



**His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye advocates the pride of producing and consuming African**



**O**n Saturday 04 December 2020, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye participated by videoconference in the 13th Extraordinary Session of the African Union (AU) on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

This extraordinary session, which lasted two days and in which several African Heads of States and Governments took part, was chaired in Johannesburg by His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa and the President of the African Union.

In his opening speech, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa welcomed the holding of this extraordinary session despite many constraints related to the Covid 19 pandemic. He praised the resilience of African countries and reaffirmed the determination of the African Continent to reinvent their economic model to improve the lives of African populations:

“We have inherited a colonial economic model which does not promote real eco-

nomie integration of our states. With the ZLECAf, we will revitalize trade and the strict frameworks of our borders”.

Speaking in turn, the President of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Muhammad and the Secretary General of the AfCFTA welcomed the support of the member countries of the AU to the project and the ambitions of the AfCFTA. . In fact, 44 African countries are signatories and 34 have already ratified the protocols for its creation.

Speaking during the closed session, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye paid tribute to his peer initiators of the AfCFTA, which has “the potential to be a catalyst for industrial development likely to place the Africa on the path of exporting its products while improving competitiveness both in its own markets and globally.”

The Head of State recalled that Africa is the largest commercial space in the world, with around 1.3 billion people. The AfCFTA therefore represents a real opportunity to stimulate the continent’s economic growth, reduce poverty and strengthen economic integration in Africa.

To overcome the major problem posed by the protectionism of certain world markets which exclude African prod-

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ucts, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye advocates the pride of producing African and African consuming and of considering above all Africa as an internal market for Africans:

"To succeed, there is a challenge to overcome. The lack of pride in consuming our African products clearly justifies the continued dependence of Africa on foreign economies and it is only by coming together that we can reverse this trend".

In concluding his speech, the Burundian Head of State reiterated Burundi's commitment to do everything possible to complete the ratification process of the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA as soon as possible, and

to participate fully alongside other countries to its effective implementation for the well-being of the peoples of Africa.

While the effective start of trade within the framework of the AfCFTA is scheduled for January 1, 2021, all the speakers during this extraordinary session underlined the urgency and the need to silence the guns everywhere in Africa so that the ambitions of AfCFTA can be achieved. It is around this important theme that the Heads of State and Government of the African Union agreed to meet on December 6, 2020.

(Source: [www.presidence.gov.bi](http://www.presidence.gov.bi))

### President Evariste Ndayishimiye relaunches dialogue at the highest level between Burundi and the European Union



**B**urundi and the European Union resumed dialogue at the highest level on Monday, December 7, 2020, with an audience that the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye granted, at the Ntare Rushatsi Palace, to the Representative of the European Union in Burundi in the company of the Ambassadors of the member countries of the European Union having their residence in Bujumbura, reviving the hope of the renormalization of relations between Burundi and the European Union after five years of disagreement on a number of points.

The last formal discussions between Burundi and the European Union dated from March 2016 when the Council unilaterally concluded the consultation procedure with Burundi under article 96 of the EU-ACP partnership agreement, known as the Accord of Cotonou. Burundi had never ceased to remind its partner that the invocation of Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement in the face of the situation in Burundi had been rushed, in May

2015, in the wake of the insurgency and upheavals that led to the coup attempt of May 13, 2015.

The Government of the Republic of Burundi has always accused its partner, the European Union, of being the sponsor of this instability, while the European Union has suspended direct financial support to the State of Burundi, including budgetary support accusing Burundi of "not respecting democratic principles and values, human rights and the rule of law on the basis of the Cotonou Agreement and the principles set out in the Arusha Agreement". As recognized by the interlocutors of the President of the Republic, the moment is well chosen given the situation of peace and security which prevails throughout the national territory, the massive return of refugees, the warming of relations with Rwanda, without forgetting the role that Burundi is playing on the regional and international scene in addition to the diplomatic successes achieved by Burundi until it is withdrawn from the political agenda of the Security Council of the UN. The Ambassador of the European Union as well as those of the member countries of the European Union in Burundi said that "it is high time to resolve the misunderstandings with mutual respect" and appreciated the soothing speech of President Evariste Ndayishimiye and its policy of openness, which constitute "a solid basis for the resumption of good cooperation between the European Union and Burundi in a dynamic of mutually beneficial and advantageous partnership and nothing would justify dragging our feet. "

The two sides agreed to break free from the past and look to the future by rebuilding their relationship. Based on the 6 priorities of President Evariste Ndayishimiye in-

cluding good governance, public health, education, agriculture and animal husbandry, free healthcare for retirees and youth development, the Union Ambassadors European Union have promised to do everything in their power to ensure that the European Union supports the responsible and hard-working institutions of Burundi in this new impetus towards development, in accordance with the priority areas contained in the National Development Plan (PND) 2018-2027.

