

**ADDRESS BY H.E AMBASSADOR ALBERT SHINGIRO, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE STRATEGIC RETREAT ON THE PREPARATION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE JOINT CONCERTATION COMMITTEE (CCC) WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

*Bujumbura, February 28, 2025*

**Maadam Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Burundi, Co-chair of this retreat,**

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen Ministers, Dear Colleagues;**

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen Ambassadors,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Senior Government Officials;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Representatives of the Agencies of the United Nations System in Burundi;**

**Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, all protocol respected;**

1. Allow me, at the outset of my speech, to express my real pleasure at finding ourselves once again around this table to discuss on a subject at center of our strategic partnership, which is the National Development Cooperation Strategy and the related implementation mechanism. Allow me also to extend my warm

greetings to each of you and welcome your willing to attend these meetings despite your busy schedules.

2. As you already know, **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**, the retreat that we are jointly organizing today aims at preparing the launch of activities of the Joint Concertation Committee (CCC) as part of the operationalization of the National Development Cooperation Strategy adopted in August 2023, to which most of you have contributed significantly, in one way or another, for its development. It is therefore a meeting that is particularly important because cooperation evolves in step with global geostrategic contexts and issues.
  
3. The result of intense discussions and exchanges at different levels, the National Development Cooperation Strategy has the overall objective of "**fostering sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth for the benefit of the Burundian people as a whole through an effective development cooperation system**". It therefore serves as a reference framework for development cooperation and is in line with the revised National Development Plan, and, more generally, with the vision of "Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060", more precisely in its fifth pillar based on fruitful partnership. The National Development Cooperation Strategy (NDCS) is also based on an ideal of mutually beneficial cooperation as it appears particularly in the various international treaties and agreements. In this regard, the Government of Burundi is aware that to achieve this objective, it is imperative to: i) Develop national leadership in development cooperation; ii) Improve the coordination of interventions by cooperation actors; iii) Optimize the mobilization and management of resources.

4. **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished guests,** for a better implementation of the National Strategy for Development Cooperation (*SNCD*); it was normal and logical to provide a framework for exchange and dialogue between the Government and its partners. It is therefore in the interests of efficiency and concertation that, in addition to the coordination mechanism at the national level, a joint Government-Partner concertation mechanism was recommended. The purpose of this mechanism is to enable constant and regular discussion and exchange on progress in terms of coordination and effectiveness of development cooperation. During this meeting, it will therefore be a matter of analyzing the constraints and problems related to development cooperation and taking the necessary measures to address them in unison of approach and vision.
5. It should be noted that the operationalization of such a mechanism is based on the commitment of both parties, coupled with a solid organization, with mechanisms for dialogue, ongoing concertation and open to all stakeholders. It marks a key moment in our collective approach to the strengthening of our increasingly growing and pragmatic cooperation.
6. Thus, we are gathering here, not only to exchange and share our views on ways and means to strengthen our partnership, but also to lay the foundations for fruitful collaboration between the various actors, as previously highlighted, with a view to making this committee operational at all levels. An increased collaboration that will serve as a springboard for us in coordinating and channeling development support effectively, with a view to addressing complex challenges facing our populations. In this regard, it would be relevant to ask ourselves the questions of who does what, where, how and with what resources.

- 7. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished guests,** it is clear that the success of this new development cooperation strategy will depend on four essential conditions, namely joint work through the pooling of efforts by all stakeholders, political will, the capacity to mobilize resources, the strengthening of national skills, the full and complete support of stakeholders, and above all, a radical mindset change.
- 8. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished guests,** as you already know, following the 2025 elections scheduled in less than four months, our country will be administered according to a new administrative division in accordance with the provisions of the organic law on the reorganization of municipal administration (Law N° 1/18 of June 7, 2024). From now on, the number of provinces will change from 18 to 5 while communes will change from 118 to 42. Today, only a few months before its effective implementation, all the country's institutions as well as our partners must seriously prepare for it to avoid the surprise effect on the various programs already established and adapt to this new administrative situation in the development of new cooperation programs. Anticipation being one of the principles of international cooperation, it is essential for us, as partners, to discuss the impact of the new administrative division in budgeting the support to Burundi. It will also be an excellent opportunity to redefine your intervention maps, taking into account the principle of equal geographical distribution of your actions for the sake of an inclusive well-being of our populations.

9. **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished guests**, it is often said that coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, working together is success. It is on this inspiring quote that challenges us to work together in everything we learn, that I declare open our retreat on the preparation of the launch of the activities of the Joint Concertation Committee (*CCC*) within the framework of the implementation of the National Strategy for Development Cooperation, a tool that represents an integrated and ambitious approach to transform international cooperation into a lever for sustainable and inclusive development in Burundi.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION**