



PRESS STATEMENT

PS3 – 10.06.2015

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit, and members of the facilitation team that joined and supported the dialogue between the Burundian parties, met today in Bujumbura with members of the diplomatic corps. During this meeting, the Special Envoy briefed the participants on the dialogue who he facilitated starting from 5 May 2015, at the request of the Burundian parties who had agreed, by themselves, on the agenda as well as the list of participants.

The Special Envoy recalled that during the dialogue, the parties maintained diverging views on the candidature of President Nkurunziza for a third term. He highlighted the progress made on the other four agenda items, namely: the appeasement measures and mutual commitments; the management of the electoral calendar; guarantees for the holding of free, transparent, inclusive and peaceful elections; and protection of Constitutional rights and freedoms. The conclusions of the dialogue are reflected in the attached 29 May press communiqué.

The Special Envoy commended the Burundian parties, in particular, for the set of recommendations adopted by consensus at the 28 May dialogue session, on the right to information and the reopening of private radio and television stations damaged during the 13-14 May events. He encourages the parties to implement these recommendations without delay.

The Special Envoy takes this opportunity to thank all the Burundian parties for their cooperation during the dialogue that he facilitated with impartiality and, on which he reported faithfully to the Emergency Summit of the East African Community which took place in Dar-es-Salaam on 31 May, and the relevant United Nations organs. The

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Special Envoy expresses his deep gratitude for the support extended to him in his role as facilitator by the East African Community, the International Conference for the Great Lakes region, the African Union and the United Nations including the Secretary-General, the Security Council and the Peace Building Commission. He also thanks the external partners of Burundi including the European Union, the United States, France, Belgium, and many others who came forth to help during the dialogue process.

Mr. Said Djinnit thanks all the Burundian parties for the facilitation role they entrusted to him on 5 May. He duly takes note of the positions expressed a few days ago, on his role as facilitator by some Burundian parties.

In his capacity as the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, Mr. Djinnit remains committed, in collaboration with relevant regional organizations, to continue to work towards preserving and consolidating peace, democracy and stability in Burundi in accordance with the objectives of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, signed in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013.

The Special Envoy encourages the Burundian parties to continue their dialogue with a view to create conditions conducive to holding free, fair, inclusive and peaceful elections. He stresses the importance of preserving the legacy of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement as enshrined in the Constitution. He reiterates his appeal to all parties to exercise restraint and to refrain from any acts likely to increase tension and violence.

Bujumbura, 10 June 2015

NOTE TO THE EDITORS

1. *Stakeholders in the electoral process in Burundi were invited, on 5 May, by the Ministry of Interior with the support of the United Nations Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi (MENUB) to review the various commitments by the parties. This included the roadmap of 13 March 2013, the code of conduct of 9 June 2014 and the charter of non-violence of 9 March 2015. The opening ceremony was chaired by the First Vice-President of the Republic, in the presence of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-*

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General of the United Nations for the Great Lakes Region, and representatives of the international community.

2. *During the plenary session, debates were centered around the issues related to the presidential term. A representative group of stakeholders was formed and formulated an agenda; it proposed the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to facilitate their discussions.*
3. *The adopted agenda included five items:*
 - a) *Calming measures and mutual commitment,*
 - b) *Management of the electoral calendar,*
 - c) *Guarantees and measures for peaceful elections,*
 - d) *Compliance with the Constitution and the Arusha Agreement in the electoral process (issue of the presidential term)*
 - e) *Political rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.*
4. *On this basis, the following delegations met in the afternoon of 5 May, in the premises of MENDU, around the UN Facilitator to initiate dialogue. Were present:*
 - a) *The Minister of Interior (representing the Government);*
 - b) *Four representatives of the CNDD-FDD and allied parties;*
 - c) *Four representatives of the opposition;*
 - d) *Three representatives of civil society;*
 - e) *Three representatives of religious communities;*
 - f) *Two former Heads of State.*
5. *Before initiating the dialogue, the parties decided to adjust the agenda as follows:*
 - a) *Calming measures and mutual commitment,*
 - b) *Compliance with the Constitution and the Arusha Agreement in the electoral process,*
 - c) *Management of the electoral calendar,*
 - d) *Guarantees and measures for peaceful elections,*
 - e) *Political rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution*
6. *Discussions continued on 5- 8 May, 20-23 May and 28 May 2015.*

