



Local leaders are urged to reinforce the country's governance and development



On Tuesday March 10, 2026 in Bujumbura, The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye chaired a closed-door meeting for Provincial Governors and Communal Administrators to review the implementation of the new governance structures and to promote good governance in Burundi. At the end of the meeting, the Head of State told the press that the country remains stable and secure. He added that democracy is fully exercised across the whole territory thanks to the responsible and committed leadership of local authorities. According to the Head of State, democracy is the people's instrument since the people know best the state of governance.

President Ndayishimiye also identified the priorities on which development and citizens' well-being rest. These are disaster prevention and environmental protection. To that end, he called on Provincial Governors and Communal Administrators to raise public awareness about planting trees in households and preparing for climate-related hazards. Regarding the strengthening of infrastructure and local administration, he said that all administrative areas must have the necessary offices and equipment so that local officials can better serve the population.

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To improve the country's image, citizens should be encouraged to keep their living environments clean, dress properly, install lamps in front of their houses to light the roads, and plant flowers to beautify the surroundings. Concerning access to information, internet connection points should be created for young people to facilitate their research. As for taxation, citizens are urged to meet their tax obligations, including taxes that fund schools, hospitals, roads and other development

projects.

His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, declared that with regard to the protection of the State's land holdings, no citizen has the right to sell plots to foreigners. Only the State can allocate them, in accordance with the law. He also noted that the areas located within 150 meters of Lake Tanganyika from Gatumba to Nyanza-Lac belong to the public domain. Projects carried out there are permitted only under the regulations in force. Plots illegally seized must be returned to the State and green spaces must be provided.

His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye further urged leaders to commit themselves to being good leaders in the national vision of Burundi "emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060." According to him, a good leader must know how to act in the face of challenges, have a clear vision for their commune, mobilize their skills for local development, make appropriate decisions quickly, and promote unity and collaboration in the workplace. **(ABP)**

Celebration of the International Women's Rights Day



On Monday, March 9, 2026, Burundi joined the rest of the world in celebrating International Women's Day, observed every year on March 8. This year it was celebrated under the theme: "the role of women in promoting human rights and inclusive justice." The national ceremonies took place at Ingoma Stadium in Gitega city, in the presence of the Head of State His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by the First Lady of Burundi Angeline Ndayishimiye and various high-ranking officials of the country. The festivities began with a long parade of women from various public and private institutions carrying placards. The parade concluded with the participation of young girls and women serving in the defense and security forces.



In his speech, President Ndayishimiye, based on the theme of this edition, reminded the audience that state institutions remain the guarantors of these principles. He emphasized that women already holding positions of responsibility in the public administration should serve as examples in promoting equity and justice. He reiterated that while all citizens are equal before the law, the country expects a contribution from each according to their abilities. The Head of State urged women to defend any victim of injustice, citing the legendary figures Inamujandi and Ririkumutima as examples and calling on them to be exemplary. He took the opportunity to commend women who pursue excellence, notably his wife for her social initiatives, including the construction of the Urumuri center (dedicated to treating women suffering from obstetric fistu-

la) and the introduction of in vitro fertilization at the Umugiraneza Polyclinic. "Thanks to these initiatives, many families today have found joy," he added.

The President of the Republic of Burundi, addressing the participants regarding the allocation of posts of responsibility in the administration, clarified that not being appointed to certain positions does not mean being excluded. He explained that running the country is not a matter of sharing out positions because senior posts represent only 2,000 positions for a population of more than 12 million inhabitants. "Positions of responsibility remain limited and the people who obtain them are chosen from a large number of candidates. Women and men are equal; there are no posts reserved exclusively for women." Responding to the challenge of lack of resources for the Burundi Women's Forum, President Ndayishimiye indicated that from now on funds will be granted based on the activities planned in the Work Plan and Annual Budget (PTBA). He asked the leaders of that forum to prepare the activities to be carried out so that the State can provide the necessary means, but that these funds must be used for implementing concrete and visible activities, and not for holding mere meetings.

