

**Workshop on the evaluation of the implementation of the Roadmap**  
**27-29 November 2013**  
**Royal Palace Hotel, Bujumbura**

**Elements for the effective implementation of the Roadmap**

1. From 27 to 29 November 2013, the Government of Burundi and the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) organized a workshop to evaluate the implementation of the Roadmap adopted by consensus on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013 by all Burundian political parties and actors. The workshop was held under the patronage of the First Vice President of the Republic, with the participation of former Presidents of the Republic, Parliamentarians, the Minister of the Interior, the Bureau of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), the presidents of political parties and political actors, the governors of provinces, and the presidents of youth leagues affiliated to political parties. National and international civil society organizations as well as technical and financial partners also attended the workshop as observers.
2. Participants expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the workshops organized in the framework of the implementation of the Roadmap, in particular the May workshop in Kayanza on the revision of the Electoral Code, and the workshop held in early November in Bujumbura on the political environment.
3. The discussions focused on the general political situation in the country, and the analysis of the Roadmap as a whole, particularly the general principles, the legal framework, the enabling environment, the management and organization of elections, and the monitoring mechanisms. Presentations were made on the Project for Assistance to the Electoral Cycle (PACE), the status of implementation of the Roadmap, and the management and organization of elections. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to the Roadmap and committed to pursue its implementation diligently with regard to the electoral deadlines of 2015, in line with the willingness expressed by the Head of State, the Government, and all Burundian political parties and actors. Furthermore, participants reiterated the need to find in the general principles of the Roadmap the elements likely to inspire and guide the actions of Burundian political parties and actors before, during and after the electoral period.

Subsequent to the discussions that followed, participants agreed the following:

**CHALLENGES**

4. The following major challenges have been identified:
  - The existence of a climate of mistrust between the major political protagonists;
  - The consensual adoption and promulgation of an Electoral Code before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 ;
  - The absence of a consensual constitutional review process;
  - Intolerance and political violence involving youths affiliated to certain political parties;
  - The limitations on the exercise of public liberties;

- The insufficient involvement of political parties and actors in the preparation of the electoral process;
- The absence of a formal monitoring process of the Roadmap.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

5. Participants made the following specific recommendations:

### **Legal framework for elections**

6. The revision of the Constitution must involve all the country's sociopolitical components. Participants thus welcomed the Government's commitment to encourage other institutions of the Republic, such as the Parliament, to promote dialogue before adopting important texts, in particular the fundamental law and the electoral code, in the spirit of recommendations 13, 15 and 16 of the Roadmap. In this regard, they requested the President of the National Assembly to submit the draft text to political parties so that they can provide inputs to the proposed amendments, and define the modalities of the inclusion of these inputs into the text, which will be considered by the National Assembly.

7. The establishment of appropriate consultative mechanisms within which political parties and actors can express their views and thus contribute to the process of development and/or improvement of the laws relating to fundamental civil and political freedoms;

### **Enabling environment**

8. An enabling environment for political life and the holding of credible elections.

9. The organization of periodic meetings, every three months, on the exercise of public liberties between political parties and actors, youths affiliated to political parties, and civil society, including at all levels of the territorial administration in order to strengthen consultation and trust.

10. The rejection of all acts of political violence, and of manipulation of youths affiliated to political parties.

11. Appropriate measures to be taken by the Government, the Presidents of political parties and political actors to end intolerance and violence as a means of political expression.

12. Civic education programs to be launched, aimed at raising the awareness of youths on their duties as citizens and to value patriotism and accountability.

13. The promotion of democratic culture and the importance of reuniting the divided parties, in line with recommendation 25 of the Roadmap.

14. Improvement of equal access to public media by all political parties and actors.

### **Management of the elections**

15. The establishment by the CENI, as soon as possible, of an inclusive consultative mechanism to facilitate consultation with political parties and actors throughout the preparatory phase of the elections;

16. Better dissemination of information on the modalities of obtaining biometric identity cards, and to ensure its delivery at an affordable cost for all Burundians;

17. The CENI and the Government to ensure that any delay in the establishment of the biometric identity card does not affect citizens' voting rights;

18. To ensure inclusive participation of the representatives of political parties and actors in the CEPIs and the CECIs;

19. To guarantee the presence of political party agents in polling stations in order to increase the transparency and credibility of the polls.

### **Monitoring mechanism**

20. The institution of the present inclusive consultation framework as a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Roadmap through the organization of periodic meetings every three months and to request the Government to organize such consultation meetings until the 2015 polls. Furthermore, the participants encouraged political parties and actors to also make use of the already existing mechanisms, such as the Forum of Political Parties and the Union of Opposition Parties.

21. The next inclusive consultations to monitor the implementation of the Roadmap are scheduled for the first quarter of 2014.

Bujumbura, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013

## Inputs from the International Community

At the end of the workshop on the evaluation of the implementation of the Roadmap, the development partners:

- Congratulated the Government of Burundi and the United Nations Office in Burundi for the success of this important workshop, and invited them to pursue the dialogue and consultation until the holding of the next elections;
- Also congratulated the government and political parties and actors for their commitment to organize free, equitable, transparent and peaceful elections;
- Welcomed with satisfaction the decision of the government to establish a monitoring mechanism and underlined the importance of maintaining the inclusive nature of the discussions on all questions linked with the preparation of the 2015 elections, in particular the constitutional review process;
- Reaffirmed their financial and technical support to the Government to ensure the organization of free, equitable, transparent, credible and peaceful elections in 2015;
- Encouraged the Government of Burundi and political parties and actors to reject violence as a means of political expression.