Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference (GLITC)

Kigali, Rwanda
Kigali Convention Centre
18 – 20 March 2020

Concept and Draft Annotated Agenda

Theme: "Cross-border investment and trade as catalysts for development and regional integration"

The signatory member states of the ICGLR PACT and the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework (PSC-F) will convene the Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference (GLITC) on 18-20 March 2020 under the auspices of the Government of Rwanda. The event is jointly organized by the Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, the Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes region (ICGLR) and the Rwanda Development Board. It follows the first Great Lakes Private Sector Investment Conference held in 2016 in Kinshasa hosted by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The mobilization of private sector investment into the region to harness the extensive natural resources endowments and existing economic opportunities will offer mutual benefits to investors and to the countries of the region that are on the path of economic transformation. By creating more economic opportunities and wealth for a growing number of people, increased private sector and institutional investments bear significant potential to contribute to collective efforts towards sustainable peace, stability and the transformation of the Great Lakes region.

The GLITC will provide a platform for the promotion of cross-border projects and the vast cross-border economic opportunities in the African Great Lakes region in several sectors (energy, mining, agriculture, infrastructure, and services including finance, information technology, communication, tourism, health…etc.).

The Conference will provide a platform for public-private dialogue on investments and networking opportunities to over 500 participants from all over the world. Moreover, the GLITC will include a high-level political segment with the participation of Heads of State and Governments and high-profile investors, plenary sessions with key-note speakers, industry sector specific sessions as well as exhibition stands for Member States to showcase country-specific projects.

It is expected that at the end of the conference, valuable information would have been exchanged, useful networking contacts established, and trade and investment deals initiated to promote responsible business that would provide livelihood opportunities and inclusion of the teeming women and youth population, thereby contributing to the achievement of the sustainable development goals in the region.

Key benefits

Participants will benefit from opportunities to:

(i) Participate on a platform to derive benefits from critical networking with Government, business and international development partners across the African Great Lakes region;

(ii) Better understand the key challenges hampering the promotion of cross-border investment and trade in the region;

(iii) Gain knowledge of the economic opportunities of the countries in the region and the institutional and regulatory frameworks in place to facilitate cross-border investments, especially in view of the establishment of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AFCTA);

(iv) Participate in high-level dialogue on the regional investment climate, promotion of responsible business conduct and the building of public-private partnerships in the region;

(v) Identify emerging long-term investment opportunities and avail of cross-border projects that are bankable, ready for business and conform to inclusive and responsible investment requirements;

(vi) Identify bottlenecks that constrain the development of private sector investment and trade within the GLR and learn of joint efforts and plans by Governments and relevant stakeholders to address them;

(vii) Match potential investors to promoters of projects in the following priority areas: Agriculture; Infrastructure; Mining; Energy; Services (ICT, Finance) and take note of the concrete commitments that could result from these interactions.

Day 1: 18 March 2020

PS: Most of the Panelists/Moderators listed in this provisional Agenda are tentative and yet to be confirmed

08.00 - 09.00 Arrival at the Venue for the Opening Ceremony

(Kigali Convention Centre)

09.00 - 09.07 Welcome remarks: Ms. Soraya Hakuziyaremye, Minister of Trade and Industry, Rwanda

09.07 - 09.17 Opening remarks: H.E. Paul Kagame, President, Rwanda

09.20-10.45 High-level Panel: Strengthening Public-Private partnership to improve the business climate and promote private sector development in the Great Lakes region

The high-level Panel will provide the leadership of the region the opportunity to share and engage with high-profile business leaders and representatives of international/regional Organizations on the evolving positive political dynamics and economic opportunities in the region and highlight measures being taken to improve the business and investment climate and to promote private sector development and cross-border economic opportunities in the region. The role of international development partners and the benefits of synergy with organized private sector to support regional economic growth will be explored in this interactive session.

Moderator: Ms. Ms. Catherine Samba Panza, former President, Central African Republic

Key-note Speaker: Dr. Akinwunmi *Adesina*, President, African Development Bank (AfDB)

Panelists Heads of States and Government of the PSC-F countries,

Mr. United Nations Secretary-General (tbc)

Mr. David Malpass, World Bank President (tbc)

Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, AUC Chairman (tbc)

Ms. Louise Mushikiwabo, Secretary-General OIF (tbc)

Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, Director General BADEA

Mr. Tony Elumelu, President of Tony Elumelu Foundation, the largest African philanthropic initiative devoted supporting entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship (tbc)

Ms. Florie LISER, CEO and President, US Corporate Council on Africa (CCA)

Mr. Jack Ma, Philanthropist, China (tbc)

Mr. Aliko Dangote, CEO Dangote Group (tbc)

Dr. Liu Zhenya, Chairman, Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO)

10.45 – 11.15 Testimonies of three (3) successful flagship cross-border projects

This short session will feature three (3) successful flagship projects showcased during the first PSIC in Kinshasa in February 2016 and will provide the beneficiary countries and the project sponsors as well as investors, the opportunity to present highlights of the projects and updates on their implementation, including the challenges faced and how they were overcome.

