Burundi

General Debate

Speaker: Mr. Alain Aimé Nyamitwe, Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation

Burundi stated that the international justice bears a racial connotation as the ICC, much like the UNSC, is almost exclusively involved in Africa and Burundi wants to discuss this issue during the ASP. The Office of the Prosecutor can act as a political organ by sanctioning African countries. Burundi supports the African Union and asks for the deferral of charges against African heads of States and government.

Burundi has revised its Criminal Code. Burundi has investigated the attempted coup of May 13th 2015 and calls for States Parties who received some of the coup plotters to surrender them to justice. Burundi formed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a National Dialogue Body to learn more about how its civilians lost their lives before Independence and open discussions on the country’s main issues.

Special Session on Complementarity

Sexual and gender-based violence is a very important theme and should be integrated into the penal code. Very few victims come forward. In African communities, this is due to the mentality: sexual and gender-based violence crimes are not considered a crime and therefore there is a possibility for reconciliation. But the mentality is changing and more victims/survivors have started coming forward.