

[Extract]

United Nations

S/PV.5786

---

**Security Council**

Sixty-second year

**5786**<sup>th</sup> meeting

Wednesday, 28 November 2007, 10.20 a.m.

New York

---

[...]

**The situation in Burundi**

**Sr. Embajador Alfredo Suescum**

Alternate Representative of Panama to the United Nations

**Mr. Suescum** (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, we would like to welcome and to thank Minister Nqakula for his detailed briefing and to convey to him our delegation's gratitude for the carrying out of his duties as Facilitator of the Burundi Peace Process. In turn, we would also like to commend the efforts undertaken by the African Union, the Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi and the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi, as well as the work undertaken in that country by the Peacebuilding Commission, in order to obtain peace and sustainable development there.

Like previous delegations who have taken the floor, we welcome the establishment of the new National Unity Government and encourage the new members of the cabinet to set aside their political differences and to work together for common objectives, such as national reconciliation, development and stability in Burundi.

We note that the deadlock in the peace negotiations, in particular the intransigence demonstrated by certain members of the PALIPEHUTU-FNL and their refusal to join the negotiations, represents one of the greatest obstacles to peacebuilding in the country and in that context we call upon the PALIPEHUTU-FNL to join without delay and without preconditions, the

Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism in order to arrive at a political solution and thus ensure the rapid implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement.

For its part, the Government of Burundi must also double its efforts to facilitate the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, as well as its efforts to reform the security sector.

Allow me to emphasize that for Panama, peace and justice are two sides of the same coin. In that context we call upon the Government of Burundi and the United Nations to continue negotiations in order to define relations between a truth and reconciliation commission and a special tribunal, which will ensure that perpetrators of international human rights violations and crimes against humanity will be brought to justice, making it clear that human rights are not negotiable.

Finally, Panama supports the draft press statement as has been presented to us.