

4. The situation concerning Rwanda

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held a meeting on 10 July 2008 regarding the situation concerning Rwanda, and adopted resolution [1823 \(2008\)](#) under Chapter VII of the Charter to terminate the remaining arms embargo against non-governmental forces in Rwanda⁴⁹ and dissolve the

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [918 \(1994\)](#) concerning Rwanda.⁵⁰

In May 2009, the Council visited Rwanda in connection with the situation in Rwanda as part of its mission to Africa.⁵¹

⁴⁹ For more information, see part VII, sect. III, with regard to sanctions.

⁵⁰ For more information, see part IX, sect. I.B.

⁵¹ For more information, section 40 of the present part and part VI, with regard to Security Council missions.

Meetings: the situation concerning Rwanda

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
5931st 10 July 2008	Letter dated 31 December 2007 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 918 (1994) concerning Rwanda addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2007/782)	Draft resolution (S/2008/432)	Rule 37 Rwanda		Resolution 1823 (2008) 15-0-0

5. The situation in Burundi

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council held eight meetings, received five briefings, and adopted two resolutions and one presidential statement relating to the situation in Burundi, focusing on the challenges faced by Burundi in the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement signed in 2006 and in post-conflict peace consolidation in the midst of a deteriorating political and security situation. The Council heard regular briefings by the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi. It twice extended the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) for periods of one year.⁵²

24 April 2008: concern at confrontations in Burundi

By a presidential statement of 24 April 2008, the Council expressed its serious concern at the recent confrontations between the Palipehutu-Forces nationales de liberation (FNL) and the National Defense Forces of Burundi, following attacks by the Palipehutu-FNL, and the resulting loss of life. The Council expressed its intention to consider possible additional measures, as appropriate, in support of peace and stability in Burundi.⁵³

mandate of BINUB.

⁵³ S/PRST/2008/10.

⁵² Resolutions 1858 (2008) and 1902 (2009). For more information, see part X, sect. II, with regard to the

22 May to 11 December 2008: briefings on progress in peacebuilding efforts

Between 22 May and 11 December 2008, the Council received three briefings on challenges and progress in the peacebuilding efforts in Burundi. On 22 May 2008, the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission warned that peacebuilding was “under stress” in Burundi. He noted that the challenges ranged from the ongoing fighting between the Palipehutu-FNL and government security forces to the continuing deadlock among the political parties, the timely holding of 2010 national elections, the return of a large number of refugees posing a strain on land resources and the State’s administrative, judicial and legislative capacity, and lastly the deteriorating economic situation of Burundi.⁵⁴

Expressing optimism over the FNL return to the negotiation table and the resumption of work of the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, the representative of Burundi addressed the challenges related to institutional deadlock, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and transitional justice. He stressed the need to find mechanisms to restore order and to oblige everyone, in particular those in Parliament, to act within a legal framework. Acknowledging that judicial reform had not achieved the desired results, he appealed for international support, in particular the funds promised by the partners of Burundi during the round table held in Bujumbura in May 2007.⁵⁵

On 26 August 2008, while pointing out a number of positive developments, including the cessation of hostilities, the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission stressed that the peace process continued to face significant challenges. He reported about the first biannual review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi which, in the area of good governance, focused on creating the conditions for free and fair elections in 2010. For the preparation of the elections, the review meeting considered essential the establishment of the national independent electoral commission. It also stressed the importance of the implementation of the 2006 Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement between the Government and the Palipehutu-FNL, as this would constitute a vital step towards peace consolidation that

would enable Burundi and its partners to focus on other critical challenges, including combating poverty, security sector reform, good governance, democratic consolidation and the fight against impunity.⁵⁶

The representative of Burundi reported on the implementation of the peacebuilding plan in his country. He stated that a great deal had been accomplished in democratic governance, with the Parliament functioning normally, the Government being less divided and political parties committing themselves to urgently deal with amendments to legal texts, including the Constitution. As for strengthening the rule of law within the security forces, he described the demobilization and reintegration of the Palipehutu-FNL combatants as imperative. He reported that those who had been demobilized represented a potential insecurity factor owing to their difficulties in reintegrating into society. In that regard, he stressed the need for support from the bilateral and multilateral partners of Burundi. Finally, he stressed the need to reform the traditional Burundian land ownership system as it had become the root cause of a growing crime rate.⁵⁷

On 11 December 2008, the South African Facilitator of the Burundi Peace Process told the Council that a “significant step forward” had been made in resolving the differences between the Government of Burundi and its sole remaining armed opposition group, the Palipehutu-FNL. He informed the Council that four outstanding matters with respect to the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement had been resolved in the summit of the heads of State and Government of the Great Lakes region held on 4 December, attended by both the Government of Burundi and the Palipehutu-FNL, including the release of political and war prisoners by the Burundi Government; the appointment of the leaders of the Palipehutu-FNL to the organs of the State; the change of the name of Palipehutu-FNL so that it could register as a political party under the Constitution of Burundi; and the start of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.⁵⁸ Similarly, stressing the breakthrough in the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement, the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission in his subsequent briefing emphasized

⁵⁴ S/PV.5897, pp. 2-3.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5.

⁵⁶ S/PV.5966, pp. 2-3.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-7.

