



Plenary sitting

1.7.2015

B8-0669/2015

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Burundi
(2015/2723(RSP))

Davor Ivo Stier, Cristian Dan Preda, Joachim Zeller, Lorenzo Cesa, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Mariya Gabriel, Francesc Gambús, Michael Gahler, Maurice Ponga, Tokia Saïfi, Lara Comi
on behalf of the PPE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Burundi
(2015/2723(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Burundi,
 - having regard to the Cotonou Agreement,
 - having regard to the UN Security Council statement of 4 June 2015 on the situation in Burundi,
 - having regard to the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement,
 - having regard to the statement by Vice-President / High Representative Federica Mogherini on the suspension of the EOM to Burundi of 28 May 2015 and to the statement by the VP/HR's spokesperson on the situation in Burundi of 29 June 2015,
 - having regard to the Communiqué of the emergency summit of Heads of State of the East African Community on the situation in Burundi of 31 May 2015,
 - having regard to the Communiqué of the African Union Peace and Security Council of 13 June 2015,
 - having regard to the Council conclusions of 22 June 2015 on Burundi,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - having regard to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG),
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
 - having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Burundi has been plunged in turmoil since April 2015, when President Pierre Nkurunziza launched his controversial bid for a third consecutive five-year term, triggering widespread protests and a failed military coup in May;
- B. whereas the opposition has announced that it is boycotting the polls, claiming it is not possible to hold a fair vote;
- C. whereas local and parliamentary elections took place in Burundi on 29 June 2015, and presidential elections are scheduled for 15 July, despite the call by the Summit of the East African Community (EAC) 'for the elections to be postponed so as to allow time for the necessary conditions for peaceful, inclusive and credible elections to be put in

place;

- D. whereas the election process continues to be seriously marred by restrictions on independent media, excessive use of force against demonstrators, a climate of intimidation for opposition parties and civil society, and lack of confidence in the election authorities, prompting the EU to suspend its Election Observation Mission;
 - E. whereas the AU (African Union) Commission announced on Sunday 28 June that it would not observe the local and parliamentary elections, noting that the necessary conditions were not met for the organisation of free, fair, transparent and credible elections;
 - F. whereas on the same day the President of the Burundian Parliament said he had fled, following threats, while heavy gunfire echoed across the capital;
 - G. whereas on 29 June 2015 the EU permanently withdrew its Electoral Observation Mission to Burundi, taking the view that to hold legislative elections without minimal conditions being in place to ensure their credibility, transparency and inclusiveness could only exacerbate the crisis;
 - H. whereas Burundi continues to face its worst political crisis since it emerged from a 12-year civil war in 2005, and whereas this is once again posing threats not only to the country's internal stability, but also to that of its neighbours in an already volatile region of the African continent;
 - I. deeply concerned at the number of victims and cases of serious human rights violations reported since the beginning of the crisis, particularly those abuses attributed to the security forces and to members of the Imbonerakure;
 - J. deeply concerned at the continued exodus of refugees to neighbouring countries;
 - K. whereas only through dialogue and consensus, in compliance with the Arusha Agreement and the Burundian Constitution, can a lasting political solution be found in the interests of security and democracy for all Burundi's people;
1. Deplores the Government of Burundi's insistence on going ahead with local and parliamentary elections on 29 June despite the prevailing political and security environment;
 2. Condemns all human rights violations in Burundi, and calls on all parties to put an end to violence and to exercise restraint during this period;
 3. Calls for the urgent disarmament of all armed youth groups allied to political parties;
 4. Asks that leaders bring a halt to the actions that are at the root of this violence, and urges the Burundian authorities to ensure that these events are fully investigated and that those responsible are brought to justice;

5. Reiterates that there can be no impunity for those responsible for serious human rights violations, and that they must be held individually responsible and brought to account in a court of law; in this context, considers it of particular importance that the human rights observers and military experts announced by the AU be deployed immediately;
6. Expresses its support for the sustained efforts being deployed by the EAC, and emphasises the relevance of the measures agreed upon by the summits held in Dar es Salaam on 13 and 31 May 2015, including the call for the postponement of the elections and the immediate cessation of violence, the disarmament of youth groups affiliated to political parties, the initiation of a dialogue among Burundian stakeholders, and the commitment on the part of the region not to stand by should the situation deteriorate, which provide a framework for a political and consensual solution to the crisis;
7. Notes with disappointment that the political dialogue initiated by the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, with the participation of the EAC, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the AU, has not produced the expected results;
8. Stresses that the current situation could jeopardise the important gains recorded following the signing of the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi and the Global Ceasefire Agreement of 2003, thus affecting the stability of the region;
9. Calls for full compliance with the conditions identified by the AU and the EAC, which are vital for the credibility and smooth running of the electoral process in a way that is peaceful, inclusive and transparent and does not infringe political freedoms, including freedom of expression;
10. Reaffirms its conviction that only dialogue and consensus, based on respect for the Arusha Agreement and the Constitution of Burundi, will make it possible to find a lasting political solution, ensuring the preservation and consolidation of peace, as well as the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law; to this end, calls on all Burundian stakeholders to resume dialogue on all areas of disagreement between the parties, and to place the national interest above all other considerations;
11. Reiterates its concern regarding the difficult situation of the Burundian refugees who have fled their country for the neighbouring states; commends the host countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania), as well as the humanitarian agencies, for their support for the populations concerned, and calls on the international community to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance;
12. Reiterates that Burundi is bound by the human rights clause of the Cotonou Agreement, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and therefore has an obligation to respect universal human rights, including freedom of expression;
13. Calls on the Commission, the Vice-President / High Representative and the Member States to continue working towards a clear and principled EU policy vis-à-vis Burundi that addresses the ongoing serious human rights violations, in line with the EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights;

14. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to suspend – where this is not already the case – all support for police, military and governmental structures;
15. Calls on the Commission to consider launching consultations with Burundi under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement with a view to the country's possible suspension from the Agreement, and to take any appropriate measures while the consultations are being conducted;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Member States, the Government of Burundi, the governments of the countries of the Great Lakes region, the African Union, the East African Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and the Pan-African Parliament.