

# United Nations Nations Unies

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18 December 2013

Mr. Speaker,

In my capacity as Chair of the Burundi Configuration of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, I have the honour to enclose herewith the following message of support to the process of revision of the Constitution of Burundi:

Guided by the principle of national ownership, the UN Peacebuilding Commission has been accompanying Burundi since 2006, providing advice on political and economic matters, as well as providing support for concrete initiatives, including the Geneva Partners' Conference of 2012. The UN Peacebuilding Commission has been informed that Burundi has initiated a process of revising its Constitution. We recognize that this is indeed within Burundi's prerogatives as a sovereign State and express our hope that the revisions will be deliberated and further advance the country's political stability and the inclusiveness of Burundi's democratic foundations.

Following the conclusion of the Arusha Accords, Burundi enacted the 2005 Constitution, which enshrines the principles of these Peace Accords, which Burundians and its' friends continue to consider as a social contract between Burundians. Since the signing of the Arusha Accords, Burundi has made significant progress both in terms of political stability of internal security. We congratulate the Government of Burundi and the Burundian people for this success and we encourage Burundi to continue on this path.

Given the importance of the Constitutional revision process under way, the Burundi Configuration of the UN Peacebuilding Commission held a meeting on 16 December 2013 to discuss how it can support this process with a view to sustaining the process of peace consolidation.

While members of the Burundi Configuration of the UN Peacebuilding Commission fully respect the sovereignty of Burundi and its prerogatives to adapt its organic law to changes in the context, they were of the view that such a process would benefit from broad and inclusive consultations, in the spirit of transparency and in order to allow meaningful participation of civil society. On the basis of the Arusha Accords, such consultations would generate the necessary national consensus that would form a more secure popular basis for the revision of the Constitution. Against this background, members of the Burundi Configuration of the UN Peacebuilding Commission highly commend your initiative to invite all stakeholders to participate in consultations on the amendments to the Constitution, on 19 and 20 December 2013. This event will be a milestone in the process of building consensus.

Honorable Dr. Pie Ntavyohanyuma  
Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic Burundi  
BP 120 Bujumbura - Burundi

In the same spirit, we wish to encourage stakeholders in Burundi, in particular the extra-parliamentary opposition, to respond positively to your invitation, to participate in the consultations of 19-20 December 2013, and to contribute to the dialogue in a constructive manner.

The Burundi Configuration of the UN Peacebuilding Commission reiterates its support to the Government and the people of Burundi in carrying out this important project in the spirit of the Arusha Accords, the basis of peace and stability in Burundi. In this context, we believe that the two days of consultations could be used as a starting point of a process that will lead to a broader agreement on the substantive issues of the Constitutional revision. Such an approach to the meeting would make consultations more effective and targeted..

The UN Peacebuilding Commission stands ready to support the Constitutional review process by providing additional resources, for instance by mobilising technical expertise in legislative matters, should Burundi wish to receive such assistance. We are also willing to request a contribution by the Peacebuilding Fund to support further consultations and workshops that would contribute to the success of the Constitutional revision process, and that would help you to sustain this spirit of dialogue, openness and transparency in the run up of the 2015 elections.

Please accept, M. Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Paul R. Seger, Chair  
Peacebuilding Commission – Burundi  
Configuration