

Unofficial Summary
Informal meeting of the PBC Burundi Configuration

29 October 2008, ECOSOC Chamber

Introduction and agenda

1. Chair of the Burundi Configuration, Ambassador Anders Lidén (Sweden) briefed the members on his recent visit to Burundi, which took place from 21-24 October.

Recommendations for PBC and focus of CSM's work

2. The Chair highlighted the following urgent priorities for the CSM's engagement in Burundi in the next few months:

strengthen political support to the mediation efforts of the South African Facilitation and the Regional Initiative for the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement, and for an immediate DDR+R of FNL combatants.

support the creation of an environment propitious for the conduct of free and fair national elections in 2010 and to he

6. A call was made for a continuous Peacebuilding Fund engagement in Burundi. Strong concerns were relayed over delays in implementation of the peace agreement which set 31 December as deadline. Alleged FNL-led demonstrations on 26-27 October in parts of Burundi were condemned and the Government reportedly warned of its preparations for strong reactions to confront the FNL's provocations in the future.

7. A representative called for a stronger involvement of the UN agencies on the ground in implementation of the PBC priorities, preferably in a workplan in support of PBC. Others stressed the roles of PBC members and donors in the Partnership Coordination Group and the need to strengthen relations between them and NY. A member voiced concern over the possibility of PBC deviating into "peacekeeping" in Burundi, which he said would be detrimental to PBC's main work on peacebuilding.

8. The Chair stressed that an effective partnership between Burundi, PBC and donors on the ground were essential in the peacebuilding process, adding that the Bi-Annual Review of PBC recommendations would be conducted in due course.

Peacebuilding Support Office
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