



Return to the homeland of President NDAYISHIMIYE after taking office as the head of the African Union



The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, returned to the country on Monday, February 16, 2026, following the 39th Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa from February 14 to 15, 2026. He has assumed the rotating chairmanship of the organization for a one-year term. Upon his arrival at Melchior Ndadaye International Airport, the Burundian Head of State, accompanied by the First Lady, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, was welcomed by high-ranking officials of the country as well

as a large crowd that came to express their attachment and pride. During a press briefing, the Burundian Head of State and current Chairperson of the African Union expressed his gratitude to the member states, particularly those from Central Africa, for the trust placed in his leadership. Speaking about the priorities of his mandate, President Ndayishimiye indicated that the focus would be on promoting peace and security across the continent. He specifically mentioned the concerning situations in the Sahel region, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Con-

In this Edition:	page
Return to the homeland of President NDAYISHIMIYE after taking office as the head of the African Union	1
Strengthening humanitarian cooperation between Burundi and the IFRC	4
Receipt of the copies of letters of credence of the designated Ambassadors of Equatorial Guinea and Kenya.	4
The Minister of Foreign Affairs receives in audience a delegation from the European Union.	5
Burundi – ICGLR: Strengthening Cooperation for Peace and Security in the Great Lakes Region	6
The Permanent Secretary in charge of Foreign Affairs receives in audience the Political Counselor of the British Embassy	7
Presentation of credentials to the Czech President by the Ambassador of Burundi in Berlin	7
Presentation of the Letters of Credence of the Ambassador of Burundi in Australia	8

go, Somalia, and Sudan, emphasizing the need for collective mobilization to foster a return to stability. The Burundian Head of State highlighted that the conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union underscored the necessity of ensuring sustainable access to clean water and reliable sanitation systems, in line with the goals of Agenda 2063. This issue also constitutes the central theme of his mandate as the current Chairperson of the African Union. He also called on the Burundian population to remain an example for African peoples, particularly in the area of peace building, reminding that Burundi has managed to overcome numerous challenges and is firmly

committed to pave the way to stability and national cohesion.

During his stay in Ethiopia, President Ndayishimiye engaged in numerous discussions with various leaders and institutional officials, aiming at strengthening bilateral relations and better understand the functioning mechanisms of the continental organization.

From the airport to the presidential palace, an enthusiastic crowd welcomed President Ndayishimiye. Colorful fabrics were displayed along the road, while drums and fanfares echoed, reflecting the admiration and support of the Burundian people for their Head of State, who is now at the head of the African Union. **(Presidency)**

ECCAS - Digital Economy: Internet Governance for the Empowerment of Youth and Women for Development



The Burundian Prime Minister, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, solemnly opened a forum on internet governance in Central Africa on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in Bujumbura. This forum took place from February 16 to 21, 2026, under the theme: "Digital: Catalyst for Innovation, Inclusion, and Sustainable Development in Central Africa." He called on Burundian youth and women to make good use of the internet to develop the country based on the initiatives of the Burundi Vision "an emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060."

According to Ntahontuye, the dynamic, creative, and connected youth represent both the wealth and responsibility of Africa to build sustainable development based on digital technology. He indicated that the Burundian

government is aware of the potential of a digital margin to accelerate regional integration, create jobs, improve access to healthcare and education, and modernize administrations. The Burundian Prime Minister added that African governments must operationalize their ambitions, transforming political declarations into advanced legal frameworks, concrete projects, and natural partnerships. For Burundi, the host country of this 2025 edition, this forum demonstrates that it is a special nation. It aligns perfectly with the national vision of Burundi, an emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060. To achieve this vision, the country must establish a good digital life as a central pillar of ethics and development.

For Mr. Ntahontuye, this forum represents a unique opportunity for the countries of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to learn from experiences, share their own initiatives, and build a shared vision for an inclusive and resilient Central Africa. He noted that the objectives of this forum are resolutely future-oriented and action-driven, aiming at accessing professional execution of chains and reduce the digital gender gap, build public and shared sovereignty by harmonizing regulations and securing urban infrastructures, and to present a unified voice for Central Africa in the world. **(Le Renouveau)**

National Assembly: The promulgation of the organic law governing the National Police of Burundi is forthcoming.