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7. *The High Level delegation of the African Union took part in the discussions in support of the facilitation team from 20 May. After its departure, the head of the African Union Office in Bujumbura took over.*
8. *On 21 May, the Secretary-General of the East African Community (EAC) joined the facilitation. Subsequently, he was represented by members of the delegation of the Group of Eminent Persons of the East African Community and the COMESA.*
9. *The Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) joined the facilitation team on 22 May.*

A) Calming measures and mutual commitment

10. *The parties exchanged views on the following points:*

- a) *Restoring the broadcast capability of private radio and television stations, ensuring respect of the right to information;*
- b) *Release of all persons arrested and detained during the demonstrations;*
- c) *Cancellation of arrest warrants issued against political and civil society leaders;*
- d) *Cancellation of the decision of the Attorney General of the Republic on the establishment of a special commission to investigate demonstrations;*
- e) *The principle of postponing the electoral calendar within the constitutional limits of terms of office;*
- f) *Resumption of public education and postponement of the date for the national exam in consultation with professionals;*
- g) *Stopping demonstrations;*
- h) *Withdrawal of the candidacy of President Pierre Nkurunziza.*

The first six measures were agreed in principle. But the parties did not agree on the last two points, with regard to stopping demonstrations and the withdrawal of the candidacy of President Pierre Nkurunziza.

B) Compliance with the Constitution and the Arusha Agreement in the electoral process

11. *The parties discussed at length on this issue, some (the government, the CNDD-FDD party and allied parties) supporting that the candidacy was in compliance with the*

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Constitution and others (opposition political parties and civil society organizations) maintaining that the term was not compliant with the Constitution.

12. *The Facilitation took note of the divergent views of the stakeholders and the dialogue noted that this issue needed to be brought to the attention of the Heads of State of the East African Community.*

C) Management of the Electoral Calendar

13. *The parties agreed on the principle of delaying the electoral calendar to create conditions conducive to the holding of elections within the constitutional limits of terms of office. They agreed to pursue discussions on this issue after the Dar-Es-Salaam summit.*

D) Guarantees and measures for peaceful elections

14. *The parties to the dialogue exchanged views on the following issues:*

- *Securing the electoral process;*
- *Safety of political and civil society leaders during the electoral process;*
- *Disarmament of armed civilians;*
- *Cancellation of arrest warrants issued against leaders of political parties and civil society;*
- *Strengthening of the CENI;*

15. *The facilitation took the commitment of making proposals on each of these measures on the basis of the practice of regional organizations and the UN on all these issues.*

E) Political rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution

16. *Discussions on this issue focused on the following two points: the right to information and the right to demonstrate. The facilitation established two representative working groups including experts and professionals who were assigned the task of considering issues related to media and demonstrations.*

17. *During the session held on 28 May, stakeholders discussed the document proposed by the working group on the right to information and the reopening of private radio and television stations and adopted it after some adjustments.*

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18. *At the same session, the parties discussed the document prepared by the working group on the right to demonstrate. The parties began to discuss the document and it was agreed to continue its consideration after the Dar-Es-Salaam summit scheduled for May 31, 2015.*

F) Conclusion

19. *Throughout the dialogue, the parties reiterated their commitment to preserve the Arusha Agreement as reflected in the Constitution as the foundation for peacebuilding and stability in Burundi.*

20. *In concluding yesterday's session, I took the opportunity to thank all participants in the dialogue for their commitment to continue their discussions started on 5 May in spite of hardships and challenges faced. I congratulate them on the progress made in the framework of this dialogue. They agreed to resume their discussions after the Dar-Es-Salaam summit. I am convinced that the insights and guidance from the summit will contribute to strengthening the inter-Burundian dialogue and to giving it a new breath. On the eve of the summit, I would like to appeal to all parties to exercise restraint.*

Said Djinnit

**Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region
Facilitator of the Inter-Burundian Dialogue**

Bujumbura, 29 May 2015

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