

---

---

**ACTS**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 4**

**5th October, 2018.**

**ACTS SUPPLEMENT**

*to The Uganda Gazette No. 51, Volume CXI, dated 5th October, 2018.*

Printed by UPPC, Entebbe, by Order of the Government.

---

---

*International Conference on the Great Lakes Region*  
*(Implementation of the Pact On Security, Stability and Development*  
**Act 11**                      *in the Great Lakes Region) Act*                      **2018**

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES  
REGION (IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PACT ON SECURITY,  
STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION)  
ACT, 2018

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

*Section*

1. Interpretation
2. Pact to have force of law in Uganda
3. Finances
4. Immunities and privileges of employees
5. Status, immunities and privileges of the Conference
6. Subsequent amendment of Pact
7. Regulations

**SCHEDULE**

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES  
REGION PACT ON SECURITY, STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

**THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT  
LAKES REGION (IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PACT ON  
SECURITY, STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE  
GREAT LAKES REGION) ACT, 2018**

**An Act to give the force of law in Uganda to the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region and to provide for related matters.**

WHEREAS the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region which is set out in the Schedule to this Act was signed in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya on the 15th day of December, 2006 on behalf of the Governments of the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Zambia;

AND WHEREAS the Cabinet of the Republic of Uganda ratified the Pact on 5th February, 2008 in accordance with article 123 of the Constitution and section 2(a) of the Ratification of Treaties Act;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to give the force of law to the Pact in Uganda;

*International Conference on the Great Lakes Region*  
*(Implementation of the Pact On Security, Stability and Development*  
**Act 11**                      *in the Great Lakes Region) Act*                      **2018**

DATE OF ASSENT:                      20th December, 2017.

*Date of Commencement:*    5th October, 2018.

NOW THEREFORE be it enacted by Parliament as follows:

**1. Interpretation.**

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

“Conference” means the International Conference on the Great Lakes;

“Conference Secretariat” means the Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes;

“member states” means the twelve core member states of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, namely the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the 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 United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Zambia;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for foreign affairs;

“Ministry” means the Ministry responsible for foreign affairs;

“Pact” means the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region signed in Nairobi, Kenya on the 15th day of December 2006 as prescribed in the Schedule to this Act;

“Protocols” means the protocols adopted or subsequently adopted under the Pact.

**2. Pact to have force of law in Uganda.**

(1) The Pact as set out in the Schedule to this Act shall have the force of law in Uganda.

*International Conference on the Great Lakes Region*  
*(Implementation of the Pact On Security, Stability and Development*  
**Act 11**                      *in the Great Lakes Region) Act*                      **2018**

(2) Without prejudice to the general effect of subsection (1), all rights, powers, liabilities, obligations and restrictions created or arising by or under the Pact and all remedies and procedures provided for by or under the Pact shall be recognised and available in law and shall be enforceable and allowed in Uganda.

**3. Finances.**

(1) The finances for enforcing the Pact in Uganda shall consist of—

- (a) money appropriated by Parliament to the Ministry for the purposes of the Pact; and
- (b) grants or donations from the Government or other sources made with approval of the Minister and Minister responsible for finance.

(2) Subject to article 159 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, for the purposes of providing any sums required for giving effect to the Pact under this section, the Minister responsible for finance may, on behalf of Government, make such arrangements as are necessary or raise loans by creation and issuance of securities bearing such rates of interest and subject to such conditions as to repayment, redemption or otherwise as the Minister considers fit.

(3) A grant, donation or loan received by the Government for purposes of the Pact shall be paid into and form part of the Consolidated Fund and shall be available in the manner in which funds from the Consolidated Fund are available.

**4. Immunities and privileges of employees.**

(1) A person who is employed in the service of the Conference in Uganda, who is a citizen of a member state other than Uganda, shall—

*International Conference on the Great Lakes Region*  
*(Implementation of the Pact On Security, Stability and Development*  
**Act 11**                      *in the Great Lakes Region) Act*                      **2018**

- (a) be immune from civil process with respect to acts performed by them in their official capacity; and
- (b) be accorded such immunities from immigration restrictions and alien registration as the Member States may determine.

(2) Experts and consultants rendering services to the Conference in Uganda shall be accorded such immunities and privileges as may be agreed by member states.

**5. Status, immunities and privileges of the Conference.**

(1) The Conference shall be accorded such status, capacity, immunities, privileges and exemptions in Uganda as may be agreed upon by the member states.

