

# **9<sup>TH</sup> International Conference for the Great Lakes Region 2019**

***25 years after the Genocide Against Tutsi: current status, challenges and perspectives for the future***

***28-29 March 2019, Kigali, Rwanda***

***Organiser: University of Rwanda — College of Arts and Social Sciences—  
Center for Conflict Management***

***Key note speakers:***

***TBD***

## **Background**

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) is an inter-governmental organization bringing together twelve countries of the African Great Lakes Region<sup>1</sup> that was established in recognition that political instability and conflicts have a considerable regional dimension and thus require a concerted effort in order to promote sustainable peace and development. The ICGLR's mandate is to implement the Pact on Security, Stability, and Development in the Great Lakes Region, which was adopted by the ICGLR's Heads of State in December 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Pact is formed of ten protocols and four programs of actions. This pact aims at addressing and preventing political instability and conflict in Africa's Great Lakes Region. The pact commits states and their people to work (search) for peace, Security and development of the region.

Since 2007, the Center for Conflict Management has been organizing an academic conference named the ICGLR Conference because this event addresses questions that fall under the mandate of this regional intergovernmental mechanism. The following themes have so far been covered:

- 1) 2007: Transitions and Peace Processes in the Great Lakes Region

---

<sup>1</sup> These countries are respectively Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia

- 2) 2008: International Conference on ICGLR: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities
- 3) 2009: Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region: “Critical Review of International Mechanisms”
- 4) 2011: Democratization Process in the Great Lakes Region: Progress and Challenges
- 5) 2013: African Mechanisms for Conflict Transformation: Ownership and Expansion
- 6) 2014: Peace and Security Dynamics in the Great Lakes Region
- 7) 2015: Assessing Regional Responses for Peace and Security in the Great Lakes
- 8) 2016: Implications of Governance for Genocide prevention, recovery and peacebuilding in the Great Lakes Region

As mentioned above, one of the ten protocols that make up the ICGLR Pact, the Protocol for the Prevention and Punishment of the crime of Genocide, War crime and Crimes against Humanity and all forms of Discrimination is worth revisiting as Rwanda will be commemorating in March 2019 twenty-five years of national reconstruction after the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi. After such a reasonable time of reconstruction, the CCM found it relevant and legitimate to reflect on what has been so far achieved and in with regard to the ICGLR genocide prevention and punishment protocol. The aim is to document both progress and challenges and inform relevant national and regional policy actions.

In addition, the United Nations and the African Union have put effort in the prevention of genocide. In this regard, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopted a resolution (2150), on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014, known as anti-genocide resolution, calling all states to renew their commitment to prevent and fight against genocide and other serious crimes under international law. The resolution recalls that the General Assembly has, on 23 December 2003, designated the date of 7 April as “*the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda*”. It *Condemns without reservation* any denial of this genocide, and *urges* Member States to develop educational programs that will inculcate future generations with the lessons of the genocide in order to help prevent future genocides.

The African Union member states have embraced the “Right of the Union to intervene in member states...” in cases of war crimes, Genocide and crimes against Humanity. In its recent event entitled “from non- interference to non- indifference: reflecting on an art 4(h) Agenda at the African Union” it renewed its commitment to fight genocide and war crimes and engage with civil society in sharing experience on how they are engaging African governments and inter- governmental organizations on issues of Right to Protect and mass atrocity prevention generally.

It is against this background that the overall theme of the 9<sup>th</sup> ICGLR is “**25 years after the genocide against Tutsi: current status, challenges and future perspectives**”. Thematic focuses of 2019 ICGLR conference will include, but not be restricted to, regional security, legacy of the past, management of memory and prevention of genocide ideology in the Great Lakes Region.

### **Rationale and Objectives**

Despite the binding character of the ICGLR Pact, the threat to peace and security remains a real problem in the Great Lakes Region and genocide ideology still manifests itself. Illustratively, violent ethnic-based conflicts have never stopped, and countries such as the DRC, South Soudan and Burundi have been experiencing recurrent violence. The ICGLR Protocol on Prevention of Genocide is not the only regional instrument that commits member states to prevention of this crime. The East African Protocol on Peace and Security” that was adopted in 2013 provides for the same. Its article 5 deals with the prevention of genocide.

Twelve years after the adoption of the ICGLR Pact and five years after the coming into existence of the East African Protocol on Peace and Security that also explicitly deals with genocide ideology, the CCM found it worthy to assess the current state of affairs. The conference is expected to provide insights on regional compliance with anti-genocide instruments by assessing the existing prevention and response mechanisms, their level of effectiveness as well as persistent challenges.

### **Expected conference outputs**

The 9<sup>th</sup> ICGLR conference is expected to lead to the following results:

- Conference proceedings;
- Academic papers that inform national and regional policy actions peace and security;
- A strengthening link between the academic, policy-makers and practitioners in the areas peace, security and prevention of genocide;
- Regional research networks and collaboration around peace, security and prevention of genocide.

### **Target participants**

The conference is expected to bring together the following participants:

- ✓ Researchers/academics;
- ✓ Decision and policy-makers;
- ✓ Practitioners;
- ✓ Activists;
- ✓ The media; and
- ✓ Students.

## Call for Papers

The conference is particularly inviting papers discussing Security, Genocide Prevention and Peace or related topics. We are looking forward to receiving papers from academics, practitioners, policy makers and other relevant actors on the aforementioned overall theme and the sub themes below. As such, purely theoretical papers, policy oriented and practical experience-based papers are accepted. More importance will be given to papers related to trans-national aspects. Outstanding papers will be presented in plenary sessions and published as Conference Proceedings in a special issue of the *Journal of African Conflicts and Peace Studies* of the CCM.

### Sub-themes to the above overall theme are as follow:

- *Colonialism and Genocide*
- *Memory and Legacy of the Past*
- *Transmission of memory: Challenge and opportunities*
- *Genocide denial, ideology and silence*
- *Regional and national mechanisms to prevent and respond to threats of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity*
- *Managing Treats to Peace and Security in the Great Lakes Region;*
- *Dealing with genocide effect: Legal and political perspectives*
- *Post-genocide reconstruction;*
- *Gender, Peace and Conflict in Africa*

### Instructions and Submission of Papers

- **New** deadline for submitting abstracts (not exceeding 500 words: providing the focus, method and original contribution to the knowledge): January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- Authors will be notified on acceptance by February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- Deadline for submitting full papers (Word taped document, 1.5 spacing, size 12, not exceeding 25 pages): March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019. They should be submitted to: [furahaalida@gmail.com](mailto:furahaalida@gmail.com) ; [a.furaha\\_umutoni@ur.ac.rw](mailto:a.furaha_umutoni@ur.ac.rw) with a copy to [fmasabo@yahoo.fr](mailto:fmasabo@yahoo.fr) and [f.masabo@ur.ac.rw](mailto:f.masabo@ur.ac.rw)

The conference will be held in Kigali on March 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2019.