

United Nations

Nations Unies



Louis Nahimana, President of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC); leaders of three political parties (CNDD-FDD, Amizero y'Abarundi and UPRONA); H.E. Mr. Basile Ikouebe, Special Envoy of the African Union; representatives of the private sector; the UNCT; Members of the Team of UN Special Envoy Michel Kafando; ICRC; Representatives of Member States of the Configuration (Belgium, China, the European Union, France, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United States) as well as a group of economists and historians.

Two initially planned meetings with political parties and with civil society organizations did not take place, but I am planning to meet these interlocutors during my next visit to Burundi.

## **2. Political situation**

After three days in Bujumbura I spent one day in the city of Ngozi where I was received by the President of the Republic. The two cities which I visited during my mission to Burundi made a lively impression and the general security situation seemed calm.

On 28 March, I met the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI), which is in charge of preparing the upcoming referendum and the elections of 2020. The President of the CENI explained how the Commission is finalizing registration of voters for the referendum scheduled for 17 May and the elections of 2020. On 12 December 2017, the Government had launched an “explanation campaign” (“campagne d’explication”) regarding the referendum, whereas the political campaign itself will last from 1<sup>st</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> in PH.D V ujumbu 4



Such a roadmap could contain a number of benchmarks aimed at ensuring that the elections will be free, fair, transparent, peaceful, fully inclusive, with the participation of all political parties. The party leaders also reiterated their continued commitment to participate in the EAC-led dialogue process.

Many interlocutors expressed similar support to the EAC mediation and the hope that the next round of the Arusha dialogue will take place in Uganda in late April, as planned. The AU Special Representative and the team of the UN Special



national priorities. The UNCT pointed to the great relevance of the National Development Plan for



I was also pleased to hear that the Peacebuilding Fund has pledged up to 8 million USD for peacebuilding programming in Burundi this year.

#### **4. Reconciliation**

Since in previous meetings the President of the Republic had always underlined the importance of national reconciliation, I raised this question again when he received me on 30 March. Two days before I had met the President of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and a group of local historians and reconciliation experts. I was impressed to hear about the work the commission had undertaken in recent months; so far it had collected over 45'000 testimonies and engaged in 16 of the 18 provinces of Burundi. Among the challenges, which the commission is facing, are time pressure, the security of data and the question of accountability.

In my

