

in the country, and invited the international community to lend financial support to these efforts. He briefed on the government's 10-year National Development Plan, which he described as multifaceted and called on partners to support its

link provided between the PBC and the Security Council and welcomed the Chair's planned trip to Burundi and his focus on the socio-economic development.

10. Lessons were shared from the Sierra Leone PBC Configuration, namely on elements which had been pivotal in ensuring free and fair elections in Sierra Leone. This include the neutrality and impartiality of the electoral commission, its access to resources and a careful preparation of the army, police and judiciary for the elections.
11. In terms of challenges, several delegations expressed concerns about reports on grave human right violations, and encouraged the government to fully cooperate with the UN human rights mechanisms, namely with the Human Right Council and its commission of inquiry. They also encouraged Burundi to resume collaboration with the OHCHR. The humanitarian challenges were generally perceived as worrying, with 3.6 million Burundians in need. In this regard, many delegations expressed their concern over the Government's decision to suspend the activities of all foreign NGOs which do not comply with new regulation with immediate effect for a period of 3 months. Several Members argued this could have grave consequences for the people most in need, and the government was encouraged to seek a solution as soon as possible.
12. H. E. Mr. Albert Shingiro, Permanent Representative of Burundi thanked member states for their interventions, highlighting that their commitment and activity demonstrate their friendship with Burundi and the importance of the configuration. Ambassador Shingiro explained that NGOs which adapt to the new legal conditions will be able to operate again in Burundi. He stressed Burundi is aware of the challenges it faces, but prefers dialogue and communication over political pressure. He underlined that previous positive steps by the Government, such as the release of prisoners, had not yet yielded the expected positive reactions by the international community.
13. H. E. Mr. Jürg Lauber concluded the meeting with a number of takeaways, which included the broadly shared commitment from Member States to support Burundi through ongoing political social challenges and strengthen the resilience of its people. He stressed that recent developments are opportunities for renewed and intensified engagement and the need to solve the NGO issue. As for the planned 5th round of the EAC-led dialogue he highlighted its potential to ease the tensions between the Government and key donors if it is able to bear a positive outcome. He thanked the Member States for supporting for his travel plans and the intended continuation of the socioeconomic dialogue.