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Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Burundi

1. Recalling its declarations of 25 June and 5, 15, 23 and 26 July 1996, the European Union reiterates its deep concern about the situation in Burundi. It urges all sides to refrain from violence and to commit themselves to, and work actively towards, a negotiated and peaceful resolution of the crisis.
2. The European Union wishes to express its support for the regional leaders, the Organization of African Unity and the former President of Tanzania, Mr Julius Nyerere, in the efforts which they have been making to assist Burundi to peacefully overcome the grave crisis which it is experiencing, and encourages them to continue their efforts to facilitate the search for a political solution.
3. The European Union considers it essential for a dialogue to be organized without delay, bringing together all of Burundi's political forces without exception, including representatives of civil society, in order to negotiate a democratic, institutional consensus ensuring security for all.
4. The European Union is convinced that national reconciliation and civil peace in Burundi can be restored on a lasting basis only through the participation of all sections of society in the principal institutions and bodies of the State.
5. The European Union urges all sides in Burundi to call an immediate halt to the violence and respect the safety of all Burundians.
6. It reaffirms its willingness to support Burundi's recovery efforts, once the necessary national reconciliation is embarked upon with all the resolve required.