



“Our Region – Our Vision” Photo Contest

The Great Lakes Region Through Your Lens

Summary, Terms and Conditions

Summary

1. The photo contest is aimed at showcasing progress as well as ongoing efforts towards a more peaceful, stable, inclusive and prosperous Great Lakes region, in line with the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region as well as the United Nations (UN) Great Lakes Strategy. The suggested motto for the contest is *“The Great Lakes Region Through Your Lens”*. It is intended to be interactive, inviting people to share their views on what the region is and could be while emphasizing the plurality of perspectives. The hashtag *“#OurRegion–#OurVision”* was chosen as an accompanying motto to highlight our joint commitment towards the region and the PSC Framework.

2. To guide contestants in selecting the most pertinent photos, five thematic categories have been identified. The categories have been kept deliberatively broad to encourage different, creative ways of bringing to life the commitments of the PSC Framework:

- a. **Working together for peace**
- b. **Putting down guns**
- c. **Promoting justice for all**
- d. **Connecting across borders**
- e. **Leaving no one behind**

Contestants are invited to submit up to three photos in one or more of the above categories.

3. One winner and three runners-up per thematic category (amounting to 20 photos in total) will be selected by a jury composed of UN staff from the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region. Photo entries will be judged based on their:
(i) composition, (ii) originality, (iii) responsiveness to the theme, and (iv) overall impact.

4. The winner of the photo contest will receive a **new photo camera**. The 20 winning entries will be exhibited during the 10th anniversary commemoration of the PSC Framework on 24 February 2023 in Bujumbura, Burundi, during which the photos will be paired with narratives explaining the importance of the five categories in support of peace, stability, and development in the Great Lakes region. Recognition and diffusion of the winning images and finalists will be widely exposed throughout the OSESG-GL website and at future OSESG-GL initiatives and events.

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5. Photo entries can be submitted electronically via Email (dppa-greatlakes-photocontest@un.org) to OSESG-GL until **5 February 2023**. Contestants are asked to provide for



each photo submission a title, short description (with a maximum of 150 words), the full name of the photographer, contact information as well as the location and date of the photo. The following rules apply:

- The contest is open to people of all skill levels who are at least 18 years old.
- Contestants must be from or based in the Great Lakes region.
- Photos must have been taken in any of the 13 signatory countries from the PSC Framework, namely Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, the Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, or Zambia.
- Each contestant can submit up to three photos in one or more thematic categories.
- Only one photo per contestant can become a winning entry.
- Photos can be taken with any camera, film (as scanned slides) or digital.
- The "Do no harm" rule when taking the photo(s) will be strictly observed. Entries suspected of exhibiting negative behavior will be disqualified.
- All entries must be the original work of the contestant and must not infringe on the rights of any other party.
- English and French will be accepted as language for submission of photo details.
- Photos must not show the name of the photographer, agency or any other information (these details may be included in the metadata of the pictures but must not be visible on the picture itself).
- Images that have won or have been placed in the top three of another major photography contest (with winning entries expected to be announced before 24 February 2023) may not be submitted.
- Photographers retain all copyrights to their images. OSESG-GL retains the right to publish the contest entries in any format to congratulate or feature the winners and their respective images, and to promote future events or initiatives in the context of the PSC Framework implementation, as well as for awareness-raising purposes for the work of the organizing entity. By entering the event, contestants agree that materials submitted can be used by OSESG-GL for social media and other future purposes.
- Post-processing images is allowed. However, all images should accurately represent the subject matter and nature. Images that appear to be overly processed may be disqualified at the judges' discretion.
- Organizers reserve the right to disqualify any entry that is deemed inappropriate or does not conform to stated contest rules.

10. Entries must be saved and submitted in either JPEG, JPG or PNG format and should be sized to be between 2000 and 6000 pixels in the longest dimension. The file size of images should be no more than 5MB per photo. Contestants should retain high-resolution and RAW files, if available, of their submissions. In the event their submission is selected as winner or runner-up, contestants will be asked to submit a high-resolution image for printing and display, and, if applicable, a RAW image to check if adjustments made to the image comply with the rules.