

## **JOINT COMMUNIQUE**

### **Round Table Meeting between Burundi and its Partners**

*Bujumbura, 11-12 December 2014*

On 11-12 December 2014, a two-day roundtable meeting was held in Bujumbura, bringing together the Government of Burundi and its main regional and international partners (“the participants”).

The purpose of the meeting was threefold:

- 1) To hold a dialogue on the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper-II (PRSP-II) since the Geneva Partner’s Conference of 2012, namely to exchange views on the progresses achieved, outstanding challenges, in view of the realization of mutual commitments.
- 2) To discuss the implications of the end of the UN Mission in Burundi and considerations for the future cooperation between Burundi and its bilateral and institutional partners on the regional and international level.
- 3) To assess future perspectives for a mutually beneficial partnership towards long-term development and prosperity of Burundi on the assumption that free, transparent, credible, inclusive and peaceful elections in 2015 will establish an important basis for sustainable development in a peaceful context.

The round table meeting was chaired by H.E Pierre Nkurunziza, President of the Republic of Burundi, and it was attended by the Senior Government Officials, together with representatives of the countries and organizations mentioned in the annex.

Code, and the adoption by consensus of the Roadmap for the elections and code of conduct for political parties and political actors, as well as the finalization of the electoral calendar and other preparatory work under way for the elections of 2015.

3. They welcome the continued performance of the National Independent Human Rights Commission, as well as on-going efforts to improve its coverage of the country.
4. They take note of the law on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and of the appointment of credible commissioners as an important first step to that should lead to a comprehensive transitional justice process incorporating both truth-seeking and reconciliation as well as accountability for committed crimes.
5. They take note of the on-going economic reforms to enhance macroeconomic stability, including the policy of zero tolerance on corruption, and continued eor

**Areas requiring further attention and engagement**

11. Notwithstanding this progress, participants agreed that there are challenges; in particular those related to the upcoming elections that require sustained attention in order to achieving a free, transparent, credible, inclusive and peaceful process building on the positive steps already taken. In this regard, and in line with the roadmap for the elections of 2015, they underscore the need to accompany the Government in its efforts aimed at facilitating the dialogue among all political actors.
12. They also note that additional efforts are needed to implement national priority policies such as the National Strategy on Good Governance and the Fight against Corruption.
13. They are concerned by the fact that despite the reforms initiated, the economy remains fragile due to internal structural weaknesses and the slowdown of the international economy, and that budget constraints have a negative impact on social sectors and pro-poor spending (health, education, transport, agriculture). They note that macro-economic reforms are yet to translate in increased job opportunities and better living conditions, in particular for the youth and for the people of Burundi.
14. They note that Burundi remains heavily dependent on

18. The Government commits to guarantee a free, transparent, credible, inclusive and peaceful electoral process and to implement the road map and the code of conduct for political parties and political actors, in accordance with the Constitution and the electoral code.
19. The Government commits to ensure the independence of the CENI and its provincial and communal affiliations, as well as its engagements with all partners on the basis of the principle of equality between citizens and candidates.
20. The Government will work with the political parties to ensure that the youth are neither politically manipulated nor committing violent acts nor acts of intimidation, but instead are allowed to substantially and constructively participate in public life.
21. The Government commits to promote and reinforce policies aimed at improving the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary, in particular in light of the conclusions of the national meeting on Judiciary, “les Etats Generaux de la Justice”.
22. The Government further commits to ensuring that the TRC will accomplish its mandate in an independent and inclusive manner in line with the results of the national consultations in 2009 and international standards and practice, and the TRC will address all issues at the heart of the conflicts since Burundi’s independence in 1962.
23. The Government commits to protect the National Committee on Land and other Assets (CNTB) and the Special Court on Land Issues from political interferences, with the objective to reinforce national reconciliation.
24. The Government will implement policy recommendations agreed upon with bilateral partners, multilateral organizations and international financial institutions to improve the performance of the economy and the public finances management, including through domestic resources mobilization, and it will take concrete measures and actions to implement the National Strategy on Good Governance and the Fight against C

28. Following the conclusion of free, transparent, credible, inclusive and peaceful elections in 2015, international and regional partners will engage with the Government of Burundi in a policy dialogue aimed at strengthening and implementing the Vision Burundi 2025 and to