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Speech by Professor Silas Lwakabamba Nur Rector

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Speech by Professor Silas LWAKABAMBA NUR Rector



Guest of Honor, His Excellence President of the Senate, Honorable Ministers, honorable Senators, Members of Chamber of the Deputies, Ambassador MULAMULA, ICGLR Executive Secretary, General Martin AGWAI, Force Commander, UNAMID, Mister ARNE STROME, Head of Mission, Swedish Embassy here in Kigali, Professor Anastase SHYAKA, Director of the Center for Conflict Management (CCM),

On behalf of the National University of Rwanda and on my own behalf, I would first like to welcome you, Mister Guest of Honor and all the distinguished participants to this International Conference on the Great Lakes Region: Progress, Challenges and opportunities.

This conference has been 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), in Sweden, with the support of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA-SAREC), also from Sweden. The aim of the Conference is to reflect of the progress made since the signing of the pact on Security, Stability, and Development in the Great Lakes Region focusing mainly on peace and Security; Democracy and Governance; Economic Development and Regional Integration; and Social and Humanitarian Affairs.

Your Excellence the Guest of Honor, the National University attaches great Importance to sub regional approach to build sustainable peace and development which the peoples of Rwanda and the region need and reserve. This is why the University supports the activities of the Center for Conflict Management and their partner PADRIGOU-Sweden in their joint efforts to keep a debate on the Great Region.

This conference follows on the one that has been held by the same institutions last from 31st of May to 1st June 2007. That conference focused on issues of transitions and peace building in the Africa's Great Region. The summaries of the various papers presented in that conference were be published in the first issue of Peace and Conflict Management Review and are provided to all participants at the present conference.

The National University of Rwanda approves senior conference results. From this year, the Center for Conflict Management will submit its conference papers and other research findings trough two journals. One is the Journal of African Peace and Conflict Studies (JAPCS) which an international indexed biannual. Two is Peace and Conflict Management (PCM) Review.

Mister Guest of Honor, the National University of Rwanda stresses building skills in peace and development studies that benefit for both Rwanda and the Great Lakes Region. That is why the National University of Rwanda supports the Center for Conflict Management in its plan to embark on two Masters Programs next year (2009): Master's Program in Genocide Studies and Prevention and Master's Program in Peace and Development Studies in Collaboration with Göteborg University (Sweden). We believe that once these programs are operational, they will cover trends to contribute to regional peace and security skills building trough Conferences and researches in the Great Lakes Region of Africa.

Mister Guest of Honor, I would like to express sincere thanks to SIDA-SAREC. I also want to congratulate the Center for Conflict Management for showing maturity in research and building skills in peace and conflict transformation. We support its goals to become a Center of reference in Rwanda, in the Region and beyond focusing on peace and conflict. I would like to thank and welcome you to this conference.

Thank you.

