

Declaration of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly on the situation in Burundi

The ACP Parliamentary Assembly meeting at its 38th Session held in Suva, Fiji:

Aware of the latest developments of the political, military and humanitarian situation in the Republic of Burundi.

Concerned by the high number of refugees from Burundi now residing in the neighboring countries.

Condemns all acts of violence committed against civilians in violation of international humanitarian and human rights laws.

Stresses the need for constructive dialogue among all parties in Burundi, with the aim of upholding the principles of democracy, rule of law, and human rights, including the right to peaceful assembly.

Welcomes the efforts of the African Union, and the East African Community in resolving the outstanding political issues in Burundi, through peaceful dialogue.

Firmly supports the position of the African Union on the situation in Burundi taken at the end of the Summit of the African Union Heads of State and Governments, held from 7 to 15 June 2015, in Johannesburg, South Africa

Calls upon all parties to promote and protect human rights to comply with their obligations under international law, and **calls** for those responsible for serious violations of such law to be held accountable.

Emphasizes that there can be no military solution to the situation in Burundi, but a political one which upholds the requirements of Constitutionalism and the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, to preserve peace and security .

Calls for the creation of conducive conditions for the safe and unhindered return of all Burundi refugees, to their homes.

Urges the swift implementation of measures that will facilitate the creation of conditions for the holding of peaceful, inclusive and credible elections in Burundi, such as the disarmament of all armed youth groups associated with political parties.

Commit to support the people of Burundi in upholding their democratic aspirations for free, fair and inclusive elections, within the context of intra-ACP solidarity.

Done at Suva, Fiji on 17 June 2015