The President of the Republic recommended that this dialogue continue on the technical level at the level of the Ministry having foreign affairs in its attributions, confident that the success of the reestab-

lishment of good relations between the European Union and Burundi is already on the right track path.

At the end of this hearing, Mr. Claude Bochu, Representative of the European Union in Burundi indicated that they were received by His Excellency the President of the Republic at their request. He welcomed the climate in which the meeting took place and insisted that this hearing was the first (under the Cotonou Agreement) for 5 years. For Mr. Claude Bochu, this bodes well for a better tomorrow in relations between Burundi and the European Union.

(Source: [www.presidente.gov.bi](http://www.presidente.gov.bi))

### The Angolan Minister of External Relations received by President Ndayishimiye Evariste to deliver a message from President Joào Lourenço and introduce him to the new Executive Secretary of the ICGLR



**H**is Excellency Tête ANTONIO was at the head of a strong multidisciplinary delegation made up of the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), and some senior officials of the Angolan Ministry of External Relations.

At the end of the audience, the Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola revealed that he was carrying a message from His Excellency the President of the Angolan Republic transmitting, among other things, his wishes for happiness and prosperity to his Burundi counterpart, His Excellency President Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE and to the Burundian people.

During this meeting, the two high authorities discussed ways and means to strengthen the already excellent

bilateral relations between Burundi and Angola. The Head of Angolan Diplomacy expressed his gratitude for the rich interview that His Excellency the President of the Burundian Republic had with his Angolan counterpart, His Excellency João Lourenço on the sidelines of the Summit of Heads of State and Governments of the Economic Community of Central African States recently held in Libreville, Gabon. He conveyed the wish of the Angolan Head of State to continue this interview as soon as possible.

His Excellency Tété ANTONIO further praised the effective response provided by Burundi to COVID-19. He indicated, to this end, that he intends to discuss with the Burundian health authorities in order to allow Angola to soak up the Burundian experience in the fight against this pandemic.

Since it is Angola which chairs the summit of Heads of State and Government of the ICGLR and its Executive Secretariat, the Angolan Minister of External Relations took this opportunity to present to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Burundi the

New Executive Secretary of the ICGLR, Amb. João Samuel Caholo, elected for a 2-year term, and seek Burundi's support for the latter.

Speaking, the Burundian Number One expressed his gratitude for the support provided by the Republic of Angola to the fight led by Burundi which resulted in its removal from the political agenda of the United Nations Security Council.

His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE also expressed the wish to see the establishment of trade between Angola and Burundi. He also promised to support the new Executive Secretary of the ICGLR especially since it is Burundi which hosts the headquarters of this organization.

The President of the Republic finally reassured his host that Burundi will not hesitate to share with Africa and the whole world its know-how on the fight against COVID-19.

([www.presidence.gov.bi](http://www.presidence.gov.bi))

### The Senate analyzes and adopts two bills



The senators analyzed and unanimously adopted two bills, one ratifying by the Republic of Burundi the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and the other on ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the MINAMATA Convention on mercury.

The session was chaired by the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, President of the Burundian Senate. It was the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Dr. Déo Guide Rurema, who

represented the government to present the explanatory memorandum.

Regarding the analysis of the first bill on the Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, Minister Dr Deo Guide RUREMA indicated that this ratification marks his support for the efforts which are carried out on a global scale to fight against the deterioration of the ozone layer without which no life on Earth is possible. Also, he added, the amendment will reduce the number of cases of skin and eye cancer diagnosed each year as well as the

135 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year of greenhouse gas emissions. .

According to Minister Dr Deo Guide RUREMA, the ratification of this bill will generate potential benefits for global health, estimated at two billion dollars by 2030. In addition, the implementation of this amendment will strengthen the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 12).

Regarding the interest of ratifying this amendment for Burundi, Minister Deo Guide RUREMA said that the country will continue to benefit from the financial sup-

port of the Multilateral Fund in order to strengthen its country program for the implementation of the protocol of Montreal.

Regarding the analysis of the ratification project by the Republic of Burundi of the MINAMATA Convention on mercury, Dr. Déo Guide RUREMA in-

formed the Senators that this bill provides many benefits that Burundi could derive from this ratification. He indicated that Burundi will benefit from funding from multilateral donors and benefit from funding from bilateral partners.

(Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## The Ombudsman meets the Governors and Administrators of the North of the country



The institution of the Ombudsman organized on Tuesday December 8, 2020 in Kayanza province a two-day exchange workshop with the Governors of the provinces and communal administrators of the North region, (including the provinces Kirundo, Muyinga, Ngozi and Kayanza ) on their contribution to peacebuilding. The activities took place at the chief town of Kayanza province.

In his words of welcome, the Governor of Kayanza province Mr. Rémy Cishahayo indicated that peace and security reign in this province and that the population is getting down to development work especially in the agro-pastoral sector, highlighted in this province.

In his speech for the occasion, the Honorable Burundian Ombudsman Edouard Nduhimana indicated that his institution has established the project to support the sustainability of local mechanisms for dialogue, meditation and reconciliation for the strengthening of social cohesion in Burundi. "We have launched the activities of community mediation and conflict prevention networks, which will contribute to settling them at the level of the hills, with a view to facilitating the work of the courts," said Honorable Edouard Nduhimana.

The consultant Mr. Paul Ndizigiye, during his presentation on the first theme: the accountability of administrative officials and the impact of their

actions in the management of public affairs, indicated that it is preferable for administrative officials to be made aware of the notion of management of public affairs and good governance so that they are consistent in the accomplishment of their missions.

During his presentation, Mr. Paul Ndizigiye insisted on recourse action, a law which awakens the conscience of all officials, officials and agents of the State, to always act in accordance with the law that conveys the general interest. Otherwise, his abuse will have repercussions on his family patrimony.

The presentation on recourse action raised many questions and caused concern among administrative officials in the north of the country. For this, the Burundian Ombudsman specified that those responsible in the administration are called upon to always ensure good governance to protect themselves against the consequences of the abuses committed.

The second presentation concerned the results achieved by the institution of the Ombudsman in strengthening social cohesion. It was noticed that the culture of dialogue, inclusive and constructive debate has been reinforced across all layers of society to fight, banish, eradicate all forms of corruption, etc.

The third theme was based on the exchange on the establishment of a regular framework for consultation and discussion with the administration around citizens' grievances. The consultant said that 59 cases have already been registered, 32 of which have already been processed and 37 in progress, the Ombudsman institution has already set up a close system for monitoring citizens' grievances and for managing complaints with a view to conflict prevention.

At the end of this workshop, recommendations were formulated. The Administrators asked for the establishment of a legal council in each municipality and to provide State lawyers with sufficient means of travel to facilitate their work.

(Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## The Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs exchanges with the Ambassador of the EU and the other Ambassadors of the member countries of this Organization on the normalization of relations between Burundi and the European Union



Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO expressed the wish of the Government of Burundi for the normalization of diplomatic relations between Burundi and the European Union. The Ambassador of the European Union and all members of his delegation also expressed their wish to see the reestablishment of good relations between the European Union and Burundi. During this lunch, the two Parties had fruitful talks in a spirit of openness and mutual confidence on the lifting of the economic sanctions imposed on Burundi in 2015.

The objective being the resumption of unimpeded bilateral cooperation. Note that on their initiative, these Ambassadors had been received in audience by the President of the Republic of Burundi H.E Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, on December 07, 2020.

During a lunch to which he invited the Ambassador of the European Union to Burundi HE Claude Bochu and all the Ambassadors of the Member States of the EU residing in Bujumbura on December 11, 2020, the Patron of Burundian diplomacy HE

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## The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO signs in the condolence book at the French Embassy in Burundi



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO affixed his signature this Wednesday, December 9, 2020, in the book of condolences to the French Embassy in Burundi, to pay tribute to the former President of the French Republic, Mr. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

In his message, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO offered his most saddened condolences to the Government and the French people due to the death of the former President of the French Republic, a great friend from Burundi, a great architect of the process of the integration of Europe and modernity.

The Minister wished him a good rest.

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## The Angolan Minister of External Relations pays a working visit to Burundi



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO received in audience this Tuesday, December 8, 2020, a delegation led by His Excellency Ambassador Tété António, Minister of External Relations of the Angolan Republic with a message of His Excellency the President of the Angolan Republic transmitting, among others, his best wishes for happiness and prosperity to his counterpart from Burundi, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi and to the Burundian people. After the greetings, the two Heads of Diplomacy discussed strengthening the long-standing bilateral relations. The Head of Angolan Diplomacy revealed his gratitude for the rich interview that His Excellency the President of the Burundian Republic had with his Angolan counterpart, His Excellency João Lourenço on the sidelines of the Summit of Heads of States and Government of the Economic Community from the recently tenuous Central African states in Libreville, Gabon. For this, His Excellency Ambassador Tété António seized this opportunity to announce that it is Angola which chairs the summit of Heads of States and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). The Minister of External Relations of the Angolan Republic also welcomed the burundian experience in the

fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and he announced that he and his delegation intended to discuss with the burundian health authorities to share this experience.

The Minister of External Relations of the Angolan Republic, His Excellency Ambassador Tété António also declared that the Angolan Republic is delighted with the withdrawal of Burundi from the agenda of the United Nations Security Council.

In turn, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO welcomed the visit to Burundi of this delegation. He also recalled that Burundi and Angola have good relations. Minister Albert SHINGIRO took this opportunity to congratulate the new Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), His Excellency Ambassador João Samuel Caholo and promised him great support from Burundi.

The Angolan Minister of External Relations was subsequently received in audience by the President of the Republic His Excellency Mr. Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE to whom he was a Special Envoy.

