



Press Release

For immediate publication

**Certification of minerals,
An essential instrument for peace and development
in the Great Lakes Region**

Bujumbura, 09 April 2010: The Executive Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Mines of the Republic of Burundi and the ICGLR National Coordination Mechanism is organizing, with the support of GTZ, **the second meeting of the Steering Committee on the Fight against the illegal exploitation of natural resources at the Club of Lake Tanganyika Hotel, Bujumbura, Burundi, from 12 to 15 April 2010.**

The meeting is organized three months following the Mini-Summit of the ICGLR Heads of State and Government held in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, which strongly reaffirmed the need to put an end to the illegal exploitation of natural resources and urged that an extraordinary Summit should be convened in the near future in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, to consider this burning issue.

It should be recalled that conflicts occurring in certain areas of the Great Lakes Region are closely linked with the illegal exploitation of natural resources. In this regard, concerted efforts between ICGLR Member States are urgently required to put an end to this scourge.

It is in this framework that the meeting will be considering the instruments proposed through the initiative to make the sector more transparent. It shall also provide an opportunity for updating the implementation action plan.

The instruments for consideration will also include **the ICGLR Regional Certification Mechanism of Minerals.**

This mechanism which is a determining factor for the populations of the region will be considered by partners and experts in order to clarify the modalities and areas of cooperation between Member States.

The meeting will be held in two sequences. The 12 and 13 April will be reserved for Members of the Steering Committee, the ICGLR Staff and Advisors, while 14 and 15 April will be dedicated to discussions between Members of the Committee, the various partners and other invited guests.

A field trip is also scheduled to visit the artisan Gold Minefields of the Northern Burundi.

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