

by Evariste NGENDANKENGERA, Charge d'Affaires a.i , during the High-level meeting of replenishment for funding resources for the Peacebuilding Fund, January 26th, 2021.

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General and all the Co-chairs for organizing this high-level meeting which comes at the right time to replenish funding resources for the Peacebuilding Fund. I would also like to express my country's gratitude to the Secretary-General and the Peacebuilding Fund for playing an important role in the process of restoring peace in Burundi, a peace that we are enjoying right now.

Burundi has benefited from very considerable support from the Peacebuilding Fund since 2007, whose programs have had an incredibly positive impact on the lives of our communities with an amount nearly 48.5 million dollars including the last additional project which was approved under the Global Youth Peacebuilding Initiative for an amount of 1.5 million dollars.

The Peacebuilding Fund financed projects that covered the entire national territory and responded to national peacebuilding priorities through the support of national dialogue, the promotion of women's leadership and the participation of young people, the promotion of human rights and democratic governance.

Mr. President,

The Peacebuilding Fund has also supported key institutional reforms in institutions seen as contributing to the development of a liberal democratic state that can support peace, by funding advances in Burundian army reform as well as the promotion of leadership of women and youth and the promotion of social cohesion in communities.

To contribute to this area of peacebuilding, Burundi is participating in peacekeeping activities in Somalia and Central Africa to share the dividends of the peace already required with the support of the United Nations in terms of peace building. Although the 2020 elections were peaceful, we still facing some aftermath of the 2015 crisis, in particular the issue of the return of refugees and the reintegration of



internally displaced persons, the sanctions imposed on Burundi not yet lifted, the freezing of budget support, what comes to reduce the resources mobilization environment in Burundi. However, the new government recognizes the importance of addressing the causes of conflict, as evidenced by the inclusion of peace and reconciliation among the six priorities of the government announced in the speech of the President of the Republic.

Burundi is carrying out an exercise on the process of the strategic review of the Peacebuilding Fund consisting of the situational assessment which will serve as a reference to identify the priorities for the PBC to be set for the period 2021-2025 by the Government therein. including the PBC, the UN and the Civil society, and to develop a PBF engagement strategy for Burundi with the clear involvement of the Government and a portfolio of projects that support Burundi in achieving the SDGs 16 and the national priorities defined in the Burundi National Development Plan 2018-2027

To conclude, my delegation believes that predictable and innovative financing for the PBF is essential to succeed to the objectives of the PBC especially during this pandemic of COVID -19 and reaffirms its commitment through Burundi configuration of peacebuilding commission chaired by Switzerland and reiterates its full cooperation.

Thank you for your kind attention.