Moderator: Hon. Claver Gatete, Minister of Infrastructure, Rwanda (tbc)

The three (3) successful flagship projects are:

- The Ruzizi III Regional Hydroelectric Project: it has reached a critical stage with the Project Document signed in July 2019 in Kinshasa. It involves the construction of a 147 *MW hydro-electric dam and a distribution station between Rwanda and the DRC on the Ruzizi River*. It will supply electricity to Rwanda, Burundi and the DRC under a long-term Power Purchase Agreement. The Ruzizi III project will significantly transform the electricity sectors in the countries concerned and will contribute to: (i) optimal exploitation of the Ruzizi River's energy potential to improve security of supplies and access to electricity; (ii) the strengthening of regional economic integration by creating a regional market for electricity.

  Presenter: Mr. Herman Tuyaga, Permanent Executive Secretary, CEPGL, Gisenyi, Rwanda

- The road-rail Bridge Kinshasa-Brazzaville: The recently signed $550m agreement between the DRC and the Republic of Congo, the African Development Bank and Africa50 Infrastructure Fund foresees the construction of a crossing to link the two closest capitals in the world. Kinshasa and Brazzaville are currently only connected by ferries. Once built, the bridge is likely to boost the existing traffic from an estimated 750,000 people and 340,000t of freight a year to over three million people and two million tons of freight by 2025.

  Presenter: Mr. Alain Ebobissé, CEO, Africa50 Infrastructure Fund, Rabat, Morocco or ECCAS (Project promoter) (tbc)

- The Great Lakes Development Bank which is now operational and ready, in a second phase of its development, to access additional resources through recapitalization and fund.

  Presenter: Mr. Emmanuel Ntaganda, Director General, BDEGL (Project promoter)

11.15 – 11.45 Break and Group picture, followed by the exhibition tour

VIP and Participants will tour the exhibition space to learn about the range of investment opportunities in the Great Lakes region. Exhibition stalls will remain open throughout the Conference.

11.45 – 13.00 **Plenary Session I: Operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): what are the opportunities and expectations for the Great Lakes region?**

The AfCFTA entered into force on 30 May 2019. This historic agreement which is a landmark achievement in fostering regional integration, will lead to the creation of a single continental market. It is expected the transition phase to the AfCFTA alone could generate welfare gains of $16.1 billion and boost intra-African trade by 33 per cent. Research has shown that countries do not benefit equally from regional trade integration. However, all African countries would be better off with AfCFTA than without. As a sub-region, the Great Lakes region has the right ingredients to be competitive, at the continental level, in many sectors. This session aims to discuss how to harness the opportunities and overcome the challenges, from the Great Lakes region perspectives. How to make it profitable for SMEs to accelerate growth and allow the countries of the region to be more competitive in global trade and value chains?

Moderator: African Union Representative or Representative from private Sector

Panelists: **Dr. Frannie Léautier,** COO, Eastern and Southern African Trade & Development Bank, Tanzania (tbc)

Dr. Peter J. Pham, US Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, Department of State, Washington DC, USA

Mr. Faustin Mbundu Kananura, Executive Chairman, MFK Group Rwanda (tbc)

Mr. Etienne Giros, President, EBCAM, Paris, France

13.00 – 14.00 Lunchtime

14.00 – 15.00 **Plenary Session 1: Promoting private sector investment for cross-border projects in the Great Lakes Region**

The Great Lakes countries are well endowed with natural resources and share an ecosystem that creates complex interdependencies. Yet, this huge potential is not fully exploited and has not yet translated into significant improvement of the well-being for the population. For this reason, Great lakes countries are combining their efforts to develop joint projects to foster multi-sectorial cooperation for the benefit of border communities and to advance on a path of peace and shared prosperity. The role of the private sector is key to mobilize private investment crucial to support the implementation of cross-border projects.

This session will discuss the challenges faced by the private sector when investing in regional projects; the opportunities of creating regional frameworks to support such investments and how to best promote public-private partnerships for the sustainable management of the region's natural resources endowment towards shared prosperity.

Moderator: Ms. Clare Akamanzi, CEO Rwanda Development Board (RDB)

Panelists: Mr. Albert Yuma Mulimbi, CEO, GECAMINES, President Fédération des Entreprises du Congo (FEC) (tbc)

Mr. Toufiq S. Turky, East African Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (EACCIA), Board Chairman

Mr. Director, *Virunga* National Park

15.00 – 15.45 Presentation of the cross-border projects

The presentation will focus on four (4) flagship cross-border projects identified in the Great Lakes region and will involve stakeholders, including Government officials, project promoters, investors and development partners.

Moderator : Mr. Laurent YOGO, Fédération des Entreprises du Congo (FEC)

Presenter: Mr. Joseph Lutitiyo, Deputy Executive Secretary, CEPGL

15.45 – 16.00 Tea/coffee break

16.00 - 17.00 Plenary Session 2 "Improving the Business climate through effective regulatory reforms in the Great Lakes region"

Many Great Lakes countries are among the fastest growing economies in Africa. Increasing investment inflows have been the main drivers of these countries' sustained growth. While the private sector is indeed the main driver of development, Governments still have the role to establish the conducive climate in which businesses can operate optimally. Countries of the Great Lakes region have dedicated significant efforts to improve the investment climate to attract foreign direct investment.

