



## *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*

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Department of Political Affairs - Security Council Affairs Division  
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### **The situation in Burundi**

#### **Overview**

During the period under review, the Security Council held six meetings and adopted two resolutions in connection with the situation in Burundi. The Council focused on the electoral process and post-conflict situation in Burundi. The United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) was scaled down and replaced by the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) effective on 1 January 2011, with a mandate, inter alia, to support the Government of Burundi in strengthening the independence, capacities and legal frameworks of key national institutions.<sup>1</sup> The Council extended the mandate of BNUB for a period of one year.<sup>2</sup>

#### **10 May 2010: electoral process**

On 10 May 2010, the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and head of BINUB briefed members on the preparations for the presidential and legislative elections scheduled for 28 June and 23 July 2010 respectively. While highlighting the positive developments in the preparation for the elections, including the issuance of free identity cards, the submission of names of the candidates by the political parties for communal elections, the signing of the code of conduct for political parties, the media and the administration, and the significant progress in securing the budget for the elections, he noted the challenges ahead, particularly those relating to the tightness of the electoral calendar and the management of

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the mandates of BINUB and BNUB, see part X, sect. II, with regard to political and peacebuilding missions.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution [2027 \(2011\)](#).

tensions that might arise on the day of elections.<sup>3</sup> Concurring with the positive assessment of the overall situation in Burundi, the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peace-building Commission pointed out that successful elections in Burundi would be key to solidifying the political foundation for peace and economic development in the country.<sup>4</sup> Speaking in the same vein, the representative of Burundi informed the Council that the National Independent Electoral Commission had been established and plans for election security had been developed. He expressed optimism over the successful holding of the elections, given the presence of a great number of regional and international observers, higher standard of press freedom, and the existence of the legal and operational frameworks for free and transparent elections.<sup>5</sup>

### **December 2010 to December 2011: report of the Secretary-General on BINUB and BNUB**

From December 2010 to December 2011, the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of BINUB, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of BNUB and the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission provided three joint briefings to the Council on the progress and challenges faced by Burundi in peacebuilding, particularly in the areas of human rights and transitional justice.

On 9 December 2010, the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of BINUB presented the seventh report of the Secretary-General which provided an update on major developments in Burundi and outlined his proposals on the mandate and structure of the post-BINUB presence.<sup>6</sup> Despite the concerns expressed in the report over the threats and intimidation of members of the political opposition and the prevalent climate of impunity, he stressed the progress achieved, such as the absence of large-scale

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<sup>3</sup> [S/PV.6309](#), pp. 2-4.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7.

<sup>6</sup> [S/2010/608](#).

violence during and after the electoral period, enhanced women representation in the National Assembly, and the integration of ex-combatants. On the basis of the report, the Executive Representative recommended a continuing but downsized United Nations presence in Burundi to succeed BINUB after the expiration of the mandate on 31 December 2010.<sup>7</sup> Expressing his concern about “an appreciable increase in human rights violations”, the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission identified four areas in the future work of the configuration: support the country in its integration into the East African Community; incorporate conflict-sensitive aspects in the poverty reduction strategy; address the rule of law and respect for human rights aspects; and promote the culture of dialogue among the various parties in the country.<sup>8</sup> In response to the concerns expressed in the Secretary-General’s report, the representative of Burundi outlined the initiatives taken by his Government to address those issues.<sup>9</sup>

On 17 May 2011, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of BNUB noted that the security situation in the country was generally calm and that a new law had been adopted on the functioning and organization of political parties. While expressing concern over continued reports of extrajudicial execution, she noted that the process of establishing an independent national human rights commission had moved steadily forward and significant developments had also been achieved in the realm of transitional justice. She reported that the transition from BINUB to a scaled-down presence of BNUB was going well.<sup>10</sup> Highlighting the adoption of the final document containing the conclusions of the fourth biannual review of the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi on 21 April, the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission pointed out four priorities to be focused on, namely, on the institutional side, the consolidation of a culture of democracy as well as good governance, human rights, and the rule of law. On the socio-economic side, he referred to the integration of the most vulnerable and those most affected by the conflict

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<sup>7</sup> [S/PV.6439](#), pp. 3-4.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 6.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 7-9.

<sup>10</sup> [S/PV.6538](#), pp. 2-4.

into economic life as well as regional integration into the East African Community on the socio-economic side.<sup>11</sup> The representative of Burundi stated that, following the successful elections of 2010, his country had set up institutions to conduct the new legislature. The success of the electoral process had largely been due to a spirit of dialogue forged through the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding drawn up by the Parliament, the Government, political parties, and civil society.<sup>12</sup>

On 7 December 2011, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General stated that although progress had been made in peacebuilding efforts, challenges remained. Citing the areas of transitional justice and human rights efforts, she referred to the normalization of relations between the Government and extra-parliamentary parties, the process to establish a truth and reconciliation commission, and the establishment of the National Independent Human Rights Commission. At the same time, she warned that as the consolidation of peace remained marred by politically motivated killing and extreme poverty. Lastly, she reported that BNUB had been working on the principal benchmarks in order to facilitate the eventual transition to a United Nations country team presence.<sup>13</sup> Commending the establishment of both the National Independent Human Rights Commission and an Office of the Ombudsman, the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission urged the Government to speed up its efforts in connection with political dialogue, respect for human rights and good governance.<sup>14</sup>

### **December 2010 and December 2011: establishing and extending the mandate of BNUB**

On 16 December 2010, by resolution [1959 \(2010\)](#), the Council, inter alia, took note with appreciation of the successful holding of five consecutive elections between May and September 2010, requested the Secretary-General to establish the United

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid., pp. 4-5.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., p. 6.

<sup>13</sup> [S/PV.6677](#), pp. 2-4.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., pp. 5-6.

Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) with a mandate to support the Government of Burundi in strengthening the independence, capacities and legal frameworks of key national institutions, promoting and facilitating dialogue between national stakeholders, supporting efforts to fight impunity and promoting and protecting human rights. Furthermore, the Council called upon the Secretary-General to develop a set of benchmarks for the future evolution of BNUB into a United Nations Country Team presence.

On 20 December 2011, by resolution [2027 \(2011\)](#), the Council, inter alia, extended until 15 February 2013 the mandate of BNUB and extended BNUB's mandate to supporting Burundi's socio-economic development and deepening regional integration.

## Meetings: the situation in Burundi

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6309 10 May 2010			Burundi	Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the BINUB, Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)	All invitees	
6439 9 December 2010	Seventh report of the Secretary-General on United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) ( <a href="#">S/2010/608</a> )		Burundi	Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the BINUB, Chair of the Burundi configuration of the PBC	All invitees	
6451 16 December 2010	Seventh report of the Secretary-General on BINUB ( <a href="#">S/2010/608</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by France, Gabon, Japan, Lebanon, United Kingdom, United States ( <a href="#">S/2010/640</a> )				<a href="#">Resolution 1959 (2010)</a> 15-0-0
6538 17 May 2011			Burundi	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the BNUB, Chair of the Burundi configuration of the PBC	All invitees	
6677 7 December 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) ( <a href="#">S/2011/751</a> )		Burundi	Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the BNUB, Chair of the Burundi configuration of the PBC	All invitees	
6691 20 December 2011	Report of the Secretary-General on BNUB ( <a href="#">S/2011/751</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by France ( <a href="#">S/2011/782</a> )	Burundi		Burundi	<a href="#">Resolution 2027 (2011)</a> 15-0-0