The elected representatives of the people gathered, under the auspices of the President of the National Assembly, the Very Honorable Gélase Daniel Ndabirabe, on Monday, February 16, 2026, at the Kigobe Congress Palace for a plenary

session. On the agenda, they analyzed and adopted the Senate's amendments to two bills.

Before proceeding with the analysis of the amendments, the elected representatives first amended the schedule of activities for the ordinary parliamentary session of De-

ember 2025 for the period from February 9 to 23, 2026, which saw a reorganization. The parliamentarians also analyzed the amendments to the bill ratifying the Agreement on cooperation in the field of energy between the Government of Burundi and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, signed on May 12, 2025, in Rabat. They also examined the Senate's amendments to the organic bill modifying Organic Law No. 1/27 of December 9, 2021, concerning the organization, composition, and functioning of the National Police of Burundi.

After analyzing the substantive and formal amendments to the two bills, the elected representatives



adopted the Senate's amendments to allow the bills in question to continue their promulgation process. **(Le Renouveau)**

Burundi: A New Era of Accountability Opens in Bujumbura



At the official launch of an ambitious National Strategy, the Burundian Ombudsman, Madam Aimée Laurentine Kanyana, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Representation in Burundi, officially launched the National Complaint Management Strategy on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in Bujumbura. The workshop was held with the support of the Joint Human Rights Program in Burundi. This initiative marks an important step in strengthening governance and accountability in Burundi by providing public institutions with a harmonized framework for receiving and processing citizens' complaints.

In her speech, the UNICEF Representative in Burundi, Madam France Bégin, praised this significant advancement in accountability. According to her, the establishment of harmonized, accessible, and inclusive mechanisms will allow communities, especially the most vulnerable, to be heard and respected. She emphasized that key sectors such as health,

nutrition, education, and child protection, supported by UNICEF and the Government of Burundi, must rely on effective complaint management systems. She stated that strengthening accountability means building trust and improving the quality of public services. UNICEF also reaffirmed its commitment to support the Government of Burundi and the Ombudsman Institution in operationalizing this strategy, making community participation a lever for inclusive and sustainable development for the benefit of every child.

Taking the floor, the Burundian Ombudsman, Mrs. Aimée Laurentine Kanyana, stated that the launch of this National National Complaint Management Strategy represents "a decisive step" in consolidating responsible governance. She indicated that this tool will help strengthen accountability, combat corruption, and bring the administration closer to citizens, in line with the vision of the President of the Republic of Burundi.

She emphasized that trust between citizens and public administration is the foundation of development. According to her, the new strategy will ensure a faster, fairer, and more transparent handling of complaints. In conclusion, the Burundian Ombudsman thanked the partners of the Joint Human Rights Program in Burundi, including UNICEF, the Netherlands, and Swiss Cooperation, for their crucial support in the development and launch of this strategy.

The effective implementation of this strategic document will rely on a collective commitment from national institutions and development partners, with the ambition of building a more transparent, accountable, and citizen-

Strengthening humanitarian cooperation between Burundi and the IFRC



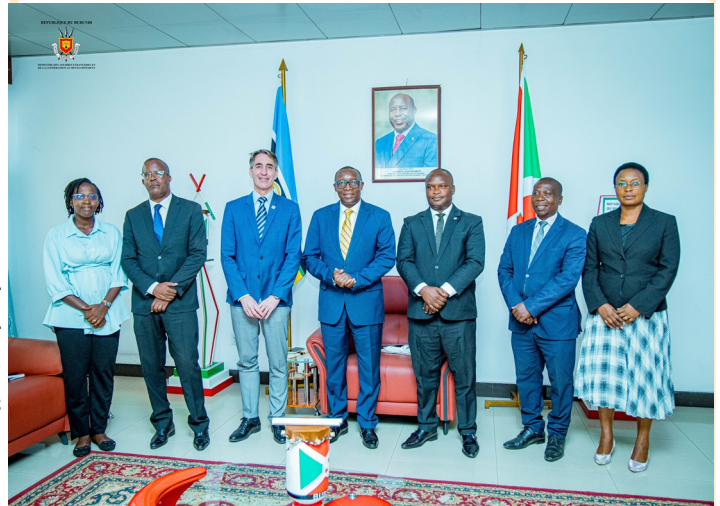
On February 18, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, received Mr. Ariel Kestens, Head of the ICRC delegation for Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Congo, and Rwanda, who came for a courtesy visit.