This session will aim to identify the major constraints in the respective sectors and seek out ways to: address constraints that hamper investments in the Great Lakes region; harness the opportunities to streamline business regulations and simplify regulatory requirements for businesses.

Moderator: Ms. Sandra Uwera, CEO, COMESA Business Council

Panelists: Mr. Gunter Engling, Managing Director, MTN Rwanda (tbc)

Mr. Michael Joseph, CEO, Safaricom, Kenya (tbc)

Mr. Jean-Christophe Carret, Country Director, World Bank for DRC and Burundi

Mr. Anthony KINZO, Director General ANAPI (Investment Promotion Agency), RDC (tbc)

15.35 – 16.45 Thematic Breakout Sessions

Thematic Session 1 Infrastructure: "Development corridors": Where do we stand in the Great Lakes region?

"Development corridors" are the new generation of integrated transport and transit corridors, increasingly used as a vehicle to boost intra-regional trade, economic growth and structural transformation in Africa. They have the potential to amplify the mobility of persons and goods, develop connectivity between urban centers, connect landlocked countries to international gateways such as ports in neighboring countries, boost the agriculture, increase exports and improve regional economic integration.

This session aims to explore the state of existing corridors in the Great lakes and how to harness the opportunities to promote a "development corridors" approach in a region with an important number of landlocked countries and to contribute to durable peace and shared prosperity.

Moderator: Mr. Alain Ebobissé, CEO Africa50 Infrastructure Fund, Rabat, Morocco (tbc)

Panelists: Mr. Johnny Smith, Chair, African Corridors Management Alliance (ACMA), Namibia (tbc)

H.E. Sindiso Ngwenya Secretary-General, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) (tbc)

Mr. Dieudonné Kasembo, Vice-président, Fédération des Entreprises du Congo (FEC), Kinshasa

Ms. Olive Kikongo, Chair, Uganda Chamber of Commerce (tbc)

Mr. David Stanton, Director General, Trademark East Africa (tbc)

North Corridor Authority

Thematic Session 2: Energy: Investing in renewable energy in the Great Lakes region

Despite the rich endowments of energy resources, the Great Lakes region is seriously deficient in energy supply. The cost of energy is prohibitive and remains one of the main obstacles to the region's industrialization aspirations. Given the important existing potential, diversification of electricity sources through renewable energy solutions – such as solar, wind, geothermal and hydro power – is seen now as a durable alternative to reach the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of universal access to energy by 2030. Indeed, several Great Lakes countries are already reaping benefits from investment in renewables. However, some bottlenecks remain and include lack of finance, lack of interest from investors and the desire by some to take on mega projects that could easily fail to attract private investors. This session will discuss how to harness the opportunities to generate significant amounts of clean energy, diversify the energy sources to meet the Great Lakes region fast-growing energy needs through optimal use of the region's abundant renewable energy resources.

Moderator: H.E. Ms. Amani Abou-Zeid, AUC Commissioner for Infrastructure & Energy (tbc)

Panelists: Mr. Rizwan Fazal, Executive Director, The Lake Turkana Wind Power Project, Kenya (tbc)

Dr. ….GEIDCO,

Mr. Patrick Ngowi, CEO and Founder of Helvetic Group, providing Solar Energy to Africa, Tanzania (tbc)

Mr. Baraka Kassali, COO, Kivu Green Energy, DRC (tbc)

Mr. Frederik Van Den Bosch, Managing Director, EDFIMC-ElectriFI, an impact investment facility, Belgium (tbc)

Thematic Session 3 Agriculture: "Investing in Agricultural Value Chains in the Great Lakes region"

The Great Lakes region has a great potential in agriculture, with almost half of Africa's arable land, waters and huge markets. Agriculture represents a significant part of the economy of the region and can effectively help fight food insecurity, eradicate poverty, boost intra-regional trade, develop value chains, create decent jobs and be the driver for industrialization, economic diversification and structural transformation. Yet, many Great Lakes countries are still net food importers. Other major risks in the region include agriculture's vulnerability to climate change and heavy reliance on primary commodity exports. For agriculture to be a main driver of sustainable economic growth in the region, there is a need to drive an agricultural revolution. It will require, amongst others, to increase significantly private sector investment in agri-food value chains, foster entrepreneurship and boost intra-regional trade. This session will discuss pragmatic approaches to the development of the agro-industry sector and to harness the opportunities for cross-border agricultural value chains in the region.

Moderator: Mr. Bill Kayonga, CEO of NAEB Rwanda (tbc)

Panelists: Mr. Venkata Ramani Srivathsan, Managing Director and CEO, OLAM Africa and Middle East (tbc)

Ms. Monica Musonda, CEO, Founder of Java Foods, Zambia (tbc)

Mr. Ran Maidan, CEO, NETAFIM, Israel irrigation company (tbc)

Mr. Hussain Al Nowais, Chairman of Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development (KFED), Abu Dhabi, UAE (tbc)

Thematic Session 4 Youth Entrepreneurship (

Moderator: CGTN, Nairobi

Panelists:

Mr.

Ms.

Ms.

