

**PBC Burundi Configuration: Informal/informal experts-level meeting
Wednesday 15 April 2009, 15.10 to 16.20 in Room A**

Summary of discussions and action points

1. Members of the National Independent Electoral Commission have been appointed and sworn in. They are currently in South Africa to gain experience and learn from the elections in South Africa. The representative of Burundi informed that the Government of Burundi and CENI would be ready for the anticipated initial thematic meeting on elections in the second week of May (13 or 14). As key input to the meeting, the CENI will prepare an outline of the electoral process, comprising a preliminary calendar with key milestones and an indicative budget. PBSO will also prepare, in consultation with BINUB and relevant UN Departments, an issues paper on the subject in preparation of the meeting. These inputs will facilitate a focused discussion at the thematic meeting on the support from the PBC and other stakeholders to the elections in 2010. Mexico announced that they stand ready to support Burundi with technical assistance on a bilateral basis.
 2. On the DDR process, the note circulated on 08 April provides a good summary of issues and recommendations of actions by the PBC. Technical and operational issues are being addressed by the Government, the Facilitator and the International Coordination Group for the pre-DDR phase and coordination on the ground is going well. Political issues are also finding solutions following the meeting of the Political Directorate held on 8 April 2009 in Pretoria. The PBC will continue to follow the process closely, and any additional support will build on the momentum and efforts on the ground. With regard to the funding requirements for the pre-DDR phase, PBSO will share the details of the 2.3 millions USD BINUB has requested for this phase. This will guide any PBC members who wish to contribute to this budget.
 3. The Partners Coordination Group, GCP, is being reviewed in Bujumbura with a view to make it more efficient and rationalize coordination mechanisms. There are opportunities to simplify the structure, but they should take into account the value-added of the two Strategic Frameworks. For example, the merger of the 2 Monitoring and Evaluation Groups (for the PRSP and the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding) should take into account the composition of these groups, the nature of the issues and discussions and be used as an opportunity to further link monitoring of development efforts with peacebuilding processes. The next PRSP cycle planned in 2011 would provide an additional opportunity to bring together the development agenda and the peacebuilding process.
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