



Dialogue international sur la construction de la paix et le renforcement de l'État

Contribution du Gouvernement du Burundi

Mars 2010



summary

Results

Priorities

On the eve of the second national elections since the signature of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in Burundi in August 2000, the country is at a crucial crossroads in its progress towards peace and sustainable and equitable development. The achievements of the Arusha Agreement are clear – an end to hostilities, working state institutions and new reforms put in place. The country must now build on these achievements, forge a lasting peace and improve the living conditions of its population. At the National Consultation in Burundi, the stakeholders mentioned the following as priorities for peace building and state building.

- Creating a climate of tolerance and respect among political parties and professionalising the political community in order to increase the public's confidence in the political sphere.
- Guaranteeing a credible electoral process in order to increase voters' confidence in the State.
- Continuing the process of professionalising the defence and security forces and developing a national plan for security sector reform.
- Guaranteeing and authorising the autonomy of an independent judiciary and the improvement of court procedures in order to build up the population's confidence in judicial institutions, mitigate conflicts and enable economic development.
- The fundamental issues are still a great concern about peace, security and agricultural development.
- The prevention of corruption, particularly reinforcing surveillance and control mechanisms and finalising the national governance strategy for the prevention of corruption, is seen by all stakeholders as essential in building people's confidence in the State.
- The institution of a qualified, efficient, accountable administration and the depoliticisation of the public administration remains a priority stemming from the Arusha Agreement.
- The situation of demobilised, repatriated and displaced persons inside the country is dangerous and a strategy for national reintegration is necessary to prevent recourse to violence in certain areas.
- In the framework of economic development and sustainable growth: job creation, modernisation of the agricultural sector, the expansion of electricity production and support for the private sector, especially improvements to the business environment for investors and access to credit.

Strategic planning for peace building and state building

Burundi has two strategic frameworks, its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and its Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding (SFP). Both of these will be coming to an end in 2010 and the country will shortly have to set its priorities for the second generation Strategy Paper. The Government is proposing that the structure of the second generation PRSP be built on the results of the previous programme. Given that certain actors, particularly among the international community, consider that the first generation PRSP did not put enough emphasis on peace-related needs, the challenge will be to avoid making the same mistake twice. It will be through this mechanism that the country will have to decide how to manage the impact of the crisis and, at the same time, work towards sustainable development.

Main operating and political challenges in international aid for peace building and state building in the State of Burundi

Post-conflict progress towards sustainable development presents several challenges, among them, the following.

- Prioritisation of peace building with insufficient state involvement. During the crisis and the post-conflict period, the international community responded to the urgent needs of the population, often without sufficiently involving state institutions, which were very weak at the time.
- A lack of dialogue and two-way co-ordination between the public administration and international NGOs and between the State and NGOs, which was detrimental to the establishment of the social contract and the accountability of the State.
- With the approach of the 2010 elections and escalating political tensions, certain peace building priorities, such as traditional justice issues, may become too sensitive and may have to be postponed .
- A financial commitment is sometimes lacking as is real co-operation and an attempt to seek synergies among donors.
- Capacity and knowledge transfer is inefficient since assistants and experts do not always stay for the duration of the programmes concerned and do not share their experience and knowledge.
- The lack of clarity in the division of roles and responsibilities of various government actors creates a number of constraints for partners, who do not always know where to base their programmes.

Recommendations for the Dialogue

Participants at the National Consultation identified the following recommendations for the Dialogue.

- Guaranteeing the credibility of the electoral process is vital. In addition to putting in place the National Independent Electoral Commission, the electoral system needs a credible, independent mechanism to settle electoral disputes as well as safeguards and conflict prevention mechanisms, such as non-partisan armed forces and police and a surveillance programme to monitor their actions during the elections; the message of tolerance and respect for the electoral process has to be gotten across to the population, particularly to groups of young people and mechanisms for media monitoring and self-monitoring and for observing the elections need to be set up.

The sequence of development activities should take the national context into account so as to better manage and foresee the tensions between the urgent and sensitive needs of the peace building process and state building.

- The strategic frameworks should integrate peace building and state building priorities. The distinction between the two is artificial and obscures post conflict barriers to economic development as well as the fragility of institutions.
- A specific framework for dialogue between the Government, international NGOs and their donors could help clarify the mandates, limits, obligations and challenges facing different actors through the humanitarian phase and on towards sustainable development.
- International and national NGOs should clarify their mandates and better communicate their objectives in order to establish where their activities may be complementary. International NGOs which are working in the field of improving public services should also work in better partnership with local structures and seek to align and integrate their programmes with ministries' policies.