Dialogue Only Viable Option for Resolving Burundi Political Crisis, Special Envoy Tells Security Council amid Debate over Keeping It on Agenda

Dialogue remains the only viable option for resolving the political crisis in Burundi and for holding peaceful elections in 2020, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for that country told the Security Council today [19 February 2019], as delegates debated whether to keep the situation there on its agenda.

Briefing on recent developments 16 months before the planned elections, Special Envoy Michel Kafando pointed in particular to President Pierre Nkurunziza's stated intention not to seek re-election, as well as the Government's recognition of the opposition National Congress for Freedom. He noted, however, the ongoing humanitarian and human rights concerns as well as the plight of those displaced inside the country and that of Burundian refugees in neighbouring countries.

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