

August 23, 2012

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to inform you that I have arrived in Bujumbura. I bring you warm greetings from Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon. His senior managers, whom I met in New York, also convey to all of you their best wishes.

It's a great honor and privilege for me to join you and contribute to the critical work of the United Nations family here in Burundi. I would like to commend the efforts carried out by all my predecessors, in particular SRSK Karin Landgren. I also wish to extend my thanks and gratitude to DSRSG/RC Rosine Sori-Coulibaly, for holding the fort with competence and dedication.

I salute all of you for the commitment you have shown throughout in advancing our collective work here. Thanks to your keenness and team work, we have indeed made a lot of achievements. Yet, huge tasks are still ahead of us in the various areas of our mandate. I have no doubt that you will remain steadfast in performing your respective duties, so that the UN continues to effectively deliver its services to the great nation and people of Burundi.

Pursuant to the mandate we have received from the Security Council, the next report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Burundi will be due in January 2013. Building on last July's briefing to the Security Council, this report will have to contain an assessment of the current situation and identify trends with regard to the benchmarks, which were submitted to and approved by the Security Council earlier this year. It will thus offer us an opportunity to showcase the strides Burundi and the UN would have made in the various areas defined by the benchmarks, but also to highlight the challenges that will continue to demand our attention in the months to come.

Before this date, we must ensure we prepare well for the upcoming International Partners' Conference, which will take in Geneva on 29-30 October 2012 and which could be a catalyst for socio-economic development and stability in Burundi. Needless to say, I look forward to working closely with the Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team on this and all other projects that require our close collaboration and joint approaches. We will of course also continue to work hand in hand with the wider international community, including Burundi's regional partners.

Meanwhile, I intend to further our interaction with the Government and the Burundian society as a whole with regard to peace consolidation efforts. We will also continue our important work with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights and fostering the transitional justice process, as well as strengthening political dialogue in Burundi in view of the 2015 forthcoming electoral process.

On all these important matters and many more, I look forward to working closely with each and every one of you.

Warmest regards,

Parfait