President Ndayishimiye finally asked women to strengthen the education of children. He lamented the emergence of a behavior in which a girl marries a boy she does not love, solely for his possessions, which quickly leads to separation (divorce), whereas the woman has a decisive role in consolidating the family. He said that Burundian society wants households founded on love and mutual understanding between man and woman. He recalled that the woman is the source of happiness within the household. He encouraged women to protect their families and to avoid destroying their homes in search of others, and announced that awareness sessions on the vision of the Burundian family of tomorrow will be organized soon.

Taking the floor the Vice-President of the National Women's Forum, Mrs. Madeleine Bamwizere, praised the progress made in promoting women in Burundi. She notably cited the confidence placed in women in occupying high state offices, including in areas that were previously less accessible to them, such as the highest judicial offices or certain leadership positions in strategic institutions. It should be noted that, during these ceremonies, in addition to the First Lady of Burundi, several other women received certificates in recognition of their commitment to promoting women's rights. **(ABP)**

Participation of the country's First Lady in a sporting march in Gitega: an important activity for the prevention of certain diseases



The First Lady of Burundi, H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye, through her sports club "Step by step; "well-being for all", joined the residents of Gitega city and its surroundings on the evening of Friday, March 13, 2026, for a fitness walk of approximately 15 kilometers.

The march began in Songa, at the St Jean Paul II Major Seminar. Participants then headed toward Gitega town center, passing the hills Ceru, Birohe, Rutonde and Masanganzira, before continuing to

ward the town center by passing near Gitega Paramedical School, and finishing at the basketball court, where the participants concluded the activity with stretching and muscle-relaxation exercises.

This sporting event is part of the promotion of physical well-being and public health. Participants expressed their gratitude to the country's First Lady for initiating this program, which they consider very important for preventing certain diseases and improving their health.

Through this initiative, H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye continues to encourage the population to engage in regular physical activity in order to preserve their health and promote a healthy lifestyle. **(Le Renouveau)**

Prime Minister's Office: Audience granted to Mathias Naab and Emma N'Gouan Anoh



The Prime Minister of Burundi, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, received in audience on Wednesday March 11, 2026 the Regional Director for Africa of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Mr. Mathias Naab, and the UNDP Resident Representative, Mrs. Emma N'Gouan Anoh. The three officials mainly discussed strengthening cooperation between the Government of Burundi and the UNDP.

The Head of the Prime Minister's Communications Office, Mr. Joseph Manirafasha, said after the audience that aligning UNDP program with national priorities was on the agenda. In particular, this concerns achieving Burundi's Vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060, and the Head of Government highlighted flagship projects for the country's emergence and development.

In a press interview, the two visitors, Mr. Mathias Naab and Mrs. Emma N'Gouan Anoh, praised the quality of collaboration between the UNDP and Burundi. They pledged to support national priorities, including the decentralization reform. They also congratulated President Evariste Ndayishimiye on being appointed to lead the African Union and reiterated UNDP's readiness to support his presidency for the benefit of Africa. **(Le Renouveau)**

The Prime Minister receives in audience the Secretary-General of the International Social Security Association



The Prime Minister of Burundi, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, received in audience on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, the Secretary-General of the International Social Security Association (ISSA), Mr. Marcelo Abi-Ramia Caetano, who was on a working and courtesy visit.

After the audience, the Chief of the Office in charge of communication at the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Joseph Manirafasha, noted that the International Social Security Association already has one hundred and six-

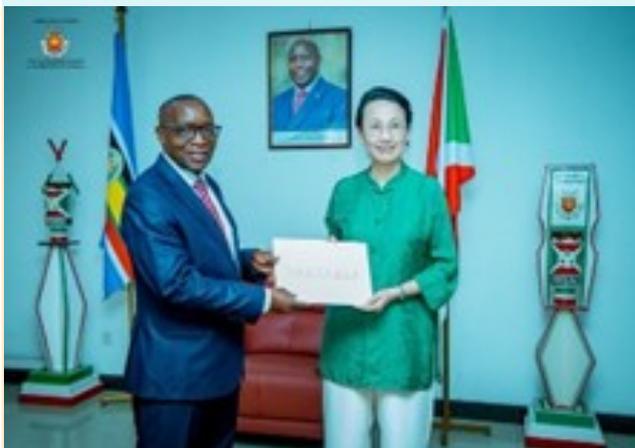
ty-five (165) member countries and counts around three hundred and forty (340) social security institutions.

