



## Security Council

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### Letter dated 15 November 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

The mandate of my Special Representative for the Great Lakes region, Ibrahim Fall, will expire on 31 December 2005.

During 2005, Mr. Fall has continued to support the efforts of the 11 core countries towards achieving the objectives of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. Important progress has been made in this regard over the past year. At the first Summit of the Conference, convened under United Nations and African Union auspices on 19 and 20 November 2004 in Dar es Salaam, the Heads of State adopted the Declaration on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region, which lays out a set of principles and established a road map for the process.

Since then, the core countries, with the support of the United Nations and other partners, have been working together to translate the Declaration into concrete programmes of action and protocols. Following intensive work and a series of recent meetings, at expert and ministerial levels, on key issues of common interest in the four themes of the Conference, a limited number of draft projects and related draft protocols have been selected as priorities.

It is envisaged that the protocols and programmes of action will, together with the Dar es Salaam Declaration, form the Security, Stability and Development Pact for the Great Lakes Region, which is expected to be adopted by the Heads of State during the second Summit of the Conference.

The Conference has been successful in providing a framework for the core countries to collectively address their common concerns and identify viable solutions to their common problems. The process has also served as an important confidence-building mechanism for the region. The real measure of the Conference's success, however, will be the extent to which the proposed Security, Stability and Development Pact is implemented, as a regional peacebuilding initiative, following the second Summit.

The core countries will therefore continue to require the support of the international community up to and beyond the Summit, to maintain the momentum and help ensure that the work accomplished thus far will have a tangible and lasting impact on peace, stability and development throughout the region.

In view of the above, it is my intention to extend the mandate of my Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region until 31 December 2006. I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Kofi Annan