16.45 – 17.15 Tea Break and Press Conference

17.15 -19.00 Networking

19.00 – 21.00 Banquet

Keynote speaker:

Day 2: 19 November 2019

08.00 – 09.00 Arrival

09.00 – 10.10 Promoting Women Entrepreneurs in the Great Lakes region

Research shows that women-owned businesses in Africa tend to be smaller in size and grow more slowly than those run by men. Yet, women entrepreneurs are equally efficient and growth-oriented as men-owned businesses. Despite this discrepancy, many more women entrepreneurs are succeeding. However, due to specific challenges female entrepreneurs face, the Great Lakes region has a long way to go to reach equality of opportunity. Expanding the opportunities for women entrepreneurs through policies that foster gender equality would have a tremendous impact on economic growth in the region.

This session will seek out ways to overcome these challenges and build a more equitable economic ecosystem between genders. It will also discuss whether there are targeted policies Great Lakes countries can use to promote high-growth women entrepreneurs.

Moderator: **Dr. Amany Asfour** World President, Federation of Business and Professional Women

Panelists: **Hon. Amb. Amina Salum Ali,** Minister of Trade and Industry, Zanzibar, Tanzania

Ms. Ginette Karirekinyana, Vice-Chairperson Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Burundi

Ms. Patricia Nzolantima, Founder, Women Economic Empowerment Centre, DRC

Ms. Eugenie Mushimiyimana, Vice Chairperson of PSF, Rwanda

Ms. Olajobi Makinwa, Chief, Intergovernmental Relations & Africa, United Nations Global Compact, New York

10.10 – 10.30 **Tea Break**

10.30 – 11.40 Thematic Breakout Session

Thematic Session 4 Mining: *"Developing local content and regional value chains in minerals"*

The Great Lakes region has one of the greatest concentrations of precious minerals and metals on earth. Most of these minerals are used in the manufacture of a range of high-tech devices, such as mobile phones, batteries, laptops and spacecraft, with demands increasing exponentially. So far, the abundance of mineral resources has not yet been transformed into inclusive socio-economic well-being. The exploitation and trade of minerals in the region are challenged by effective governance. Consequently, the wealth and economic opportunities deriving from natural resources are very unequally distributed and often finance non-state armed groups which further destabilize the region. In response to this, diverse regional and international efforts to break the link between the illicit trade of natural resources and conflict in the Great Lakes region have been proposed, with limited results so far. However, optimal management of extractive resources can help develop local content, create many more jobs and diversify economies in the region through linkages to the broader economy. The session will explore the opportunities to develop regional value chains in minerals, create demand for services and goods that will support economic growth and shared prosperity.

Moderator: Mr. Audace Ndayizeye, Chair, Chambre Fédérale de Commerce et d'Industrie (CFCIB), Burundi (tbc)

Panelists : Mr. Francis Gatare, CEO of the *Rwanda* Mines, Petroleum & Gas Board (tbc)

Ms. Yvette Mwanza, President of the North Kivu Chamber of Businesses and Traders (tbc)

Mr. Frank Giustra, Canadian Businessman, mining financier and philanthropist (tbc)

Ms. Nicole Sulu Tshiyoyo, Founder Makutano, Congolese leading business network, DRC (tbc)

Thematic Session 5 Promotion of a favorable Science, Technology and Innovations (STI) ecosystem in the Great Lakes region"

The last two decades have witnessed important STI progress in the Great Lakes region. This includes agricultural technological innovations; "green" mobility technologies (e.g. electric and solar powered vehicles) and innovations in mobile money transfers such as M-pesa. STI is increasingly becoming a key enabler of jobs and wealth creation, sustainable development towards socio-economic transformation of countries of the region. This aligns well with the AU AGENDA 2063 Science, Technology Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024) that seeks to "*accelerate Africa's transition to an Innovation-led, Knowledge-based Economy…to promote creativity and innovation technologies to locally process the continent's abundant natural resources, and to create more wealth and jobs for the youth on the continent….This will create new opportunities for value-added employment by adapting and commercializing the outputs of national and regional innovation across Africa* (STISA-2024, AU Commission, page 23).

However, much more needs to be done for STI to become a game-changer and more effectively address the region's sustainable development challenges. This is critical in the 21st Century Global Knowledge Economy where innovation is the watchword. Thus, STI will be a game-changer in strategic areas such as innovation, value addition and manufacturing especially in the agricultural value chain; and in industrialization through application of Science, Technology (including ICTs), Engineering and Innovations (STEI). Renewable energy research & development (R&D) and innovation in the region, too, need application of STI.

This session, therefore, will discuss the costs and benefits of an enabling STI ecosystem towards greater investment, business development and private sector growth for jobs, wealth creation and socio-economic transformation of Africa's Great Lakes region.

