

14 April 2015

To: Members of the Peacebuilding Commission, Burundi Configuration

Subject: **Chair's visit to Burundi, 31 March – 03 April 2015**

Dear colleagues,

In my capacity as Chair of the Burundi Configuration of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, I visited Burundi from 31 March to 03 April 2015 to pursue the PBC's engagement with Burundi. My discussions with the Government, national stakeh



While the technical work of the CENI is generally well under way, the issue of an additional presidential term, commonly referred to as “third mandate”, continues to polarise Burundians and



downplayed the atmosphere of fear and pledged the Government's commitment to ensure law and order and to respect people's rights. The Police and the Army assured me that they would exercise professionalism, restraint and respect of human rights in managing demonstrations. Violent elements among opposition circles and CNDD-FDD activists (young "Imbonerakure", former combatants) will constitute the most uncontrollable factor and challenge to security. The Government advised the international community to monitor carefully the responsibilities in case of violence, given the temptation of the opposition to use violence. The Minister of Interior told me that we should avoid promoting violence; I relayed this call in my meetings with the political parties, warning against any recourse to violence.

Despite this concerning picture, I was encouraged by the technical preparations of the elections. The mechanics of the electoral operations seem to be going smoothly and different areas of concern that were raised in December during my last visit seem to have found solutions, also thanks to the flexibility of the CENI. The President of the CENI provided an update that seems to suggest that the operational activities are on schedule. Following the completion of the computer-based voter registration, the provisional electoral lists were published from 16-20 March 2015 to allow citizens and political parties to verify these lists and introduce appeals related to missing names and other errors of registration such as double identification. Furthermore, and in response to a request by political parties, the CENI partially reopened the registration process from 21-23 March 2015, which allowed over 160,000 new voters to register, which now total 3.8 million. A second review of the voters' register will be done, with a view to have the finalised voters'



hoping that the reshuffle had been done with the objective to ensure the peaceful security of the elections.

Socio-economic situation

As per usual practice, I also met with representatives of the international financial institutions, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the







WB, the AfDB and other relevant institutions. I would also suggest that there is a need to do more