

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR ALBERT SHINGIRO, MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION OF BURUNDI ON
THE OCCASION OF THE 46TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION ON THE REPORT OF THE CDC AFRICA**

Addis Ababa, February 13, 2025

**Your Excellency Mr. President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,
Your Excellency, Chairman of the African Union Commission,
Mr Chairman of CDC-Africa,
Distinguished participants, all Protocol observed!**

- 1) Mr. Chairman, allow me to begin by paying tribute to the remarkable work accomplished by the Director General of CDC-Africa, Dr. Jean Kaseya, and all his team, who work day and night to prevent pandemics and respond rapidly and effectively when they occur. I would also like to congratulate him on the clarity of the Report just presented, which shows just how far our continent has come in protecting the health of our populations, despite the many challenges facing our countries today.
- 2) What is clear is that we have made remarkable progress compared to the situation before covid-19, a pandemic that literally brought down our economies. In the context of recent epidemics such as Mpox and Marburg disease, CDC-Africa has been able to coordinate a rapid response, mobilize experts and provide effective support to affected countries. This proves that when we join forces, we can effectively protect our continent.
- 3) However, we still face many challenges. First, we need to ensure that the Regional Coordination Centers are fully operational. In the event of a health emergency, every minute counts, and these centers must be able to intervene without delay. Secondly, the issue of funding for CDC-Africa remains a cause for concern. Without sufficient resources, it will be difficult

to guarantee a rapid and effective response to the continent's health crises. Each member state must assume its responsibilities and contribute to the challenges and expectations that we expect from our main institution for health in Africa.

- 4) Another key point is the local manufacture of healthcare products. The Covid-19 pandemic taught us a valuable lesson: we can't always rely on others to supply us with vaccines, tests and medicines. Africa must produce what it needs itself. Some countries have already begun to invest in this direction, and it's time to redouble our efforts to gradually make Africa a self-sufficient continent when it comes to the health of its citizens.

- 5) What we do here must not remain in papers only. It's about the lives and health of millions of Africans. Burundi remains committed to working alongside the African Union to build a continent that is stronger and better ready to face with serenity the health challenges of today and tomorrow.

Thank you for your kind attention!