



## Security Council

Distr.: General  
29 December 2015

Original: English

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### **Letter dated 24 December 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 19 December 2015 from the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, by which she forwarded a communiqué on Burundi adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 565th meeting, held on 17 December 2015 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* **BAN** Ki-moon



## Annex

I am writing to you with respect to the situation prevailing in Burundi. Over the past few months, our two organizations and other members of the international community have made sustained efforts to help Burundi to address the serious challenges facing it. I would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate the African Union's deep appreciation of the initiatives taken by the United Nations in this regard and of your personal commitment to the early resolution of the crisis. I would like to echo the Peace and Security Council in commending the Security Council for adopting resolution 2248 (2015), in which it welcomed the Peace and Security Council communiqué of 17 October 2015 and the proposed next steps contained therein, looking forward to their full implementation.

It is a matter of deep concern to note that, in spite of all the efforts exerted to date, no tangible progress has been made towards finding a solution to the crisis in Burundi. Instead, the security situation has continued to deteriorate, as demonstrated by the recent attacks on military barracks on Bujumbura and in the Bujumbura Rural Province and the subsequent reprisals, while the political polarization has further deepened. This state of affairs has the potential to lead to generalized violence and to undo the advances registered through the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, with devastating consequences for both Burundi and the entire region. The international community, drawing lessons from past experiences, has the duty to do all it can to prevent such a development.

It is against this backdrop that the Peace and Security Council met in Addis Ababa on 17 December 2015 to, once again, deliberate on the situation and determine the best way forward. Most notably, the Council decided to authorize, for an initial period of six months renewable, the deployment of an African mission mandated to contribute to the protection of civilians and to create conditions conducive to the successful holding of the inter-Burundian dialogue under the auspices of President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda. The mission is also mandated to assist in the implementation of any agreement that may be reached by the Burundian stakeholders in the context of the inter-Burundian dialogue.

Following the Peace and Security Council communiqué of 17 December 2015,<sup>a</sup> I wrote to President Pierre Nkurunziza to formally inform him of the planned deployment and seek his Government's full cooperation and support. I underlined that the African Union had no other agenda than to assist Burundi in its hour of need, by preventing a further escalation of violence and facilitating the search for a consensual political solution to the crisis. I expressed the hope that the Burundian authorities would consent to the deployment to allow it to proceed smoothly, and expressed the African Union's readiness to swiftly initiate discussions with the Government of Burundi to agree on the related implementation modalities. I will keep you informed of the evolution of these efforts.

In parallel, steps are being taken to develop the concept of operations of the envisaged mission and other related documents. This work is premised on the assumption that the Government of Burundi will give its consent and take all steps required to facilitate the deployment process and the implementation of the mandate set out in the Peace and Security Council communiqué. In this regard, we look

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<sup>a</sup> Reproduced in S/2015/1000, annex.

forward to the support of the United Nations and other partners. The Peace and Security Department of the Commission will liaise with the relevant departments of the United Nations Secretariat to follow up on this request and provide further details.

Clearly, the effective implementation of the decisions taken by the Peace and Security Council will depend greatly on the support provided by the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, within the framework of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. In this respect, the Peace and Security Council looks forward to a clear expression of support by the Security Council, including the authorization of a support package funded by assessed contributions, to enable the rapid and effective deployment of the envisaged mission on the basis of the expressed consent of the Government of Burundi. We intend to submit the concept of operations referred to above to the Security Council, as soon as it is finalized, together with a budget and other requirements. Given the volatility of the security situation and the risk of serious escalation on the ground, the importance of a timely decision by the Security Council to enable the deployment of the envisaged mission hardly needs to be emphasized.

While authorizing the deployment of a mission, the African Union remains convinced that only a genuine and truly inclusive dialogue will make it possible to address the crisis and find a sustainable solution. We fully support the mediation efforts of President Museveni on behalf of the East African Community and look forward to the imminent commencement of the dialogue. We call upon the international community to extend the necessary political, financial and technical support.

I would be most grateful if you could circulate the present letter and the Peace and Security Council communiqué of 17 December 2015 to the members of the United Nations Security Council for their information and action, as appropriate.

The African Union looks forward to continued collaboration and cooperation with the United Nations in helping Burundi to address the serious challenges confronting it, as part of our ongoing partnership in the area of peace and security. I have no doubt that our combined efforts in support of the initiatives taken by the region will go a long way in facilitating the resolution of this crisis.

*(Signed)* Nkosazana **Dlamini Zuma**  
Chairperson