Mr. Manirafasha told the press that the Secretary-General of the International Social Security Association presented to the Prime Minister the special missions of the organization. These missions are always geared toward sharing experience with the social security institutions of the Association's different member countries across all continents. He spoke about how the organization offers opportunities for exchanges of expertise and experience to strengthen and improve social security services in various countries around the world.

For his part, the Prime Minister Ntahontuye thanked the Secretary-General of the ISSA for choosing Burundi to host the association's technical seminar, held from 10 to 11 March 2026 under the theme, "Inclusive and Accessible Social Security Services: The Role of Effective Communication." It should be noted that the main mission of the ISSA is to promote excellence in the administration of social security worldwide, helping its members to develop dynamic, efficient and inclusive systems. It aims at strengthening international cooperation, disseminate good

practices and support innovation to ensure sustainable social protection. (ABP)

The Ambassador of the Republic of China to Burundi presents the copies of her letters of credence



On March 10, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Cooperation for Development, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, received in audience the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Burundi, H.E. Ambassador Zhu Kewei, who came to present the duplicate copies of her letters of credence accrediting her as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Burundi.

His Excellency Minister Édouard Bizimana welcomed her and wished Ambassador Zhu Kewei every success in her new functions. He referred to the long-standing, straightforward, solid and discreet relations of friendship based on mutual trust that exist between the two countries. He recalled the ongoing Chinese projects in Burundi and also encouraged those that she brings to Burundi. He expressed the

hope that all ongoing projects will be implemented during her mission in Burundi. He also noted that the Government of Burundi values cooperation with the People's Republic of China, notably in the field of infrastructure.

Her Excellency Zhu Kewei warmly appreciated the welcome she received. She indicated that cooperation between Burundi and the People's Republic of China will continue and further develop in synergy, in order to achieve autonomous development. She wished the Government of Burundi full success in implementing its vision of becoming an "emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060." In this perspective, H.E. Ambassador Zhu Kewei informed that the People's Republic of China will very soon begin work on the construction of the Ministry's new building in Gitega, either at the end of this year or at the beginning of the next, according to a Chinese schedule. She also affirmed that the zero customs tariff adopted by the Government of Burundi contributes to the increased development of cooperation between Burundi and the People's Republic of China, which is beneficial to the population.

Minister Édouard Bizimana assured the Ambassador that the Government of Burundi is always ready to welcome all commitments in favor of the country's development. He also promised that the Government of Burundi will facilitate her visits to all regions of the country to inspect tourist areas and to meet repatriated persons. (MFARIDC)

Celebration of International Women's Day at the Ministry in charge of Foreign Affairs



On Tuesday, March 10, 2026, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana,

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, together with all the senior authorities of the Ministry, joined the female staff to celebrate International Women's Day. The ceremonies were held at La Détente in the eco-



nomie capital, Bujumbura, under the theme: "the role of women in promoting human rights and justice for all."

Mrs. Rose Ndayikeza, representative of the Gender Unit at the Ministry, expressed the team's gratitude on the occasion of the day. She emphasized that this year's theme calls for supporting development through sustained commitment. She also noted that March should



be an appropriate time for self-assessment for all wom-

en. According to her, increased effort is necessary to realize Burundi's vision: "an emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060." She also welcomed the appointment of women to positions of responsibility within the Ministry.

His Excellency Minister Édouard Bizimana spoke to wish all the women of the Ministry a happy celebration. He encouraged each of them to cultivate joy both in their homes and at work, reminding them that any activity is carried out better in a joyful atmosphere. The ceremonies took place in a festive mood and concluded at a reasonable time. (MFARIDC)

Audience granted to the EU Chargé d'Affaires (European Union) to Burundi



On Tuesday, 10 March 2026, Mr. Sophonie Nitunga, Permanent Secretary in charge of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, received in audience Mrs. Delphine Van Landschoot, Chargé d'Affaires of the European Union (EU).

