

31 July 2017

To: Members of the Peacebuilding Commission, Burundi Configuration

Informal meeting of the Burundi Configuration of the PBC

New York, 21 July 2017

Chair's Summary

1. The Chair of the PBC Burundi Configuration, H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber, briefed the Configuration on 21 July 2017 on his recent visit to Burundi (10 – 13 July). In his report, Ambassador Lauber indicated that the purpose of the trip was to pursue the dialogue on the socioeconomic situation and international cooperation with the Government and its multilateral and bilateral partners. In addition, the Chair wanted to reiterate commitment to the EAC-led dialogue process, and to get a first-hand impression on the developments in the country.
2. The Chair's briefing was based on the report of the visit [shared with PBC members after the meeting].
3. Ms. Mari Yamashita, Director and Deputy Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office, welcomed the conclusions which the Chair had outlined in his report. She emphasized that PBSO maintained its commitment to Burundi, including through PBF projects in the area of dialogue, human rights, youth engagement in social cohesion and community security, women's participation in political decision-making and regional dialogue efforts. Ms. Yamashita outlined some ideas for future PBF engagement with a focus on social cohesion, the preparation of the return of refugees and IDPs and support to the efforts of the SESG for the Great Lakes Region with a cross-border dimension.
4. H.E. Mr. Albert Shingiro, the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the UN, who had travelled with the Chair, briefed the Configuration on the visit and on the latest developments in Burundi. His statement has been shared with PBC members as well.
5. Following the briefings, Representatives of Uganda, Tanzania, the Republic of Korea, India, the Netherlands, France, Belgium, the USA, South Africa, Kenya, Norway, the Russian



Federation, China, took the floor to make comments and ask questions. In their statements, they welcomed the visit of the Chair and his intention to continue the socioeconomic dialogue with the government and its international partners. The need for a constructive engagement of all Burundian stakeholders in the EAC-led dialogue process was underlined by many delegates. Regional engagement was generally encouraged.

6. In conclusion, the Chair expressed his gratitude to the Government of Burundi and UN partners for organizing a very rich and insightful visit. He underlined the need to maintain support and attention to Burundi, including by a significant international presence in the country. He thanked Member States for their continuous support and commitment to the work of the Configuration.