

ADDRESS BY AMBASSADOR ALBERT SHINGIRO, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI ON THE OCCASION OF THE AFRICAN UNION'S 46TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RELATING TO THE POINT ON THE AGENDA "CONSIDERATION OF THE FORTY-NINTH (49TH) ORDINARY SESSION REPORT OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES' COMMITTEE (PRC)"

- 1) Considering that the official opening of this morning will remain valid throughout the day, I will allow myself to go straight to the point for timing management on this item on the agenda. First of all, I would like to welcome the work accomplished by the Permanent Representatives Committee, whose report has just been brilliantly presented to us by Ambassador Ms. Khadija M'Barek of Mauritania, Chair of the Permanent Representatives' Committee.
- 2) **The analyses and recommendations** that have just been presented to us demonstrate a strong commitment to strengthening our Union and finding relevant solutions to the contemporary challenges of our continent. However, certain points deserve special attention.
- 3) First of all, **the though and persisting issue** of financing the African Union. The financial autonomy of our organization is essential to guarantee its sovereignty and effectiveness. It is crucial to accelerate the implementation of innovative financing mechanisms already decided, in particular the 0.2% levy on imports from outside the continent, so as to reduce our dependence on external financing which seriously affects our capacity for action.
- 4) **Then, responding to humanitarian crises.** Like other African countries, Burundi has hosted refugees and faced the challenges of internal displacement following climate change. We have learned that solidarity and cooperation between States are crucial to provide sustainable responses to humanitarian issues. It is therefore

urgent to accelerate the effective operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency and to strengthen the coordination of efforts between Member States for more effective management of humanitarian crises. But at the same time, we must address the root causes of humanitarian crises, including armed conflicts and proxy wars that are increasing on the continent, pandemics, and climate change that spares no one and the fight against trafficking and the systematic plundering of natural resources.

- 5) Today it is almost impossible to make tangible progress on the economic front without the contribution of new technologies in all sectors in our countries. This is how comes the relevance of the African Space Agency (AfSA). It must become a solid tool to strengthen our technological and economic capacities to boost the creation of wealth in our respective countries.
- 6) **To conclude**, Burundi reiterates its fully commitment to the African Union in order to contribute in a positive, responsible and constructive way to the implementation of the Agenda 2063 “ The Africa we want”.
- 7) As a final point **Mister Chair**, the Delegation of Burundi fully supports the report of the Permanent Representatives Committee under review.

Thank you for attention !