

The situation in Burundi
Statement by Ambassador Jürg Lauber,
Chair of the Burundi Configuration of the UN Peacebuilding Commission

18 March 2016

Mr. President,
Distinguished Members of the Council

grateful to have the opportunity to brief the Council today on my recent visit to Burundi, Rwanda and Ethiopia and on the latest discussions within the Burundi Configuration of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).

pleased that H.E. Mr Alain Nyamitwe, Minister for Foreign Relations and International Cooperation, participates in debate and I would like to use this opportunity to express my gratitude to him for the cooperation which the PBC enjoys with the Government of Burundi in its peacebuilding engagement.

From 15-20 February 2016, I undertook my second regional visit as Chair of the Burundi Configuration of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). I held consultations in Bujumbura, Kigali and Addis Ababa. The main objective of my visit was to pursue the policy dialogue with the Government of Burundi and other national and international stakeholders in order to complement ongoing peacebuilding efforts

humanitarian and regional dimension of the crisis in my discussions with the Minister for Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs of Rwanda, and with the Country Representative of the UNHCR. In Addis Ababa I held consultations with high-ranking officials of the African Union, including H.E. Mr Smaïl Chergui, the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, representatives of AU Member States and Partners as well as with the UN Special Representative to the African Union. The special focus of my discussions in Addis Ababa was the AU engagement in Burundi and UN-AU cooperation.

Mr. President,

I shared the detailed written report of my visit with members of the Security Council through the established channel. Today, I would like to share with you the main takeaways of my visit, and reflect on the PBC continued engagement with Burundi, including recent contacts with the IMF and the World Bank.

After my departure and prior to the visit of the Secretary General of the United Nations and the high-level AU visit of five African Heads of States and Governments, the Government of Burundi announced a series of decisions which included the release of prisoners, the reopening of two radio stations and the revocation of the arrest warrants against some 15 members of the opposition. The Members of the PBC Burundi ConJET 1 0 0411 0 0 1 124.588 CID 427 Ang (en-US) BDC

gatherings in which participants elaborate their views on how to create democratic conditions for the Burundian elections in 2020. Preliminary findings by the National Commission seem to indicate that a key request of the population is to amend the Constitution

Mr President,

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Mr. President, with regards to the Peacebuilding Fund, the Joint Steering Committee that oversees PBF activities in Burundi decided on 9 March to launch new initiatives in the areas of Dialogue (support to the Special team; support to role in the dialogue process); Promotion and protection of human rights and support to victims and Youth engagement, community security and social cohesion.

Mr President, I draw the following conclusions from my discussions in the region and within the PBC Burundi Configuration:

1. First, the resolution of the current crisis in Burundi will require maximum coherence between international and regional organizations, in particular between the UN, AU and EAC. Coordinated efforts will be crucial to establish a viable, inclusive and

4. Fourth, the socio-economic dimension of the current crisis must not be overlooked. In line with the holistic approach of peacebuilding, the Configuration can continu9 6874 Tm1 0 0 1 512.9886 Tm()JTJ0 0 086 TmJET EMC