

SECRETARIAT
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION



SECRÉTARIAT
CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE
SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS

REPORT OF THE 25TH MEETING OF THE ICGLR AUDIT COMMITTEE

30th October 2024 – 1st November 2024

Juba, Republic of South Sudan

38, Boulevard du Japon, B.P. 7076, Bujumbura, Burundi
Tel: +25722256824/79, Mob +25779344901
E-mail: secretariat@icglr.org Website: www.icglr.org

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In accordance with the standards of the Regional Certification Mechanism (RCM) and the Rules and Regulations of the ICGLR Audit Committee, the 25th meeting of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Audit Committee was held from 30th October 2024 to 1st November 2024 at Pyramid Continental Hotel in Juba, Republic of South Sudan.
- 1.2. The objectives of the meeting were to carry out accreditation of third-party new firms and auditors, present a report on all activities carried out in the framework of setting up national and regional databases, analyse and select audit firms for TPA, assess accreditation applications of new third-party audit firms and update the committee on the progress of implementation of the recommendations of the 24th Meeting of the Audit Committee, complete Third-Part Audit Corrective Action Plan for concluded audits in the region and provide the Audit Committee with general updates on the regional initiatives.
- 1.3. The ICGLR Audit Committee's quorum was achieved with seven members of the Audit Committee in attendance. The meeting registered an apology for absence from Dr. Luhaka, the civil society representative from the DRC. The representative of the international industry and the representatives of the Government of Rwanda did not attend the meeting. The meeting was also attended by GIZ, ICGLR's technical and financial partner on the Regional Initiative on the Fight Against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR), as observer.



2. OPENING SESSION

2.1. Eng James Yousif Kundu - Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Mining, Republic of South Sudan, the guest of honor, officially opened the ICGLR Audit Committee meeting. Amb. Juma Dino Amoi - Representative of the ICGLR National Coordinator in South Sudan, Mrs. Scholastica Nzembi Mwau - Representative of ICGLR Executive Secretary, and Mr. Edward Simukonda - Vice-Chairperson of the ICGLR Audit Committee, addressed the Audit Committee in the opening ceremony.

2.2. In his opening statement, the Guest of Honour, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of South Sudan and thanked the ICGLR Secretariat and its development partners for choosing South Sudan as the host country of the 25th meeting of the ICGLR Audit Committee and for their support. He also thanked all members of the Committee, the representatives of the Ministry of Mining and the representative of the ICGLR National Coordinator in South Sudan for their facilitation and coordination with different Government Agencies in organising the 25th Meeting of the Audit Committee. He informed the meeting that, although South Sudan is not yet a member of the ICGLR Audit Committee, the South Sudan Government was making progress towards fulfilling the criteria of the Regional Certification Mechanism to ensure that South Sudan becomes a full member.

2.3. In his remarks, Amb. Juma Dino Amoi, ICGLR National Coordinator in South Sudan, reiterated that it is a historic day for the people of South Sudan this was the first event to be held by the ICGLR Secretariat in Juba from the time South Sudan became an ICGLR Member State in 2013. He thanked all the delegates for coming to South Sudan, assured the participants that the country was peaceful, and welcomed everyone. He



also thanked the Ministry of Mining in South Sudan, which initiated the organisation of this meeting in Juba. He informed the meeting that despite the incidents of the 1990s in the Great Lakes Region, including South Sudan, the country gained the momentum in maintaining peace and security in the Great Lakes Region. He also stated that South Sudan is committed to clearing its pending financial obligation for supporting the work of the ICGLR Secretariat.

2.4. In her remarks, Mrs Scholastica Nzembi Mwau, representing the Executive Secretary, expressed the ICGLR's gratitude to the Government of the Republic of South Sudan for hosting not only the 25th meeting of the ICGLR Audit Committee but also the upcoming 29th meeting of the ICGLR Regional Committee and Regional Forum on mineral value addition and cross-border trade of minerals. She appreciated the Ministry of Mining in South Sudan for their excellent logistical arrangements, which all delegates have universally praised. In addition, she commended the distinguished Audit Committee members and partners who had travelled from across the region to support the ICGLR mission and vision. She ended her remarks by appreciating the significant achievement of the Audit Committee in implementing the RINR.

2.5. The Vice-Chairperson of the ICGLR Audit Committee, Mr. Edward Simukonda, in his remarks thanked the Government and people of South Sudan for their warm hospitality and generous support of the ICGLR initiatives. He also thanked the ICGLR Secretariat for its tireless work in organising the Audit Committee meetings and coordinating all the actions that bring the members together. He informed the participants that new audit firms will be accredited during the 25th meeting of the Audit



Committee, an exciting step towards the effective delivery of the ICGLR missions and the evolving expectations of the Great Lakes Region. He ended his remarks by requesting members to focus on the agenda of the meeting to be able to come up with informed proposals to guide the work of auditors and decision-makers.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Vice-chairperson presented the agenda, which, after consideration, was adopted (Annex I: Approved Agenda of the 25th ICGLR Audit Committee Meeting).

4. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Audit Committee discussed and deliberated fully on the agenda items and consequently made the following decisions and recommendations:

- 4.1. The tool for revision of the RCM, audit methodology and tools is approved with amendment on the inclusion of the date and signature of the person or organization which proposes the modifications.
- 4.2. The ICGLR Secretariat is instructed to include the tool into the audit methodology as an annex.
- 4.3. Guided by provisions under Annex H of the RCM, the Audit Committee opened the RCM, audit Methodology and Tools revision process. The interested stakeholders may propose areas of modification for a period of six months starting from the 1st of November 2024.
- 4.4. The Conference Secretariat was tasked to ensure wide publication of the call for revision proposals.



- 4.5. The Conference Secretariat was tasked to submit the Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) to exporters, together with the audit reports from South Kivu and Haut-Uele, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
- 4.6. Exporters whose CAPs have been completed by the Audit Committee were given a period of 1 month to fill the 2nd section of the Correction Action Plans (CAPs).
- 4.7. The Conference Secretariat was tasked to ensure that the principle of ownership and sustainability are guaranteed in the implementation of the TPA E-Learning Platform.
- 4.8. The following audit firms are pre-accredited as ICGLR Third Party Audit firms: MADI, NIMWE SUPPLIERS LTD, RICH INVESTMENT LTD, LUSSE INVESTMENT LTD, SSEKITTO KAIMANDA & CO. ASSOCIATES. Full accreditation will be considered after a Capacity Building Program to be organized by the ICGLR Secretariat.
- 4.9. The next meeting shall be held in accordance with the schedule of the Regional Committee on Natural Resources meetings.

Done in Juba on 1st November 2024.

Signed by



Mr. Philip Kiplangat Kirui
Chairperson



Mr. David Sebagala
Rapporteur