(2) Members of the organs and institutions of the Conference shall be accorded such immunities and privileges as may be agreed upon by the member states.

**6. Subsequent amendment of the Pact.**

Where, after the commencement of this Act, the Pact is amended or modified in accordance with the provisions of article 34 of the Pact, and ratified under article 123 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, the Minister shall cause a copy of the amendment or modification to be laid before Parliament; and the amendment or modification shall, for the purposes of this Act, come or be deemed to have come into operation on the date it is laid before Parliament.

**7. Regulations.**

(1) The minister may, in consultation with the line ministry, by statutory instrument, make regulations to give effect to the provisions of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the minister shall make regulations for—

*International Conference on the Great Lakes Region*  
*(Implementation of the Pact On Security, Stability and Development*  
**Act 11**                      *in the Great Lakes Region) Act*                      **2018**

- (a) the exploitation of natural resources;
- (b) the operationalization of the Specific Reconstruction and Development Zone;
- (c) the prevention and suppression of sexual violence against women and children;
- (d) the protection and assistance to internally displaced persons;
- (e) the protection of property rights of returning persons;
- (f) the management of information and communication; and
- (g) any other matter incidental for the better carrying out of the purposes of this Act and the prescription of anything required or authorized under this Act.

(3) Regulations made under this Act may, in respect of any contravention of any of the regulations—

- (a) prescribe a penalty not exceeding a fine of five thousand currency points or imprisonment not exceeding ten years or both;
- (b) in the case of a continuing contravention, prescribe an additional penalty not exceeding a fine of five hundred currency points in respect of each day on which the offence continues;
- (c) prescribe a higher penalty not exceeding a fine of five thousand five hundred currency points or imprisonment not exceeding 12 years, or both in respect of a second or subsequent contravention; and
- (d) provide for forfeiture of anything used in the commission of the offence.

**SCHEDULE**

*Section 1*

**THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT  
LAKES REGION PACT ON SECURITY, STABILITY AND  
DEVELOPMENT IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**PREAMBLE**

**CHAPTER I: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Article 1: Definitions

Article 2: Objectives

Article 3: Content

Article 4: Field of Application and Fundamental Principles

**CHAPTER II: THE PROTOCOLS**

Article 5: Protocol on Non-aggression and Mutual Defence in the  
Great Lakes Region

Article 6: Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance

Article 7: Protocol on Judicial Cooperation

Article 8: Protocol for the Prevention and the Punishment of the  
Crime of Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity and all  
forms of Discrimination

Article 9: Protocol Against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural  
Resources

*International Conference on the Great Lakes Region*  
*(Implementation of the Pact On Security, Stability and Development*  
**Act 11** *in the Great Lakes Region) Act* **2018**

Article 10: Protocol on the Specific Reconstruction and Development Zone

Article 11: Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children

Article 12: Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons

Article 13: Protocol on Property Rights of Returning Persons

Article 14: Protocol on the Management of Information and Communication

Article 15: Subsequent Protocols

**CHAPTER III: THE PROGRAMMES OF ACTION**

Article 16: Objectives of the Programmes of Action

Article 17: The Programme of Action for Peace and Security

Article 18: The Programme of Action for Democracy and Good Governance

Article 19: The Programme of Action for Economic Development and Regional Integration

Article 20: Programme of Action on Humanitarian, Social and Environmental Issues

**CHAPTER IV: THE SPECIAL FUND FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Article 21: Legal framework



CHAPTER V. THE REGIONAL FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM

Article 22: Establishment

Article 23: The Summit

Article 24: The Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee

Article 25: Ad-hoc Group of Experts

Article 26: Conference Secretariat

Article 27: National Coordination Mechanisms and Collaborative Mechanisms

CHAPTER VI: PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Article 28: The Duty to Settle Disputes Peacefully

Article 29: Disputes Concerning the Interpretation and Application of the Pact

CHAPTER VII: FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 30: Signature and Ratification

Article 31: Non-selectivity and Reservations

Article 32: Deposit and Registration

Article 33: Entry into force

Article 34: Amendments and Revision

Article 35: Withdrawal



*International Conference on the Great Lakes Region*  
*(Implementation of the Pact On Security, Stability and Development*  
**Act 11**                      *in the Great Lakes Region) Act*                      **2018**

REAFFIRMING our decision taken at Dar-es-Salaam to declare the Great Lakes Region a specific zone of reconstruction and development and jointly determined to meet the challenge of reconstruction and development with the full participation of all our peoples, particularly in partnership with the civil society organizations, young people, women, the private sector and religious organizations, as well as in close cooperation with the relevant regional organizations, the African Union, the United Nations, and the international community in general;