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## The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) organize a field visit to the provinces of Ngozi and Kirundo



The Government of the Republic of Burundi and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) jointly developed and signed 2020 Work Plans which are inspired by the new Country Program (2019-2023) and aligned with the priorities of the National Plan Development 2018-2027.

The Country Program includes in its coordination mechanisms, an annual joint visit between the program's implementing partners and the United Nations Population Fund to assess the progress made and any constraints in achieving the results of the program. The Program evolved in a difficult environment characterized by the postponement of certain activities. It is in this context that a field visit was scheduled and carried out in the Provinces of Ngozi and Kirundo by the Executives of the sectoral Ministries that are partners in the implementation of the Program, the Executives of the NGOs responsible for the implementation of the Program activities and UNFPA staff on December 1 to 4, 2020 respectively at Ngozi hospital, at the Family and Community Development Center (CDFC) of Ngozi, Youth Peace Center of the Ruhororo Commune of the Ngozi province, at "amis des jeunes" Health Center of Buye in the Province of Ngozi, to the "Nawe Nuze" Solidarity groups of the Gashikanwa Commune of Ngozi, at Kirundo hospital, at the Family and Community Development Center (CDFC) of Kirundo, Youth Peace Center of the Kirundo Commune, at the Gasura Health Center of the Vumbi Commune in the Province of Kirundo and ABUBEF of Kirundo.

The general objective of the visit was to the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Program's activities and to assess the evidence and / or the challenges linked to the Program's interventions. The specific objective was to document the achievements of the Program (evidence, physical, life history, testimonies, etc.); analyze the favorable and unfavorable factors that have made it possible or not to achieve the results and formulate appropriate recommendations that can help achieve the expected results of the Program.

A joint field visit program was drawn up and sites to be visited were inventoried. Courtesy visits were organized with provincial administrative officials and discussions were held with the technical services of hospitals, youth-friendly health centers, specialized centers for the management of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), CDFCs and UNFPA partner organizations working at the provincial level.

The achievements of the Program are documented, relevant recommendations to improve the performance of the program are formulated and an implementation plan for said recommendations is drawn up. A restitution was organized and a mission report will be drawn up and recommendations will be formulated and will be the subject of implementation or follow-up.

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## The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation organizes Open Days, 2020 Edition



On Wednesday 09 December 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation organized Open Days, 2020 Edition with a view to informing the public of its achievements, its operation, its future prospects with regard to Burundi's foreign policy and especially the role of the Ministry in the implementation of the National Development Plan (PND) 2018-2027.

In his welcome speech at La Détente, the Representative of the Mayor of the city of Bujumbura, Mr. Christophe KINSHASA, Economic Advisor to the Mayor of the city seized this opportunity to express his warm thanks to all the guests who by presence, testify the interest they attach to the virtues of good governance through the action of transparency and accountability of leaders towards citizens on one hand, but also in the benefits of international cooperation on the other.



He also invited the public of Bujumbura to take advantage of this happy opportunity offered to him to be in front of diplomatic professionals who constitute an

important source in the field of foreign policy in general and diplomacy in particular so that he can become familiar with the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation as a government institution ensuring the interface between the interior and the exterior of the country but also an institution which must be attentive to the burundian people who need to be heard and protected in their rights. As for Mr. Isidore NTIRAMPEBA, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation who represented the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, he said that with the Open Days 2020 Edition was the 3rd time that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation organized these activities.

As with the previous activities of 2012 and 2014, the organizers of these activities talked about what the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation does, how it operates, the challenges it faces in achieving its missions and its future prospects to face those challenges, and to embark resolutely with a strong determination the burundian population, in the way of progress which it deserves.

For this 2020 Edition, the chosen theme is "Diplomacy and Development Cooperation at the heart of the implementation of the National Development Plan of Burundi (PND 2018-2027)". The theme aroused directly in the spirit and the letter of the constitution of June 7, 2018 which notably states in its preamble "Burundi reaffirms its greater determination to defend national sovereignty and consolidate its political and economic independence.

Therefore, the Permanent Secretary informed the par-

ticipants about the achievements of the Ministry since 2014 in the diplomatic fields, field of training, etc.

In terms of expanding the diplomatic map, Burundi has also widened the circle of its friends by establishing diplomatic relations with new bilateral partners. During the successive years since the last Open Days

Missions and Representatives of International Organizations accredited in Burundi.

