

24 June 2016

To : Members of the PBC – Burundi Configuration

Informal meeting of the Burundi Configuration of the PBC, New York,  
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Chair's Summary

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greater resources must be mobilised through support to the "strategic" response Plans 2000 and the Regional Refugee Response Plan 2000-2001 for Burundi which both remain underfunded. The UN Representative indicated that it is "crucial" that States grant refugees a safe haven, preserve the humanitarian character of asylum, and do not infringe upon the freedom of movement of the displaced. Mr. Odeh had stressed that strengthening the socio-economic resilience of the displaced and ensuring their participation in the national reconstruction process at this juncture is a compelling imperative. He underscored that addressing the root causes of the crisis was, in essence, entering a rephase into "conflict".

5. The Chair suggested the objectives of his visit to Tanzania and Burundi on 10-11 June, were to pursue the engagement with the Government and the stakeholders, with a view to complementing efforts by the Government, Council of Ministers, actors on the ground and regional organizations to support a durable and inclusive process to discuss and raise the awareness on the socio-economic impact of the crisis in order to sustain the attention on structural and compelling issues and to support PB2 activities.

6. In his remarks, Mr. Jean-Luc Odiang'ira, Director General, informed PBC members that on 21-24 March, ( / C 2) initiator, former President of Tanzania, Benjamin Mkandawire, had convened a meeting with Burundian stakeholders in Dar es Salaam. Some members of the Commission ( / C 1) and Civil Society, had participated in the event for its 3rd of initiative. On 10-11 June, President Mkandawire met with Commission members in Brussels, Belgium. The second round of talks is scheduled to take place in June, the main issues are who should participate in the talks, the structure and the agenda of the dialogue. Mr. Odiang'ira indicated that discussions were under way, to organize the support to the facilitation he further indicated that the Commission, the Government and the UN were discussing the best way, to coordinate their support to the dialogue which is still in its initial phase. He emphasized the resources provided by the PB2 in support of the dialogue process.

E. Mr. Guterres, from the World Bank, speaking via FTC from Dar es Salaam, noted that

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9. In his briefing, 10 May 2010, Mr. Omondi noted the positive trends, outlining in particular the following developments. Positive developments included the reduction in number of armed conflicts to 46 in 2009, compared to 46 in 2008. Under negative developments, Mr. Omondi indicated that injuries remain high, with indiscriminate grenade attacks against the civilian population, including in the area. He further stated that 44 EAC had been arbitrarily arrested from 11 June, and that torture was still ongoing. He warned about signs of a growing ethnic dimension to the crisis, which would require greater international attention.
10. He noted that there were 266,000 refugees, and about 100,000 IDPs, of which 100,000 were displaced during the current conflict. Mr. Omondi highlighted the need for increased monitoring of the human rights situation, including through a Human Rights Observer Mission. He informed that OCHA was working with the Human Rights Observers in Burundi, including them with training and logistical support, as well as enhancing information. He noted that the current OCHA mission of 40 international and 10 national based in Burundi is facing challenges of funding in 2010.
10. In his statement, Ambassador Ohingiro highlighted the assessment provided by 10 May 2010. He indicated that the security, as good, with the exception of a few cases. He noted that crimes were common to many countries. He remarked that according to the recent visit of the three human rights experts of the Independent Investigation on Burundi (IIG) who report to the Human Rights Council, the situation had significantly improved. Ambassador Ohingiro regretted that the gap between the descriptions of situation in the UN in Burumbura and in the UN in the UN were different. He provided figures reflecting the implementation of the measures taken by President Burundish in February. He stated that 100 prisoners had been released, an action that had reduced the number of prisoners by 20%. He remarked that perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence were not eligible to these release measures. He informed PBC members that the initial dialogue was under way, both outside and within the country. He noted that the external dialogue would not discuss border sharing, a subject that was addressed by the Kigali / Rwanda / Burundi and the Constitution of 2003; rather it would be a tool for forging social cohesion. He reiterated that youths and their families would not be part of the dialogue process and underlined that the external dialogue must be complemented by the internal dialogue. Ambassador Ohingiro remarked that reports on the situation contain evidence of a growing and disturbing situation to Burundi rebels in the east, and called on the Burundian Government to stop destabilizing Burundi. In conclusion, he stated that the security, and initial situation

11. In her remarks, Mari Yamashita, Director of PBO, welcomed the upcoming Chair's visit to Burundi and to the region, the discussion on the dialogue process with the mediator, President M3a, on the economic aspects of the crisis, with the World Bank, the IMF, the African Development Bank, and economic actors in