



## STATEMENT FROM THE ICGLR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON RECENT EVENTS IN KENYA

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**Bujumbura, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024:** The Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) commends the decision by the President of Kenya, H.E. William Samoei Ruto, to withdraw the Finance Bill 2024 and the subsequent measures put in place to address the protests.

This decision, which is crucial in reducing tensions and fostering open dialogue and understanding, showcases laudable leadership and a commitment to addressing the concerns of Kenyan citizens.

The ICGLR reaffirms its unwavering support for the right to peaceful protests, a fundamental pillar of any democratic society. We call on all parties to exercise restraint and to continue pursuing peaceful means of expressing and addressing concerns. We also stress the government's responsibility to maintain public order without resorting to excessive force.

We urge the authorities in Kenya and her citizens to build on this positive step by engaging in open, constructive dialogue. It is through such dialogue that issues can be addressed, differences resolved, and a path forward that benefits all Kenyans can be charted.

Our deepest condolences go out to the families and loved ones of those who tragically lost their lives during the protests. We also send our best wishes for a speedy and full recovery to those who were injured.