Moderator: Mr. George Piwang-Jalobo, Chairman, Amor Investments Co Ltd, Uganda

Introduction by Dr. Benedict Oramah, *President* and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the African Export–Import Bank (*Afreximbank*) (tbc)

Panelists: Ms. Nathalie Munyampenda, Managing Director, The next Einstein Forum, Rwanda (tbc)

Dr. Sandrine Mulenga, Professor University Toledo, USA and Chair, STEM, DRC (tbc)

Ms. Juliana Rotich, Technologist, Strategic Advisor and Entrepreneur, Kenya (tbc)

Mr. Daniel Yu, Founder and CEO Sokowatch, an e-commerce platform for informal retail shops in urban Africa. (tbc)

Thematic Session 6 Finance: "Improving access to finance for Entrepreneurs in the Great Lakes region"

Access to finance is a main obstacle for African Entrepreneurs and SMEs. Alternative financing sources, such as the bond or stock market, are hardly relevant to MSMEs and still underdeveloped in most economies of the region. However, financial sector reforms have led to improvements in many countries of the region. Digital technologies, new financing partners and innovative financing instruments are making it easier for businesses to access finance. This session will explore those innovative financing models and instruments in support of Entrepreneurs and SMEs of the Great Lakes region to close the financial gap: private equity, public equity, angel investing, impact financing, climate finance…. etc.

Moderator: Mr. Richard Ngatia, Chair Kenya Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Key note Speaker: Mr. Adesse Admassu, President and CEO, Trade and Development Bank, (tbc)

Panelists: Ms. Catherine Collin, Head of Representation, East and Central Africa, European Investment Bank (tbc)

Mr. Dieudonné Kasembo, Vice Chair FEC in charge of Trade and SMEs

AFDB representative

Thematic Session 7 Health: "Promoting private sector investment in the health sector in the Great Lakes region"

Many Great Lakes countries have made impressive strides in strengthening health systems and expanding coverage. However, most of them are far off track for reaching by 2030 the Sustainable Development Goal (*SDG)* 3 "ensure *healthy* lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages". Serious efforts still have to be done to improve both public and private health care options in particularly for the poor, the equity and efficiency of the health financing systems through enhanced domestic resource mobilization. The private sector already delivers a good part of all health-related goods and services in the region. Yet, research has shown that greater investment in private health companies could have major health and economic benefits for low-income Africans.

This session will explore opportunities to better harness the private sector to help enhance the quality and quantity of health care and achieve the SGD goal of universal health coverage.

Moderator: Mr. Kiprono Kittony, CEO, Capital Realtime Limited, Nairobi

Panelists: Prince Karim Aga Khan IV, Philanthropist, Geneva (tbc);

Dr. Tadataka Yamada, President of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Health Program (tbc);

Mr. Paolo Rotelli, President, Gruppo San Donato Foundation, Italy (tbc)

Mr. Eric Bureau, Bayer East Africa Managing Director and Head of Bayer CropScience, Nairobi (tbc)

11.45 -12.45 Presentation of flagship cross-border projects

Moderator: Mr. Charles Kahuthu, Chair and CEO, East African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nairobi

Presenters: Mr. Tomas Sales, Special adviser on private sector, UNDP

12.45 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.00 Report back Plenary Session

Reports from the various breakout sessions will be presented and discussed.

Rapporteurs: Mr. Stephen Ruzibiza, CEO Private Sector Forum, Rwanda

Dr. Andrew Mold, Acting Director East Africa, UNECA

15.00 – 16.00 Closing Plenary-Statements

Ms. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, UNECA

Ms. Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Cooperation and development, European Union (tbc)

Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, Director General, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)

Amb Zachary Muburi Muita, Executive Secretary, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)

Mr. Huang Xia, Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes region, United Nations

16.00 – 17.00 Press Conference

17.00 Cocktail

Day 3: 20 November 2019

Site visits may include:

Rubavu and Goma: *Cross-border projects such as the One-Stop Border post at "Grande Barrière" will be visited by participants to assess the impact of such projects on border communities.*

Other manufacturing, tourism and relevant locations in Rwanda.

Detailed programme will be determined later.

Organized jointly by the Governments of Rwanda and DRC with the support of the Office of the Special Envoy to the Secretary General for the Great Lakes region and MONUSCO.

Executive Summary

Report of the Private Sector Investment Conference for the Great Lakes region

24-25 February 2016 Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

Context

Pursuant to the 31 January 2014 endorsement by the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and region, of the initiative of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, the inaugural Private Sector Investment Conference (PSIC) for the Great Lakes region was held in Kinshasa, DRC on 24-25 February 2016 organized by the Office of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

The opening ceremony of the PSIC was attended by over 1,000 participants from public and private sectors of the Great Lakes countries and around the world. The opening ceremony was addressed by President Joseph Kabila of the DRC, UN Secretary General BAN Ki-moon, Vice-President Manuel Domingos Vicente representing Angola's President Dos Santos in his capacity as Chair of the ICGLR, African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy Dr. Elham Ahmed Mahmoud Ibrahim, representing the African Union Commission Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Zuma, and Mr. Albert Yuma, Chairperson of the Federation of Congolese Enterprises (FEC) representing the Private Sector.

The PSIC was also attended by Dr. Joseph Butore, Vice-President of Burundi, Mr. Augustin Matata Ponyo Mapon, Prime Minister of DRC, Mr. Anastaze Murekezi, Prime Minister of Rwanda and Ministers from Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda as well as Ambassadors and senior government officials from the Great Lakes and various countries. Furthermore, Chief Executive Officers and representatives from Private Sector Companies and Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) as well as representatives from development partners, civil society and academia participated in this highly interactive conference which provided ample opportunities for business-to-business, business-to-government and government-to-government exchanges. One of the platforms on which the PSIC provided for such exchanges was the exhibition stands which member states of the Great Lakes region, organizations and private sector entities utilized to show case investment and business opportunities.