The two officials exchanged views on topics of mutual interest, particularly the strengthening of existing relations between Burundi and the organization, as well as issues related to the humanitarian situation in the region, especially concerning Congolese refugees living in difficult conditions in various camps in Burundi.

After expressing gratitude for the hospitality extended to him during his stay in Burundi, Mr. Ariel Kestens indicated that the purpose of his visit was to announce his organization's intention to provide a financial contribution of over one million US dollars aimed at humanitarian assistance for Burundian displaced persons and Congolese refugees.

He also expressed concern regarding the legal protection and respect for the emblem of the Red Cross in Burundi, which he noted is sometimes used in violation of the rules governing its use.

In this regard, H.E. the Minister assured the delegation that Burundi would make every effort to strengthen its collaboration with its partners and that all necessary facili-



ties would be granted to them, in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.

Regarding the issue of the improper use of the emblem, he assured that this matter would be forwarded to the relevant authorities for appropriate action. (MFARIDC)

Receipt of the copies of letters of credence of the designated Ambassadors of Equatorial Guinea and Kenya

On Wednesday, February 18, 2026, H.E. Ambassador Edouard BIZIMANA, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, separately received the copies of the letters of credence from two newly appointed Ambassadors to the Republic of Burundi. First, Mr. Victorino-Nka Obiang Maye, the designated Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea, residing in Brazzaville, was received. On this occasion, H.E. Edouard Bizimana emphasized the excellent cooperative rela-

tions between Burundi and Equatorial Guinea, expressing the desire to strengthen these ties.

Mr. Victorino-Nka Obiang Maye reaffirmed his determination to further consolidate the relations between the two countries and proposed the upcoming establishment of a bilateral joint commission. This proposal was favorably received by the Minister, who expressed his preference for organizing this commission during the year 2026 to enhance bilateral cooperation.



Subsequently, H.E. Edouard Bizimana received in audience Mr. Henry Ouma, the designated Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to Burundi, residing in Bujumbura. The latter praised the excellent cooperative relations existing between Kenya and Burun-



di and expressed his willingness to contribute to their strengthening. He also congratulated Burundi on its assumption to the chairmanship of the African Union. **(MFARIDC)**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs receives in audience a delegation from the European Union



Hadja Lahbib, European Commissioner for Equality, as well as for crisis preparedness and management in the Great Lakes Region. This meeting was part of a courtesy visit. During their discussions, the two parties addressed the security and humanitarian situation in the eastern Dem-



On Wednesday, February 18, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, received a delegation from the European Union led by Mrs.

ocratic Republic of the Congo. Mrs. Hadja Lahbib expressed her desire to see the opening of a humanitarian corridor between Burundi and the DRC to facilitate the delivery of aid to affected populations. She also announced that the European Union had just

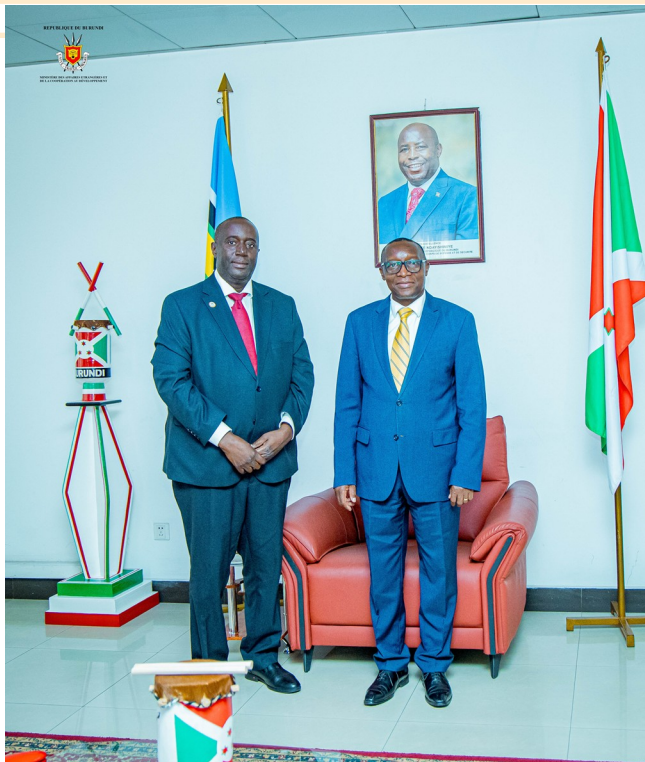
granted humanitarian assistance to the populations in eastern DRC as well as to Congolese refugees in neighboring countries. Mrs. Lahbib expressed confidence that Burundi's presidency of the African Union could provide new momentum to efforts aimed at resolving conflicts in the region.

