

Chairman's Summary
Informal Meeting on the Chair's participation in the meeting of Special Representatives
and Special Envoys on Burundi CSM
29 February 2008

1. The main purpose of the meeting was to brief the members of the Burundi CSM on the **outcome of the meeting of Special Representatives and Special Envoys on Burundi held in Cape Town from 22 to 23 February 2008**. The Chair took advantage of the meeting to highlight progress in the implementation of the CSM's workplan, including relevant developments in Burundi.
2. The meeting was **chaired by H.E. Mr. Johan L. Løvald, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations**. In his introductory remarks, he recalled that the full implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement was one of the main peacebuilding benchmarks in the PBC's Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism for the Strategic Framework.
3. The Chair reported that **significant progress was achieved** during the two-day meeting days, which produced a common position as to how the international community, led by the Facilitation, should help the Burundian parties restart the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement and successfully conclude the last phase of the peace process. Agreement was reached on a Programme of Action that corresponds to the Facilitator's mandate, which was recently extended until the end of 2008. The **Programme of Action, which the Facilitator would be conveying to both parties, comprised two phases**. The first deals with the return of the FNL to the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the return of the FNL leadership to Burundi. The second phase of the Facilitator's Programme of Action, expected to start in July, envisages the Political Directorate closely monitoring progress towards the reintegration of FNL in the various national institutions, as well as their socio-economic reintegration at the community level.
4. Another important achievement of the meeting was the **agreement reached on how to deal with the question of the alleged FNL dissidents** who have been gathered in locations in Burundi and are a potential source of insecurity. It was agreed that the best course of action for these alleged FNL dissidents was for the Government to take responsibility to process their demobilization through the Executive Secretariat of the National Commission on DDR.
5. The Chair observed that he was very glad to see the **convergence of views by a wide range of international partners** on the overall way forward and noted that he will keep the PBC closely informed. The next meeting of the group of Special Envoys on Burundi is expected to take place in New York in May. He suggested that the Burundi CSM

convene a meeting with the envoys to exchange views and to see how the PBC could support ongoing efforts in light of developments in the peace process at that time.

6. The Chair concluded by noting that it was important that the Burundi CSM continue to follow the work of the Facilitation and the Political Directorate, and to be prepared to provide any support that may be required from it. As soon as the Facilitation will have consulted the parties, the **Chair will submit proposals to the Burundi CSM on how the PBC might best support ongoing efforts**. The proposals would be reviewed at expert-level before a formal CSM is convened to discuss and adopt relevant recommendations.
7. The **delegations of Jamaica, Luxembourg, Belgium and the European Community** took the floor to welcome the positive outcome of the Cape Town meeting, commend the chair for his active involvement in the process, and support his proposal for the way forward. It was suggested that in identifying a possible added value of the PBC to the process, the Burundi CSM should be guided by recommendations of the Political Directorate and continue to advocate for adequate attention to the country's efforts towards economic recovery.
8. Under other matters, the Chair made a few **announcements related to the implementation of the Burundi CSM's workplan**.
9. The President of Burundi, **H.E. Pierre Nkurunziza launched the work of the "Groupe de Coordination de Partenaires GCP" on 25 February 2008** in Bujumbura. Information related to the launch was shared with members of the CSM by email. PBCSO is following up on the technical work which is to start in Bujumbura, and has also started to work on a mapping of resources allocated to the priorities of the Strategic Framework.
10. The Chair gave a brief account of his **two-day visit in Washington (27-28 February) undertaken jointly with the Chair of the Sierra Leone CSM, H.E. Mr. Frank Majoor**. The purpose of the joint visit was to meet with officials from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group, including the International Financial Corporation (IFC). The Chair also met with the Executive Director of the Nordic-Baltic group at the World Bank. The two Chairs also met with officials at the US State Department, USAID and National Security Council and briefed them on the work of the PBC. The Chair noted that these types of visits will continue to other capitals and stakeholders as time permits.
11. The Chair reiterated his **intention to build on the sessions of the Working Group on Lessons Learned on Gender (29 January) and Transitional Justice (26 February) to communicate relevant observations** to Burundi. He underlined that the observations, to be compiled with the support of relevant UN departments and agencies, would be circulated to members of the CSM before they are sent to Burundi.
12. The Chair informed the CSM that the **Government of Burundi had accepted the dates proposed for the visit of a delegation of the Burundi configuration of the PBC to Burundi (week of 21 April)**. The consultations with the Government of Burundi,

BINUB and members of the Burundi CSM on the preparations for a programme for the visit will start, including contacts with the chairs of regional groups for nomination of members of the delegation. The programme for the visit will be adopted by the Burundi CSM.

13. The **next informal meeting of the Burundi CSM will be on the support for the establishment of an independent National Electoral Commission (NEC)** in preparation for local, legislative and presidential elections in 2010. The Chair underlined the importance of timely and orderly preparations in support to these key milestone events in the country's process to consolidate peace.

PBSO, New York
3 March 2008