The main features of the PSIC were its interactive panel and plenary sessions which included a high level panel whereby the Vice-President of Burundi and the Prime Ministers of DRC and Rwanda engaged participants on the efforts being made at country levels to promote business and investments. The conference also featured two plenary sessions on Responsible Business and Investment Climate in the Great Lakes region as well as a presentation on the Investment Opportunities Brief, highlighting regional investment opportunities in identified projects. Breakout thematic panel discussions on Agriculture, Energy, Finance, ICT, Infrastructure, Mining

and Tourism also featured during the conference, producing debates, information exchange and useful recommendations. The speakers and moderators during the panel and plenary sessions were experts in their domains from the private sector, development partners, and government ministries and institutions from countries of the Great Lakes of Africa.

Following the interactive panel and plenary discussions, the PSIC made several recommendations for the attention of the governments of the region, development partners and the private sector. The recommendations aim to ensure the establishment of enabling environment for the mobilization of investment into the region, including into regional projects that enhance peace, security, shared prosperity and development for the Great Lakes region of Africa.

Recommendations

Signatory countries of the PSC Framework are encouraged to:

1. Commit to the operationalization of the Great Lakes Private Sector Forum and relevant recommendations of the PSIC, including projects contained in the Investment Opportunities Brief (IOB). Regional economic cooperation will advance political and military processes aimed at stabilizing and developing the region. Regional economic cooperation addresses root causes of conflicts, as well as contributes to the implementation of key international development frameworks such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Africa Union Commission Agenda 2063;
2. Prepare a plan to bring projects from the Investment Opportunities Brief to bankability and jointly identify additional regional investment opportunities, improve the investment climate, and sustain dialogue between public and private sectors on projects implementation modalities;
3. Reform and harmonize legal frameworks to promote investment in regional projects by assuring protection of property rights and investments, renegotiation of contracts, and accountability and transparency within the private sector;
4. Ensure security in the region which is crucial to improving the perception of the Great Lakes as a prime investment destination;
5. Promote political stability and predictable ease of doing business which is a key factor in investors' decision making;
6. Establish a regional investment framework setting out good practices and policies on a broad range of issues relating to the region's investment climate and with a long-term view independent of government changes and electoral cycles, as this will encourage the private sector to invest in long-term regional projects;
7. Conduct in-depth analysis on key issues and instruments for the financing of projects such as public private partnerships (PPPs) and particularly long-term regional projects, with a mix of sustainable incentives and creating a trustworthy business environment with mechanisms for dispute resolution and the enforcement of contracts;
8. Develop and/or strengthen national and regional capacity to prepare and negotiate PPPs, particularly with a view to enabling peace and development rather than solely considering commercial viability;

9. Demonstrate equity shares in strategic regional projects by ensuring financing of feasibility studies as well as disposition of sovereign guarantees in order to attract a wide range of investors;
10. Step up domestic resource mobilization to increase savings and therefore investible funds, and review governing frameworks for the region's Pension Funds and Central Banks' reserves to leverage investment in regional projects by other investors;
11. Formulate, in line with Africa Union's Agenda 2063's special focus on diaspora finances, incentive frameworks to facilitate diaspora investment in regional projects, akin to those applied to foreign direct investment (FDI);
12. Formulate policy frameworks which build SMEs' capacity to improve productivity, link into big business, and consort to bid for sizeable contracts, as happens in Rwanda where a group of small farmers is supplying a big hotel chain;
13. Promote the comprehensive development of the energy sector (generation/harvesting, storage, distribution and regulation) by focusing on creating institutional frameworks and modalities for regulation, negotiating concessions, prices and power paper engagements, funding projects, facilitating investment and determining fair prices for investors and consumers;
14. Step up the fight against corruption with clear guidelines and genuine (verifiable) incentives (e.g. through prosecution and deterring punishments) to stamp out corruption, in both policy and practice, in order to reassure investors and promote responsible business conduct;
15. Adapt an integrated approach to agri-development such as the use of special economic zones that offer investors serviced land, streamlined business regulations and shared services to support economies of scale. Special emphasis would need to be placed on building capacity of smallholders and their access to agri-research, quality inputs and equipment to improve productivity, noting that this would also enhance women's empowerment which is critical to development;
16. Build on the successes of existing tourism collaborations such as the Virunga Park cooperation, and assess the tourism potential (wild life, natural reserves, historic sites) from a regional perspective aiming at developing a master plan for quality and affordable tourism that also promote cultural heritage, biodiversity and skills of local population of the culturally diverse Great Lakes region;
17. Address the deficiencies in tourism infrastructure to assure mobility, accommodation in and access to touristic sites (visa, security, travel and entry/exit costs and non-tariff barriers) and to think regionally to promote, exploit and conserve the environment as a touristic asset;
18. Reform policy frameworks regarding restrictions in movement of people, goods, services, capital and non-tariff barriers that inhibit intra-regional trade and investment flows;
19. Establish a regional network of national investment promotion agencies with the aim of harmonizing polices, preparing regional projects and fostering a common platform to promote the region as an attractive investment destination and counter negative perceptions. This should include dealing with issues of projects' bankability, protection of investments through appropriate risk mitigation policies, dispute settlement and arbitration

mechanisms for expropriation and other governmental actions that may negatively impact the investor's decision making process;

