

19 October 2009

To : Members of the PBC - Burundi Configuration

**Informal meeting of the Country Specific Configuration
of the PBC on Burundi
New York, 14 October 2009, 10 h00 am - ECOSOC
Chambers**

Chair's summary

On Wednesday, 14 October 2009, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, in the ECOSOC Chambers an informal meeting of the Country Specific Configuration of the PBC on Burundi took place under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Peter Maurer, Chairperson of the PBC Country-Specific Configuration of Burundi.

The Government of Burundi, the National Independent Electoral Commission, CENI, as well as members of the PBC - Burundi Configuration based in Bujumbura attended from Bujumbura via videolink.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the preparations of the 2010 elections in Burundi. The discussion focused on the state of preparations for creating an environment conducive for free and fair elections as well as on the PBC's support to elections, including financial contributions to the electoral basket fund.

In his opening remarks, the Chair recalled the recommendations of the 29 July 2009 review of the Strategic Framework. Those recommendations relevant to elections were used as reference for the meeting.

Discussions were organized into two parts: (1) issues related to the creation of an environment conducive for free, peaceful and transparent elections; (2) issues related to the mobilisation of support to the electoral process, including financial contributions to the budget of elections.

An update was provided from Bujumbura by the Minister of Interior, the representative of the Minister of External relations and International Cooperation, the representative of the Minister of Public Security, and the President of CENI. They highlighted the significant progress achieved in the preparation of the electoral process: the adoption of the electoral code, achieved through a dialogue and consensual process among the political partners, the permanent forum of political parties, the Office of Ombudsman currently being set up, the campaign of civic education launched by the President of the Republic in September, measures being taken to ensure the security of elections, including the professionalisation of the police and the disarmament of the civilian

