



# **General Assembly**

Distr. LIMITED

A/HRC/WG.6/3/L.3 4 December 2008

Original: ENGLISH/FRENCH

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Third session Geneva, 1-15 December 2008

Advance unedited version

# DRAFT REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW \*

Burundi

GE.08-

\_

<sup>\*</sup> The final document will be issued under the symbol A/HRC/10/7. The annex to the present report has been circulated as received.

# **CONTENTS**

	Paragraphs	Page
Introduction		
I. SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE REVIEW PRO		
A. Presentation by the State under review		
B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under re	eview -	
II. CONCLUSIONS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS		
Annex		
Composition of the delegation		

#### Introduction

- 1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its third session from 1 to 15 December 2008. The review of Burundi was held at the 3rd meeting, on 2 December 2008. The delegation of Burundi was headed by Her Excellency Mrs Immaculée Nahayo. At its meeting held on 4 December 2008, the Working Group adopted the present report on Burundi.
- 2. On 8 September 2008, the Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Burundi: Mauritius, India, and Cuba.
- 3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1, the following documents were issued for the review of Burundi:
- (a) A national report submitted made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/3/ BDI /1);
- (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/3/BDI/2);
- (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR, in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/3/ BDI /3).
- 4. A list of questions prepared in advance by the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Latvia, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Burundi through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

#### I. SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE REVIEW PROCESS

## A. Presentation by the State under review

- 5. A sa 3ème séance, le 2 décembre 2008, S.E. Mme Immaculée Nahayo, ministre de la Solidarité nationale, des droits de la personne humaine et du genre, a présenté le rapport national et fait un exposé qui doit être considéré comme faisant partie intégrante du rapport. Elle a rappelé que le Burundi retrouve progressivement la paix depuis la signature de l'Accord d'Arusha de 2000 et des autres accords subséquents. Les institutions du pays établies suite aux élections d'août 2005 ont pour mandat la construction d'un Etat de droit dans lequel les droits de l'homme occupent une place privilégiée.
- 6. Le Burundi a rappelé les nombreuses conventions et autres traités internationaux et régionaux relatifs aux droits de l'homme et au droit international humanitaire et ceux relatifs aux droits à la paix, au développement et à un environnement sain auxquels le Burundi est partie.
- 7. Le Burundi a fait tout son possible pour améliorer la situation des droits économiques, sociaux et culturels, notamment pour le niveau de vie de la population, l'éducation et la santé. De nombreux efforts ont été fournis en vue d'augmenter la production, les emplois et les revenus agricoles avec les augmentations budgétaires requises pour notamment éradiquer la faim.
- 8. L'enseignement primaire est accessible gratuitement à tous depuis 2005. Les augmentations budgétaires y afférentes se sont soldées par une augmentation de 69 pour cent de

l'enrôlement dans les écoles primaires entre 2005 et 2008. Le Gouvernement a aussi commencé à généraliser l'accès gratuit aux services de santé, avec pour résultat une amélioration importante des indicateurs pertinents.

- 9. Le droit au travail et droits connexes sont garantis dans les codes du travail et de la sécurité sociale. Le Gouvernement lutte contre le chômage, notamment en mettant en place un Observatoire national de l'emploi et en prenant des mesures pour l'amélioration des conditions salariales, et se dote d'une politique nationale pour la protection sociale. La protection du droit d'auteur est garantie et un projet de loi vient d'être adopté par le Gouvernement en vue de protéger les droits de propriété industrielle.
- 10. Les droits civils et politiques sont protégés par la Constitution et la législation. Une loi sur le désarmement est en préparation et le projet de nouveau code pénal incrimine le génocide, les crimes de guerre et les crimes contre l'humanité. Il incrimine également les actes de torture, peines et autres traitements cruels, inhumains et dégradants et prévoit l'indemnisation des victimes par l'Etat. Les viols et violences faites aux femmes sont aussi incriminés avec des sanctions dissuasives. Les garanties judiciaires en faveur des personnes privées de liberté sont également prévues en droit. Les libertés de pensée, de conscience, de religion et d'expression sont protégées. Les organes de presse et les organisations œuvrant avec les médias sont légion,. En sus de l'aide du Gouvernement au profit des organes de presse, il est prévu la détaxation de leurs importations, la dépénalisation des délits de presse et la mise en place d'un fonds d'appui aux médias. Les lois relatives aux partis politiques et aux associations sans but lucratif (ASBL) consacrent et protègent la liberté d'association. 39 partis politiques opèrent au Burundi de même que plus de 3 000 ASBL agréées, avec une augmentation du nombre de ces agréments ces dernières années. Le soutien de l'Etat aux partis politiques de toutes obédiences a été particulièrement remarqué lors des élections de 2005.
- 11. Le Burundi prévoit l'élimination de la différence d'âge entre garçons et filles pour la majorité nuptiale dans le projet de nouveau code des personnes et de la famille. En outre, un taux minimal de participation de la femme dans les institutions politiques est prévu dans la Constitution. Le projet de nouveau code pénal érige les viols et violences faites aux femmes et aux filles en infractions punies sévèrement. La scolarisation des jeunes filles ne pose plus de problèmes majeurs. Un projet de code sur les successions, les régimes matrimoniaux et les libéralités est en cours d'examen, qui consacre le droit des femmes et des filles à l'héritage foncier. Enfin, la femme mariée ne doit plus requérir l'autorisation du mari pour exercer une activité lucrative.
- 12. S'agissant des droits des minorités, la Constitution accorde à l'ethnie Batwa trois sièges à l'Assemblée Nationale ainsi qu'au Sénat et un vaste programme gouvernemental, appuyé par les ONG et les Eglises, est en cours d'exécution pour intégrer effectivement les Batwa dans la société burundaise.
- 13. La Constitution interdit les discriminations à l'encontre des personnes vivant avec le VIH/SIDA, qui bénéficient de prestations médicales gratuites et sont protégées contre le licenciement pour maladie. Un programme multiforme de soutien aux indigents, rapatriés et déplacés est en cours d'exécution.
- 14. Une Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l'homme (CNDH) sera fonctionnelle dès janvier 2009. Le Gouvernement vient d'adopter un projet de loi y relatif, lequel sera transmis au Parlement pour adoption pendant la session en cours. L'entrée en vigueur du

nouveau code pénal et d'autres lois en préparation en vue d'éliminer des situations de discrimination permettront aussi de combattre efficacement les violations des droits de l'homme. Le code de déontologie du Service national de renseignements récemment adopté, la formation de la police, de l'armée et des magistrats du parquet en droits de l'homme et en droit international humanitaire, ainsi que l'appui institutionnel au secteur de la justice, contribueront à améliorer le respect des droits de l'homme.

