

Special Envoy Huang Xia.


In this edition...

- [A word from Huang Xia, UN Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region](#)
- [Update on the implementation of the UN Regional Strategy \(with annex: RECAP: TEN PRIORITIES GUIDING UNITED NATIONS EFFORTS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION\)](#)
- [Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission on the Great Lakes region](#)
- [Enhanced Regional Diplomacy and Bilateral Cooperation Efforts Create New Opportunities](#)
- [Countries of the Great Lakes region launch the Contact and Coordination Group against negative forces](#)
- [Promoting responsible investment in the Great Lakes region](#)
- [The role of Civil Society Organizations in promoting peace and stability in the Great Lakes region](#)
- [The Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network continues to fight impunity in the Great Lakes region](#)
- [A Word about Isaac Endeley, who recently joined the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region as Chief of Staff](#)
- [COVID-19 in the Great Lakes Region: An Overview](#)

A word from Huang Xia, UN Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region

It is my pleasure once again to share with you this edition of the Newsletter of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region. Since our last issue, a lot has happened in the region and within my Office. We bring you the highlights of these latest developments in the pages that you are about to discover.


Let me start with my briefing to the UN Security Council on 12 April on the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region, where I highlighted the continued positive momentum for regional cooperation and integration in the Great Lakes region. In his latest report, the Secretary-General welcomed and encouraged the sustained commitment to the implementation of the PSC Framework by the leaders of the region as they continue to work together to find lasting solutions to end the cycles of violence and instability in the region, notably in eastern DRC, as well as to build trust between them. [Read more](#)



UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN REGIONAL STRATEGY


Since the adoption of the United Nations Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes region [\(S/2020/1168\)](#) by the Secretary-General, the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region has made a number of important strides towards its implementation.

A Senior Policy Group (SPG) was established in May as the political steering and management body for the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan. [Read more](#)



MEETING OF THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION.


The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), H.E. Mr. Mohamed Edrees, convened a meeting on the Great Lakes region with the aim to seek support from the members of the Commission for regional peacebuilding efforts and the implementation of the Action Plan of the United Nations Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region, including for Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants in the Great Lakes. Briefers at the meeting included Huang Xia, United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region; Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support; and Fodé Ndiaye, UN Resident Coordinator for Rwanda. [Read more](#)



ENHANCED REGIONAL DIPLOMACY AND BILATERAL COOPERATION EFFORTS CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

The signatory countries of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region continued their efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation and dialogue, despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the past few months, increasing diplomatic outreach and high-level visits by senior government officials within the region resulted in new bilateral cooperation agreements, such as between Tanzania and Uganda (April); the DRC and Uganda (May); the Central African Republic (CAR) and Rwanda (May); Burundi and Kenya (May/June); the DRC and Rwanda (June), and between Burundi and the DRC (July). [Read more](#)



COUNTRIES OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION LAUNCH THE CONTACT AND COORDINATION GROUP AGAINST NEGATIVE FORCES

Experts from the security and intelligence services from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda convened for a workshop in Goma, DRC, from 3 to 6 May 2021 to launch a new coordination mechanism, known as the Contact and Coordination Group (CCG), which aims to further advance efforts to neutralize “negative forces” in the region. This new holistic approach, which was endorsed at the 8th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) held in November 2020, calls for the use of non-military measures to complement ongoing military efforts to combat armed groups operating in the region, primarily in eastern DRC. [Read more](#)



PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

The Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region has continued to provide support for the preparation of the second edition of the Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference (GLITC), scheduled in the last quarter of 2021 in Kigali, Rwanda, the COVID-19 situation permitting. Meanwhile, the Office of the Special Envoy continues to promote projects that have the potential to strengthen regional integration and create jobs for women and youth in the border areas of the countries of the region. [Read more](#)



THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN PROMOTING PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION


Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have a critical role to play in developing and implementing strategies that promote peace and security.

On 19 May 2021, the Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, jointly with the Regional Civil Society Forum of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), organized a meeting with regional CSOs to discuss activities linked to the key pillars of the new UN Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes region. [Read more](#)