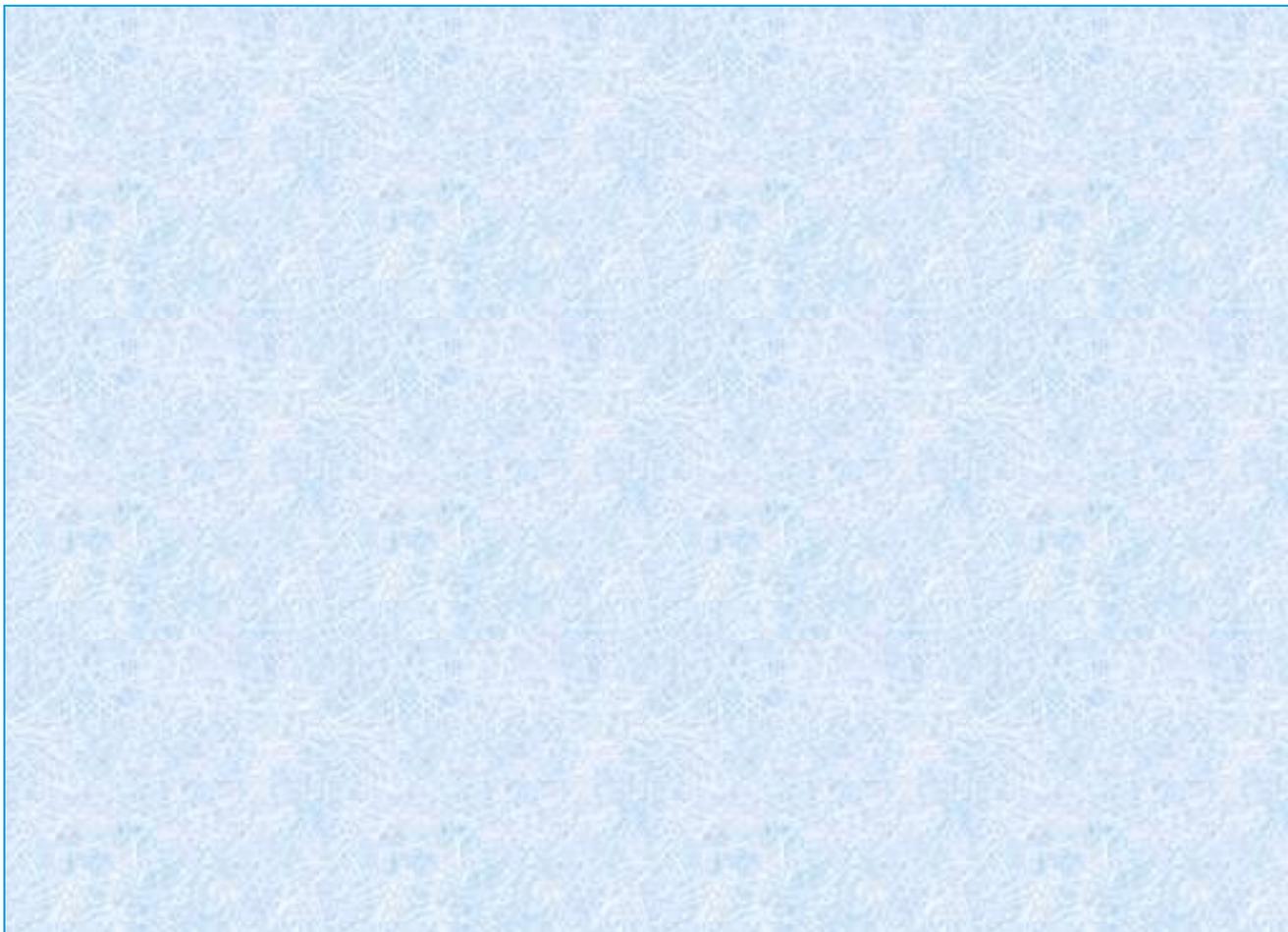
In terms of training, many scholarships were awarded to young burundians at levels and training courses throughout the considered period.



With the withdrawal of Burundi from the agenda of the United Nations Security Council, the Permanent Secretary has declared that it remains only to embark on socio-economic development. For the Permanent Secretary, this decision came at the right time because Burundi does not constitute a threat to international peace and security. On the contrary, our country contributes substantially to the restoration of peace and security in the world.

in 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation also held information sessions and information exchanges with Diplomatic and Consular

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## The 2020-201 coffee campaign went well



**T**he Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock Dr Déo Guide Rurema held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 in his office in Gitega, a press point with a view to informing the general public and coffee growers in particular, the inventory of coffee campaign activities, 2020-2021 edition.

The Minister in charge of Agriculture indicated that the 2020-2021 coffee campaign has started in the context of the implementation of the new recovery strategy; revitalization and sustainability of the coffee sector adopted by the Burundian government on November 1, 2019. As announced by the Minister, in general, the activities related to the collection of cherry coffee and its processing went well.

Minister Dr. Déo Guide Rurema said that during the coffee campaign, all coffee growers were all paid in full and on schedule. According to the Minister, coffee growers are delighted with the re-engagement of the State in the coffee sector given the way in which the payment was made, on time and transparently. This

satisfaction of the population is motivated by the fact that the payment was made on the eve of the start of the school year, cropping season A, but also during a period when many households carry out large-scale development projects, specified the Minister.