- 15. Six défis majeurs sont à noter: a) le recul des valeurs relatives à la culture de la paix, la tolérance et au respect d'autrui et au respect des droits de l'homme en général en raison du long conflit; b) le retard et l'insuffisance des connaissances et technologies pour les préposés de l'Etat; c) l'armement de la population consécutif aux comportements d'autodéfense; d) la pauvreté excessive; e) l'exiguïté des terres qui est source de violences profondes et; f) l'existence d'une législation lacunaire en matière de droits de l'homme.
- 16. Pour faire face à ces défis, le Burundi a besoin d'immenses moyens. Il a remercié à ce titre tous ses partenaires pour leur soutien et réitéré son appel aux pays qui le peuvent de faire preuve de solidarité envers le Burundi.

### B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

- 17. During the interactive dialogue, statements were made by 41 delegations. A number of delegations thanked the Government for the comprehensive national report, which openly addresses the challenges faced by the country. Burundi's continuous efforts and commitments to improve its human rights situation, despite numerous challenges, including the difficult situation resulting from the civil war, poverty and political turmoil since independence, were also praised. The ratification of a number of human rights treaties was noted as well as inclusion in the Constitution of the rights proclaimed therein. Delegations further welcomed Burundi's new draft criminal code, which abolishes the death penalty and criminalizes torture, rape and sexual violence, as well as the establishment of the Ministry for National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender.
- 18. Algeria appreciated the fact that Burundi is working for peace and national reconciliation. It noted the establishment of the Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights and the Prevention of Genocide and the ratification of certain human rights instruments. Algeria welcomed efforts to promote education via free elementary schooling, as well as free maternal care and free health care for children under five. Algeria recommended that both the Government and armed groups that are signatories to the cease fire agreement of 7 September 2006 continue efforts to implement it. Algeria called upon the international community to increase support to Burundi's judicial system and its fight against poverty.
- 19. Australia welcomed the progress made on the establishment of an independent national commission on human rights, and recommended that it conform to the Paris Principles. Noting that the Committee against Torture and the independent expert on the human rights situation in Burundi have expressed concern about the widespread use of torture, Australia inquired about progress made in the revision of the criminal code to prohibit the practice of torture. It inquired on the veracity of disturbing reports of criminal sanctions against homosexuality in proposed criminal code revisions and, if true, how such provisions were consistent with Burundi's commitments under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in the light of relevant conclusions by the Human Rights Committee.

- 20. France expressed concern that there is no independent and effective body to combat impunity of soldiers or civil servants, or non-State actors, for acts of sexual violence against women. France noted that press freedom was a major accomplishment of the post-conflict transition, but was concerned by the recent arrest of journalists. Despite improvements with the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the prison infrastructure is unsatisfactory, and raised concerns about the sanitary and medical conditions in detention. France recommended that Burundi take all necessary measures to ban secret places of detention, particularly by envisaging the signing and ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED). While noting that the principle of gender equality is written in the Constitution, France stated that the absence of laws governing inheritance, matrimony and bequests leave a gap in this regard. France recommended that Burundi adopt legislation guaranteeing equality between men and women, particularly in the area of family and inheritance law. France expressed great concern at the recent crimes against albinos in Burundi, and recommended that Burundi reinforce measures to raise awareness on the situation of these people to prevent such acts and to ensure material assistance to victims. Noting that the new Constitution guarantees the protection of children in periods of armed conflict, France also recommended that Burundi heighten its efforts to contribute to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of children involved in armed conflict. France assured the Government of its full support in all of its development activities.
- 21. The Sudan noted the Government's cooperation with the United Nations in the activities of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) and the signing of the memorandum of agreement with the United Nations about a technical cooperation programme in the field of human rights. While noting that the rights of the child are well protected by the Government, the Sudan stated that the international community should help Burundi to provide assistance to children affected by HIV/AIDS, women, and for eliminating poverty. It asked Burundi to share its best practices with regard to the protection of the rights of victims through commissions set up to address socio-economic reintegration, land and other properties issues.
- 22. Luxembourg noted that despite efforts, there are still concerns, especially with regards to sexual violence, HIV/AIDS orphans and war. It asked the Government about its strategy to stop the recruitment of child soldiers. Luxembourg recommended that Burundi (a) better train law enforcement officials to ensure that authors of sexual violence are prosecuted in a more severe and consequent manner; (b) follow of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommendations to guarantee appropriate compensation and support and assistance measures for victims of sexual violence; and (c) set up hosting and reintegration structures for HIV/AIDS orphans. Noting improvements in health care, Luxembourg stated that the right to health has not been guaranteed for the majority of the population and (d) recommended that Burundi progressively increase its budgetary allocations to health in order to try to reach the 15 per cent target set by the Heads of States of the African Union in the "African Strategy for Health 2007-2015".
- 23. Germany shared the concern expressed by the independent expert about the high number of arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances. It inquired whether the Government would consider technical cooperation to help train police and other officers. Germany recommended that the Government give clear and immediate instructions to key high-ranking officials of the police force, the army and other security forces that all law enforcement officials should treat rape as a crime and take all measures to effectively investigate allegations of rape and other forms of sexual violence; and that it bring perpetrators to justice.