20. Facilitate ground work and extensive studies on mining prospects which have huge capital investments and long-term horizons, as well as ensure security and infrastructure to access the mining sites in order to get investors to make investment decisions;
21. Prioritize the formalization of artisanal mining and its empowerment to improve the productivity, value addition and local content (e.g. in polishing) of exporting mineral products in order to enhance responsible business conduct. The countries should collectively consider a regional framework for addressing the situation of artisanal miners, and for guiding potential investors on sub-contracting these miners and including them in the value chains;
22. Harmonize fiscal policies particularly related to the natural resources mining sector in order to promote fair practice and responsible business conduct, deter illegal exploitation and trade in natural resources, and attract quality investors;
23. Invest in the development of ICT infrastructure – such as backbone fibre optic cables (to minimize duplication of provision of cable conduits and to ensure the physical and legal protection of these cables), satellites etc. – and soft skills training to ensure uptake of opportunities and enhance efficiency and innovative development, further progressing ICT gains in the region;
24. Improve coordination, regulation and security of the ICT sector;
25. Increase the development of the financial sector across all economic dimensions to ensure ease of entry and exit, financial inclusion and literacy, to formalize financial intermediation in the informal sectors, and to guarantee availability and access to funds for long-term investment;
26. Formulate incentive frameworks for Pension and Private Equity Funds to finance regional projects. The current structure of pension funds inhibits funding in regional projects, and more is needed to orient African Pension Funds to fund in Africa, particularly regional projects in the Great Lakes region;
27. Develop policies (e.g. strengthen legal institutions and support a strong rule of law) to create an environment to enable domestic resource mobilization and to attract foreign investment as well as participation of SMEs; and
28. Take stock of existing mechanisms and arrangements for financing productive investment, including emerging capital markets, banks, private equity funds, institutional investors, and innovative forms of SME finance. This should enable the creation of additional innovative vehicles to intermediate long-term financing of long-gestation but catalytic projects as well as innovative risk mitigation measures that reassure private sector investors.

The Private Sector is encouraged to:

29. Strengthen the productive capacity of the region, create decent jobs and livelihoods, improve economic governance and foster inclusive development and shared prosperity;
30. Invest in upstream recces or in-situ research of investment opportunities to gather primary information discovering, for instance, the enormous efforts being put into curtailing corruption, illicit financial flows, improving transparency and property rights in the region, which will facilitate correctly informed decision making;

31. Engage in comprehensive investments which include human resource (skills) development, particularly in green areas (ICT, tourism and mining) given the low per capita levels of qualified manpower in these sector.
32. Engage in proactive collaboration in the ICT sector with government and other actors for investing in infrastructure (backbone and spectrum), ensuring affordability of services, education and awareness (digital literacy) to increase uptake, and promoting local content to optimize the impact of ICT in the region; and
33. Adhere to responsible business conduct, particularly in the mining sector which has a negative history of illicit financial flows and not engaging host communities leading to long-term discontent and affecting the sustainability of operations.

Signatory Countries to the PSC-F of the DRC and Region, Development Partners and the Private Sector are encouraged to:

34. Promote the Global Compacts' Principles of accountability, transparency, responsible investments and good governance as key elements to guarantee confidence for investment and to promote peace and stability in the Great Lakes region;
35. Support the effective operationalization of the Great Lakes Regional Private Sector Forum (GLR-PSF) to enhance the private sector's contribution to the consolidation of peace and security in the region;
36. Ensure support from governments and development partners to guarantee facilities which ease costs of, and increase access to, finance for private investment, long-term projects and smallholder development;
37. Warrant prioritization by governments and development partners to building productive capacity of the countries which would increase governments revenue base and could potentially increase governments' financing abilities of social and development needs of the countries over the longer term;
38. Collaborate to ensure that the requisite public goods aspect of investment opportunities (such as infrastructure, energy and skills deficiencies) is addressed in order to enhance the viability of opportunities identified for private sector investment;
39. Maintain continuous dialogue on strategic approaches to building productive capacity, promoting private sector development, harmonizing policies and attracting investment into the region; and
40. Ensure collaboration between the private sector and governments to invest in infrastructure, increase affordability of services, promote education and awareness of opportunities, and generate local content in the production and exports from the region.

GREAT LAKES INVESTMENT AND TRADE CONFERENCE (GLITC)

'CROSS-BORDER INVESTMENT AND TRADE AS A CATALYST FOR REGIONAL INTERGRATION'



Kigali Convention Center, Rwanda
18th - 20th March, 2020

Information Brief

Introduction

Since the inaugural Private Sector Investment Conference (PSIC) which took place in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on the 24th to 25th February, 2016, plans have been underway to convene a successor investment conference whose ultimate goal is to promote the various investment opportunities in the Great Lakes Region that were presented at the first conference. The projects identified at that time from the region have now been subjected to both economic and financial analyses for their viability and bankability and most of these are now ready for presentation to potential investors. This is the genesis of the forthcoming Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference (GLITC). which will be organised by , the Office of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region (O/SESG), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda in Kigali, Rwanda, 18th-20th March, 2020.