Regarding the marketing of coffee, a quantity of 8,906,550 tones of coffee was already exported as of December 3, 2020 for a value of 22,264,796 USD. For the Office for the Development of Coffee of Burundi (ODCA), the exported coffee is 1632,480 tons for a value of 4,414,000 USD corresponding to 40% of the forecast. For the Consortium of Coffee Growers Cooperatives (COCOCA), 1,420,800 tons have already been exported for a value of 4,185,685 USD. The Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock said that the Burundian government welcomes the step taken by ODECA in the implementation of the strategy of revitalization and sustainability of the coffee sector. He invited development partners to follow suit in reviving the coffee sector in Burundi by making their contributions to increasing production.

Minister Dr. Déo Guide Rurema thanked all stakeholders in the coffee sector who spare no effort to ensure that the coffee sector in Burundi is competitive both regionally and internationally while reiterating the support of the government whenever necessary.

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## REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
Secretariat-General of the Republic**COMMUNIQUE N° 2 ISSUED BY THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI  
FOLLOWING THE DECISION MADE BY THE UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY COUNCIL TO REMOVE BURUNDI FROM ITS  
POLITICAL AGENDA**

1. The of Republic of Burundi welcomed with satisfaction the noble, dignified and salutary decision that the United Nations Security Council has just taken by removing Burundi from its political agenda, following the wishes expressed by the President of the Republic of Burundi, HE Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, and which he reiterated in his address delivered at the 75<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly. Through this historic decision, the United Nations have finally recognized that very significant progress in various fields have been made in Burundi.
2. The Republic of Burundi welcomes this decision of the United Nations Security Council, which constitutes an extremely strong and decisive signal of the renormalization of diplomatic relations between Burundi and the United Nations.
3. Burundi wishes to inform the international community, its interlocutors and partners that the improvement of the human rights situation and the stabilization of security throughout the country are a reality, and that the population goes about their daily routines, and in complete peace of mind, to development work. This is irrefutably evidenced by the massive return of Burundian refugees, as well as the organization, with Burundians' own funds, of peaceful, credible, transparent and democratic elections in 2020, which resulted in the establishment of responsible and laborious institutions that are currently ruling the country.

4. Burundi is delighted that everyone sees the same thing, including the United Nations, as witnessed by the common understanding between Burundi and the United Nations on the future of the United Nations Office in Burundi. Burundi is on the road to peace and development. It is the crowning of the combined efforts of the Burundian people, and of the significant support of the various countries and partners, which once again testify, the solidarity of the peoples through cooperation and collaboration under a win-win spirit.
5. The Republic of Burundi takes this opportunity to reiterate its commitment to continue the process of consolidating peace and a rule of law and everyone should be reassured because this is its responsibility. In addition, the Republic of Burundi undertakes to continue consolidating bilateral and multilateral cooperation in a dynamic of mutual respect between Burundi and partners and through mutually beneficial and advantageous partnerships.
6. As part of the strengthening of national sovereignty, the Republic of Burundi wishes cooperation relations to focus particularly on the implementation of the National Development Plan (PND 2018-2027) which is also inspired by the Objectives of Sustainable Development (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063.
7. In this momentum, and by mutual agreement with various development partners, practical modalities could be re-analyzed through, among other things, round tables to see how to achieve this partnership within the framework of economic development.
8. The Republic of Burundi reiterates its warm and sincere thanks to the United Nations in general, and to friendly countries in particular, for their unwavering support which has resulted in this measure.
9. Finally, the Republic of Burundi invites the Burundian population to welcome and support, too, with satisfaction and serenity this salutary decision and encourages them to remain calm and responsible as they have always been, especially during difficult times, whilst asking them to always go about their daily development activities.

**Done at Gitega, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE**

**Secretary-General and Spokesman.**

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**REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI****PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
Secretariat-General of the State****MEDIA RELEASE NO 10 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 09 DECEMBER 2020**

A Cabinet Meeting was held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2020, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi. The following items were analyzed:

1. Draft organic law reassigning the powers of the Anti-Corruption Court and its General Prosecutor's Office as well as the reorganization of the Anti-Corruption Brigade, presented by the Minister of Justice.

This project intervenes to determine the new approach of the Government in the fight against corruption by restructuring the institutions in charge of the fight against corruption and related offenses in order to bring the anti-corruption criminal justice closer to litigants.

The abolition of the anti-corruption court in favor of the high courts and the courts of appeal appears to be a better approach.

Indeed, even if with the current structure of the Government, the Ministry of Good Governance which exercised the supervision over the institutions responsible for the fight against corruption does not appear, the Government is determined to continue the fight against corruption.

In order to fight effectively against this phenomenon of corruption, the project creates anti-corruption sections within the Public Prosecutor's Offices and Public Prosecutors on the one hand, and Anti-Corruption Chambers at the High Courts and Courts of Appeal on the other hand.

In the effectiveness of the penal response to the phenomenon of corruption, the investigation services play a preponderant role.

