JOINT STATEMENT

by the Great Lakes Envoys

on the announcement of the end of the M23 rebellion

Mary Robinson, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General to the Great Lakes Region, Martin Kobler, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Head of MONUSCO, Boubacar Diarra, AU Special Representative for the Great Lakes, Russell Feingold, U.S. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes and the DRC, and Koen Vervaeke, EU Senior Coordinator to the Great Lakes Region, welcome the announcement of the M23 to end its rebellion and the commitment of the Government of the DRC to end combat and complete steps agreed to as part of the Kampala Dialogue.

The Envoys urge both parties to conclude the political process by signing a principled agreement that ensures the timely disarmament and demobilization of the M23 and accountability for perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The envoys welcome the reestablishment of state authority by the Government of the DRC in areas previously held by the M23.

The end of the M23 rebellion represents an important step in ensuring sustainable peace in eastern DRC and the Great Lakes region. However, it must be clear that this is only one step towards addressing the persistent conflict and instability, and to ensure an end to all illegitimate armed actors in the DRC, including the FDLR.
The Special Envoys urge all signatories of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework to recommit to ensuring the implementation of the Framework, including by advancing a political dialogue between key countries in the region.

The Special Envoys commend President Yoweri Museveni and his Defense Minister Dr. Crispus Kiyonga for their patient and determined leadership in facilitating the Kampala Dialogue.