- 24. Belgium recommended (a) that Burundi, in conformity with its obligations to ensure non-discrimination, withdraw from the draft new Criminal Code a provision that would punish homosexual relations. Noting tensions between the Government and the opposition parties, and also with certain parts of the media and civil society, Belgium recommended that (b) Burundi respect freedoms of expression, association and assembly, as pursuant to international instruments; use mediation procedures to calm down conflicts; and end resort to imprisonment for speech critical of the Government. Belgium asked the Government about specific prospects for establishing an independent national human rights commission pursuant to the Paris Principles, as well as with respect to the upcoming visit of the independent expert.
- 25. The Netherlands, noting that the availability of human, financial, material and logistic resources is a challenge for the Burundi judicial system, inquired about training programmes on human rights for judicial personnel. The Netherlands recommended that such training be mandatory for all judges, lawyers and police officers. It noted that the level of violence against women is alarming and asked for information on policies to combat it. It noted that the national report fails to state that the right to a fair trial is sometimes hampered by political interference and asked what steps are taken to guarantee the independence of the judiciary. Bearing in mind the universality of human rights and the recommendation of the Human Rights Committee on the right to privacy and non discrimination, the Netherlands recommended that Burundi extend protection against discrimination and ensure that noone is subject to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.
- 26. The Czech Republic inquired about concrete measures to prevent, investigate and punish cases of torture and extrajudicial killings. It recommended (a) the adoption of further measures to fight impunity of persons responsible for such acts and prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of these crimes; (b) an increase of financial and human resources available to the judicial system; (c) accession to OP-CAT and the establishment of an effective national preventive mechanism in compliance with the Protocol; (d) strengthening of efforts to ensure that newborn children are officially registered., and (e) the issuance and implementation of a standing invitation to special procedures. The Czech Republic was also concerned that the draft Criminal Code could undermine the right to privacy and non-discrimination of persons of minority sexual orientation.
- The United Kingdom noted that the Committee against Torture recommended the 27. clarification of the status of the Convention against Torture in national law; further steps to strengthen the independence of the judiciary; conclusions of investigations relating to the Muyinga and Gatumba massacres and that perpetrators be brought to justice. The United Kingdom will continue to provide technical assistance to the Government and its partners to help strengthen the capacity and independence of the judicial system. In this context, it strongly urged Burundi to ensure the establishment of the national human rights commission in full compliance with the Paris Principles. Training of police, the military and security services is critical to improving human rights, and the United Kingdom welcomed work in this regard and the engagement of international partners. The Government's relationship with civil society, media and opposition parties deteriorated in 2008, and the United Kingdom expressed hope that the Government will continue to engage in a constructive relationship with these actors. This approach would ensure that the 2010 elections are free, fair and take place within a peaceful environment. Noting that the Government has agreed to take forward national consultations to establish transitional justice mechanisms, the United Kingdom recommended that the Government prioritize these consultations to ensure that reconciliation and justice address allegations of the most serious crimes, including war crimes, crimes against humanity and

genocide. Recognizing that the Constitution creates a specific provision for the participation of women in political life, the United Kingdom noted that women still do not have land succession rights and remain dependent upon men in this regard. Concerned at the high levels of sexual violence against women and the need to bring to justice perpetrators of such violence, the United Kingdom recommended that the Government take further steps to address discrimination and attacks against women.

- 28. The Holy See recommended the speedy implementation of the new criminal code, declaring sexual violence a crime, while guaranteeing the impartiality of investigations and questioning. It also inquired about measures to ensure the effective participation of women in social and political life, and the elimination of discrimination against women.
- 29. Latvia noted that Burundi strives to implement international human rights standards, although much is still to be done, especially regarding the fight against torture and impunity. It noted the extensive cooperation of Burundi with the special procedures of the Council and recommended that Burundi consider extending a standing invitation to all of them.
- 30. Austria commended Burundi for its inclusive approach in preparing for the review. It noted that Burundi is facing challenges with regard to impunity, especially for crimes committed during the conflict, and recommended the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms as a key element for the administration of justice and the re-establishment of the rule of law. It noted the increasing sexual violence against women and juveniles and the call of treaty bodies for a comprehensive strategy to combat violence against women. It also noted the need for specific legislation on the rights of the child. Austria recommended that cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence be adequately investigated and perpetrators brought to justice in accordance with international standards concerning the administration of justice.
- 31. Argentina noted that the definition of torture contained in the Convention against Torture has not been incorporated into domestic legislation, and inquired what steps were being taken to change this situation. It noted with concern the high rate of sexual violence, including sexual abuse of women of all ages. Argentina (a) suggested that an amendment be made to the legal system so that crimes of sexual violence and sexual abuse are made punishable, and those responsible for such crimes do not enjoy impunity. It further (b) recommended that the Government develop a strategy for preventing and combating all forms of violence against women. Argentina (c) requested the Government to consider the possibility of ratifying the CED and accepting the competence of the relevant Committee.
- 32. Italy recommended (a) that Burundi take appropriate measures to align the conditions of detainees with international standards. Noting with concern that journalists have been recently arrested and that political parties have suffered from restrictions of freedom of association, Italy recommended that (b) Burundi take all measures to guarantee freedoms of expression and association. Italy noted with concern existing gaps in access to justice, particularly in cases of sexual violence, forced disappearances and arbitrary arrest. It recommended that Burundi (c) take all appropriate measures to address effectively the issue of impunity and to implement adequate mechanisms of transitional justice, and (d) continue its national policy towards a better access to education for all children and to include in the school system at all levels appropriate measures in the field of human rights education in accordance with the Plan of action 2005-2009 of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

