



28 November 2016

**Informal meeting of the Burundi Configuration of the PBC, New York,**  
**18 November 2016**

*Chair s Summary*



4. The consultations revealed that Burundi was experiencing severe macroeconomic difficulties. Among the key indicators for these challenges were a GDP decline of



sector. He also pointed to the specific needs of refugees and IDPs. Mr. Lembo informed the Configuration that a humanitarian briefing took place on 9 November in Geneva which had allowed UN agencies on the ground to share their assessment with the international community. In concluding, he mentioned that the UN Country Team had started to discuss the follow-up of the Geneva consultations with both the Government and the diplomatic community in Bujumbura.

10. Reena Ghelani, Deputy Director of the Coordination and Response Division of OCHA, reported that 26 % of the population (i.e. 3 million people) currently depended on humanitarian aid. 00 persons were affected by acute food insecurity and 1.2 million children under five years were affected by chronic malnutrition. The number of displaced persons amounted to were internally displaced persons within Burundi. 50 % of the state budget relied on international aid. Ms. Ghelani thanked the international community for its generous support, but underlined that further efforts would be needed with a particular focus on food insecurity and its impact.
11. PBSO Director Mari Yamashita welcomed the preparatory consultations in Geneva in which ASG Oscar Fernandez-Taranco had participated. She said that the discussions in Geneva suggested that macro-economic reforms and socio-economic interventions could be intentionally designed to prevent the crisis from further escalating in a way which would take peacebuilding prerogatives into account. She reminded the Members of the Configuration that national leadership was key to implement the reforms agreed in Geneva in October 2012 and in Bujumbura in December 2014. Ms. Yamashita referred to the ongoing PBF programs and recommended to program remaining PBF resources with a focus on strengthening social cohesion and sustaining on-going peacebuilding initiatives. In that regard, Security Council resolutions 2242 (2015) on women, peace and security and 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security could offer guidance on how to put women and youth at the centre of a peacebuilding strategy.
12. Ambassador Albert Shingiro, Permanent Representative of Burundi, thanked the Chair,

convened in Geneva to prepare a socioeconomic conversation with the Government. His Government shared the view that health, agriculture and education were the most affected areas. Ambassador Shingiro welcomed the approach taken by the co-organizers and said that consultations should now be followed by concrete actions. He indicated that Burundi remained committed to both the internal and the external dialogue process and encouraged Member States to support President Museveni and former President Mkapu in their efforts. He described the internal dialogue as more advanced than the external dialogue and noted that, in many contexts, dialogues within countries proved to be particularly successful. He regretted the suspension of cooperation by the European Union and the general decrease in budget support measures which affected the most vulnerable parts of the population. The Government had tabled a budget for 2017 which was realistic and included austerity measures. While inflation remained weak, the private sector (namely tourism and construction) was affected by decreasing

