

29 April 2015

**Chair's Summary of the informal meeting of the Burundi Specific
Configuration of the PBC, New York, 29 April 2014**

The PBC Burundi Configuration met today to hear an update on developments in Burundi since the ruling party's decision on Saturday, 25 April, to nominate the incumbent President, Pierre Nkurunziza, as its candidate for the presidential elections of June 2015, and to discuss the most appropriate means to support a peaceful and credible electoral process and prevent further escalation. Burundi's Minister of Interior, Mr. Edouard Nduwimana, as well as Mr. Sam Ibok, Director Africa I, UN Department of Political Affairs briefed the Configuration on the situation on the ground. Ambassador Albert Shingiro, Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations, addressed the Configuration as well. The delegates of Canada, Kenya, the United Kingdom, the European Union and OIF made statements.

The Chair took note of the CNDD-FDD's decision to nominate President Nkurunziza as their candidate for presidential elections, which has proven to be divisive. He voiced serious concerns regarding violent developments that have been taking place in Bujumbura since the announcement of the candidature on 25 April 2015. In particular, the Chair expressed his deep sympathies for the families of the victims. He made a strong call to the collective responsibility of all parties to keep their calm and not to resort to violence in any situation, in conformity with national and international obligations.

The Chair recalled the Government of Burundi's commitment ensure the security of all its citizens and to guarantee free, transparent, credible, inclusive and peaceful elections, in line with the joint communiqué adopted at the Roundtable meeting in December 2014. He also urged all political parties to participate in the upcoming elections in order to shape Burundi's future peacefully and through political means. He understood that the controversy over the legality of another presidential mandate would be brought to the Constitutional Court, and he appealed to all sides to respect the verdict. The Chair further underlined that all public freedoms, including the freedoms of expression, association and assembly must be upheld at all times and urged the authorities to investigate all human rights abuses, including alleged arbitrary arrests immediately and in an impartial manner to ensure that those responsible are held accountable.

The Chair urged all parties to restrain from using inflammatory language or hate speech and to re-establish political dialogue among all actors immediately. He further stressed the importance to adopt confidence-building measures to ease

tensions and safeguard the hard won peace and democratic stability, as anchored in the Arusha Peace agreement.

The Chair welcomed and encouraged continued high-level international engagement in Burundi, particularly by the UN through MENUB, the UNCT and the on-going engagement led by the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, Mr. Said Djinnit, at the request of the Secretary-General, as well as the work being undertaken by the African Union, including the meeting of its Peace and Security Council on 28 April that adopted a decision on the developments in Burundi. He further commended the efforts of Burundi's neighbours, mainly Rwanda, to accommodate refugees coming from Burundi and expressed concern about their high numbers.

The PBC Burundi Configuration will continue to follow the situation closely and stands ready to support Burundi and its people at this critical juncture of its journey towards sustainable peace and development.