Objectives of the Conference

The GLITC aims to focus attention on aspects of the recommendations of the inaugural PSIC by sustaining dialogue between public and private sectors through high-level interactive sessions. These sessions will focus on cross-border economic opportunities which promote the development of business in agriculture and logistics value chains, natural resources management and joint development of resources, including tourism, through public-private partnership between DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Tanzania.

Additionally, the GLITC will focus on cross border trade and investment corridors with private sector actors in the border regions as the prime participants. The areas to be covered include Agriculture, Mining, Energy and Services, including Tourism, and will involve five countries: Rwanda, DRC, Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania. Other countries of the Great Lakes region are also welcome.

Participants

Notably, over 1,000 participants were present at the opening session of the PSIC with 500 delegates from private sector organizations in the region, project sponsors, leaders from the regional governments and key development partners, private sector think-tanks, international investors, various finance institutions and civil society from within and outside of the African Great Lakes region.

At the upcoming GLITC, high-level government representatives will interact with the investors at the panels, but also face to face meetings and small group discussions will be offered and organized on demand. Among the expected 700 participants will be:

- Government representatives
- CEOs of international companies investing and operating in the region
- CEOs of prospect individual and institutional investors to the region
- Equity firms and banking institutions
- Pension funds and Sovereign wealth funds
- Bilateral and multilateral development institution

Benefits of Participation

Participants will benefit from opportunities to:

(i) Better understand the key challenges including challenges facing the Great Lakes region that are hampering the promotion of cross-border investment and trade in the Great Lakes region.

(ii) Gain knowledge of the economies of the various countries in the region and the institutional and regulatory frameworks in place to facilitate cross-border investments.

(iii) Participate in dialogue to improve the regional investment climate, promote responsible business conduct and build public-private partnerships in the region.

(iv) Identify emerging long-term investment opportunities and avail cross-border projects that are bankable, ready for business and conform to inclusive and responsible investment requirements.

(v) Identify bottlenecks that constraint the development of private sector investment and trade within the GLR and discuss how joint efforts and enhanced political will could help to overcome them.

(vi) Match potential investors to promoters of projects in the following priority areas: Agriculture, Infrastructure, Mining, Energy, Services (ICT, Finance) and take note of the concrete commitments that could result from these interactions.

Structure of the GLITC

The Conference will be designed to foster interaction, learning and ‘matchmaking’ of concrete investment opportunities with context setting, plenary and wrap-up sessions. Each session will start with high-level speakers from the public and private sectors,

followed by Q&A in plenary and summary by the moderator. There will be break-away parallel dialogue sessions around priority sectors. There will also be parallel exhibitions from Member States and project promoters on the side-lines of the main conference.

The Conference will aim for specific 'announcements' as well as investment and trade deals which will be prepared and nearly finalized before its opening. 6-7 of such cross-border projects will be identified and prepared by the organizers and investors in preceding months to the Conference. A small preparatory group, consisting of regional private business representatives, will make a dedicated effort to prepare these specific investments by the Conference. At least one internationally recognized investor will be engaged as the keynote speaker at an early stage.

Venue

The GLITC is proposed to be held at the Kigali Convention Centre, Rwanda. Side events across the border in Goma, highlighting benefits to invest in cross-border economic activities, will be considered.

The Kigali Convention Centre is deemed the first and largest convention centre in the region with seating capacity of over 5,500. The building is located 5 kilometres away from the Kigali International Airport. The centre is deemed a premium destination for a conference of GLITC's calibre, with state-of-the-art technology, personalised services and professional facilitation available for use

Preparations for the Conference

The preparations for the conference will be conducted in three main phases:

i)Pre-Conference,

ii)Conference and

iii)Post-Conference activities.

i) Pre-Conference

To prepare for the conference, a vibrant Secretariat and an Organizing Committee at two levels have already been set up. The preparatory committees will identify and target world-class foreign and domestic investors in the featured sectors and invitations will be sent to the prospective investors. The participating countries will share lists of potential companies from their countries.

ii) Conference

The suggested date for the conference is 18th-20th March, 2020 to allow for adequate planning and roadshows. The venue is the Kigali Convention Centre. The three-day high-level conference will consist of presentations in plenary and sector-specific sessions:

- High-level interactive segment with the private sector
- Private sector to private sector sessions and Private sector to government sessions
- "One-on-one" match-making meetings between pre-qualified investors and project sponsors to discuss and announce deals which may have been in the pipeline
- Breakfast meetings, topical cocktail receptions and
- Investment exhibitions on investment opportunities in the selected sectors followed up with focused discussions on particular/specific project activities.

iii) Post-Conference

This stage will include aggressive follow-up on investment leads generated during the conference and by the outreach campaign. The project promoters will be supported by the Conference Secretariat, Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) in relevant member-states and development partners on timely follow-up to ensure that investment leads are followed up. The Conference Secretariat will prepare quarterly reports for at least a year on the progress of outcomes of the conference starting within one month after the conference, whereby the first report will outline the investment leads. Subsequent reporting requirements and modalities will be agreed by the Conference Secretariat and the Organizing Committee before handing over of the reporting and follow-up functions to the (ICGLR) Great Lakes Private Sector Forum.

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