⁵⁸ S/PV.6037, pp. 2-3.

that the implementation of the Agreement had been a first crucial step towards effective peacebuilding in Burundi.⁵⁹

Responding to human rights violations addressed in the Secretary-General's report,⁶⁰ the representative of Burundi reported that his Government was currently setting up an independent human rights commission and that draft laws, including a new penal code, were being developed.⁶¹

The only Council member who spoke, the representative of Costa Rica, expressed grave concern about the existence of child soldiers among the forces of the Palipehutu-FNL and about arrests of members of the political opposition, members of the communications media and representatives of civil society.⁶²

22 December 2008: renewal of the mandate of BINUB and call for the conclusion of the peace process

By resolution [1858 \(2008\)](#), extending the mandate of BINUB for one year until 31 December 2009, the Council, *inter alia*, urged the Government of Burundi and Palipehutu-FNL to make every effort to implement, before 31 December 2008, the agreements they had reached on 4 December 2008 so as to bring the last phase of the peace process to a successful conclusion.

9 June to 17 December 2009: electoral process as a new focus for peacebuilding

Briefing the Council on 9 June 2009, the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General presented the report of the Secretary-General.⁶³ He told the Council that significant progress had been achieved in the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement in laying the foundations for the preparations of the 2010 elections.⁶⁴ He reported that preparations had advanced for the holding of national consultations on the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms. He also stressed that the two most immediate challenges were the conclusion of the

demobilization and reintegration process and the sustainable socioeconomic reintegration of former combatants.⁶⁵

The Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission agreed that peacebuilding in Burundi had entered a new phase and that the Commission could now start to shift its attention towards support to longer-term socioeconomic reintegration and to the challenges related to the elections in 2010.⁶⁶

The representative of Burundi shared the concerns set out in the report over human rights and the protection of children, the status of women, the persistence of corruption, and provision of security for the population. At the same time, he pointed out that his Government had put in place, or was in the process of doing so, appropriate mechanisms in all those areas.⁶⁷

On 10 December 2009, acknowledging that the necessary legal framework was in place, the preparatory process was on track, and the legitimacy of the Independent National Electoral Commission was broadly accepted, both the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission briefed the Council on the challenges faced by Burundi in the 2010 elections,⁶⁸ such as the funding of the electoral process, the significant number of potential voters who could not afford the administrative costs related to acquiring a national identity card, widespread fear of violence and fear concerning the deterioration of trust

between the opposition and the ruling party.⁶⁹ Following the briefing, the representative of Burundi, among other issues, highlighted advances in the electoral process, the establishment of the Permanent Forum for Dialogue among political parties and work on a national strategy for the sustainable reintegration of people affected by the conflict.⁷⁰

In resolution [1902 \(2009\)](#), the Council decided to extend the mandate of BINUB for another year until

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5.

⁶⁰ S/2008/745.

⁶¹ S/PV.6037, pp. 5-7.

⁶² *Ibid.*, p. 7.

⁶³ S/2009/270.

⁶⁴ S/PV.6138, p. 2.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

⁶⁸ The Executive Representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/611).

⁶⁹ S/PV.6236, pp. 2-5.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

31 December 2010, recognized the primary responsibility of the Government of Burundi and its national partners to create propitious conditions for the elections in 2010, and urged the Government of

Burundi to take the necessary measures to create an environment conducive to the holding of free, fair and peaceful elections in 2010.

Meetings: the situation in Burundi

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
5876th 24 April 2008			Rule 37 Burundi		S/PRST/2008/10
5897th 22 May 2008	Third report of the Secretary-General on BINUB (S/2008/330)		Rule 37 Burundi Rule 39 Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All invitees	
5966th 26 August 2008			Rule 37 Burundi Rule 39 Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Commission	All invitees	
6037th 11 December 2008	Fourth report of the Secretary-General on BINUB (S/2008/745)		Rule 37 Burundi Rule 39 Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Commission, Facilitator of the Burundi Peace Process and Minister of Defence of South Africa	1 Council member (Costa Rica) and all invitees	
6057th 22 December 2008	Fourth report of the Secretary-General on BINUB (S/2008/745)	Draft resolution submitted by Belgium, France (S/2008/802)	Rule 37 Burundi		Resolution 1858 (2008) 15-0-0

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
6138th 9 June 2009	Fifth report of the Secretary-General on BINUB (S/2009/270)		Rule 37 Burundi Rule 39 Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission	All invitees	
6236th 10 December 2009	Sixth report of the Secretary-General on BINUB (S/2009/611)		Rule 37 Burundi (Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation) Rule 39 Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Commission	All invitees	
6245th 17 December 2009	Sixth report of the Secretary-General on BINUB (S/2009/611)	Draft resolution submitted by France (S/2009/652)	Rule 37 Burundi		Resolution 1902 (2009) 15-0-0

6. The situation in Sierra Leone

Overview

During the period under review, the Security Council adopted two resolutions and received seven briefings by the Secretariat and the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission concerning the situation in Sierra Leone. The briefings focused on political and security situations and peacebuilding support activities. The Council established the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding

Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL)⁷¹ as a follow-on mission to the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL)⁷² and extended the mandate of UNIPSIL for one year. The Council also discussed the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, on the basis of the briefing by the representatives of the Court.

⁷¹ For more information, see part X, sect. II, with regard to the mandate of UNIPSIL.

⁷² For more information, see part X, sect. II, with regard to the mandate of UNIOSIL.