- 33. Denmark noted with satisfaction the continuing improvement in the human rights situation, but noted a rise in sexual violence against women and children in detention facilities and inquired about measures to end impunity for such crimes. Denmark recommended that all reports of rape and sexual violence by law enforcement officials be promptly and impartially investigated and that the perpetrators be brought to justice. It further recommended that the practice of torture and other ill treatment by law enforcement officials be condemned and brought to an end; that immediate independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of such acts be undertaken; and that alleged perpetrators be brought to justice.
- 34. China welcomed the efforts made in the areas of gender equality, children's rights and international human rights cooperation. Regarding the current international food and financial crises, China asked what specific difficulties Burundi encounters in guaranteeing the right to food, how it will prevent any related potential social uncertainties, and what assistance it expects from the international community. Furthermore, China asked how Burundi is balancing national reconciliation and punishment of criminals and how it assesses the work and the role of the national consultative tripartite commission during the transitional period.
- Switzerland hoped that the Senate will shortly approve the decision taken by the National 35. Assembly to abolish the death penalty. It regretted the decision by the Assembly to criminalize homosexuality. Switzerland (a) encouraged Burundi to step up its efforts to implement the final observations adopted by the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). It recommended that Burundi (b) take the necessary steps to amend the Code on Persons and the Family, the law governing inheritance, matrimonial regimes and bequests, and the Criminal Code, in order to bring them into conformity with the principles of nondiscrimination as set out in the Convention; (c) adopt the necessary additional measures to effectively prevent and combat sexual violence against women, particularly against minors; (d) guarantee freedom of expression to journalists, and allow political parties to carry out political activities, in particular the right of assembly, without unfounded restrictions, and allow the registration of political parties without abusive constraints and in keeping with the Constitution. Noting the continued impunity for crimes committed since independence, Switzerland also (e) invited Burundi to establish, with the support of the United Nations, a dual machinery including a Special Tribunal and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and (f) recommended that Burundi grant both bodies great independence and do not restrict the powers of the future Tribunal to the decisions of the Commission. As to political reintegration of the last political armed movement, Switzerland repeated its full commitment to supporting efforts undertaken to bring together the fighters of the Palipehutu-FNL, and the related Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration process concerning this. It regretted the delays in implementing the global ceasefire of 7 September 2006. It (g) invited Burundi to continue its efforts to integrate without delay the Palipehutu-FNL into the defence and security forces, as well as in the various executive, administrative and diplomatic areas.
- 36. Cameroon congratulated Burundi on its efforts to implement various international and regional instruments and to consolidate peace. Cameroon recommended the continuation of efforts for the stabilization and consolidation of peace through scrupulous respect for projects developed in cooperation with the United Nations. Cameroon welcomed initiatives, including the provision of free primary education and health care for children under the age of five. Cameroon recommended that Burundi create, strengthen and render operational human rights monitoring bodies, and ensured Burundi of its full support in this regard.

- 37. Portugal welcomed Burundi's efforts to overturn decades of human rights violations and impunity. Noting that Burundi has not yet fully implemented the recommendations made by CEDAW in 2000, Portugal was concerned about the fact that women continue to be victims of legal, political and socio-economic discrimination, about the large number of unreported cases of rape, whose perpetrators are often not prosecuted, and whose victims suffer additional cultural prejudice, and about the number of torture and ill-treatment cases, inquiring about measures to implement the recommendations of CAT. Portugal recommended that Burundi (a) establish an independent NHRC with a strong mandate according to the Paris Principles; (b) implement CEDAW recommendations and take measures to eliminate discriminatory practices against women, also through education and awareness-raising programmes; (c) enact legislation against domestic and all forms of gender-based violence and combat impunity in this regard; and (d) take urgent steps towards the full and prompt implementation of CAT recommendations.
- 38. La délégation du Burundi a remercié les délégations pour leurs recommandations qui seront prises en considération. Elle a exhorté la communauté internationale à aider le Burundi pour parfaire son Etat de droit.
- 39. Le Burundi a consacré l'égalité entre l'homme et la femme dans sa Constitution. Les femmes représentaient plus de 30 pour cent des membres du Parlement et du Gouvernement après les élections de 2005. Toutefois, en raison de changements au cours des années, notamment en raison de révisions politiques, ce pourcentage s'est modifié.
- 40. S'agissant des viols et autres violences sexuelles, le Gouvernement fait face à ce défi et des lois sont en préparation pour juguler ce problème. Dans chaque province, il y a un Centre de développement familial qui relève du ministère de la Solidarité nationale, des droits de la personne humaine et du genre pour aider les victimes à dénoncer les crimes et à bénéficier d'un suivi médical. Il y a aussi des centres et des ONG pour la prise en charge psychologique.
- 41. Par ailleurs, la loi sur les successions a été présentée au Conseil des ministres et a été traduite en Kirundi pour que la population puisse mieux la comprendre. Elle sera ensuite ramenée au Conseil des ministres.
- 42. Le Conseil des ministres a adopté le projet de loi relatif à l'établissement de la CNDH indépendante qui respecte les Principes de Paris. Il sera transmis au Parlement pour adoption. Cette Commission pourrait être établie en janvier 2009.
- 43. Les meurtres visant les albinos sont un phénomène malheureux basé sur des superstitions. Il y a une sensibilisation de la population, notamment dans les régions frontalières avec la Tanzanie. Des aides matérielles ont été effectuées.
- 44. Le Burundi a déclaré que l'indépendance de la magistrature est une nécessité pour le Gouvernement qui a fait des efforts en ce sens grâce à l'appui institutionnel au secteur de la justice (avec l'aide notamment de la Grande Bretagne, de la Suède et de la Belgique) ou à la formation des magistrats, militaires et policiers.
- 45. S'agissant de l'impunité, la délégation du Burundi a rappelé que le projet de nouveau code pénal incrimine le génocide, le crime contre l'humanité, les crimes de guerre, la torture et autres crimes sexuels. S'agissant des trois crimes internationaux susvisés, ils seront imprescriptibles et un accord cadre entre le Burundi et les Nations Unies a été signé pour que ces crimes soient réprimés. Par ailleurs, des progrès ont été enregistrés eu égard à la justice de transition.