DETERMINED to adopt and implement collectively the appropriate Programmes of Action, the Protocols and mechanisms to translate into reality the priority political options and the guiding principles of the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration;

HEREBY SOLEMNLY AGREE:

CHAPTER I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1

**Definitions**

1. For the purpose of this Pact, unless the context otherwise requires, the following mean:

- (a) **Conference:** The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region;
- (b) **Great Lakes Region:** The region composed of the whole of the territories of the twelve core Member States of the Conference;





2. All references to the Pact shall necessarily refer to all the integral parts of this Pact.

## ARTICLE 4

### **Field of Application and Fundamental Principles**

1. This Pact governs legal relations between the Member States who will have ratified it, in the framework and within the limits of the priority areas selected in matters of peace and security, democracy and good governance, economic development and regional integration, as well as humanitarian, social and environmental issues.

2. The Member States undertake to base their relations on respect for the principles of national sovereignty, of territorial integrity, of non-interference in the internal affairs of other Member States, of non-aggression, of cooperation and of peaceful settlement of disputes.

## CHAPTER II: THE PROTOCOLS

### ARTICLE 5

#### **Protocol on Non-aggression and Mutual Defence in the Great Lakes Region**

1. The Member States undertake to maintain peace and security in accordance with the Protocol on Non-aggression and Mutual Defence in the Great Lakes Region, and in particular:

- (a) To renounce the threat or the use of force as policies means or instrument aimed at settling disagreements or disputes or to achieve national objectives in the Great Lakes Region;



ARTICLE 7

**Protocol on Judicial Cooperation**

The Member States undertake, in accordance with the Protocol on Judicial Cooperation, to cooperate in matters of extradition, judicial investigation and prosecution.

ARTICLE 8

**Protocol for the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity and all forms of Discrimination**

The Member States, in accordance with the Protocol on the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity and all forms of Discrimination, recognize that the crime of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity are crimes under international law and against the rights of peoples, and undertake in particular:

- (a) To refrain from, prevent and punish, such crimes;
- (b) To condemn and eliminate all forms of discrimination and discriminatory practices;
- (c) To ensure the strict observance of this undertaking by all national, regional and local public authorities and institutions;
- (d) To proscribe all propaganda and all organisations which are inspired by ideas or theories based on the superiority of a race or a group of people of a particular ethnic origin, or which try to justify or encourage any form of ethnic, religious, racial or gender based hatred or discrimination.





*International Conference on the Great Lakes Region*  
*(Implementation of the Pact On Security, Stability and Development*  
**Act 11**                      *in the Great Lakes Region) Act*                      **2018**

- (a) Transformer development basins to promote local regional integration of the Border populations;
- (b) A Special Reconstruction and Development Fund for the purpose of supporting the implementation of the Protocols and Programmers of Action selected in the priority areas of peace and security, democracy and good governance, economic development and regional integration, and humanitarian, social and environmental issues.

ARTICLE 11

**Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence  
against Women and Children**

The Member States undertake, in accordance with the Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Violence against Women and Children, to combat sexual violence against women and children through preventing, criminalizing and punishing acts of sexual violence, both in times of peace and in times of war, in accordance with national laws and international criminal law.

ARTICLE 12

**Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally  
Displaced Persons**

The Member States undertake, in accordance with the Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons, to provide special protection and Assistance to internally displaced persons and in particular to adopt and implement the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as proposed by the United Nations Secretariat.

ARTICLE 13

**Protocol on Property Rights of Returning Persons**

The Member States undertake, in accordance with the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons, to provide legal protection for the property of internally displaced persons and refugees in their countries of origin, and in particular to:

- (a) Adopt legal principles whereby the Member States shall ensure that refugees and internally displaced persons, upon returning to their areas of origin, recover their property with the assistance of the local traditional and administrative authorities;
- (b) Create a legal framework for resolving disputes arising from the recovery of property previously occupied or owned by returning persons.

ARTICLE 14

**Protocol on the Management of Information and Communication**

The Member States agree, in accordance with the Protocol on the Management of Information and Communication, to establish a Regional Council for Information and Communication whose role, in particular, shall be:

- (a) To promote the free exchange of ideas;
- (b) To promote freedom of expression and the press;
- (c) To provide training and civic education through the media.

