



Security Council

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Letter dated 16 April 2024 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

I thank you for your kind invitation to have the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission submit written advice, under rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, in connection with the briefing on the Great Lakes region scheduled for Wednesday, 24 April 2024 (see annex).

I kindly ask you to bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council and to issue it as a document.

(Signed) Sérgio França **Danese**
Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission



Annex to the letter dated 16 April 2024 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

Peacebuilding Commission advice to the Security Council on judicial cooperation in the Great Lakes region

12 April 2024

As part of its continuing engagement in the Great Lakes region, the Peacebuilding Commission reiterates in full the written advice offered to the Security Council in October 2023 and further advises the Council to consider the following:

1. Recalling its strong support for regional initiatives aimed at de-escalating tensions and creating the conditions for sustainable peace in the region, such as the Luanda and Nairobi processes.
2. Encouraging the ongoing efforts to revitalize the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region.
3. Reiterating the need for the Framework's signatories to fulfil their commitments to promote judicial cooperation among the countries of the Great Lakes region and welcoming the support provided by the Framework's guarantor institutions, as appropriate.
4. Encouraging the Framework's signatories to address shared difficulties to judicial cooperation in the region with support from the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region.
5. Stressing the commitments by the Framework's signatories to neither harbour nor provide protection of any kind to persons accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity, acts of genocide or crimes of aggression or persons falling under United Nations sanctions regimes.
6. Recognizing the collaboration between the United Nations and the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region to strengthen complementarity and synergies between the Framework and the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region and deepen the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network.
7. Encouraging the United Nations and the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region to build partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, such as the African Union and the Southern African Development Community, to deepen the Network.
8. Reaffirming the Commission's support for the commitments expressed by the Ministers of Justice from the countries of the Great Lakes region in the 2019 Nairobi Declaration on Justice and Good Governance and the 2022 Kinshasa Declaration on Enhancing Judicial Cooperation in the Great Lakes Region.
9. Welcoming the establishment of a review committee for the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and the Kinshasa Declaration, as well as the adoption of draft guidelines for mutual legal assistance and extradition requests analysis.
10. Encouraging the Network's members to fully utilize the mechanism for enhancing cooperation on specific cross-border cases.
11. Taking note of the efforts by national and local authorities, with United Nations and the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region support, to

identify specific cross-border cases and the steps required to advance prosecution and adjudication through cross-border judicial cooperation.

12. Welcoming the intention of the Network to develop a standard prosecution policy for the region as an essential mechanism to enhance cooperation on priority cases.

13. Encouraging countries of the Great Lakes region to assess their capacity-building and training needs in judicial cooperation matters, create national action plans and improve training programmes for legal practitioners.

14. Calling upon the international community to provide adequate funding, active support and substantial technical assistance to enhance judicial cooperation among the countries of the Great Lakes region.

15. Encouraging the continuation of efforts under way in strengthening the role of women in political and peace processes in the region and the importance of youth inclusion.
