



Unofficial Summary
Informal meeting of the PBC Burundi Configuration

29 October 2008, ECOSOC Chamber

Introduction and agenda

1. Chair of the Burundi Configuration, Ambassador Anders Lidén (Sweden) briefed the members on his recent visit to Burundi, which took place from 21-24 October.

Recommendations for PBC and focus of CSM's work

2. The Chair highlighted the following urgent priorities for the CSM's engagement in Burundi in the next few months:

- strengthen political support to the mediation efforts of the South African Facilitation and the Regional Initiative for the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement, and for an immediate DDR+R of FNL combatants.
- support the creation of an environment propitious for the conduct of free and fair national elections in 2010 and to help ensure a timely and coordinated international assistance for their preparations and organisation;
- mobilize urgent support to address the challenges related to the Burundi returnees and refugees in the country, particularly their socio-economic reintegration and access to land.

3. Furthermore, the Chair called for PBC's support on the efforts to strengthen the rule of law and the fight against impunity, specifically through reducing the circulation of small arms among the civilian population, strengthening the capacities for police and justice sector and the timely establishments of a Human Rights Commission and of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to contribute to a national reconciliation.

Relations between PBC and Burundi

4. The Chair highlighted the following approach to ensure greater collaboration between the PBC and the Government of Burundi, and with stakeholders on the ground:

- Activate the Burundi Partnership Coordination Group involving all relevant stakeholders to drive the PBC agenda and to provide input to the CSM in New York on issues that require attention in implementing the Strategic Framework.
- Use flexibly the Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism (PBC benchmarks).
- Advocate for greater understating of the purpose and opportunity of the Strategic Framework as a contract between the Government of Burundi and the international community, and the separate role of the PBF.
- Provide further clarity on how the Strategic Framework and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.
- Reflect on and strengthen the role and capacity of the United Nations in support of peacebuilding in Burundi, particularly in the framework of BINUB's mandate.

Questions and answer

5. The representatives of Burundi, Egypt, Germany, Jamaica and United Kingdom took the floor welcoming the Chair's plan and providing additional considerations.

6. A call was made for a continuous Peacebuilding Fund engagement in Burundi. Strong concerns were relayed over delays in implementation of the peace agreement which set 31 December as deadline. Alleged FNL-led demonstrations on 26-27 October in parts of Burundi were condemned and the Government reportedly warned of its preparations for strong reactions to confront the FNL's provocations in the future.

7. A representative called for a stronger involvement of the UN agencies on the ground in implementation of the PBC priorities, preferably in a workplan in support of PBC. Others stressed the roles of PBC members and donors in the Partnership Coordination Group and the need to strengthen relations between them and NY. A member voiced concern over the possibility of PBC deviating into "peacekeeping" in Burundi, which he said would be detrimental to PBC's main work on peacebuilding.

8. The Chair stressed that an effective partnership between Burundi, PBC and donors on the ground were essential in the peacebuilding process, adding that the Bi-Annual Review of PBC recommendations would be conducted in due course.

Peacebuilding Support Office
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