously pledged funds.
5. Enhancing in that regard its engagement with and support to regional and sub-regional organizations initiatives, including the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes and the East African Community, the Southern African Development Community in furtherance of peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including the Nairobi and Luanda processes.
6. Urging international and regional support for strengthening and improving capacity for elections and governance in the countries of the region at their request, and emphasizing the importance of continuous inclusive dialogue and strengthened civic education as key to ensuring timely, peaceful, inclusive and credible elections, in line with countries' own constitutions.
7. Reiterates the importance of a strategic, integrated, and coherent approach by the United Nations and stakeholders in the region, including the Office of the Special Envoy and UN Country Teams, to sustain peacebuilding gains, in particular in the context of MONUSCO's transition from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

8. Reiterating its call for the full, equal, and meaningful participation and inclusion of women, and the full, effective, and meaningful participation of youth in peace negotiations, peacebuilding and recovery efforts.