



United Nations - Nations Unies

Peacebuilding Commission

Visit Summary

Chair of the Burundi Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission

Visit to Burundi and to East Africa; 14 – 22 February 2011

I. Purpose and objectives of the visit

The purpose of my visit to Burundi and to the region was to pursue engagement with the government of Burundi, with national, regional and international stakeholders and to further discuss the PBC priorities in the next phase of peacebuilding in Burundi.

I was guided by three objectives:

- 1) To show respect to the Government for its efforts and for progress made since July 2010 and to stakeholders for their contributions to the progress achieved;
- 2) To get an update on the most recent developments, and to discuss different perspectives on the outstanding peacebuilding challenges;
- 3) To discuss with the Government the future role of the PBC in light of the outstanding peacebuilding challenges and to explore with stakeholders their possible roles in further supporting the peacebuilding efforts and opportunities to strengthen partnership with the PBC.

II. Meetings and events

In Bujumbura have met with the following groups of stakeholders:

High Officials of the Government including the President, the two Vice Presidents, the Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation, and the Minister in charge of East African Community, EAC;

The new SRSG of BNUB, her team as well as members of the UN country team;

The Ombudsman;

Leaders of Political Parties represented in the Parliament as well as leaders of the extra-parliamentary opposition;

Representatives of the Civil Society and the Media;

Representatives of the International Community, both in small groups or bilaterally ;

On Wednesday 16 February 2011, I participated in the Political Forum of the Partners Coordination Group that discussed the fifth and final review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi;

From 21st to 22nd February, I went to Tanzania where I met with the leadership of the Secretariat of the East African Community (EAC), the Country Director of the ka bld115 TD 25 T Tw () T

III Assessment of the situation

a) Progress

Since my last visit in July 2010, Burundi has made significant progress which has been acknowledged by my interlocutors. In particular:

The 2010 elections have been successfully completed and elected institutions have started working; the President has just signed performance contracts with members of his Government, against which they will be assessed on a regular basis.

Parliament has passed the bill creating the National Independent Human Rights Commission, NIHRC [CINDH in French] , and the nomination of its members is under way.

The national consultations on Transitional Justice mechanisms have been completed and the report issued.

The President is committed to combat corruption and has taken some actions on existing corruption cases; the President and his two Vice Presidents have a shared determination on this issue.

The institution of the Ombudsperson has been created and the Ombudsperson appointed, together with a small initial team.

There are a few signs of a reviving economy; the Burundi Revenue Authority was recently established and has started its work, and since then there are indications of increase in public revenues collected.

The process of preparing the PRSP II has to 6ra5 0 TD -0.17.7 Tj 5.25 0 my; th6 -0 TD D -0.087

the parties that withdrew from the elections and their leaders who fled the country. The sides are trading accusations of fueling violence. The tension keeps growing, and most partners suggest that eventually there will be a need for some kind of communication including all relevant political actors, as a way to stop the specter of renewed violence. Both sides agree with the general idea of such a communication, but they don't agree on the purpose, the subjects and the format thereof. Despite these disagreements, none of the two sides has indicated a desire to question the Arusha Accords or the Constitution.

Corruption is still a concern for the Government, the donor community and the civil society. The Government and its partners realize that fighting corruption successfully will require long-term changes within the institutions, practices and people's mentalities. They also agree that the issue requires immediate and sustained attention.

(4) Continue to explore with key stakeholders options for a communication/dialogue between the Government and the extra-parliamentary opposition; if the notion of a “