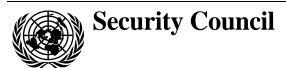
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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5141st meeting of the Security Council, held on 14 March 2005, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Burundi", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the approval by the Burundian people of the post-transitional Constitution, through the referendum of 28 February 2005 whose final results have just been declared. The very broad participation of the citizens of Burundi, who have voted in favour of the Constitution in large numbers, is the sign of their support to the peace process. It is an important event for Burundi and for the whole region of the Great Lakes of Africa.

"The Security Council calls upon all Burundians to remain committed to the course of national reconciliation, for further steps remain to be taken. It invites in particular the political leadership in the country to work together towards the common goal of holding, expeditiously, local and national elections that are free and fair. It encourages the donor community to continue providing its assistance to this end."

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