

Peacebuilding Commission
Ambassadorial-Level Meeting on Burundi
2 November 2021

1. On 2 November, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) held an ambassadorial-level meeting on Burundi chaired by H.E. Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl, Chair of the PBC Burundi Configuration. Building on the presentation of *National Programme on Peace Capitalization, Social Stability and Promotion of Economic Growth* (“*the Programme*”) to the PBC in July, the meeting allowed member states to learn about the challenges to youth economic empowerment and entrepreneurship in Burundi as well as how the UN is working to support youth economic empowerment.

2. In her opening remarks, the Chair noted that at the last meeting of the Configuration, member states expressed the wish to discuss the issue of support for youth economic development. She informed that the importance of empowering young people in Burundi was also discussed during her meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, H.E. Mr. Albert Shingiro, in September. The Chair stressed that the creation and

judiciary and the good functioning of transitional justice processes and the work of the Independent Human Rights Commission. He informed of an ongoing dialogue with the media, civil society organizations and political parties. The Ambassador closed by reiterating the

partners to achieve the Programme and promote economic growth.

4. Mr. Damien Mama, UN Resident Coordinator in Burundi, noted the timeliness of a meeting on youth economic empowerment and

animal husbandry, animal feed, crop control and green energy production for farm needs. He informed that it was also an agricultural farm which provided training courses for youth. The farm had trained 894 youth, who later created nearly 500 jobs for themselves in agriculture particularly in animal husbandry. Mr. Dusabe further informed that the farm had helped to create 3091 non-permanent jobs for youth as well as two permanent jobs for two young engineers. He welcomed thanked partnership in the trainings.

7. Ms. Yvonne Kwitonde, representing the Cooperative of Young People for Self-Development, informed that the Cooperative aimed to create jobs for youth, and young women in particular through animal husbandry. The Cooperative submitted an animal husbandry project to BIJE, and after receiving support, has seen an increase in animal production as well as milk production and the sales of local milk products. She further informed that there was an increase in the number of women working. Ms. Kwitonde thanked the government for its initiatives in support of youth empowerment.
8. Ms. Desideratte Minani explained that her association, Ejo Ni Heza, was an entrepreneurial initiative inspired by life skills training and the entrepreneurial self-care model. She informed that the association had started saving until they found enough capital to rent land to grow corn and beans. She recalled that after completing the upshift methodology training of identifying community challenges and co-creative innovative solutions in response, members of the association identified that lack of hygiene was a community challenge they wanted to address. After an association member received training in soap production, the association started producing soap in September 2020 with a capital of 400,000 FBU and had since made a profit of 600,000 FBU. She informed of the associations intention to launch a third entrepreneurial project on the sewing with the support of two association members currently in sewing training. In closing Ms. Minani expressed thanks for the capacity building support provided by a project financed by the Peacebuilding Fund and emphasized that cohesion among young people is an essential component of economic empowerment.
9. Ms. Daines Nkurunziza, a seamstress, described the difficulties of affording school and was thankful for the opportunity to learn entrepreneurship skills because of project financed by the Peacebuilding Fund. She informed that she had joined a solidarity group of 30 youth which allowed her to access credit for a small business and, with her savings, she set up a sewing workshop and bought her own sewing machine. She welcomed her new financial independence and the ability to contribute to her family and

ownership and sustainability of results. They encouraged all stakeholders to support meaningful, diverse and effective youth engagement.

They underscored the importance of regional cooperation and integration and noted the importance of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in facilitating youth development.

They reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable development and called for ongoing support to the National Development Plan and the *Programme*.

They reiterated the importance of inclusion to sustaining peace and encouraged the effective integration of returnees and IDPs. Additionally, they called for dedicated financing for women entrepreneurs.

13. In closing, the Chair thanked the Resident Coordinator and the youth briefers for sharing their experiences, needs and priorities. She welcomed the suggestion by Mr. Rugero for follow-up to the meeting and informed that she would like to visit Burundi in the coming months to meet with the Government of Burundi and other stakeholders, including young Burundians. She stressed the importance of the Peacebuilding Fund projects in Burundi and emphasized the importance of deepening its work with youth and women. The Chair underscored the need to identify ways in which the PBC could solidify its mobilization role and unite donors around common priorities.