



INITIATIVE FOR PEACEBUILDING

The Round Table discussion took place in Bujumbura on July 25, 2008 with representatives for women's civil society organisations.

The Round Table discussion focused on the needs of Burundian women in relation to their political participation and the upcoming elections in 2010, together with the reform of the security sector. It was communicated from several participants that the preparations for the elections need to start already now. Women in the rural areas need to be informed and sensitised to the electoral procedure as well as important focus issues. It was emphasised that women will not be able to partake of the public political sphere if they do not enjoy economic independence and basic security.

The women's organisations also stated that they need capacity building to be able to play the role assigned to civil society in the oversight of security sector reform. Greater contact with the EC delegation in Burundi is essential and the facilitation of this will be part of the coming agenda on behalf of International Alert and the group of organisations present at the Round Table. The draft National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Burundi was also discussed and the importance of having clear indicators for its operationalisation was emphasised.