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auprès des Nations Unies à New York**

**Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United
Nations in New York**

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Conseil de sécurité

La situation au Burundi

Déclaration prononcée par

S.E. M. Paul Seger

**Président de la Réunion spécifique de la Commission de consolidation de la
paix sur le Burundi Débat thématique**

New York, le 9 décembre 2010

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Mr. President,

On behalf of the Burundi Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, I thank you for the invitation to address the Security Council in today's debate. I speak in my capacity as chair of the Burundi Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

I also thank the Secretary-General for his report. It addresses all pertinent aspects of peacebuilding in Burundi in a comprehensive and balanced way. And let me extend my thanks to the ERSGs Youssef Mahmoud and Charles Petrie and to DRSG Bintou Keita, with whom I enjoyed and enjoy an excellent collaboration which I am looking forward to continue with the next UN leadership.

In its Resolution 1902 (2009), adopted by the Security Council at its 6245th meeting, on 17 December 2009, the Security Council welcomed the continued engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission in Burundi and encouraged the Government of Burundi, the Peacebuilding Commission, and its national and international partners to honor the commitments they have made under the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding. The Council also requested the Peacebuilding Commission, with support from BINUB, to continue to assist the Government of Burundi in laying the foundations for sustainable peace and security, reintegration and long-term development in Burundi and in mobilizing the resources needed to achieve these goals, including for the 2010 elections.

Mr. President,

My statement is structured in three parts. One, a short overview of the activities of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission. Two, an assessment of the current situation after the comple23776 Tc () Tj0.07776 Tc (t) Tj-0.08448 T Tj-0.08448 Tc (he) Tj0 -17.28 (on) Tj0.07776 Tc (f) Tj0.16224 Tc (i) Tu

members to be updated on the electoral process and to discuss opportunities to further support the democratic process and encourage an inclusive approach with a view to the upcoming legislative elections.

Mid-way during the elections, in my capacity as new Chair of the Burundi Configuration, I undertook a visit to Bujumbura from 30 June to 3 July 2010 with the objective to better understand progress made in the tw

financial contributions, others generated mutual appreciation of the need to work together and still others laid the foundation of enhanced cooperation in the future.

On 24 September 2010, in the margin of the high-level segment of the General Assembly, I co-hosted with my colleague Ambassador Zacharie Gahutu, the Permanent Representative of Burundi in New York, a lunch as a way to pursue engagement with the Government of Burundi, with a particular focus on the post electoral opportunities and challenges and the long-term engagement of the PBC with Burundi. During that lunch, Augustin Nsanze, the Burundian Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation, provided an update on the key outcomes of the elections and acknowledged the role played by the international community and the region. I reiterated the importance of a sustained political dialogue between the government and the opposition which had been mentioned by several speakers during the lunch.

Assessment

Clearly, with the completion of this year's electoral cycle - to the satisfaction of all observers - Burundi opens a new chapter – one that takes the building of a sustainable economy and economical improvement for all center stage. The outlook is good in many regards. There is a stable, newly legitimized government at work, and there is the prospect of economic integration into the East-African Community which makes Burundi part of a larger market. But this might not be enough. For economic development to take off and for an economy to function successfully, there needs to be a set of non-economical, i.e. social, institutional and political conditions in place – the often-mentioned “conducive environment”. There remain challenges in this regard. First the institutional challenge of still widespread corruption and of a lack of progress in justice sector reform as referred to in the Secretary-General's report. Secondly, the political challenges posed by the opposition outside of parliament, by some irresponsible threats or even acts of politically motivated violence, and an increase in extra-judicial killings as described in the Secretary-General's report. Some of the members of our Configuration are particularly concerned about the “significant increase in human rights violations” as mentioned in the report, including cases of torture, infringements of civil rights and measures perceived as intimidations of the press. Third the social challenge of a growth of fear and an erosion of trust. And fourth, the risk of donor fatigue in the context of the budgetary pressures we all experience in our capitals.

Outlook

Mr. President,

The engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission in Burundi as we kdent, 0.07776 Tc () Tj-j-0.08448 Tc (he) T (c) s t and a

which peacebuilding issues warrant further engagement of the Commission. These decisions will evidently be taken with the government of Burundi which is a member of our Configuration. They should, in my view, be in alignment with the mandate of the future UN presence your Council is about to consult on. I understand our role as country configuration in supporting the mandate of the UN presence in Burundi. In all of this we should not lose sight of the fact that our core constituents are 8,5 million Burundian citizens. We all have the responsibility to support the Government as it delivers to this population the key services a Government is accountable for.

Mr. President, the 2010 elections in Burundi have shown that national actors, regional actors and the international community can work together and provide efficient support to a complex process such as elections. The same experience leaves us with a big lesson that maybe we need to further put elections in a wider context and long-term perspective. I see four entry points for a future PBC engagement with Burundi:

- Ø First and most immediately, the Burundi presidency of the East African Regional Integration. If Burundi needs support in fulfilling this important regional role, the PBC stands ready to work with the UN leadership in mobilising the resources required, once the needs have been clearly identified and their costs assessed.
- Ø Second, the new Poverty Reduction Strategy Burundi has embarked on. In the view of many of our members, the new PRSP should take particular peacebuilding sensitivities into account, and the PBC could have a role in making the PRSP “conflict-sensitive”, not least drawing on previous experience in other peacebuilding contexts.. Moreover, the PBC could be of additional value in specific, sensitive areas such as the long-term reintegration of demobilized individuals and populations particularly affected by the conflict. Furthermore, the PBC could play its part in mobilizing the investment required for certain priorities in a conflict-sensitive long-term development agenda. I would like to commit the PBC in mobilizing traditional donors and assisting the Government to attract new investments. Let’s use the next donor conference to stimulate new business opportunities in Burundi. We believe that a strong and equitable economic development will absorb or reduce a lot of the current socio-political pressures and tensions.
- Ø Third, there is a whole array of rule-of-law issues Burundi needs support for and assistance with. For the PBC, transitional justice is one of those issues of particular importance. We highly appreciate the publication of the report on the national consultation on transitional justice. It will now be up to the Burundian authorities to follow-up on the recommendations in this report, and the Peacebuilding Commission is ready to lend support to this process. This leads to the wider issue of national reconciliation and overcoming the culture of impunity. I would like to point out that, in view of the commemoration in the coming years of several of the tragic events of the past, additional stress on reconciliation is to be reckoned with.
- Ø Fourth, and most delicate, dialogue. The culture of dialogue inherited from Arusha and embedded in the Burundian tradition and Constitution as way to address socio-economic and political challenges is under constraint. Some elements of the Burundian polity have not only

