Inauguration Speech by Honorable Dr. Vincent Biruta

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Speaker of the Senate

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Inauguration Speech

Speech by Honorable Dr. Vincent BIRUTA (Speaker of the Senate)

General Martin AGWAI, UNAMID Force Commander, Ambas­
sador MULAMULA, Ambassadors, Heads of Diplomatic Corps,
Rector of National University of Rwanda, Provincial Governors,
Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen, I’m delight to take
part in this important meeting and I would like to thank its or­
ganizers.

As you know the 1994 genocide in Rwanda caused loss of human
lives and mass displacements within regional countries and dif­
ferent continents. The international Conference on the Great Lakes
Region, whose pact has been signed by Heads of States in No­
vember 2006 at Nairobi Kenya, is like a roadmap towards peace
and stability in our region. It goes without saying that citizens of the
Great Lakes Region, our partners and international community are
expecting that this process leads to sus­
tainable peace and economical development.

The programs of action of the
ICGLR are linked
each other. Those are namely Peace and Security, Democracy and
Governance, Economic Development and Regional Integration,
and Social and Humanitarian Affairs. Peace and security cannot
be guaranteed without Democracy and good governance and these
cannot exist in the absence of Economic development and
social welfare. It is therefore obvious that in order to overcome a
numerous problems that Africa in general and the ICGLR mem­
ber states in particular are facing, it is imperative to stand up to the
challenges mentioned above.

Ladies and gentlemen, Rwanda is as an epicenter of that insta­
bility in the Great Lakes Region and played a big role in the
process that led to the signing of the Pact of the International
Conference on the great Lakes Region. Therefore, all areas of the
society, youth, women and civil society have a big role to play for
the accomplishment of the ICGLR programs. In all aspects, the
International conference on the Great Lakes Region is special
because, contrarily to the previous regional which are normally
initiatives of politicians and or governments, the ICGLR pact was
a collective process of different categories of regional peoples.
Rwanda is in the process of adopting the national implementing
strategy of the ICGLR Pact.

The Parliament of Rwanda is working closely with the
ICGLR executive Secretariat and other parliaments to set
a forum of member countries in order to fully.

Distinguished Guests, I have the pleasure to notice that
this International conference on Great Lakes Region has
brought out participants from various countries of Africa,
Europe and America. Also those participants are from dif­
ferent backgrounds, stakeholders, policy makers and aca­
demician, local government and media. I also note that
this important meeting has been organized by academia
Institution, the National University of Rwanda’s Center
for Conflict Management which has a mission of catalyz­
ing debates in the
area of conflict res­
olution and peace
consolidation.

It is an honor for
Rwanda to play
such a big role in
that debate, re­
garding our recent
bad history espe­
cially during years
1990-994 when
we paid a big price
of conflict.

Distinguished
Guests, nothing
can be done for us
without us. Sustain­
able peace and stability need to begin within communi­
ties and the involvement of the latter in search for their
social cohesion and solutions to their problems is critical in
this process. Working hand in hand is key to collective
security and the latter is leading to durable economic de­
velopment.

Distinguished guests, the signatures of ICGLR pact to­
wards peace in the Great Lakes Region are an important
stage despite many cases of conflicts and crises that many
countries of Africa continent are still facing. However, up
to now, only 7 countries have already ratified the ICGLR
Pact while 8 are required to fully enter in force. It is
therefore the responsibility of the ICGLR member coun­
tries to all ratify the pact and to fully implement it in
order to prevent different kinds of crises. Furthermore, all
the member countries are to ratify all the protocols of the
ICGLR Pact in order to bring sustainable peace and stability
within their communities. It is important that friendly
debates like this one are emphasized at different levels in
order to promote and strengthen peace initiatives. I thank
you again and wish you fruitful deliberations.