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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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AMASON J. KINGI



THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT | SECOND SESSION

THE SENATE

**13TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS OF THE FORUM
OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES
REGION (FP-ICGLR)**

JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN

28TH MARCH TO 1ST APRIL, 2023

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Clerk's Chambers,
Parliament Buildings,
NAIROBI.

November, 2023

PREFACE

1. The 13th Ordinary Session commenced with election of leadership of the respective committees held on 27th March, 2023; preparatory Executive Committee meeting held on 28th to 29th March, 2023; Conference of Speakers held on 30th March, 2023; and the Plenary Assembly Proper held on 31st March and 1st April, 2023.
2. The Kenya delegation to the said meetings was comprised of-
 - (i) Rt. Hon. Amason Jeffah Kingi, EGH, MP, Speaker and Leader of the Delegation;
 - (ii) Sen. Roba Ali Ibrahim, EGH, MP, Senate;
 - (iii) Sen. Hezema Lemeletian, MP, Senate;
 - (iv) Hon. Maurice Kakai Bisau, MP, National Assembly;
 - (v) Hon. Mugambi Murwithania Rindikiri, MP, National Assembly;
 - (vi) Mr. Benedict Furaha, Chief Of Staff, Senate;
 - (vii) Mr. Ahmed Belel, Personal Assistant, Speaker of Senate;
 - (viii) Mr. Samuel Kalama, Principal Clerk Assistant, National Assembly;
 - (ix) Ms. Kavata Musyoka, Senior Clerk Assistant, Senate; and
 - (x) Ms. Madeline Kisama, Public Communications Officer, Senate.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

In line with previous Plenary Assembly meetings, they are preceded by the Executive Committee meeting and Conference of Speakers of Member States. Further during the 13th Plenary Assembly, the permanent meetings of the Forum held elections to elect the leadership committees.

Acknowledgement

The delegation wishes to extend its appreciation to the Office of the Speaker and the Clerk of the Senate for facilitation of the travel to and from the Plenary Assembly.

Mr. Speaker,

It is now my pleasant duty to present the report of the delegation and recommend this report to the House for noting.

Signed.......... Date.....*05 December 2023*.....

**SEN. ROBA ALI IBRAHIM, EGH, MP,
MEMBER OF THE FP-ICGLR.**

I. INTRODUCTION

3. The Forum of Parliaments of the Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR) is an inter-parliamentary organization which brings together national parliaments of the twelve (12) member-states of ICGLR, namely; the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of the Sudan, the Republic of Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Zambia.
4. The FP-ICGLR is a regional legislative entity mandated to make a significant parliamentary contribution to the implementation of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region.
5. The FP-ICGLR was established on 4th December 2008 in Kigali, Rwanda, following the signing of the Inter-parliamentary Agreement establishing it. The organs of the Forum are:
 - a) The Plenary Assembly;
 - b) The Conference of Speakers;
 - c) The Executive Committee;
 - d) The five Permanent Committees; and
 - e) The General Secretariat.
6. According to Article 22 of the Internal Rules and Regulations of FP-ICGLR, the Plenary Assembly which is the apex organ of the organization ordinarily sits once a year through Ordinary Sessions. Extra-ordinary Sessions are also held when need arises. It is in the preceding context that the Thirteen Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly was held from 27th March 27 to 1st April, 2023, in Juba, Republic of South Sudan. The country where the Plenary Assembly is held coordinates the event with the FP-ICGLR Secretariat.
7. Previous Ordinary Sessions of the Plenary Assembly were held in in Khartoum (2010), Kampala (2011), Kinshasa (2012), Bajumbura (2013), Nairobi (January 2015), Luanda (December 2015), Khartoum

(2016), Bangui (2017), Brazzaville (2018) and Bujumbura (2019), an online one (2021) and Nairobi (2022) respectively.