- 46. La liberté d'expression et de réunion sont garanties au Burundi et les partis politiques, les ONG, les radios et les journaux ont la latitude de se mettre en place et de s'exprimer librement.
- 47. Pour ce qui est de l'incrimination de l'homosexualité, le Burundi a précisé qu'il s'agit d'un amendement adopté par la Chambre basse du Parlement au projet de nouveau code pénal et qu'il fallait qu'elle puisse échanger avec les autorités du pays pour être plus complète à ce sujet.
- 48. Concernant les détentions arbitraires, le projet de nouveau code pénal est sévère envers les agents de l'Etat pour les dépassements des délais de détention. Relativement au massacre de Gatumba, ce cas concerne le Burundi et la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) et s'est déroulé dans le cadre d'un conflit. Les efforts du Burundi pour élucider ces cas devront continuer en collaboration avec la RDC. S'agissant du massacre de Muyinga, les auteurs ont été récemment condamnés à de lourdes peines. L'auteur principal a été condamné à mort par défaut et le Burundi a sollicité l'aide de tous les Etats pour le retrouver et l'arrêter en vertu d'un mandat d'arrêt international lancé contre lui.
- 49. Brazil recognized the adoption of a number of measures in the field of human rights, and expressed confidence that with close cooperation of the international community, Burundi will continue to overcome its long period of political instability. It inquired about the main needs and steps in the consolidation of peace; steps taken towards the fulfillment of children's rights, the rights of women, the combat against all forms of discrimination and torture, the right to housing, refugees and asylum seekers, and urgent needs in the realization of the right to development. Brazil recommended that Burundi (a) consider ratifying Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention Against Torture; (b) consider extending a standing invitation to special procedures; and (c) consider strengthening programs of combat against and prevention of HIV/AIDS, with special attention on women and children.
- 50. Djibouti welcomed the progress made over the last 20 years in promoting and protecting human rights. Burundi had shown its commitment to respecting and protecting fundamental freedoms through the ratification of international instruments on human rights, its Constitution, and having made commitments to regional and international bodies. It recommended that the Government ratify (a) the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and (b) the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.
- 51. Japan commended Burundi for its efforts to promote peace and democracy since the 2005 elections and appreciated the country's cooperation with the United Nations and international partners to protect and promote human rights. It was concerned about increasing restriction of freedom of expression, such as the ministerial ordinance that requires political parties to obtain official permission to meet. Japan considered it as essential that the elections planned for 2010 take place in a free and fair manner. Japan recommended that Burundi (a) do its utmost to ensure that political parties are safeguarded in the elections and (b) take further appropriate measures to fight against sexual violence against women and children.
- 52. Ireland welcomed the commitment of Burundi to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It expressed concern, however, at the slow progress and recommended that (a) Burundi use consultations to ensure that the Commission and the Special Tribunal be established as soon as possible. Ireland welcomed information on measures against gender-based violence and recommended that (b) Burundi improve the functioning and accessibility of the machinery available to victims of rape to ensure that those guilty are brought to justice and punished.

Welcoming the decrease in reported cases of torture, Ireland noted worrying information that torture continues to be commonly carried out. Ireland recommended that (c) Burundi fully comply with the recommendations of CAT and do its utmost to ensure that security forces operate within the framework of the rule of law. Ireland noted with concern recent developments regarding the opposition, and treatment of civil society and journalists and recommended that (d) Burundi comply with the recommendations of the independent expert on allowing all political parties to carry out their political activities without undue restrictions.

- 53. Canada noted positive developments in consolidating peace and respect for the rule of law since the Arusha agreements. It noted allegations of the independent expert that basic freedoms of expression and assembly of political opponents have been restricted. It recommended that Burundi (a) put an end to all restrictions on political activities and meetings and allow the registration of political parties as recognized under the Constitution; (b) revoke the new Ministerial Order No. 530 of 6 October 2008 restricting political assembly, and (c) support the efforts undertaken to establish the procedures for transitional justice under the Arusha agreements, in particular setting up methods for national consultations on traditional justice as called for by Security Council resolution 1606 (2005).
- 54. Burkina Faso stressed that Burundi has committed itself to democracy and national reconciliation. The initiatives undertaken to ensure the enjoyment of certain rights are encouraging and need to be supported. Burkina Faso welcomed Burundi's collaboration with human rights mechanisms. It fully supported the appeal to the international community to support efforts to promote the respect of human rights and ensure lasting peace.
- 55. Sweden recommended that Burundi intensify its efforts to uphold respect for the rule of law by ensuring an independent and well functioning judicial system. While welcoming the relatively high representation of women in the Senate and the Government, Sweden was concerned about the overall situation of discrimination against women and the increase of the already high number of rapes. Sweden noted the new code giving women the right to property and inheritance and inquired further about its provisions. Sweden recommended that Burundi increase its work on sexual violence and empowerment of women, especially regarding women's rights to inheritance and access to land.
- 56. Slovenia expressed concern regarding the provision in the draft Criminal Code criminalizing same-sex sexual relations, and (a) recommended that Burundi reconsider including such a provision, which would run counter to Burundi's human rights commitments, such a right to privacy and non-discrimination. Slovenia asked about the strategy for putting into operation the system composed of a Tripartite Steering Committee for National Consultations for Transitional Justice Mechanism, as recommended by the Security Council and CAT. With regards to violations of women's rights and child rights, Slovenia asked about preventive measures envisaged to impede and to put an end to violations and measures to help and protect victims. Slovenia recommended (b) the development and implementation of policies and measures to address the inequality between boys and girls regarding access to education and the reported widespread child labour.
- 57. Azerbaijan noted that the national law of Burundi is being harmonized with international instruments and welcomed the special attention to education. Azerbaijan (a) encouraged the Government to consolidate reconciliation and to step up efforts to reduce poverty in the society; (b) recommended the adoption of effective measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, beginning with harmful cultural practices; and (c) appealed to Burundi to firmly

combat sexual violence and impunity, and to increase the level of representation of women in society. Azerbaijan inquired whether Burundi would ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of discrimination Against Women; about measures undertaken to strengthen the independence of the legislature and the judiciary; and steps foreseen to facilitate the reintegration of child soldiers into society. It requested explanations with regards to non-responses to communications sent by the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances.

- 58. The Republic of Korea expected Burundi to continue its efforts to fully comply with its human rights obligations, and emphasized that it should address its overdue submission of reports to the relevant treaty bodies. It recommended that Burundi speed up the process of setting up an independent human rights commission in conformity with the Paris Principles.
- 59. Senegal stated that Burundi must be supported to meet security challenges and to ensure all the assistance vulnerable groups, women and children require. Such support can encourage Burundi to pursue efforts to establish a peaceful environment. Senegal inquired about the role played by the National Employment Observatory in the campaign against unemployment.
- 60. South Africa inquired about legal and administrative steps taken to deal with issues of inheritance, matrimonial property regimes and gifts that would ensure that there is no discrimination against women. South Africa recommended that Burundi fast-track the establishment of a national human rights commission.
- 61. Norway shared the concern that sexual violence against women is increasing, and was concerned that that this trend is likely to continue as a result of persisting impunity. It recommended that (a) Burundi in transitional justice mechanisms and reparations programmes fully integrate gender concerns and ensure that justice for gender-based crimes during the conflict is realized. Norway further recommended that (b) Burundi consider issuing an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women.
- Mexico commended the progress made, particularly efforts for the consolidation of peace 62. and good governance, thanks to programmes and projects carried out in conjunction with the United Nations. Mexico welcomed the ceasefire of 2006, the Government's human rights commission, and the Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights and the Prevention of Genocide. Mexico recommended (a) the establishment of a moratorium with a view to the abolition of the death penalty and that consideration be given to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR. Welcoming the bill for the reform of the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, it recommended (b) speeding up their approval with a view to criminalizing acts of torture and conferring on victims compulsory state-assistance; such assistance should provide proper redress, including adequate compensation for victims of torture, or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Mexico recommended that (c) Burundi seriously consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, (d) that all cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence be investigated in an expeditious, effective and impartial manner by an independent body and that all accused be prosecuted, and (e) that Burundi consider speedy ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, its Optional Protocol, and the CED.
- 63. Malaysia (a) encouraged Burundi to expedite the necessary process to enable the establishment of the proposed independent human rights commission. Malaysia (b) recommended that Burundi consider adopting a comprehensive strategy to combat all forms of

