



21 December 2010

To : Members of the PBC – Burundi Configuration

**Informal meeting of the Country Specific Configuration
of the PBC on Burundi, New York 21 December 2010**

Chair's Summary

On Monday, 20 December 2010, from 10:00 am to 11:15 a.m., in Conference Room 2 of the Temporary North Lawn Building, an informal meeting of the Country-Specific Configuration on Burundi of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC Burundi Configuration) took place under the chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador Paul Seger, Chair of the Burundi Configuration. The government of Burundi was represented by Ambassador Zacharie Gahutu, Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations in New York. In addition to members of the Configuration, the Department of Political Affairs and the Peacebuilding Support Office were also in attendance.

The purpose of the meeting was to update on the latest developments in Burundi, the Security Council resolution 1959 (2010) establishing the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) and preparations for the PBC visit to Burundi in early February 2011.

In his introductory remarks, the Chair thanked the United States, current President of Security Council and France for their lead role in drafting the resolution 1959 and clearly articulating the role of the PBC going forward. He referred to his recent discussion with the Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation, Mr. Augustin Nsanze, who reaffirmed that the work of the PBC should continue, taking into account the realities on the ground and the new UN mandate. The Chair underscored that 2011 would usher a new era in the Burundi – PBC engagement, focused on socio-economic development coupled with the consolidation of the political and institutional work.

Ambassador Zacharie Gahutu updated on the latest developments and initiatives relevant to peacebuilding that have made significant progress under the lead of the Government. These included 1) a bill setting up the office of the Ombudsman and its inauguration on 23 November; 2) Burundi presidency of East African Community (EAC); the President Pierre Nkurunziza of Burundi took over the EAC presidency from President Jakaya Kikwete at the 12th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State of the EAC in early December; 3) the report on the national consultations on the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms was submitted to President Nkurunziza on 7 December and events in support of its dissemination are planned in Gitega, Bujumbura mairie, Ngozi and Bururi;. 4) a series of workshop and awareness campaign on the fight against corruption was organized between 13 and 18 December and; 5) a law on the establishment of the National Independent Human Rights Commission was adopted by the National Assembly on 14 December. Ambassador Gahutu also welcomed the appointment of Ms. Karin Landgren as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Burundi.

In his briefing, the DPA delegate highlighted the broad areas of resolution 1959 (2010), including the mandate of BNUB. He underscored the work under way to ensure a smooth transition from BINUB to BNUB, including specific support to both national and international staff.

In response to DPA briefing, the UK Delegate , echoed by the Chair, stressed the need to speed up the recruitment in BNUB , in particular the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary –General, who will have a key role given her/his multiple functions of Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative. DPA delegate informed members that the terms of reference for this post had been finalised and the position advertised. He informed that the recruitment process will be handled by UNDP and UNDG with the support of DPA.

Next Steps: The chair stated that Security Council Resolution 1959 clearly articulates the role of the PBC in 2011. It “requests” the PBC to assist the Government of Burundi in “laying the foundations for sustainable peace

and security, reintegration and long-term development, including ensuring that progress is made in the implementation of rule of law and that peacebuilding objectives are fully taken into account in the future strategic planning processes, in particular the PRSP”. The PBC is particularly encouraged to bolster support to the sustainable reintegration of vulnerable groups.

In order to pursue these tasks, the Chair has proposed to the government of Burundi a visit of the PBC in the first week of February 2011, with the intention to further refine the future role of the PBC in the context of the 5th review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi. Following confirmation by the government of Burundi, the dates and the format of the visit will be announced to members of the Configuration.
