



PRESS RELEASE

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UN Special Envoy Djinnit Meets with Congolese Leadership, Reaffirm Centrality of Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework as Linchpin for Stability and Shared Prosperity in the DRC and the Region.

Kinshasa, 29 August 2014 – The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region (SESG), Said Djinnit completes his first two-day visit in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in a move to advance the objectives of a regional peace agreement signed in Addis Ababa in February last year. In Kinshasa, he met with a wide range of stakeholders including President Kabil, Government officials, the Diplomatic Corps, the United Nations family, and Civil Society. “The DRC is at the heart of the PSC Framework and to me, it was important to come here at the outset of my first regional tour” said Special Envoy Djinnit who is also scheduled to visit other signatory countries, including Rwanda and Uganda in the coming weeks.

SESG Djinnit discussed with President Kabil and the Congolese authorities on ways to collectively work to achieve progress under the PSC Framework Agreement, through the effective implementation of the commitments undertaken by the signatory States of the Agreement. They also discussed ongoing challenges that continue to impede stability in eastern DRC and the region. The Special Envoy and the DRC leadership paid a particular attention to the FDLR disarmament process, the repatriation of the former M23 combatants from Rwanda and Uganda and the importance of sustaining political will among the regional leaders to consolidate the gains achieved so far and meet all commitments under the PSC Framework.

In this regard, Special Envoy Djinnit expressed his appreciation to Congolese authorities and reaffirm the centrality of PSC Framework as the linchpin to stabilization and shared prosperity in the DRC and the region: “I was encouraged by my meetings with the Congolese officials who showed support for my mandate and readiness to collaborate further” Djinnit said. He further highlighted the need to boost opportunities under the economic development pillar, in particular the upcoming Regional Consultation meeting on Private Sector Investment in the Great Lakes which will take place in Luanda, Angola on 9-10 September.

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While in Kinshasa, Special Envoy Djinnit assured civil society representatives of his intention to engage closely with civil society, women, and youth groups throughout his mandate. He emphasized the important role that civil society groups have in monitoring the implementation of the PSC Framework.

The PSC Framework, a Framework of Hope, remains a strategic instrument, together with other existing regional mechanisms, to consolidate peace, stability and cooperation in the region” Mr. Djinnit said. “I intend to work with signatory countries, regional organizations as well as international partners and civil society to overcome the remaining challenges for the full implementation of the Framework and ensure that peace dividends are delivered to all”.

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