

and Medium Enterprises, particularly those owned by women, have experienced the largest effects of the risk associated with COVID-19 compared to large scale businesses. Informal

8 We also remain engaged to help mobilize international partners in the context of the upcoming Kigali Investment Forum, organized jointly by the Special Envoy's office, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Rwanda Development Board. We will also continue to consolidate our partnership with the World Bank and other IFIs in strengthening regional integration, including through the instruments supporting coordinated response to COVID-19 and post-COVID recovery. Furthermore, and to be able to harness the full economic capabilities of the region, the PBC encourages joint efforts to promote transparency and integrated regional management of natural resources including through Regional Certification Mechanism.

9 To conclude, the PBC will continue to support the countries of the region, according to their nationally identified priorities, and in coordination with the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), AU and the UN system, including in the context of the UN Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region. We will also work to build more coherent approach that joins all the stakeholders together for the sake of stability, development and prosperity in the Great Lakes Region in line with the SC resolution 2389 (2017). The PBC remains ready to continue to exercise its advisory role to the Security Council in that regard.

I thank you, Mr. President.
