



7. Ambassador Shingiro, the Permanent Representative of Burundi, underlined in his statement that the EAC-led dialogue process continues and that a new dialogue round is being prepared. He gave examples for the continuous constructive cooperation between the Government of Burundi and international and regional organisations, namely the UN, EAC and ICGLR. Ambassador Shingiro also highlighted that the security situation has considerably improved and that a high number of refugees had returned to Burundi in 2016 and 2017. Regarding the economic situation, he indicated that macroeconomic stability remains the priority for the Government which will thus continue to pursue a policy of budgetary prudence also in 2018. The Permanent Representative also stressed that the suspension of direct budgetary support by certain donors affects the lives of the most vulnerable parts of the population.

8. Following the briefings, PBC members took the floor to give their remarks and ask follow-up questions. Germany, Sweden, Japan, Indonesia, Morocco, the United Kingdom, Colombia, Angola, Belgium, France, Mexico, India, Kenya, the European Union, Egypt, the Netherlands, the Republic of South Africa, Uganda, United States, China, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation took the floor.

9. They complimented the role of the Chair, showed appreciation for the briefing from the RC, OCHA and PBSO, and expressed the useful and very complementary role of the PBC for providing the space to engage with Burundi, particularly regarding socio-economic challenges. Some of the participants also noted the engagement with IFIs, including their participation in PBC meetings; reference was made to the Security Council Presidential Statement of 2 August that calls the PBC to help re-engage development partners. They noted the engagement with IFIs, including their participation in PBC meetings.

10. They reiterated support to the EAC-led dialogue process; and several delegates encouraged all stakeholders to take advantage and engage with the EAC-led process. Many delegates underscored their concern regarding the lack of progress in the dialogue process. Moreover, countries expressed that the population of Burundi should not pay the price for a slow political dialogue, and offered their support to the UN strategy to strengthen the resilience of the population. Colombia shared a useful lesson of how the presence of UN agencies over many years in areas far outside of the reach of the Colombian state, had supported the resilience of populations, who were able to survive and be part of the current peacebuilding process.

11. Participants also expressed concern over the current human rights situation and the Government's cooperation with the OHCHR. The Permanent Representative of Burundi indicated that they were in the last step of discussions towards the finalization of a MoU between his Government and OHCHR. He underscored the need to support capacity building and local institutions as a way to help improve the human rights situation; he warned against politicizing the issue and rumors.

12. A number of delegates enquired about the prospects of constitution amendment, and stressed their concern on the potential impact on the spirit of the Arusha Accord. Other delegates noted that