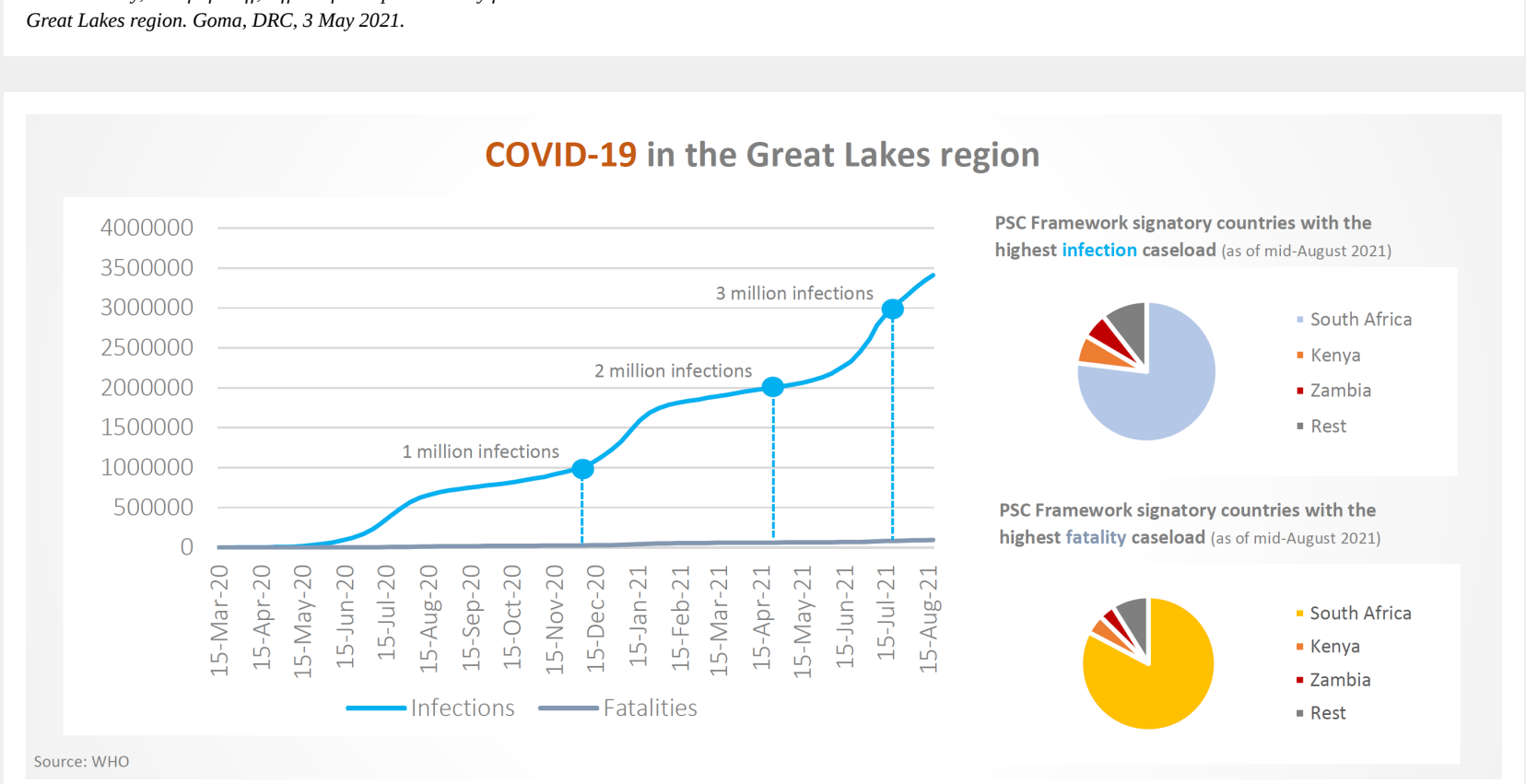
THE GREAT LAKES JUDICIAL COOPERATION NETWORK CONTINUES TO FIGHT IMPUNITY IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

As part of efforts undertaken by the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region to help fight impunity on cross-border crimes and increase regional judicial cooperation, the Office co-facilitated – together with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) – the 6th meeting of the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network (GLJCN) from 3 to 4 June 2021. Under the leadership of Angola as the Chair of the Network, the meeting provided a timely opportunity for ICGLR Member States to exchange on ways to strengthen judicial cooperation. [Read more](#)



A WORD ABOUT ISAAC ENDELEY, WHO RECENTLY JOINED THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION AS CHIEF OF STAFF

Mr. Isaac Endeley has joined the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region as the new Chief of Staff as of April 2021. He previously worked for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) where he served as Deputy Chief of Staff from March 2019 to April 2021. He is a political scientist and international humanitarian lawyer by training, who has also worked as a Senior Legal Officer and Chief of the Defense Lawyers Office at the Khmer Rouge Tribunal in Cambodia (2012 – 2019) and as a Legal Officer at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda based in Tanzania (2005 – 2012). [Read more](#)



In a few words...

**The UN Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region**

The United Nations (UN) Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region (S/2020/1168) was adopted by the Executive Committee of the Secretary-General on 22 October 2020. The Strategy was subsequently transmitted to the Security Council and to all signatory countries and guarantor institutions of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region in early 2021. The Strategy identifies 10 priorities structured around three pillars: (1) peace, security and justice; (2) sustainable development and shared prosperity; and (3) resilience to long-standing and emerging challenges. The priorities provide an overarching 10-year horizon for United Nations action in the region. [Read more](#)

**The Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region**

In February 2013, 11 nations signed the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region, in a renewed drive to end the recurring cycles of devastating conflicts in eastern DRC which impact stability and development in the Great Lakes area of Africa. On 31 January 2014, two more countries, Kenya and Sudan, became signatories of the PSC Framework. The Framework aims to help “address the root causes of conflict and put an end to recurring cycles of violence” in eastern DRC and the Great Lakes Region. [Read more](#)

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