On his part, H.E. Ambassador Edouard Bizimana praised the support provided by the European Union to Burundi's call for humanitarian solidarity towards Congolese refugees, while emphasizing that the needs remain enormous. He insisted that humanitarian aid, although crucial, would never be sufficient on

its own; only the effective return of peace in Eastern DRC constitutes a sustainable solution. He therefore called for encouragement of ongoing peace initiatives.

Regarding the opening of borders for humanitarian convoys, the Minister specified that this would depend on the actual evolution of the security situation on the ground. Finally, while discussing Burundi's presidency of the African Union, he recalled that one of the major priorities is to contribute to silencing the guns on the continent and that efforts will be made to strengthen trust among the different parties in the conflict. **(MFARIDC)**

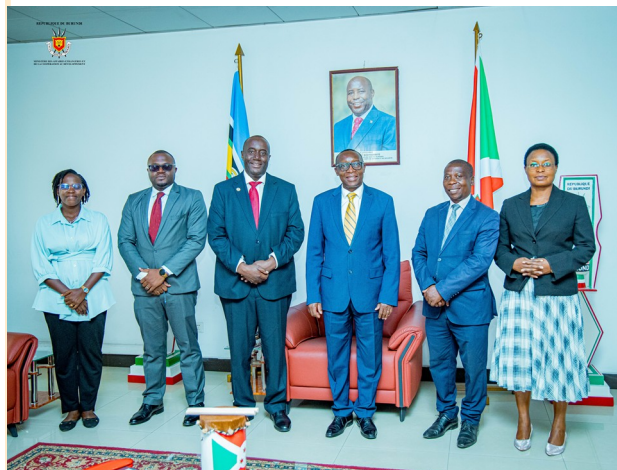
Burundi – ICGLR: Strengthening Cooperation for Peace and Security in the Great Lakes Region



On February 18, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, received in audience Dr. Mubita Luwabelwa, Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), for a meeting.

During this audience, and given that the Republic of Burundi hosts the headquarters of the ICGLR, both officials praised the strong relations between Burundi and the organization and agreed to further strengthen them. Dr. Mubita Luwabelwa also praised the Burundian government's efforts in restoring peace and security in the

eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He expressed concerns regarding the closure of borders, a consequence of the security situation in the region, which hinders the free movement of officials from the institution, particularly those from the Expanded Joint Verification



Mechanism (EJVM) residing in the Goma area.

In this regard, H.E. Ambassador Edouard Bizimana clarified that the reopening of borders would depend on the actual evolution of the security situation on the ground.

The discussions also covered the management of the Executive Secretariat, particularly the responsible use of statutory contributions from member states. Issues related to recruitment in case of vacancies and interpersonal relations within the institution's staff were also addressed.

Finally, both authorities agreed to maintain regular consultations and work closely together to anticipate and jointly resolve any potential challenges, thereby consolidating cooperation between Burundi and the ICGLR for peace and stability in the region. **(MFARIDC)**

The Permanent Secretary in charge of Foreign Affairs receives in audience the Political Counselor of the British Embassy



On February 19, 2026, the Permanent Secretary in charge of Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, Mr. Sophonie NITUNGA, received in audience Mrs. Anna Mijinlieff, Political Counselor at the British Embassy in Burundi.

During their discussions, the two officials addressed issues of mutual interest, particularly the strengthening of bilateral relations between Burundi and the United Kingdom. They reaffirmed their shared commitment to further consolidating these ties of friendship and cooperation.