Structure of the proceedings of the Plenary Assembly

8. The Plenary Assembly Session of FP-ICGLR generally has three components as listed below although this may vary from time to time-
- a) Committee Meetings;
 - b) Executive Committee;
 - c) Conference of Speakers; and
 - d) Plenary Assembly proper.

Objectives of the 13th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly of FP-ICGLR

9. The objectives of the Plenary Assembly were to –

- (i) consider and adopt the report of the 12th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly of FP-ICGLR held on 3rd April 2022;
- (ii) deliberate on the recent evolution of the security, political and humanitarian situation in the Great Lakes Region;
- (iii) consider of the theme of the year: *"Parliamentary Diplomacy for Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region"*;
- (iv) consider of the activities reports of FP-ICGLR committees (Permanent Committee's reports and the Ad hoc Committee on Finance);
- (v) consider and adopt the draft resolutions of the 13th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly on:
 - a) political, security and humanitarian situation in- The Central African Republic; The Democratic Republic of the Congo; The Republic of the South Sudan; and The Republic of South Sudan.
 - b) mechanisms for effective implementation of the resolutions and recommendations of the FP-ICGLR;
 - c) the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the Great Lakes Region; and
 - d) challenge of Refugee and IDPs in the Great Lakes Region."

- (vi) consider and approve the joint report of the 26th Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee on-
 - a) activity and financial report for the year 2022 of the General Secretariat of FP-ICGLR;
 - b) action plan and budget of the FP-ICGLR for 2023-2024;
 - c) 2021 Audit Report;
 - d) consultant's report on amendment of the Founding Documents of FPICGLR and the transformation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Finance into a Permanent Committee.
- (vii) present of new Bureaus of Permanent Committees to the Plenary;
- (viii) deliberate on the date and venue of the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly; and
- (ix) consider and adopt the Final Declaration.

Expected Outcomes

10. At the conclusion of the 13th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly, the expected outcomes were-
- (i) report of the 12th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly of the FP-ICGLR adopted;
 - (ii) Honourable Members updated on the current, security, political and humanitarian situation in the Great Lakes Region;
 - (iii) Honourable Members understanding of "Parliamentary Diplomacy for Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region strengthened;
 - (iv) reports of Committees of the FP-ICGLR adopted;
 - (v) draft resolutions of the 13th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly adopted;
 - (vi) joint report of the 26th Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee adopted;
 - (vii) dates and venue of the 14th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly and related meetings decided; and
 - (viii) Final Declaration of the 13th Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly adopted.

II. ELECTION OF LEADERSHIP OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEES

11. The FP-ICGLR has five Permanent Committees corresponding to its areas of intervention namely, Committee on Peace and Security; Democracy and Good Governance; Humanitarian and Social issues; Economic Development, Regional Integration and Natural Resources; and Gender, Children and Vulnerable Persons.
12. There is also an Ad hoc Committee on Finance which is in the process of being transformed into a permanent committee. Elections of Members of the Bureaus of Committees are governed by the Internal Rules and Regulations of FP-ICGLR.
13. Article 48(1) of the Internal Rules and Regulations (2016 edition) states that "*Members of Bureaus of Committees shall be nominated by consensus after consultations among the members of the Committees, for a term of one year, renewable once.*" However, the above provision does not apply to the Executive Committee whose leadership is tied to the Presidency of the Forum with the country holding the Presidency of the Forum also taking the portfolio of the Presidency of the Executive Committee.
14. Following the operationalization of the Committees, elections of members of the Bureau had been held just once for the different committees in 2016 for the Committees on Peace and Security; Democracy and Good Governance; Humanitarian and Social issues; and Economic Development, Regional Integration and Natural Resources; in 2018 for the Committee on Gender, Children and Vulnerable Persons and in 2019 for the Ad hoc Committee on Finance. The committee elections were thus long overdue and hence the need to elections for the permanent committees. The elective positions were for-President, Deputy-President and Rapporteur.
15. Following the elections, the outcome was as follows-