

Statement by the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for the Great Lakes region on the Burundian dialogue

Bujumbura, 29 May 2015

As the East African Community Summit is expected to convene in Dar Es Salaam on 31 May, Said Djinnit, Special Envoy of UN Secretary general for the Great Lakes region, wishes to commend the Burundian parties for their commitment to overcome the challenges faced in the preparation process of the 2015 elections and to seek peaceful solutions through the dialogue that has been initiated on 5 May 2015.

The Special Envoy expresses his gratitude to the Burundian parties for the confidence entrusted on him by choosing him as the facilitator of their dialogue. He pays tribute to the representatives of the East African Community and COMESA, the African Union, and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), for their association to the facilitation and their active participation.

Despite persisting divergences on the core issue of the presidential term, the parties agreed to pursue their dialogue during the sessions held from 5 to 8 May, 20 to 23 May and on 28 May 2015. During these dialogue sessions, and beyond the issue of the presidential term, they have exchanged views on confidence building measures and mutual commitments; the management of the electoral calendar; guarantees and measures for the holding of free, transparent, inclusive and peaceful elections; as well as Constitutional political rights and freedoms.

The Special Envoy commends the parties for the progress that they have made so far on these issues and their commitment to continue with the dialogue. He commends them for their commitments to maintaining the peace and stability dividends achieved by their country through upholding the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement as enshrined in the Constitution.

The Special Envoy hopes that the Dar Es Salaam East African Community summit will provide further guidance and impetus to reinforce the Burundian dialogue. Finally, he calls on all Burundian parties to exercise restraint and to refrain from any action that could generate violence and increase tension.