ARTICLE 15

**Subsequent Protocols**

The Member States agree that any subsequent Protocols that they may adopt after the entry into force of this Pact shall be an integral part of the Pact. Any such Protocol shall enter into force in accordance with the provisions governing amendments and revision as set out in Article 34(5).

CHAPTER III: THE PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

ARTICLE 16

**Objectives of the Programmes of Action**

The Member States undertake to promote the joint strategies and policies outlined in the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration within the framework of the objectives of the sector Programmes of Action.

ARTICLE 17

**The Programme of Action for Peace and Security**

The Member States undertake to ensure sustainable peace and security in the whole Region of the Great Lakes, in the framework of the Programme of Action for Peace and Security, which is aimed at:

- (a) Promoting the joint management of the security of common borders;
- (b) Promoting, maintaining and enhancing cooperation in the fields of peace, conflict prevention and the peaceful settlement of disputes;

- (c) Promoting inter-State cooperation on general security issues including combating the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, preventing and combating organized transnational criminal activities and terrorism.

ARTICLE 18

**The Programme of Action For Democracy And Good Governance**

1. The Member States undertake to entrench values, principles and norms on democracy, good governance, and respect for human rights, in the framework of the Programme of Action for Democracy and Good Governance, which aims, in particular, to:
  - (a) Establish regional mechanisms which work together to strengthen the rule of law in the region, to promote human rights, and to combat impunity;
  - (b) Consolidate the democratization process by enhancing institutional capacity, by promoting political participation of all segments of society, and by developing and implementing communication and information strategies;
  - (c) Harmonize and coordinate policies on the protection and rational management of natural resources in the region.

ARTICLE 19

**The Programme of Action for Economic Development and Regional Integration**

1. The Member States undertake to jointly promote a prosperous, integrated economic space, to improve the standard of living of its populations, and to contribute to the development of the Region, by implementing the Programme of Action for Economic Development and Regional Integration with the aim of:



CHAPTER IV: THE SPECIAL FUND FOR RECONSTRUCTION  
AND DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLE 21

**Legal framework**

1. A Special Fund for the reconstruction and development of the Great Lakes Region shall be created in accordance with the Protocol on the Specific Reconstruction and Development Zone, but the legal status of such a Fund shall be defined in a separate document;
2. The modality of the operation of the Fund shall be determined by a specific legal framework to be agreed with the African Development Bank, which shall manage the said Fund;
3. The financing of the Fund shall be ensured by mandatory contributions from the Member States as well as by voluntary contributions from cooperating and development partners.

CHAPTER V: THE REGIONAL FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM

ARTICLE 22

**Establishment**

1. The Member States agree to create a Regional Follow-up Mechanism which shall consist of the Summit of Heads of State and Government, the Regional Inter- Ministerial Committee, the Conference Secretariat, the National Coordination Mechanisms and the Collaborative Mechanisms and other specific structures or forums if necessary, in order to ensure the implementation of this Pact;

*International Conference on the Great Lakes Region*  
*(Implementation of the Pact On Security, Stability and Development*  
**Act 11**                      *in the Great Lakes Region) Act*                      **2018**

2. The Regional Follow-up Mechanism shall be based upon the principles of best practice, complementarity, linkages, and collegial ownership by the Member States, in cooperation with the African Union and the United Nations and other partners.

ARTICLE 23

**The Summit**

1. The Summit shall be the Supreme organ of the Conference and it shall be chaired by a Head of State or Government of a Member State in rotation;
2. The Summit shall be held once every two years. An extraordinary session of the Summit may be convened at the request of one Member State and upon the consent of the qualified majority of eight of the majority of the ratifying Member States present and voting;
3. The Summit shall direct the implementation of this Pact, approve budgetary resources on the recommendation of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, allocate additional resources and assess progress made in the implementation of the Pact;
4. The Summit shall approve the appointment of the Executive Secretary of the Conference Secretariat on the recommendation of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, and decide on the location of the Conference Secretariat's headquarters;
5. The Conference Chairperson, in the exercise of his or her functions between the ordinary sessions of the Summit, shall ensure the respect for and the implementation of the Pact by the Member States, and seek the support of the Region's development partners to achieve the Conference's objectives. He or she shall be assisted in his activities by his predecessor and his future successor in the framework of a «Troika »;



6. A Member State that is unable or unwilling to honour its obligations under this Pact shall account for its failure before the Summit which will determine the consequences for such failure;

7. Decisions of the Summit shall be taken by consensus. In the event of failure to reach a consensus, decisions shall be taken by a qualified majority of eight of the twelve Member States present and voting in cases of non-procedural matters, and by an absolute majority of the Member States present and voting, in cases of procedural matters.

