

# REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



## SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE GOVERNMENT

### COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING THE STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ON 02 AUGUST 2017

1. On 2 August 2017 the President of the United Nations Security Council made a Statement in which the Council expressed a number of concerns and recommendations related to the developments over the political, security situation and human rights since the electoral crisis of 2015.
2. The Government of the Republic of Burundi has taken careful note of the contents of the Statement and thanks the United Nations Security Council and its Member States for their constant international solidarity towards Burundi and its people.
3. The Government of Burundi is pleased to note that the United Nations is making positive progress in their reading of the situation in Burundi as the Security Council "*reaffirms its strong commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of Burundi* ", in addition to the President's statement "*noting that the security situation in the country has remained generally calm*" despite the alarming reports made by some organizations and media that invest in the manipulation of the opinion.
4. The Government of Burundi also thanks the Security Council for its acknowledgement of "*the contribution of Burundians peacekeepers serving in UN and African Union-led peacekeeping operations*" and reiterates its determination to fight terrorism wherever it comes from.
5. The Government again expresses its appreciation to the Council for reminding the countries of the region to refrain from supporting the activities of armed movements in any way whatsoever. In this regard, the Government regrets the fact that some UN member States help and abet criminals wanted by the Burundian justice, the very people who, with the help of these countries, continue to recruit Burundian refugees in Rwanda with the support of Authorities and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in flagrant violation "*of the Framework agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the region and the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees.*"
6. However, with regard to the field of respect for human rights, the Government of Burundi regrets that the Security Council continues to rely on "*cleverly manipulated reports of torture, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings* ", which are wrongfully attributed to public authorities when they are committed by outlaws in

order to attract ostracism against the Government of Burundi. Justice is at work; all apprehended criminals are severely tried and condemned regardless of their tendency or social status.

7. The Security Council should also note that there is no "*persisting political impasse*" in Burundi as the Statement suggests. All State institutions are in place and serving the nation. The calm situation throughout the country is the result of the efforts of all, the leaders and the population, to consolidate peace, democracy and social cohesion. A certain opinion is precisely aimed at fooling the vigilance of the international community that the country is currently going through a "*political impasse*" while Burundians courageously and serenely go about their daily routines to overcome the challenges facing all the people of the world namely the fight against poverty and terrorism.
8. With regard to the call to cooperate with "*the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi mandated under Human Rights Council resolution A/HCR/33/24*", it is appropriate for the Government to recall that Burundi rejected the report produced by the United Nations International Investigation Team for Burundi (EINUB) because its contents were misleading and politically motivated, especially since the Government's arguments were not taken into consideration before its establishment.
9. With regard the concern about the non-implementation of the resolution 2303 (2016), which was supposed to expire on July 27, 2017 and which consequently cannot serve as a reference, it should also be recalled that in its communiqué of 02 August 2016, the Government of Burundi clearly stated its position and denounced the arbitrary nature of the process taken for the adoption of the resolution.
10. In its communiqué, the Government informed the Security Council that the resolution was adopted without consensus, whereas this principle is enshrined in the United Nations Charter in Chapter 6, including the consent of the country concerned when it comes to adopting a resolution within the framework of that chapter.

As a family member of the United Nations, Burundi in its own right could not accept any resolution taken in violation of the basic rules governing this universal family and especially violating the sovereignty of its territory.

11. It should be noted that, while it was necessary at some point for Burundi to agree to the deployment of a team of some 20 to 50 unarmed police to build the capacities of its police in the fight against terrorism, this scenario advocated by resolution 2303 (contested) to deploy 228 police officers is no longer justified, as long as the security situation has significantly improved compared with the time of the resolution.

The same observation is indeed made by the Security Council in its statement, hence justifying the massive and voluntary return of refugees in recent days at a time when others are eager to register for the return in their country. The Government urges the UNHCR to facilitate the repatriation of Burundians.

**12.** The Government of Burundi reiterates its readiness to co-operate with the United Nations in all matters relating to peace, security, human rights, development and stability of the region, yet with strict respect for the sacrosanct principle of sovereignty and equality of the member states enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Done at Bujumbura, 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2017

**Philippe NZOBONARIBA**

Secretary-General and Spokesman of the  
Government.-