

3 June 2015

To : Members of the PBC – Burundi Configuration

**Informal meeting of the Burundi Specific Configuration of the
PBC, New York, 03 June 2015**

On Wednesday, 3 June 2015, from 10am to 12pm an informal meeting of the PBC Burundi Configuration took place at UN headquarters under the chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador Paul Seger. Mr. Saïd Djinnit, Special Envoy of the Secretary-

the dialogue. The facilitation team used the suspension to hold individual consultations with the various stakeholders, which led to the resumption of the dialogue on 28 May with the participation of all concerned parties. The SESG explained that the discussions were still structured around five agenda items, including 1) confidence-building measures; 2) management of electoral calendar; 3) conditions for free, fair and peaceful elections; 4) respect of Arusha and the Constitution; 5) constitutional freedoms and liberties. In many areas, participants had found agreements in principle, but the issues of the third term and the management of demonstrations still proved very divisive. SESG Djinnit also briefed on the EAC Summit that took place in Dar es Salaam on 31 May and in which he participated. He particularly referred to the statement that was adopted after the Summit by the members of the EAC calling on the Burundian government to postpone elections by at least one and a half month to allow the establishment of conditions conducive for the holding of credible elections. The SESG underlined that the outcome should give impetus to the political dialogue and commended the region for its role in facilitating a lasting political solution to the Burundian crisis. Looking forward, Mr. Djinnit stated that following the EAC Summit his first priority was to resume the dialogue process as soon as possible with all participants and with the help and guidance of the regional actors. A ministerial delegation of the EAC was set to arrive in Bujumbura soon. He stressed the importance of rapidly taking a decision on the management of the electoral calendar in light of the EAC's recommendations. Concluding his briefing, the SESG noted that prevention efforts were key at this point, also to stay clear of potential divisions along ethnic lines.

The Minister of Interior of Burundi noted improvements with regard to the security situation with the intensity of protests diminishing, daily activities picking up in main urban centres and more than 30'000 refugees returning to the country. He referred to ongoing unrest and violence as cases of criminality and called on the international community to condemn those acts. He deplored that some political leaders had welcomed the attempted coup d'état which he saw as a negative sign for ongoing needs towards reconciliation in Burundi. The Minister commended Mr. Djinnit and regional actors for facilitating the political dialogue to which his Government would fully subscribe. He also

floor. All delegations fully backed efforts carried out by SESG Djinnit and the region. They called for the swift implementation of all recommendations made at the EAC Summit to ensure the establishment of conditions for the holding of elections (i.a. immediate stop to violence, disarmament of youth groups, respect of human rights and all public freedoms, return of refugees, repeal of arrest warrants against political and civil society leaders, liberation of detainees, establishment of security for all, respect of all political rights). Belgium specifically called for a strong and independent follow-up mechanism to monitor the implementation of these conditions and suggested that MENUB and the SESG should play a central part in it. Delegations also echoed the Chair by stressing the need to address post-electoral reconciliation needs as early as possible. They also commended the PBC for its role and stressed that it should continue to closely follow the situation. ASG Fernandez-Taranco referred to the Peacebuilding Fund as important instrument to support the implementation of the EAC's recommendations, particularly in the areas of political dialogue through SESG Djinnit and the disarmament of youth groups. Burundi's Chargée d'affaires, Ms. Anésie Ndayishimiye, thanked the regional actors, the PBC and PBSO for supporting her country and underlined once more her Government's commitment to dialogue.

In concluding, the Chair used the metaphor of a ship in troubled waters to illustrate Burundi's current situation. He stressed that the EAC Summit in conjunction with the SESG's dialogue process would now offer a unique framework to steer the ship back on track. He appealed to the responsibility and civic far-sightedness responsibility