violence against women and enact legislation on domestic and all forms of gender-based violence. Malaysia noted that more effective measures needed to be taken against trafficking in women. Malaysia noted the great progress made in promoting and protecting children's rights. Malaysia recommended that Burundi continue to undertake further appropriate measures to improve the situation of children, in particular children victims of war, children living and/or working in the streets, minors in prison and AIDS orphans.

- 64. Chile urged Burundi to continue the struggle to combat poverty. Chile welcomed steps taken regarding torture, and hoped that similar steps will be reproduced with respect to violence against women. Chile recommended that Burundi (a) implement, as speedily of possible, the legal, political and ministerial initiatives to eradicate the practice of torture and other forms of ill treatment by state officials. These initiatives can include: an explicit denunciation of such acts by State authorities; the establishment of a national authority with the powers required to investigate cases of torture independently and to bring them before the courts; and strict regulation of police and security forces; (b) include the content of the Convention against Torture in its national legislation (c) establish a machinery to compensate victims of torture; and (d) establish an independent machinery which can document, investigate, process cases of rape, and facilitate the end of impunity. Chile also recommended that (e) rape be addressed as a crime and noted that traditional practices of compensation between the family of the perpetrators and the victim are inconsistent with human rights standards. Chile further recommended that Burundi (f) ensure that the courts effectively apply penalties on those responsible for rape with a particular focus on police and state officials; and (g) decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex.
- 65. Egypt congratulated Burundi on its efforts in the areas of gender equality and women's rights, and inquired about the achievements, obstacles faced and the need for technical assistance and international cooperation. Egypt welcomed the efforts of the Government regarding the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and inquired about any needs for international support. Egypt recommended that (a) Burundi continue, with international support, its efforts to spread a culture of human rights in the society, establish and reform the institutions for law enforcement and an independent, effective and impartial justice system; (b) with international support, further programmes for human rights training and capacity building be undertaken to train the relevant institutions of law enforcement and justice in the area of human rights, as well as introducing human rights in the education system at all levels; (c) Burundi complete its efforts for the establishment of a national human rights commission in accordance with the Paris Principles, and finalize the submission of the required bill to the Parliament for adoption, and (d) Burundi continue its efforts towards reforming the security sector institutions, with the support of OHCHR and the international community.
- 66. Benin welcomed the implementation of the programme of national reconciliation. Benin called upon States members of the United Nations to support the Government in meeting the tremendous challenges referred to in its presentation.
- 67. Nigeria appreciated efforts to promote and protect the rights of children and to reintegrate child soldiers into society, as well as the empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming. Nigeria commended the efforts of Burundi to use non-judicial mechanisms to reconcile opposing groups and opposition parties. It recognized Burundi's need for support from the international community, both financial and political, to meet the targets of the Millennium Development Goals. Nigeria recommended that Burundi continue to reform the judicial system and to fully promote the protection of human rights in the country.

- 68. Bangladesh noted the decision to establish a national human rights commission as an example of the seriousness of the Government to deal with human rights issues. While noting improvements in the area of education and health care, it noted that poverty and deprivation is reflected in the high number of destitute, homeless and landless people and people suffering from deadly diseases. Bangladesh recommended that, with the support and cooperation of the international community, Burundi (a) continue to combat diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis with special attention to the vulnerable; (b) fight poverty, particularly extreme poverty; and (c) continue to promote education for all, with special attention to gender parity in school enrolment.
- 69. Rwanda expressed support for all initiatives undertaken by the Government to ensure respect for its human rights commitments, and stated that it would be desirable that Burundi continue to receive support from the international community multilaterally or bilaterally.
- 70. Le Burundi a apporté des compléments d'information.
- 71. La politique genre et le projet de nouveau code pénal démontrent les efforts entrepris pour réprimer les violences basées sur le genre et pour une égalité entre les sexes. Dernièrement, le Burundi a officiellement lancé une campagne contre les violences faites aux femmes.
- 72. Une politique nationale pour les orphelins et enfants vulnérables a été adoptée par le Conseil des ministres qui doit être mise en œuvre par un plan national.
- 73. Le Burundi a déclaré que, même si toutes les violences sexuelles ne sont pas réprimées, 500 personnes purgent une peine pour viol ou attentat à la pudeur, dont des agents de l'Etat. Même si la torture n'est pas une infraction dans le code pénal actuel, les atteintes à l'intégrité physique sont punies et 20 policiers sont actuellement incarcérés pour coups et blessures graves.
- 74. Le Gouvernement a négocié les accords de cessez-le-feu avec le Palipehutu-FNL et un sommet de chefs d'Etat de la région aura lieu le 4 décembre 2008 pour régler deux questions en suspens en présence de la médiation présidée par l'Afrique du sud.
- 75. En matière de liberté de réunion, l'ordonnance du ministère de l'Intérieur instaurant une autorisation des réunions politiques a été revue pour ne prévoir qu'une information des autorités administratives, pour la sécurité uniquement.
- 76. Le Burundi a déclaré qu'il est dommage que certains représentants de partis politiques et des travailleurs ou des journalistes aient été arrêtés. Toutefois, ils ne le sont pas en raison de leur statut.
- 77. Plusieurs mesures ont été adoptées pour renforcer l'indépendance de la magistrature, dont une augmentation des salaires des magistrats. De même, des mesures pour le renforcement des capacités et un appui institutionnel sont en cours de réalisation tout comme la préparation des états généraux de la justice en vue d'une réforme du secteur de la justice. Une loi anti-corruption a été adoptée et une brigade anti-corruption mise en place.
- 78. Enfin, la délégation du Burundi a précisé que l'Observatoire national de l'emploi est en cours d'établissement pour adapter les besoins en formation et emploi.
- 79. En conclusion, le Burundi a exprimé ses remerciements aux intervenants pour leurs recommandations qui encouragent le Burundi à établir un Etat de droit véritable. Elle a invité la

communauté internationale à appuyer le Burundi pour la protection et promotion des droits de l'homme au Burundi.