## ARTICLE 24

### **The Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee**

1. The Inter-Ministerial Committee shall be the Executive organ of the Conference. It shall meet in ordinary session twice a year. It may meet in extraordinary session on the request of one Member State with the consent of the absolute majority of Member States;

2. The meetings of the Inter-Ministerial Committee shall be chaired by a Minister of a Member State in rotation, following the sequence of the ordinary periodical sessions of the Summit. Each meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee shall be preceded by a meeting of senior officials of the Member States;

3. The Committee shall determine strategies for implementing this Pact and shall carry out regular monitoring of its implementation;

4. It shall submit to the Summit a periodic report on the implementation of the Pact;

5. It shall recommend to the Summit candidates for the position of the Executive Secretary of the Conference and approve nominations of senior staff for the Conference Secretariat on the recommendations of the Executive Secretary;

*International Conference on the Great Lakes Region*  
*(Implementation of the Pact On Security, Stability and Development*  
**Act 11**                      *in the Great Lakes Region) Act*                      **2018**

6. It shall examine and submit to the Summit the draft budget as well as the reports and the work plans of the Conference Secretariat and affiliated institutions;
7. It may, in the interval between the ordinary sessions of the Summit, make such budgetary, administrative and operational adjustments as the Summit may delegate;
8. Decisions of the Inter-Ministerial Committee shall be taken by consensus. In the event of failure to reach a consensus, decisions shall be taken by a qualified majority of eight of the twelve Member States present and voting in cases of nonprocedural matters, and by an absolute majority of the Member States present and voting, in cases of procedural matters.

**ARTICLE 25**

**Ad-hoc Group of Experts**

The Inter-Ministerial Committee may nominate an ad-hoc group of a maximum number of six independent experts composed of men and women in equal numbers and of high moral integrity, whose mission shall be to:

- (a) Prepare and submit to the Summit a special report on the specific problems encountered by the Member States in implementing the Pact;
- (b) Fulfill any other functions as determined by the Summit.

**ARTICLE 26**

**Conference Secretariat**

1. The Conference Secretariat shall be the technical arm and coordinating body of the Conference. It shall be headed by an Executive Secretary whose mandate shall be for a period of four years not subject to renewal;

*International Conference on the Great Lakes Region*  
*(Implementation of the Pact On Security, Stability and Development*  
**Act 11**                      *in the Great Lakes Region) Act*                      **2018**

2. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for:
  - (a) Ensuring the implementation of the decisions of the Summit and the Inter- Ministerial Committee, and reporting on it;
  - (b) Ensuring the promotion of the Pact and the execution of the Programmes of Action, Protocols and activities falling under his direct responsibility;
  - (c) Organising the meetings of the Summit, the Inter-Ministerial Committee and of the other Conference structures and forums;
  - (d) Harmonizing the implementation of the Conference activities falling under the responsibility of the relevant regional economic communities, as well as the decentralised and affiliated institutions;
  - (e) Drawing up programmes of activities and the budget of the Conference Secretariat, and ensuring their implementation after approval by the Inter-Ministerial Committee.
  
3. The Executive Secretary may seek technical assistance from the African Union, the United Nations, and cooperating partners and organisations;
  
4. The operating budget of the Conference Secretariat shall be proposed every two years by the Executive Secretary and approved by the Summit on the recommendation of the Inter-Ministerial Committee. It shall be funded by mandatory annual contributions of the Member States and by resources mobilized from cooperation and development partners of the Great Lakes Region and by any other resources identified by the Conference;

*International Conference on the Great Lakes Region*  
*(Implementation of the Pact On Security, Stability and Development*  
**Act 11**                      *in the Great Lakes Region) Act*                      **2018**

5. The method of calculating the contributions of Member States and the currency in which they are paid shall be determined by the Inter-Ministerial Committee;
6. The recruitment of senior officials of the Secretariat shall respect the principle of the balanced representation, and will be done on a rotating basis among citizens of the Member States.

ARTICLE 27

**National Coordination Mechanisms and Collaborative Mechanisms**

1. Each Member State shall establish a National Coordination Mechanism to facilitate the implementation of this Pact in that Member State;
2. Collaborative Mechanisms shall be established by the Inter-Ministerial Committee to coordinate the implementation of the Pact in cooperation with the Member States, the regional economic communities and the relevant regional institutions.

