

Working Lunch on peacebuilding in Burundi
Hosted by Ambassador Peter Maurer, Chair of the PBC-Burundi Configuration
28 September 2009, Restaurant DeGrezia, New York

Purpose of the meeting: update on the situation/recent developments and discussion on PBC support to the electoral process and other priorities

The attendance was excellent (about 30 participants) and at high level (see attached list).

The Minister Nsanze did an overview of the preparation of the elections, including key components of the project document. Participants had with them the note summarising the project, the budget and pledges recorded so far. Questions were raised around security, CENI capacity and independence, dialogue, sensitisation of population and civic education, international monitoring of the electoral process, FNL. Among countries who spoke were Sweden, Netherlands, Uganda, UK, USA, Tanzania, Japan. These questions generated a very good and franc dialogue with the Government's delegation.

At the end of the meeting, the Chair asked Delegates to consult their capitals in order to agree on their possible contributions to the basket fund. In the meantime, a formal CSM meeting will be organised in order to update all members and to further discuss the key strategic issues that were raised [at which point CENI could be brought in the discussion].

Other issues were briefly touched upon:

- (1) Paris CG meeting: the document will be ready next week (dixit Pamphile);
- (2) Socio-economic recovery (former combatants, demobilised, returnees, IdPs, youth, women): the socio-economic reintegration strategy will be ready for discussion in November (dixit Pamphile)
- (3) For other possible projects (Peace villages, Dialogue, Fight against corruption), the Government will prepare documents and circulate them as soon as possible. The Chair and PBSO will then look at them and follow up with BINUB accordingly.