#### II. CONCLUSIONS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 80. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue have been examined by Burundi. The recommendations listed below enjoy the support of Burundi:
  - 1. Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, its Optional Protocol (Mexico);
  - 2. Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Mexico, Argentina) and accept the competence of the relevant committee (Argentina);
  - 3. Consider ratifying the OP-CEDAW (Brazil), OPCAT (Brazil, Djibouti, Czech Republic, Mexico) and establish an effective national preventive mechanism in compliance with the OPCAT (Czech Republic);
  - 4. Establish an independent national human rights commission (South Africa, Malaysia) according to the Paris Principles (Portugal, Australia, United Kingdom, Egypt, Republic of Korea) with a strong mandate (Portugal), and finalize the submission of the required bill to the Parliament for adoption (Egypt).
  - 5. Reinforce measures to raise awareness on the situation of albinos, prevent crimes against them, and ensure material assistance to the victims (France);
  - 6. Step up efforts to implement the final observations of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. (Switzerland);
  - 7. Adopt legislation that can guarantee equality between men and women, particularly in the area of family and inheritance law (France), and take the necessary steps to amend the Code on Persons and the Family, the law governing inheritance, matrimonial regimes and bequests, and the Criminal Code in order to bring them into conformity with the principle of non-discrimination as set out in the CEDAW (Switzerland);
  - 8. Increase work on gender equality, sexual violence and empowerment of women, especially regarding women's rights to inheritance and access to land. (Sweden);
  - 9. Take effective measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, beginning with harmful cultural practices (Azerbaijan);
  - 10. Speedily implement the new Criminal Code, declaring sexual violence a crime, while guaranteeing the impartiality of investigation and questioning (Holy See);
  - 11. Implement CEDAW recommendations and take measures to eliminate discriminatory practices against women, also through education and awareness-raising programmes (Portugal);

- 12. Take urgent steps toward the full and prompt implementation of CAT recommendations (Portugal), fully comply with those recommendations and do its utmost to ensure that the security forces operate within the framework of the rule of law (Ireland);
- 13. Take appropriate measures to align the conditions of detainees with international standards (Italy);
- 14. Continue its efforts towards reforming the security sector institutions, with the support of OHCHR and the international community (Egypt);
- 15. Consolidate reconciliation (Azerbaijan, Cameroon) and peace through scrupulous respect for projects developed in cooperation with the United Nations (Cameroon);
- 16. Create, strengthen and render operational human rights monitoring bodies (Cameroon);
- 17. That the Government and armed groups that are signatories to the cease fire concluded pursuant to the agreement of 7 September 2006 continue efforts to implement it (Algeria); and that Burundi continue its efforts to integrate without delay the Palipehutu-FNL into the defence and security forces, as well as in the various executive, administrative and diplomatic areas (Switzerland);
- 18. Increase its efforts to contribute to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of children involved in armed conflict (France);
- 19. Continue, with international support, its efforts to spread a culture of human rights in the society, establish and reform the institutions for law enforcement and an independent, effective and impartial justice system (Egypt);
- 20. Continue efforts in the sector of the judicial system with the support of the international community (Algeria), intensify efforts to uphold the respect for the rule of law by ensuring an independent and well functioning judicial system (Sweden), reform it (Nigeria), and increase the financial and human resources available to it (Czech Republic);
- 21. Ensure that training programmes that focus on human rights are mandatory for all judges, lawyers and police officers (Netherlands);
- 22. Prioritize national consultations to establish transitional justice mechanisms to ensure that reconciliation and justice address allegations of the most serious crimes, including war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide (United Kingdom);
- 23. Use consultations to ensure that a truth and reconciliation commission and a special tribunal be established as soon as possible (Ireland);
- 24. Ensure that transitional justice mechanisms and reparations programmes fully integrate gender concerns and that justice for gender-based crimes during the conflict is realized. (Norway);

- 25. Establish transitional justice mechanisms as a key element for the administration of justice and re-establishment of the rule of law (Austria);
- 26. Take all appropriate measures to address effectively the issue of impunity and to implement adequate mechanisms of transitional justice (Italy);
- 27. Support the efforts undertaken to establish the procedures for transitional justice under the 2000 Arusha agreements, in particular setting up methods for national consultations as called for by Security Council resolution 1606 (2005) (Canada);
- 28. Do its utmost to ensure that political parties are safeguarded in the elections of 2010 (Japan);
- 29. Set up hosting and reintegration structures for HIV/AIDS orphans (Luxembourg);
- 30. Consider strengthening programmes of combat and prevention against HIV/AIDS, with special attention to women and children (Brazil);
- 31. With the support and cooperation of the international community, continue to combat diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis with special attention to the vulnerable (Bangladesh);
- 32. Progressively increase its budgetary allocations to health in order to try to reach the 15 per cent target set by the Heads of States of the African Union in the African Strategy for Health 2007-2015 (Luxembourg);
- 33. With the support and cooperation of the international community, continue to fight poverty (Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh), particularly extreme poverty (Bangladesh);
- 34. With international support, continue to promote education for all, with special attention to achieving gender parity in school enrolment (Bangladesh);
- 35. Continue the national policy for greater access to education for all children and to include in the school system at all levels appropriate measures in the field of human rights education, in accordance with the Plan of action 2005-2009 of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (Italy);
- 36. With international support, further programmes for human rights training and capacity-building be undertaken to train the relevant institutions of law enforcement and justice in the area of human rights, as well as introducing human rights in the education system at all levels (Egypt);
- 37. Take further appropriate measures to improve the situation of children, in particular children victims of war, children living and/or working in the streets, minors in prison and AIDS orphans (Malaysia);
- 38. Strengthen efforts to ensure that all new-born children are officially registered (Czech Republic);

