

**Chairman's Summary
Burundi Country-Specific Meeting
Peacebuilding Commission
12 December 2006**

1. The Peacebuilding Commission held its second country-specific meeting on the situation in Burundi on 12 December 2006. This was in follow-up to the 13 October 2006 meeting, and in the context of the PBC's ongoing efforts to support national efforts for the consolidation of peace.
2. Members of the Commission noted with appreciation the efforts made by the Government of Burundi in further identifying the gaps in peacebuilding activities that require urgent attention and support from the international community, and welcomed the efforts made by the Government in conducting a mapping of existing and planned activities in the peacebuilding priority areas, and the establishment of an inter-ministerial mechanism to follow-up on PBC activities. The members of the PBC also noted with appreciation the role played by the UN system in the field in assisting the Government in the mapping and identification of gaps.
3. Members of the Commission agreed with the Government emphasis on the need for a strengthened national dialogue, and welcomed recent initiatives in this regard aimed at engaging the media, civil society organizations and political parties. In this context, members of the Commission expressed their full support to these efforts, and commitment to assist in supporting the development and implementation of a systematic series of dialogues aimed at building consensus on the Government's strategies and plans for the consolidation of peace.
4. Members of the Commission also welcomed the importance placed by the Government on initiating immediate action in the areas of combating corruption, professionalization of security forces and small arms reduction, strengthening the rule of law, the justice system, and the fight against impunity, and support for the establishment and functioning of the Land Commission.
5. Members of the Commission expressed concern about the shortfall in budget support, and the potential negative consequences on peacebuilding efforts should the Government fail to consistently provide adequate and timely salaries to civil servants and members of the security forces. Members of the Commission noted with satisfaction efforts made by the Government to strengthen accountability and transparency in the management of public funds, and looked forward to further progress in this area.
6. Members of the Commission heard from the international financial institutions on the need for continued macroeconomic stability and robust economic growth in order to ease social tensions caused by a long term decline in per capita income and land tenure issues relating to the return of refugees and displaced persons.
7. Members noted with satisfaction that arrangements to facilitate the disbursement of the Peacebuilding Fund in Burundi have been put into place and that progress was made in identifying priority activities. With the conclusion of the review stipulated in the Terms of

Reference of the fund, it is expected that a country envelope of approximately US\$ 25 Million can be made available.

8. Members of the Commission noted the Government's concerns about human rights abuses and its commitment to address these concerns, including gender equality issues, and highly recommend that support be provided urgently to the Government's plan to establish an independent national human rights commission and to develop transitional justice mechanisms. Such support should accelerate building up national capacities for both the promotion and protection of human rights.

9. Members of the Commission were concerned that the donor per capita assistance in Burundi remains low. The realization of civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to development will require meaningful commitments, including sustained political will from the Government as well as a commitment from the international community to ensure a more adequate level of external assistance. In this regard, members of the Commission urged the international community to lend support to the Government to broaden its donor base and secure the assistance that is required, including through the planned roundtable to be held in the first quarter of 2007. Members of the Commission further noted the need to channel donor resources in a manner that enhances national capacities and with due consideration to national priorities. Positive steps taken by the government and by the international community will help to deepen trust and confidence between the government and its international partners which is necessary for strengthening cooperation and therefore for advancing peacebuilding.

10. Members of the Commission urged the international community, including the international financial institutions, donors and UN system, to support national efforts to address the priorities and gaps being identified by the Government.

11. A follow-up meeting will be held in 2007 to review the actions undertaken by the Government, to assess progress in the realization of national peacebuilding goals and integrated strategies, the effectiveness of international assistance in peacebuilding and ways in which this assistance can be enhanced.

12. Members of the Commission also requested the Chair of the Country-Specific Meeting to develop a work plan (with a corresponding timeline) for the actions to be undertaken by the Government, the UN system and the larger international community in follow-up to the issues outlined above, and in preparations for the upcoming country-specific meeting. Members of the Commission also requested the Chair, with the support of the PBSO, to keep them engaged and regularly briefed on the progress in implementing the work plan, and to draw upon their expertise and contributions in this process.