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## Speech by Professor Anastase Shyaka

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## FOREWORD

**Speech by Professor Anastase Shyaka  
Director, Center for Conflict Management/NUR**

**Your Excellency,  
President of Senate;  
Excellencies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

It is my pleasure to introduce this conference organized by the Center for Conflict Management (CCM) of the National University of Rwanda (NUR) in collaboration with Peace and Development Research Institute (PADRIGU) of Göteborg University (GU) and with the support of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA-SAREC).

This conference entitled an "International Conference on the Great Lakes Region: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities" was organized from 18th to 19th of May 2008, at Novotel Hotel, Kigali Rwanda. The conference focused on four clusters: Peace and Security; Democracy and Governance; Economic Development and Regional Integration; and Social and Humanitarian Affairs.

Various persons reflecting different backgrounds (Policy makers, Members of Diplomatic Corps, Senior Officers from RDF and UN-AU hybrid Mission, Academics, Civil Society Actors, Politicians, Journalists and Members of the Churches) and from different countries (Rwanda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda,

Sweden, Belgium, United States of America) have attended this Conference on ICGLR. In order to ensure successful peace process, the ICGLR have to be a collective issue as it has been from its conception.

The NUR's Center for Conflict Management has been engaging on policy debate since its creation and we embarked on regional policy programs especially in the fields of peace and conflict resolution. The 1st Conference was held in Kigali in 2003 and different stakeholders from 8 countries participated in that debate.

In that critical time, many people within Africa and outside of the Continent were debating how to operationalize the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The talks of those debates have helped in establishing a permanent secretariat of the ICGLR.

The 2nd Conference held also in Kigali in 2007 was aimed to evaluate management of transitions and peace building as it has been highlighted during the signing of the pact on peace, security and development. We wanted to make sure that all these initiatives and to see if some achievements in the Great Lakes Region were not undermined by poor management of transitions.





It was in that perspective that the objectives 3rd International Conference on the Great Lakes Region were to evaluate the progress made after the Heads of States and Governments of this Region signed the Pact of Stability in Nairobi, in December 2006 and to assess the challenges faced by the ICGLR countries in the areas of Peace and Security; Democracy and Governance; Economic Development and Regional Integration; and Social and Humanitarian Affairs.

Your Excellency;

I would like to present the people who are going to be actively involved in true discussions during these 2 days. They reflect this complementarity of people from different background.

There are 10 countries and, if you allow me, I start from those who came from very far. We have Professor Samuel Toten from Arkansas University (USA), Maggie ZRALY (Pennsylvania State University).

We also have people from Colombia University, others from Sweden. We have Mr. Jonas Ewald from Göteborg University, Mr. Andreas GODSÄTER, Maria ERIKSSON BAAZ et Maria STERN from Göteborg University and Malin NYSTRAND from Belgium.

We have among us Mr. Anastase NTIYANOGEYE (Burundi), Alloys TEGERA (DRC), Pole Institute. From Kenya, we have Abraham NDUGU and Prisca KAMUNGI. We also have Charles Okello (Uganda), Prof. Amos Muhina, Mr. Mlin-

zi MUROKOZI and Philbert KAKWEZI (Tanzania). From Rwanda, we have Dr. Elias Sentamba, Dr. William Sahinguvu, Dr. François MASABO and Mr. Christopher KAYUMBA.

Those are speakers who have been selected through a competitive process.

We also have special guests from region organization development partners, local government in different countries and policymakers.

Let me start by Dr. Josephine Odera (Regional Director of UNIFEM), Stephen SINGO from the ICGLR Secretariate, Elisabeth Mutunga, our 1st Moderator, Dr. Jean Bosco BUTERA from UPEACE, Honorable Juliana KANTENGWA, Ambassador Liberata Mulamula from the ICGLR.

Among our guest, we also have Local District Commissioners: The commissioner of Mussenyi District, Tanzania and we have also neighbor governors from Burundi, namely BARUTWANAYO Zéphérin, Juvénal MUVUNYI, and Mr. Edouard.

We do have also policy makers included Ambassador Dr. Richard SEZIBERA, the representatives from MINALOC, SNGJ, NURC and Mr. Pierre Damien HABU-MUREMYI, the Executive Secretary of the National Electoral Commission. Then we do have among us the General Force Commander of the UNAMID.

Thank you very much, I end my introduction and I think many interesting things are to come.

