



PRESS RELEASE

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UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes of Africa on courtesy visit to the region

Nairobi, 22 August 2014 - Said Djinnit arrived in Nairobi, Kenya on 20 August 2014 to start a multiple destination travel in the Great Lakes region, and to make first contact with the countries' leaders since his appointment in July 2014 as the UN Special Envoy for the region.

In Nairobi, the Special Envoy met with the Deputy President of Kenya, William Ruto, to introduce himself and to seek partnership and support for the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework Agreement. "I would like to build on the achievements of my predecessor, Mary Robinson, and promote a strong partnership around the Framework Agreement also known as the '*Framework of Hope*'", Mr. Djinnit told the Deputy President. The Special Envoy also had a working session with Amina Mohamed, the Kenyan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He told the country's authorities that he was encouraged by the pledge that they made in support of the Framework Agreement.

Recognizing that insecurity in a number of countries is a threat to the peace and stability of the Great Lakes as a whole, 13 countries of the region signed the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework Agreement to commit every signatory to collaborate and improve the overall security situation in the region.

The Special Envoy also met with Heads of the UN community, including Sahle-Work Zewde, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON); Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director of UNHABITAT; as well as with the team members of his office located in the Kenyan capital.

The Special Envoy designate also intends to travel, in the coming days, to the capitals of other signatory countries of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, where he will meet with

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the respective authorities and with representatives of regional bodies such as the African Union (AU) and the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

Prior to his appointment as UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, Mr. Djinnit served as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA). He also served as the High-Level Representative of the Secretary-General to Nigeria. Mr. Djinnit previously worked as the first AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, after holding various positions in the Organization of African Unity (OAU), including as Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

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