



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PEACE AND INVESTMENT IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND THE GREAT LAKES REGION

Millenium Hilton Hotel (New York), Friday, September 27, 2019

### CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Six years after the signing of the Framework Agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, the "Agreement of Hope", concluded on 24 February 2013 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) by the DRC, the countries of the Region and the international community represented by the United Nations, the result remains mixed on the ground.

In areas known to be potentially rich in natural resources (mining, energy, agriculture, etc.), populations continue to languish in unprecedented and contrasting poverty, which, in fact, contributes to the sustainability of the threat to peace. Investments in the DRC and the Region do not lack opportunities or manpower, which is abundant but diverted, for lack of a viable alternative, towards the production of armed violence.

The democratic and peaceful transition, the first in the history of the DRC, has raised so much hope for peace and security, a priority for the President of the Republic, His Excellency Felix-Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO. Since then, it has been clear that several hundred of the combatants in the East and Centre of the country have surrendered voluntarily, despite the persistence of activism by foreign and local armed groups. This imposes challenges that require a general mobilization for peace.

The International Conference for Peace and Investment in the DRC and the Region thus aims to further embed the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement in the paradigm of economic incentives for peace in order to break the cycles of armed violence that are fundamentally fuelled and instrumentalized by poverty. Indeed, as Kofi Annan had argued, "there is no security without development and no development without security (...)". More explicitly, "development is the new name for peace".

It is therefore possible to invest for peace through a synergy of concrete and time-bound actions between the DRC, the countries of the Region and the international community in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement. To this end, the Conference provides a framework for dialogue between the parties to develop a common strategic vision based on pragmatism. The DRC has the strong political will to do so.

Participants will discuss the "Roadmap for Peace" developed by the DRC, as well as integrating projects that will be the subject of the presentations. The demonstrations of intent will be decisive in the perspective of the effective implementation of investments for peace in the DRC and the Region.

In annex, the detailed programme of the Conference.