CHAPTER VI: PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

ARTICLE 28

**The Duty to Settle Disputes Peacefully**

1. The Member States undertake to settle their disputes peacefully;
2. For this purpose, the Member States undertake to settle disputes through negotiation, good offices, investigation, mediation, conciliation or any other political means within the framework of the Conference's Regional Follow-up Mechanism;

*International Conference on the Great Lakes Region*  
*(Implementation of the Pact On Security, Stability and Development*  
**Act 11**                      *in the Great Lakes Region) Act*                      **2018**

3. The Member States undertake to have recourse to the means of settling disputes described in paragraph 2 above before having recourse to any other political, diplomatic or judicial mechanisms;
4. The Member States may resort to the means of peaceful settlement provided for in the United Nations Charter and in the Constitutive Act of the African Union after recourse to the peaceful settlement of disputes in paragraphs 2 and 3 above.

ARTICLE 29

**Disputes Concerning the Interpretation and Application of the Pact**

The Member States agree to submit any dispute which may arise between them in relation to the interpretation or application of all or part of the Pact to the African Court of Justice if recourse to the means referred to in Article 28 (2),(3) (4) turn out to be unsuccessful.

CHAPTER VII: FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 30

**Signature and Ratification**

1. This Pact shall be open for signature and ratification by all the Member States of the Conference;
2. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Conference Secretariat.

ARTICLE 31

**Non-selectivity and Reservations**

1. The Member States agree to apply all the provisions of this Pact according to the principle of non-selectivity;

2. No reservations may be entered to this Pact.

ARTICLE 32

**Deposit and Registration**

1. The United Nations Secretary General shall be the depositary of this Pact;
2. The Conference Secretariat shall make arrangements for depositing this Pact, upon its entry into force, with the Secretary General of the United Nations and with the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union.

ARTICLE 33

**Entry into force**

1. This Pact shall enter into force thirty days after the receipt by the Conference Secretariat of the eighth instrument of ratification;
2. For any State which has ratified the Pact after the date on which the eighth instrument of ratification has been received by the depositary, this Pact shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of receipt by the Conference Secretariat of its instrument of ratification.

ARTICLE 34

**Amendments and Revision**

1. Any Member State that has ratified this Pact may propose amendments to, or revision, of this Pact;

*International Conference on the Great Lakes Region*  
*(Implementation of the Pact On Security, Stability and Development*  
**Act 11**                      *in the Great Lakes Region) Act*                      **2018**

2. A proposal for amendment or revision shall be submitted in writing to the Conference Secretariat that shall forthwith inform the other Member States of such a proposal;
3. The proposal for amendment or revision of the Pact shall be submitted to the Member States at least six months before the next session of the Summit at which it is proposed for adoption;
4. The decision to amend or revise the Pact shall be agreed by a qualified majority of eight of the twelve Member States present and voting;
5. An Amendment or revision adopted in accordance with paragraph 4 of this Article shall be circulated by the Conference Secretary to all the Member States for their acceptance. Instruments of acceptance of amendments or revision shall be deposited with Conference Secretariat;
6. The revision or amendment shall enter into force in respect of all the Member States 30 days after the receipt by the Conference Secretariat of the eighth instrument of acceptance;
7. Never the less, projects and budgets agreed within the framework of the Programmes of Action, Protocols, and the Regional Follow-up Mechanism may be amended without recourse to the amendment or revision procedure provided for above.

**ARTICLE 35**

**Withdrawal**

1. A Member State that has ratified this Pact may withdraw from it at any time after ten years from the date on which this Pact entered into force in relation to such a Member State, by giving written notification of the decision to withdraw to the depositary;

*International Conference on the Great Lakes Region*  
*(Implementation of the Pact On Security, Stability and Development*  
**Act 11**                      *in the Great Lakes Region) Act*                      **2018**

2. Any such withdrawal shall take effect after one year from the date of receipt by the depositary of the notification of withdrawal.

In witness whereof, we, the Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, have solemnly signed this Pact in five original versions, in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese and Kiswahili, all versions being equally authentic.

For the Republic of Uganda;

For the Republic of Angola;

For the Republic of Burundi;

For the Central African Republic;

For the Republic of Congo;

For the Democratic Republic of Congo;

For the Republic of Kenya;

For the Republic of Rwanda;

For the Republic of South Sudan;

For the Republic of Sudan;

For the United Republic of Tanzania;

For the Republic of Zambia.