- 39. Continue its efforts to address the challenges it faces, with the support of the States members of the United Nations (Benin);
- 40. Continue its efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights with the support of the international community, at both the bilateral and multilateral levels (Rwanda);
- 41. Fully promote the protection of human rights in the country (Nigeria).
- 81. The following recommendations will be examined by Burundi, which will provide responses in due time. The response of Burundi to these recommendations will be included in the outcome report adopted by the Human Rights Council at its tenth session:
  - 1. Establish a moratorium with a view to the abolition of the death penalty (Mexico), and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Djibouti, Mexico);
  - 2. Take all necessary measures to ban secret places of detention, particularly by envisaging the signature and ratification of the CED (France);
  - 3. Develop and implement policies and measures to address the inequality between boys and girls regarding access to education and the reported widespread child labour (Slovenia);
  - 4. Extend the protection against discrimination and ensure that no-one is subject to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, bearing in mind the universality of human rights and the recommendation of the Human Rights Committee on the right to privacy and non discrimination (Netherlands);
  - 5. Reconsider the inclusion in the draft criminal code of the provision criminalizing same-sex sexual relations (Belgium, Chile, Slovenia), in conformity with Burundi's obligations to ensure non-discrimination and the right to privacy (Belgium, Slovenia);
  - 6. Speed up the approval of the bill for the reform of the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, with a view to criminalizing acts of torture and conferring on victims compulsory state-assistance; such assistance should provide proper redress, including adequate compensation for victims of torture, or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Mexico);
  - 7. Better train its law enforcement officials to ensure that authors of sexual violence are prosecuted in a more severe and consequent manner and follow the CEDAW recommendations to guarantee an appropriate compensation and support and assistance measures for victims of sexual violence (Luxembourg);
  - 8. Address rape as a crime (Chile).
  - 9. Establish, with the support of the United Nations, a dual machinery including a special tribunal and a truth and reconciliation commission, and grant both bodies great independence and do not restrict the powers of the future tribunal to the decisions of the commission (Switzerland);

- 10. Revoke the new Ministerial Order No. 530 of 6 October 2008 restricting political assembly (Canada).
- 82. The recommendations noted in the report in paragraphs 26(e), 29, 49(b), 53(b), 56(b), 61(b), 62(a), (b), 64(d), 64(e) above did not enjoy the support of Burundi.
  - 1. With regard to recommendations concerning special procedures included under paragraphs 26(e) (Czech Republic), 29 (Latvia), 49(b) (Brazil) and 61(b) (Norway), Burundi indicated that it will establish a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles and considers that the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi is no longer necessary.
  - 2. Finally, recommendation under paragraph 64(d) (Chile) was not supported by Burundi because the proposed independent body would duplicate the judiciary institutions.
  - 83. Burundi takes note of the recommendations reflected in paragraphs 23, 24(b), 26(a), 27, 30, 31, 32(b), 33(a) and (b), 35(c) and (d), 51(b), 52(b) and (d), 53(a), 57(c), 62(d), 63(b), 64 (a) (b), (c) and (f), and offers the following comments:
    - 1. With regard to recommendations concerning rape, violence against women and children as included under numbers 23 (Germany), 27 (United Kingdom), 30 (Austria), 31 (Argentina), 33(a) (Denmark), 35(c) (Switzerland), 52(b) (Ireland), 57(c) (Azerbaijan), 62(d) (Mexico), 63(b) (Malaysia), 64(f) (Chile) and recommendation 51(b) of Japan, Burundi made it clear that these acts are already criminalized and reported cases are sanctioned. Programmes related to awareness-raising and education on human rights in general and on women's and children's rights in particular, including rape and violence against women and children, are ongoing.
    - 2. With regard to recommendations concerning guarantees to freedoms of association expression, opinion and peaceful assembly, recommendations, which are included under numbers 24(b) (Belgium), 32(b) (Italy), 35(d) (Switzerland), 52(d) (Ireland), 53(a) (Canada), Burundi indicated that the enjoyment of these freedoms is characterized by the existence of 39 political parties and of more than 3,000 non-profit organizations, including human rights organizations and manifold press organizations, trade unions and medias.
    - 3. With regard to recommendations concerning torture, as included under numbers 26(a) (Czech Republic), 33(b) (Denmark), 64(a), (b), (c) (Chile), Burundi indicated that acts of torture are sanctioned, including those committed by State agents. It was also indicated that rules and regulations of the police and the armed forces prohibit torture and that many members of these institutions are currently charged with severe assault and injuries, which is similar to torture in Burundian law. Finally, Burundi informed the Council that a new criminal code will be soon promulgated, which will severely sanction acts of torture, and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

84. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review thereon. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

#### Annex

#### COMPOSITION DE LA DELEGATION

La délégation du Burundi était dirigée par Immaculée Nahayo, ministre de la Solidarité nationale, des droits de la personne humaine et du genre, et composée de huit membres:

- S.E. Madame Immaculée NAHAYO, Ministre de la Solidarité Nationale, du Rapatriement, de la Reconstruction, des Droits de la Personne Humaine et du Genre ;
- S.E. Maître Clotilde NIRAGIRA, Ministre de la Fonction Publique, du Travail et de la Sécurité Sociale (ancien Ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux);
- M. Elysé NDAYE, Procureur Général de la République ;
- M. Joseph NDAYIZAMBA, Conseiller Principal du Président de la République, chargé des questions de la Police ;

Maître Emmanuel NKENGURUTSE, Conseiller Principal du Premier Vice-Président de la République pour les questions juridiques et administratives ;

Ambassadeur Pierre BARUSASIYEKO, Représentant Permanent de la République du Burundi auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et des autres institutions spécialisées ayant leur siège en Suisse ;

M. Alain Aimé NYAMITWE, Premier Conseiller à la Mission Permanente du Burundi à Genève ;

M. Emmanuel NDABISHURIYE, Deuxième Conseiller à la Mission Permanent du Burundi à Genève.

\_\_\_\_