

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY ALBERT SHINGIRO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AT THE 45TH SESSION OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE FRANCOPHONIE, PARIS 03 OCTOBER 2024**

**Mister Chair;**

**Madam Secretary General of La Francophonie;**

**Excellencies Ministers;**

**Distinguished delegates;**

**All protocol observed**

1. First of all, I would express my deep gratitude to the Government and people of France for the exceptional and warm welcome we have received since our arrival in this beautiful, vibrant and emblematic city of Paris.
2. Mister Chair, the theme chosen for the summit is "**Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in French**" comes at the right time and matches perfectly with the legitimate aspirations of the peoples of our French-speaking area. This theme underlines the importance of the French language not only as a cultural vector, but also as a catalyst for economic and social progress and a central tool for creation, innovation and entrepreneurship.
3. By making French a language of instruction, alongside Kirundi, Burundi has strengthened its foothold in the Francophonie. This strategic decision has stimulated artistic, literary and theatrical creativity in French. Our artists use this language to express their cultural identity, while participating in intercultural dialogue.
4. We are convinced that French language can play a key role in the global technological ecosystem. By training our youth in digital and scientific fields, we give them the skills they need to innovate in French and meet global challenges such as climate change and sustainable development.
5. Entrepreneurship is at the heart of Burundi's economic strategy. We have launched programs to support young entrepreneurs, particularly women, by facilitating their access to financing and training. The purpose is to make entrepreneurship not only a lever for economic growth, but also a factor in human development.
6. Those initiatives are parts of a broader vision of our country development strategy, which aims **at making Burundi an emerging country by 2040 and**

**a developed country by 2060**, whose effective implementation will contribute significantly to consolidating a dynamic economic area.

7. Mister Chair, La Francophonie is above all a space of solidarity, cooperation and sharing. Faced with the current challenges, it is more than ever crucial to strengthen this solidarity to ensure joint actions in terms of creation, innovation and entrepreneurship. Burundi calls for increased cooperation, while respecting the differences and choices of our peoples, so that each member can benefit from the collective dynamism of our space.
8. Burundi is deeply convinced that the implementation of the central theme of the Summit, "creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship in French", is a substantial contribution to the creation of a better, prosperous, inclusive and united future for the current and future generations of the French-speaking world.

**Thank you for your attention**