This is why the Anti-Corruption Brigade to which the investigative mission is entrusted also deserves to be reorganized for more efficiency, with this concern of the Government to have a single and unified police force.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with the recommendation of:

- Creating anti-corruption sections within the Prosecutor's Office and General Prosecutor's Office, and anti-corruption chambers at the High Courts and Courts of Appeal.
- Entrust the pre-trial phase in the fight against corruption to a specialized anti-corruption unit of the Judicial Police.

**2. Draft decree establishing, organizing and operating the Burundian Regulatory Authority for Medicines for Human Use and Food, presented by the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.**

In order to respond to the new policies and challenges of the pharmaceutical sector, law n ° 1/11 of May 08, 2020 regulating the practice of pharmacy and drugs for human use has been implemented.

This law provides for the establishment of a Regulatory Authority for Medicines for Human Use and Food "ABREMA".

This project will implement this law.

ABREMA will be responsible for the regulation of all aspects related to the quality assurance and safety of products such as prefabricated and packaged foods, medicines for human use, cosmetics and dietetics, herbal medicines, traditional medicines, medical devices, materials or substances used in the manufacture of products the consumption of which may harm human health.

At the end of the discussions, the project was adopted with, among other recommendations, to endow ABREMA, like the other structures that generate a lot of funds for the Treasury, with sufficient operating resources so that it continues to effectively accomplish its missions.

**3. Draft revised National Defense Policy, presented by the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Affairs.**

Today and in the future, Burundi faces various threats to its security and stability.

It is therefore imperative to develop its capabilities within the National Defense Force to deter and neutralize potential enemies, and thus ensure an environment conducive to economic and social development.

The national defense policy aims to determine the main directives which outline the essential military capacities so that the National Defense Force accomplishes its missions effectively.

This revised national defense policy comes in order to adapt the one adopted in 2013 to the fundamental documents which are the Constitution of 2018, the organic law governing the National Defense Force of 2017 and the National Development Plan.

This revision is an important step in the ongoing process of professionalization and modernization of the National Defense Force.

Given that the threats that the country intends to face are both internal and external and that the security of a country is not the sole preserve of the armed forces, this policy outlines the responsibilities of all the actors in terms of security.

After exchange and debate, the draft policy was adopted.

**4. Draft decree revising decree n ° 100/15 of January 30, 2017 reorganizing the National Land Commission and its Permanent Secretariat, presented by the Prime Minister's Services.**

The National Land Commission was instituted by the Land Code with the particular mission of monitoring the proper application of land legislation. It is organized by decree n ° 100/15 of January 30, 2017. It was placed under the coordination of the 2nd Vice-Presidency of the Republic.

In accordance with Decree No.100 / 065 of September 22, 2020 on the organization and functioning of the Prime Minister's office, the Permanent

Secretariat of the Commission is today a specialized service attached to the Prime Minister's Office.

There is a need to revise the decree that organizes this Commission to adapt it to the legal and regulatory texts in force.

This project proposes a light structure compared to the one that was in place for more efficiency.

At the end of the debate, the project was adopted with some modifications.

**5. Motivational note for the refinancing of COGERCO for the development of the cotton sector in Burundi, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.**

The cotton sector is of great importance for the Burundian economy as it is the main supplier of raw material to the textile industry. Formerly, it was the second largest source of foreign exchange after coffee.

Endogenous and exogenous factors prevented COGERCO from promoting and ensuring the sustained production which the country needed to develop the cotton-textile-clothing sector. These factors include:

- Insufficient land
- Poor mechanization
- Financial difficulties
- Etc....

As part of the revival of cotton production, the Government of Burundi adopted the National Strategy for the Revitalization of the Cotton-Textile-Clothing Sector in 2019, which is not yet operational to date.

In addition, the Government signed, in May 2020, a memorandum of understanding with the company AFRITEXTILE to revitalize the cotton sector, but this company has not yet fulfilled its commitments.

However, it is more than urgent to revitalize this sector so that it can contribute to the growth of the national economy.

From the retreat organized in August 2020 to reflect on ways and means to revitalize the sector, two alternatives were proposed:

- Government's own financing by mobilizing FBU 8,747,400,000 in favor of COGERCO so that it produces 6,000 tons of cotton per year on 3,000 hectares. It will take ownership of all the links in the sector from production to marketing of the product by planning to repay the debt over a period of three years
- Partnership between the Government and the AFRITEXTILE Company.

After discussion and debate, the Council noted that if it is a question of financing, it will be focused on the development of cotton cultivation. It is not about financing COGERCO but rather about finding ways and means to increase cotton production.

It was therefore requested to continue the path of partnership with the company AFRITEXTILE which will develop cotton cultivation on land granted to it by the State. The terms of this partnership will be defined.

