

14 April 2015

To: Members of the Peacebuilding Commission, Burundi Configuration

Subject: **Chair's visit to Burundi, 31 March – 03 April 2015**

Dear colleagues,

In my capacity as Chair of the Burundi Configuration of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, I visited Burundi from 31 March to 03 April 2015 to pursue the PBC's engagement with Burundi. My discussions with the Government, national stakeh



While the technical work of the CENI is generally well under way, the issue of an additional presidential term, commonly referred to as “third mandate”, continues to polarise Burundians and



downplayed the atmosphere of fear and pledged the Government's commitment to ensure law and order and to respect people's rights. The Police and the Army assured me that they would exercise professionalism, restraint and respect of human rights in managing demonstrations. Violent elements among opposition circles and CNDD-FDD activists (young "Imbonerakure", former combatants) will constitute the most uncontrollable factor and challenge to security. The Government advised the international community to monitor carefully the responsibilities in case of violence, given the temptation of the opposition to use violence. The Minister of Interior told me that we should avoid promoting violence; I relayed this call in my meetings with the political parties, warning against any recourse to violence.









WB, the AfDB and other relevant institutions. I would also suggest that there is a need to do more