Mrs. Anna Mijinlieff first extended her warm congratulations to Burundi on its assumption of the chairmanship of the African Union, assuring that the United Kingdom would stand by Burundi throughout this chairmanship. She also expressed her country's concern regarding the humanitarian and security situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly the plight of refugees living in difficult conditions in camps located in Burundi. In

this regard, she commended the Burundian government's efforts towards restoring peace and security in the region.

In response to the humanitarian solidarity call launched by the Government of Burundi, and through the World Food Program (WFP), the United Kingdom has allocated a fund of USD 2.3 million for food assistance to refugees. Mrs. Anna Mijinlieff also reaffirmed the UK's interest in seeing the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) stable, secure, and peaceful.

In this regard, Mr. Sophonie NITUNGA made an urgent appeal to the UK to intensify its awareness-raising efforts for the strict respect of signed agreements and



their effective implementation, which is essential for the sustainable return of peace.

The two officials also discussed ongoing projects in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance. These initiatives aim at strengthening the fight against tax fraud in the export sector and improve domestic revenue mobilization, thereby contributing to the objectives of the Burundi Revenue Authority (OBR).

Mr. NITUNGA expressed satisfaction with the progress of these projects and assured that the Government of Burundi would put in place all necessary facilities to ensure their successful completion and the achievement of concrete and sustainable results. **(MFARIDC)**

Presentation of credentials to the Czech President by the Ambassador of Burundi in Berlin

On Thursday, February 19, 2026, Her Excellency Madam Annonciata Sendazirasa, Ambassador of Burundi residing in Berlin, presented her letters of credence to His Ex-

cellency Mr. Petr Pavel, President of the Czech Republic. She was thus officially accredited as the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Burundi to the Czech Republic, a country that has historical-

ly had strong ties of friendship and cooperation. The discussions with His Excellency the Czech President primarily focused on strengthening the existing relations of cooperation and friendship that happily exist between Burundi and the Czech Republic. Prior to this ceremony, Ambassador Sendazirasa first presented copies of her letters of credence to Madam Ambassador Markéta Sarbochová, Director of Protocol at the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It was noted that during her visit to the Czech Republic, Her Excellency Madam Annonciata Sendazirasa was received in audience by Ambassador Václav Prásil, Director of the Department in charge of Sub-Saharan Africa at the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They had very fruitful exchanges and agreed to continue working together to strengthen the diplomatic and cooperative relations that had been very intense in the past.

Finally, the authorities of the Czech Republic indicated



that Czech companies would be interested in collaborating with Burundian companies, especially in the fields of agriculture, infrastructure, transportation, health, mining, and energy. **(Embassy of Burundi in Berlin)**

Presentation of the Letters of Credence by the Ambassador of Burundi in Australia



On Thursday, February 19, 2026, His Excellency Mr. Télesphore IRAMBONA, the Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi to Beijing, presented his letters of credence to Her Excellency the Honorable Mrs. Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, accrediting him as the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi to Australia.

Following the presentation of the letters of credence, the two officials discussed cooperation between Burundi and Australia, particularly in the areas of mining industry, strengthening peace and security in the Great Lakes region, especially at a time when Burundi is hold-

ing the chairmanship of the African Union, talent development, health, and food security.

This is the first time that an Ambassador of Burundi has presented his letters of credence in Australia since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2007. This presentation marks an important step in strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Burundi and Australia.

The day before the letters of credence presentation ceremony, Ambassador Télesphore IRAMBONA met with Mr. Jonathan Muir, the Chief of Protocol; Mrs. Harinder Sidhu, Deputy Secretary, International Security, Legal and Consular Group; and Mr. Samuel Bator, Director for East and North Africa, Africa Branch, Middle East and Africa Division at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to discuss matters of mutual interest. On this occasion, the designated Ambassador handed over the official copies of his letters of credence to Mrs. Harinder Sidhu.

Ambassador Télesphore IRAMBONA also had the opportunity to visit the Burundian diaspora in Adelaide to discuss their contributions to national building and the realization of Burundi's vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060.

(MFARIDC)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

www.mae.gov.bi

Twitter: @MAEBurundi