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**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-eighth session, 18 June – 6 July 2018**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

BURUNDI

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes Burundi's acceptance of 125 recommendations, but regrets that the government rejected almost as many. We also regret that while Burundi has agreed to implement a number of recommendations on important points of principle, such as the need for accountability, it has not accepted recommendations on the practical steps needed to ensure that these principles are realized.

For example, Burundi accepted a recommendation to create conditions to allow the safe and voluntary return of refugees.¹ However, in order to create such conditions, Burundi needs to guarantee the full exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and association and ensure a safe environment conducive to the work of human rights defenders and civil society organizations. It must also undertake immediate and independent investigations into allegations of extrajudicial executions, excessive use of force by security forces, forced disappearance and arbitrary detention and, where there is sufficient admissible evidence, prosecute those responsible. Unfortunately, Burundi has not accepted recommendations to take these and other meaningful steps to tackle the human rights crisis in the country.² We therefore urge the government to reconsider its decisions.

Likewise, Burundi has accepted the recommendation to establish a national preventive mechanism, in line with its previous ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;³ however, it rejected recommendations to conduct effective investigations

¹ A/HRC/38/10, recommendation 137.239 (Holy See)

² A/HRC/38/10, recommendations 137.117 (Netherlands), 137.118 (Germany), 137.119 (Czechia), 137.20 (Mexico), 137.121 (Poland), 137.22 (Finland), 137.123 (Greece), 137.150 (New Zealand), 137.151 (Norway), 137.152 (France), 137.153 (Greece), 137.154 (Italy), 137.155 (France), 137.156 (Belgium), 137.157 (Switzerland), 137.158 (Austria), 137.159 (Sweden), 137.160 (Canada), 137.161 (Finland), 137.162 (Netherlands), 137.163 (Czechia), 137.164 (Estonia), 137.165 (Ireland), 137.166 (Spain), 137.167 (Georgia), 137.168 (Latvia), 137.169 (Ghana).

into all allegations of acts of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment in its detention centres.⁴

Similarly, while Burundi has accepted recommendations to ensure full cooperation with all internationally recognized human rights bodies and mechanisms,⁵ the government continues to refuse to cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi or to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

We urge the Government of Burundi to reconsider its position on these recommendations, and to go beyond rhetoric and take the practical steps needed to improve the human rights situation for everyone in Burundi in practice.

Thank you, Mr. President.

³ A/HRC/38/10, recommendations 137.84 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 137.85 (Montenegro), 137.86 (Senegal), 137.87 (Holy See)

⁴ A/HRC/38/10, recommendation 137. 126 (Zambia)

⁵ A/HRC/38/10, recommendations 137.68 (Afghanistan), 137.69 (Ukraine), 137.70 (Angola)