



**OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

**Youth**

<p><b>SUMMARY OF FACTS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region O/SESG-GL provided technical and financial support to the Youth Summit (Extraordinary ICGLR Summit against Youth Unemployment) in Nairobi in July 2014. Youth is also a key “pillar” in the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs)’ Regional Strategic Framework, launched in New York by the Security Council in March 2016 and will be a key focus in upcoming programming.</li> <li>▪ O/SESG is working on developing the “Youth Centre for Peace: in Goma in cooperation with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Youth Forum, UN Habitat, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the local authorities. The Centre will be a regional hub for youth engagement, empowerment and employment creation.</li> <li>▪ O/SESG has been working with Kenyan ministries of Foreign Affairs and Decentralization and Planning to set-up the ICGLR Youth Forum Secretariat in Nairobi.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ANALYSIS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Youth engagement is a cross-cutting issue, and given challenges of high youth unemployment in parts of the Great Lakes region and the absence of sufficient socio-political participation and empowerment processes, youth are an important resource.</li> <li>▪ Youth is a cornerstone issue in the Special Envoy’s Roadmap and along with women and civil society projects constitutes the “forces vives” portfolio. O/SESG engages both separately and together these “forces vives” for monitoring and implementing the PSC Framework’s national and regional commitments.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NEXT STEPS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work with ICGLR Youth Forum, ICGLR Secretariat and Kenyan ministries to operationalize and launch the Youth Forum Secretariat in Nairobi before the December 2016 ICGLR Summit.</li> <li>▪ Support the launching of the Goma Youth Centre for Peace with youth from the region, partners, and the Foreign Affairs</li> </ul>



	<p>and Youth Ministers from DR Congo, Rwanda and Burundi.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work with UNCTs on regional programming and coordinate with the World Bank’s regional projects so that youth engagement and employment is encouraged, quantified and measured.</li> <li>▪ Work with ICGLR Youth Forum on regional projects, engaging private sector in the Private Sector Investment Conference (PSIC) process.</li> <li>▪ Develop joint youth projects with CEPGL that can contribute to the revitalization of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL).</li> </ul>	
<b>MESSAGING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Youth are the biggest resource of the Great Lakes region if they are engaged, educated and empowered;</li> <li>▪ O/SESG works with the UNCTs, funds and agencies and the regional organizations to make sure youth programmes are coordinated and prioritized.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Drafted by</b> <b>Gabor Beszterczey</b></p>	<p><b>Distribution</b> <b>OSESG</b></p>
<p><b>DATE:</b> 23 September 2016</p>		