

**Meeting of the Steering Group of the Burundi Configuration of the PBC -
14 June 2011 - Summary**

On Tuesday, 14 June, the Steering Group of the Burundi Configuration of the PBC held its first meeting at the Swiss Permanent Mission to the UN. Present were Burundi, Belgium, China, France, Kenya, Netherlands, South Africa, Uganda, European Union, DPA, PBSO and UNDP. Nigeria, Norway and Tanzania who also have indicated a readiness to be part of the group were absent.

Organization of the work:

Ambassador Paul Seger, the Chair of the Burundi Configuration of the PBC, outlined an understanding of the organization, structure and work of the Steering Group that was shared by all members present. One member expressed the wish for a work plan of the Steering Group. It is understood that:

- The Steering Group is an informal gathering of members of the CSC interested and committed to facilitating, supporting and accelerating implementation of the Outcome Document of 21 April, following an integrated approach.
- The Group takes no decisions and acts under the authority of CSC and the PBC as a whole. It will transmit to the CSC a summary of the deliberations of the Group after each of its meetings.
- The Group will meet monthly, or more frequently if needed.
- Meetings will consist of two parts – the first, an update on the situation and on current needs, the second focusing on a thematic issue.
- UNDP, DPA and PBSO are invited to attend the meetings of the Group. The Chair can also invite other entities or individuals with expertise in Burundi or issues related to peace-building on an ad hoc basis.
- Members of the Steering Group link closely with their representations in Burundi and with their capitals and exchange information on the situation in-country. SRSK Karen Landgren has agreed to brief the Steering Group by telephone at the beginning of each meeting.
- In order to further prioritize the peace-building issues defined in the Outcome Document the Chair encourages members of the Steering Group to focus on one of those issues, possibly taking the lead on the

issue or one particular aspect of it. South Africa indicated a willingness to lead on Reconciliation and Transitional Justice Matters. Netherlands also indicated its willingness to so identify a topic where it could take such a lead. Among other issues the Steering Group will focus on are: Inclusive political dialogue, the mobilization of resources for socio-economic reintegration of vulnerable groups and the preparation of a new PRSP -2 and the ensuing organization of a donor conference for its implementation.

Level of Representation

The Chair expressed a strong wish for members of the Steering Group to be represented at ambassadorial level in order for political discussions to take place.

Information by Burundi

Burundi informed the Steering Group that on 7 June the seven members of the National Human Rights Commission were sworn in. It is the understanding of the Government of Burundi that the commission will take over the reporting on human rights situation in Burundi that up to now was performed by a Special Rapporteur to the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The Special Rapporteur's report of 16 June is considered to be the last one. Burundi also informed that on 13 June a 7-member technical committee to elaborate on possible Transitional Justice Mechanisms has been established by Presidential Decree ("Décret pour la création et nomination du comité technique chargé de la préparation de la mise en œuvre des mécanismes de justice transitionnelle"). The committee is due to report to P resident Nkurunziza within 3 months.

Exchange with SRSB Landgren

The Chair reported on his exchanges with SRSB Landgren. The international community senses a need for clarification on the goals and status of preparation of the donor conference as envisaged in the Outcome Document of 21 April. According to SRSB Landgren there is general agreement in Bujumbura that a donor conference should only take place if the mobilization of additional resources for the implementation of a PRSP -2 is assured. Regarding the fragile situation in the province of Bujumbura Rural where further killings are reported, SRSB Landgren informed the Chair that President Nkurunziza has stepped up his attention to the situation, having visited the province five times since the beginning of May.

PBF response to the reintegration programme proposal

The Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) presented its response to the funding request of GoB/BNUB for socio-reintegration program made in April. (note: the request – only available in French - has been circulated by the Chair of the PBC. A summary in English is in preparation). The request concerns “catalytic” funding in the amount of 24 Mio USD in the context of a larger National Action Plan (263 Mio US Dollar). The request covers reintegration activities in 5 provinces and the establishment of a coordination office. Guided by the PBF renewal policy (criteria “small” and “consolidating”), the PBSO has decided to contribute 9,2 Mio from the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) out of the 24 Mio USD requested, covering programs in the provinces of Cibitoke and Bubanza as well as the coordination office. On the basis of exchanges with BNUB, the PBF signaled flexibility regarding the geographical allocation of the funding, taking into account the particularly fragile situation in Bujumbura Rural.

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It has been agreed to hold the next meeting in the first week of July as a breakfast meeting. The thematic issues will be the mobilization of resources for funding the socio-economic reintegration request and the donor conference.