



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION



RECAP: WHAT IS THE UN REGIONAL STRATEGY?

In October 2020, UN Secretary-General António Guterres approved the UN Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes region. The Strategy, developed by the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives from the countries in the region, proposes an integrated, forward-leaning approach that aims to better leverage the political, operational, and programmatic expertise of the UN in support of a peaceful, inclusive, prosperous, and resilient region.

While prioritizing political solutions, the Strategy advocates for a shift in narrative beyond the traditional focus on conflict-related challenges to emphasize opportunities for peace, security, and people-centered development.

It puts forth ten priorities, structured around three pillars, to guide UN engagement in the region, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while also informing specific and immediate priority actions until 2023. The three pillars are: (i) peace, security and justice; (ii) sustainable development and shared prosperity; and (iii) resilience to longstanding and emerging challenges.

Following the Strategy's endorsement by the Secretary-General, the Office of the Special Envoy established a Senior Policy Group, composed of nine principals representing UN entities both at Headquarters and in the field, including Special Representatives and Resident Coordinators. The Senior Policy Group serves as the political steering and management body for the implementation of the Strategy. It held its inaugural meeting in May 2021 and adopted the Strategy's Action Plan in July, prepared by the Office of the Special Envoy in close coordination with relevant stakeholders. In implementing the Action Plan, the Senior Policy Group is supported by a technical-level Implementation Support Mechanism, which held its first meeting in November 2021.