

## **Peacebuilding Commission, Burundi Configuration – Meeting of the Steering Group**

*New York, Swiss Mission to the United Nations, 20 September 2012*

On Thursday, 20 September 2012, the Steering Group of the Burundi Configuration of the PBC held a breakfast meeting at the Swiss Mission. The main purpose of the meeting was to update the Steering Committee on the status of preparation of the upcoming Partners' Conference of 29/30 October in Geneva and on current political and socio-economic developments in Burundi.

### **Preparation Partners' Conference**

Preparatory work on the ground is well under way; the invitations and the programme have been sent out. A web site has been set up for the conference ([www.burundi.conference.org](http://www.burundi.conference.org)). The Chair thanked partners who have provided financial support to the organisation of the Conference, namely Beg, di Cg

based on their new Country Assistance Strategy, expected to be adopted on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Upon a comment of one delegation, the Chair mentioned the final communiqué foreseen at the conclusion of the Geneva Conference. He said that there are basically two options: Either a final communiqué established by Burundi as the host of the Conference or a joint final communiqué/declaration to conclude the Partners' Conference. While the first would only engage the host, the latter would have the advantage of sending out a clear message of common political support and mutual commitment. This could be a 1-2 pager stating mutual commitments of Burundi and its partners. On the one hand, the international community would reaffirm its sustained support over the next 4 years and on the other, Burundi would commit to implementing its poverty reduction strategy and effectively address outstanding

the East African Community countries. Preparation for the 2015 elections have started and consultations for the new Independent Electoral Commission, CENI, are under way [the mandate of the current CENI members has been extended for 3 months to allow for further consultations on its future composition]. President Nkurunziza has appealed to extra parliamentary leaders to leave exile and come back home. Pancrace