6. Draft ministerial order regulating the sale and transport prices of forest products and their derivatives from State forests and afforestation, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

The 2016 Forest Code makes the issuance of a logging permit subject to the prior payment of the logging authorization fees determined by an ordinance of the Ministers having forests and finances in their attributions, as well as the payment of transport costs.

It is therefore to operationalize the provisions of this Code that this project is proposed.

In addition, the selling prices of timber in Burundi have long been underestimated in relation to production costs. There is an urgent need to adjust them according to production costs and the current market price situation.

After discussion and debate, the Council noted that the state does not plant trees for sale.

Thus, this draft ordinance needs to be reoriented because it must regulate the felling of private timbers. From now on, before asking for authorization to cut, the private sector must first show the trees that they have planted to replace

those they want to fell, according to the principle "who reforest cuts" and not "who cuts reforests" .

In addition, there should be a preliminary work of marking the trees to be cut which would be done step by step, in order to avoid razing all the tree plantations.

It was also recommended to study strategies to use metal scaffolding during construction instead of wood, in order to preserve trees and thus protect the environment.

#### 7. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for the establishment and operationalization of a Tanzanian Ports Authority Liaison Office in Bujumbura, presented by the Minister of Commerce , Transport, Industry and Tourism

The management of the Tanzanian Ports is ensured by the "Tanzanian Ports Authority" which ensures the management of all the related problems, so that the users receive their cargoes without difficulty.

During the meetings of the East African Community, it was recommended that the managers of the Ports in Tanzania and Kenya open their agencies in landlocked countries to allow users not to make a lot of trips which have an impact on the prices of imported products.

This Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania is part of this process of effective regional integration and aims to strengthen bilateral trade relations between the two countries.

The opening of this office in Bujumbura will allow the Government of Burundi on the one hand and Burundian businessmen on the other hand, to minimize the foreign exchange costs associated with travel to Dar es Salaam.

At the end of the analysis, the Memorandum was adopted with the reminder to members of the Government to each time submit before the analysis of the Council of Ministers the Memoranda to be signed.

8. Note on a request from the Association of Banks and Financial Institutions of Burundi (ABEF) to the Government of Burundi to build a large shopping center on the ruins of the former central market of Bujumbura, presented by the Services of the Prime Minister.

As a reminder, the central market in Bujumbura caught fire on the morning of January 28, 2013, leaving behind the destruction of all the goods that were there and all the structure that supported the infrastructure.

The operation file for the site of the central market in Bujumbura has been the subject of analysis by the Council of Ministers on numerous occasions since 2016.

The various calls for tenders launched were unsuccessful.

Through this request, the Association of Banks and Financial Institutions of Burundi (ABEF) would like to materialize its commitment to play a leading role in the development of the country in general and that of the city of Bujumbura in particular. The college of bank and financial institution leaders expressed interest in the development project of a shopping center on the Former Central Market square of Bujumbura.

The banking sector proposes the execution of this project through a public-private partnership whose main shareholders would be banks and financial institutions whose capital contribution would come from investment reserves, and the State of Burundi whose contribution would be the land.

To enhance the capital, the shareholding may be open to any other private or institutional investor according to the conditions to be defined in the articles of association of an investment company to be created for this purpose.

The financing of the project will consist of:

- The capital released by Burundi's banks and financial institutions from investment reserves
- Other private and institutional investors
- Loans from international financial institutions

After discussion and debate, the Cabinet gave its agreement in principle for the continuation of the project, but that the shareholding should be opened up to people who have sufficient financial capacity because it is an infrastructure that will require a lot of resources.

It was recommended to the representatives of the State and to those of the Association of Banks and Financial Institutions to get together to develop a roadmap as well as a chronogram of activities, and if necessary give themselves a clear and precise start and end of the execution of the works, so that the center is effectively operational within a reasonable timeframe, because Burundians have been waiting impatiently for the rehabilitation of this market for a long time.

#### 9. Any Other Business

- The Minister of Communication, Information Technologies and Media briefed the Council on the implementation of the agreement signed between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the People's Republic of China which relates to a donation of 190,000 decoders. This donation was granted as part of the migration to digital television broadcasting in Burundi.

- His Excellency the President of the Republic expressed his satisfaction for the fact that Burundi has been removed from the political agenda of the United Nations Security Council. This is indeed another page that has been turned both for Burundi and for its partners.

As the time is right to devote focus more to development activities, he asked that concrete projects to be submitted to partners be developed and that budget support for the day-to-day functioning of the State no longer form part of the financing to be negotiated.

He also recalled that requests for official audiences with state institutions must pass through the channel of the Ministry in charge of Foreign Affairs.

Adjourning the Meeting, His Excellency the President of the Republic informed the members of the Government that a government retreat is scheduled from

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December 21 to 22, 2020 and that the latter will focus mainly on the assessment of the state of implementation of the basic principles of "Reta Mvyeyi, Reta Nkozi".

**Done at Bujumbura, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE  
Secretary-General and Spokesman.-**

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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