

23 November 2015

To : Members of the PBC – Burundi
Configuration

**Informal meeting of the Burundi Specific Configuration of the PBC,
New York, 18 November 2015**

Chair's Summary

On 18 November 2015 an informal meeting of the PBC Burundi Configuration took place at UN headquarters under the chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador Jürg Lauber. The purpose of the meeting was to debrief PBC members on the Chair's visit to Burundi and to the region (8-14 November) and to discuss the way forward. The Permanent Representative of Burundi, Ambassador Albert Shingiro, who had joined the Chair during the visit to Burundi, briefed the Configuration as well and interacted with members on the issues they raised on the situation in the country.

In his debriefing, the Chair summarized the results of his discussions on (a) the security situation, ongoing violence and violations of human rights; (b) dialogue initiatives; (c) the socio-economic impact of the current crisis and (d) partnership with regional and international actors. He further shared his views on the way forward in addressing the current crisis in Burundi. Details of the Chair's presentation are found in the report of the visit, shared with members the same day of the meeting.

In his statement, Ambassador Shingiro welcomed the report presented by the Chair as reflecting the main points discussed with his Government during the visit in Bujumbura. He recalled that the audience with the President of Burundi on 11 November was a key moment of the visit; the conversation lasted 45 minutes, in an atmosphere of trust. The President shared his vision for the next 5 years, which include inclusive political dialogue, national reconciliation, fight against poverty and preparation of his succession.

In addition, Ambassador Shingiro provided an update on the most recent developments in Burundi. He underscored that the membership of the national Commission for the inter-Burundian dialogue (CNDI) reflects the diversity of the country; he reassured that the dialogue process would be inclusive, involve Burundians from inside and outside the country and that his Government was open for technical assistance in respect of the principle of national ownership. He indicated that the mandate of the inter-Burundian dialogue Commission included political, social and economic issues, peace consolidation and security, the Arusha Accord, the Constitution, the global cease-fire Agreement, the Charter of national unity, etc. He mentioned that the national Commission for the inter-Burundian dialogue had launched its activities on Friday 13 November, with the participation of Uganda Defense Minister Kiyonga, who stated that the Ugandan facilitation would collaborate with the CNDI. Ambassador Shingiro reiterated that the dialogue process would not replace justice nor legitimize impunity and that meetings could take place inside and outside the country. He indicated that his Government would engage in dialogue only with peaceful stakeholders in line with the Security Council resolution 2248 of 12 November.

Ambassador Shingiro provided an update on the disarmament process initiated by his Government and made comments on the security situation.

The delegates of the US, Sweden, the UK, Kenya, Belgium, Tanzania, Uganda, Germany, the EU, China, France, Russia, Morocco and PBSO, took the floor to make comments and ask questions. They welcomed the report and suggestions made by the Chair on the end of violence and the resumption of dialogue. They reiterated the call, asking all parties to renounce to violence. They also underscored the need for inclusive dialogue; some delegates noted that without such an inclusive dialogue there was a risk of further radicalization. Overall, they agreed that inclusion, national ownership and partnership are useful underpinning principles of the dialogue process. Members of the Security Council reiterated their commitment to the SC/PBC cooperation, noting that both the SC resolution 2248 and the report of the PBC Chair provided a clear position on the dialogue process, in particular inclusion of Burundians within and outside the country, as well as the complementarity between the work of the CNDI and the Ugandan mediation, to which the delegate of Uganda reaffirmed his Government's commitment. PBSO indicated its willingness to work with the African Union in Burundi, particularly in supporting the work of Human Rights Observers, in the framework of the UN Security Council resolution 2248 of 12 November and of the

statement of the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC) on 17 October.

In reaction to some questions and concerns raised by delegates, Burundi Ambassador Shingiro indicated that the disarmament under way would be conducted in transparency, that the Government would accept the EU invitation under article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement, that Jamal Benomar, the new Special Advisor of the SG on Conflict Prevention, would be welcome in Burundi for his consultations in the framework of the SC resolution 2248. He further underscored that partnership was key to addressing the current crisis; in this regards, he welcomed offers of by the UN and other partners to support the work of the CNDI; such support might include expertise, financial resources, and facilitating consultations with the diaspora.

Delegates agreed to follow the situation attentively and to build on the current momentum and future opportunities; in this regards, they indicated interest in the outcome of the consultations the Special Advisor of the SG on Conflict Prevention was undertaking. Finally, they recalled the urgency to work on the design of the dialogue, its content, the structure, and modalities.
