



COMMUNIQUÉ

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE RE-LAUNCH OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC) MEDIATED BURUNDI DIALOGUE

1. Pursuant to the decision of the Third Emergency Summit of the East African Community, held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, on 6th July 2015 on the crisis in Burundi, President Museveni accepted to facilitate the proposed Burundi Dialogue. Immediately after his appointment, President Museveni spent two working days, 14th and 15th July 2015, in Bujumbura, the capital city of Burundi. During his stay, H.E. President Museveni met with H.E. President Pierre Nkurunziza. He also held consultations with Representatives of the Government of Burundi and other political leaders in the country. President Museveni, subsequently designated his Minister of Defense (MoD), Dr. Crispus Kiyonga as Facilitator and instructed him to continue consultations with the parties. Minister Kiyonga pursued consultations on 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th July 2015 in Bujumbura.
2. Since then, the Mediation has continued consultations with President Nkurunziza and those opposed to his Government. Members of International Community have also conducted consultations with H.E. President Yoweri Museveni and his Minister of Defense, in his capacity as mediator of Burundi Dialogue.

3. Following these extensive consultations, the Mediator decided to re-launch the dialogue.
4. The re-launching ceremony took place at State House, Entebbe, Uganda, on 28th December, 2015 and was presided over by H.E. Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda.
5. The re-launching saw the participation of representatives of Burundi stakeholders. These were as follows:
 - i. Government of the Republic of Burundi
 - ii. *Conseil National Pour la Défense de la Démocratie-Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie* (CNDD-FDD) (The Ruling Political Party and Associated Parties)
 - iii. Opposition Parties
 - iv. Abashingantahe (Traditional Leaders)
 - v. Burundi Chamber of Commerce
 - vi. Association of the Batwa
 - vii. Women Movement for Peace and Security
 - viii. Private Media
 - ix. Human Rights Organization (APRODH)
 - x. Civil Society Organizations (ONELOP)
 - xi. Roman Catholic Church
 - xii. Anglican Church
 - xiii. Former Heads of State of Republic of Burundi.
6. Regional and International Organizations that attended the meeting are the following:
 - i. The Ambassadors of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council accredited in Uganda.
 - ii. The Secretary-General of East African Community (EAC) and the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

- iii. The Special Envoys of the United Nations (SESG), the African Union (AU), the United States of America (USA), the European Union (EU).
7. In addition, high-level officials from the Government of Uganda including H.E. Edward K. Ssekandi (Vice President), Rt. Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda (Prime Minister), Rt. Hon. Kirunda Kivejinja (3rd Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of East African Affairs and several Ministers and Ambassadors were also in attendance.
8. During the re-launching ceremony, it was reiterated that the only way to end the crisis in the Republic of Burundi is through a political dialogue, reinforcing the view enshrined in various communiqués including those of the EAC Summits of 13th May 2015 and 6th July 2015, the AU communiqués of 17th October 2015, 13th November 2015 and 17th December 2015, as well as the UN Security Council's Presidential Statement of 28th October 2015 and its resolution 2248 (2015) of 12th November 2015.
9. In that regard, the EAC, the AU, the UN, the EU and partners of the International Community at large renewed their commitment to support the Burundi Dialogue under the leadership of H.E. Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda.
10. The meeting called upon all Burundi stakeholders to privilege tolerance and Dialogue without preconditions instead of violence in the search for a durable solution to the crisis.
11. It was agreed the dialogue shall resume on 6th January 2016 in Arusha, Tanzania.

Done at Entebbe
28th December, 2015