



## **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ICGLR COMMITTEE ON GENOCIDE PREVENTION TO THE RIMC DURING THE SUMMIT IN DECEMBER, 2011**

Your Excellencies,

Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ICGLR Members States and  
Ministers of Gender herein present;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is the first time the Regional Committee on the Prevention of  
Genocide is addressing your Excellencies since it was approved and  
endorsed in December 2010.

Your Excellencies;

Let me seize this opportunity, on behalf of the Committee, to express  
our humble appreciation to you for trusting us with this noble duty  
of addressing the most heinous crimes of our time. We are aware that  
this Committee is the only one amongst the ICGLR Committees  
whose members have to be approved and endorsed by the RIMC.

This shows how much value is attached to the work of this  
Committee.

It is in recognition of this fact that within one year of its existence, the Committee has worked hard to lay the foundation for the implementation of its mandate in collaboration with Members States and our Partners.

We are proud to report, Your Excellencies, that we have put in place a work plan to take us to December 2012, which includes establishing national Committees for the Prevention of Genocide; early warning mechanisms in the Members States, and Capacity Training for Regional and National members.

Our Committee has received Regional and International recognition, such that, during our last meeting we received a number of correspondences from various organs moving the Committee to invoke its Mandate under Article 38 of the Protocol on Prevention of Genocide.

The provisions of Article 38 requires the Committee to **regularly review the situation in each Member State by collecting and analyzing information related to genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and all forms of discrimination and alert the Summit in good time to take measures.**

Your Excellencies;

These and other issues were deliberated upon and are expressed in the recommendations which I now seek your indulgence to read before you.

## **PREAMBLE**

**WE** the members of the Committee on the Prevention of **Genocide, war Crimes and Crimes Against humanity and all forms of Discriminations**, meeting in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania from 10-11 November 2011 after deliberating on reports from member states, establishing national committees on the prevention of genocide at national levels; the report of the ICGL Secretariat activities of the committee since its inception a year ago; and reviewing the work plan for the year 2012;

**HAVING** been briefed by the ICGLR Secretariat about the forthcoming Summit scheduled for Kampala from 11-16<sup>th</sup> December 2011 under the theme “United to Prevent, End impunity and Provide Support to the Victims of SGBV”

**CONSIDERING** the recommendations of the experts on SGBV and ministers responsible for gender in a meeting that took place in Arusha, Tanzania from 1-4<sup>th</sup> November 2011;

**AWARE** of our mission and mandate under article 38 of the ICGLR Protocol for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, war Crimes and Crimes Against humanity and all forms of Discriminations to prevent crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Great lakes Region;

**MINDFUL** of the responsibility of the Committee under Article 38 of the Protocol on Prevention of Genocide to “submit a report on its activities and make recommendations at the ordinary session of the Regional Inter-ministerial committee preceding the ordinary Session of the Summit”;

**AWARE** that Sexual violence includes rape and other forms of sexual assault, a Crime against humanity under the ICGLR Protocol for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, war Crimes and Crimes Against humanity and all forms of Discriminations ;

**DEEPLY** concerned by the role the perpetrators of genocide still play in the continuation of the crime of SGBV in the Great Lakes Region in spite of the existence of institutional, policy and legal frameworks for the prevention of SGBV and punishment of perpetrators ;

**AWARE** of the interrelatedness between the Crime of Genocide, war Crimes and Crimes Against humanity and related ICGLR protocols on aggression and Mutual Defense and Judicial Cooperation, to arrest and prosecute criminals ;

**TAKING NOTE** of the complaints received by the Committee from the International Refugees Rights Initiative (IRRI), Darfur Consortium of NGOs and reports of the UN on allegations of serious violations of human rights that could amount to the crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in the region of South Kordofan in the Republic of Sudan;

**CONCERNED** about the lack of fund necessary to enable the Committee discharge its mandate as stipulated in Article 38 of the Protocol;

**DO HEREBY** recommend to the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee (RIMC) as follows:

1. **Support** the ICGLR Committee on the Prevention of Genocide, war crimes and Crimes against Humanity by allocating fund to carry out investigations into allegations received from various sources and as perceived by the Committee as amounting to genocide, war crimes against humanity committed in the region;
2. **Strengthen and/or establish** national level structures; **combining functions to prevent heinous crimes of sexual violence together with** other crimes that amount to genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity to the national committees for protection, community policing, and support for women and **children born out of rape**, against SGBV and start a process of early warning mechanisms within 12 months after the special session to facilitate reporting and documentation of SGBV cases and other crimes from the grassroots and fast track prosecution of those responsible for perpetrating sexual violence to make sure that justice is done swiftly and effectively;
3. **Include** representation of the Genocide Prevention Committee in the peace and security framework of the ICGLR for eradicating existing illegal armed groups in the Region in conformity with the ICGLR Protocol on Non Aggression and Mutual Defense for information sharing and strengthening of prevention and urgent action measures;

### **Reviewing the Situation in Member States**

4. **Support** the ICGLR Committee on the Prevention of Genocide to undertake a fact finding mission to Sudan to investigate and verify allegations by regional civil society and international reports of possible commission of atrocity crimes include genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile in the Republic of Sudan. The

Committee will present its findings at the next RIMC as per article 42 of the Protocol; The Committee requests for the Cooperation of Sudan in undertaking this mission.

### **Strengthening the Committee**

5. Approve the assignment of a liaison officer who will be permanently responsible for coordinating and monitoring issues of peace and security in the region and link the different ICGLR Committees whose mandate coincide so that each of them knows what the other is doing on the same or like issues.
6. Strengthen the Human rights observatory of the Regional centre in Lusaka (Levy Mwanawasa Centre) to provide regular reports to the Committee to enable its early warning capacity;

### **Cooperation with Partners**

7. Appreciate the contribution of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the George Mason University and the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Prevention of Genocide, for their support to the Committee.
8. Call on other development partners to support the ICGLR Committee on the Prevention of genocide in implementation of the mandate of the committee and its work plan.

Done at Ocean View Hotel, Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania

11<sup>th</sup> November 2011