

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

2 May 2007

Dear Mr. President,
Excellency,

I would like to express my appreciation for your Government's consistent support to the peace process in Burundi. The efforts of the Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi and the Facilitation of the Burundi Peace Process have been instrumental in the significant progress achieved towards peace and stability in the country.

I would also like to pay tribute to your personal engagement, which led to the successful conclusion of negotiations between the Government of Burundi and Palipehutu-FNL, and the signing of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement in Dar-es-Salaam on 7 September 2006.

However, despite all efforts, no progress has yet been achieved in the implementation of the Agreement and I am concerned by the impasse, which has resulted in the suspension of the Agreement's Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism since 27 March 2007.

I trust you share my view about the urgent need to bring this final phase of the peace process to an expeditious and successful conclusion. This will be essential, in order to minimize the risk of a return to instability in Burundi and to allow progress in the national reconciliation and reconstruction efforts that are vital for the consolidation of peace in the country.

While the primary responsibility for addressing the current impasse lies with the Burundian parties, I nevertheless believe that a timely intervention of the Agreement's guarantors is required to help both parties overcome their differences, build confidence, and agree on an overall political framework that would pave the way for the implementation of the Agreement.


His Excellency
Mr. Thabo Mbeki
President of the Republic of South Africa
Pretoria



I count on your leadership, and that of Presidents Museveni and Kikwete, to whom I am addressing similar letters, to move this process forward. For my part, I wish to assure you of the commitment of the United Nations to support your efforts. I have asked my Executive Representative for Burundi, Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, to work closely with the Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi and the Facilitation, in close collaboration with the African Union, on any regional initiative to end the current impasse in the Burundi peace process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

With my deep respect and appreciation,


Ban Ki-moon