The exchanges focused on the work of the Technical Partnership Committee between Burundi and the European Union. They briefly addressed the composition and functioning of this Committee. They also discussed organizing a meeting of the Technical Committee as part of the preparation for the political dialogue, taking into account many projects the European Union is carrying out in collaboration with the African Union, of which Burundi is currently the chair. A provisional date

for this meeting was set for April 9, 2026.

It should be recalled that the Technical Partnership Committee between Burundi and the European Union regularly organizes preparatory meetings for the political dialogue between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Ambassadors accredited to Burundi.

The Burundian Technical Committee is composed of the Permanent Secretary in charge of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, as well as Technical Advisors in the Cabinet. The Permanent Secretary chairs this Committee, while the Head of the Delegation of the European Union becomes the Chair on the European side.

During technical meetings, the two parties examine together the topics to be addressed and select the items to be placed on the agenda of the political dialogue. The latter is of vital importance, as it constitutes a valuable opportunity for both sides to present the reality of their situation and to propose measures in favor of strengthening national security, with the aim of encouraging sustainable development. (MFARIDC)

Briefing session of the Permanent Secretaries, members of the Joint Technical Committee, on the Framework Plan for Cooperation for Sustainable Development between the Government of Burundi and the United Nations System 2023-2027

On Wednesday, March 11, 2026, a briefing session of the Permanent Secretaries who are members of the Joint Technical Committee on the Framework Cooperation Plan for Sustainable Development between the Government of Burundi and the United Nations System for the period 2023–2027 was held at Kiriri Garden. The session was co-chaired by Mr. Sophonie Nitunga, Permanent Sec-

retary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, and Mrs. Violet Kakyomya, UN Resident Coordinator. The briefing aimed at strengthening collaboration with United Nations System partners as well as to monitor and evaluate their multifaceted support for national priorities. In his remarks, Mr. Nitunga urged his colleagues to pay particular attention to this session, which is primarily addressed to Permanent



Secretaries. He emphasized that the Framework Cooperation Plan constitutes a new working tool for the Ministry, built on three fundamental pillars: continuity, coherence and effectiveness. He insisted on the need to maintain the pace of projects initiated since 2023, despite possible changes within teams. Sectoral priorities must remain fully aligned. Mr. Nitunga also noted that United Nations agencies in Burundi are valuable technical partners and that it is essential to consult them according to their areas of responsibility.

Taking the floor, Mrs. Violet Kakyomya thanked all participants for their interest in the partnership between the Government of Burundi and the United Nations System. She congratulated the Permanent Secretaries on their appointments and praised the collaborative efforts already undertaken with UN agencies.

For her, the Cooperation Framework is the most important strategic instrument guiding the United Nations' action in each country. She noted that in Burundi, this framework, now in its fourth year of implementation, is not merely a United Nations document but a joint framework between the Government of Burundi and the United Nations, aligned with national development priorities and the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals. Mrs. Violet recalled that this framework is based on a simple but ambitious vision: to support Burundi on its path toward inclusive, resilient and sustainable development, leaving no one behind.



She added that the 2023–2027 cooperation framework is structured around several key areas, notably: economic transformation and sustainable food systems; governance, the rule of law and social cohesion; human capital development; access to basic social services; as well as environmental, climate and disaster resilience.



Mrs. Violet concluded that sustainable development can only be achieved through collective, coordinated action founded on mutual trust and accountability. She therefore encouraged participants to ask questions and raise sectoral perspectives to continue improving collective work. Fruitful exchanges took place during the session.

It should be noted that the Cooperation Framework Plan between the Government of Burundi and the United Nations came into force in 2023. (MFARIDC)

Provincial officials of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock office were urged to take ownership of the country's vision

The Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock held, on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, in Bururi commune, an awareness-

raising session for the Ministry's employees, informing them that they are the primary actors in implementing the strategies to achieve Burundi's Vision of becoming



an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060.

The Permanent Secretary, Mr. Emmanuel Niyungeko, asked the heads of the Ministry's various departments

to embrace all administrative reforms and to combine their efforts for the development of the environmental and agricultural sectors.

Within the framework of the Vision, he first explained that an emerging country is characterized by dynamic economic growth, a country that generates shared benefits for the entire population and operates within a stable institutional context. He added that the Burundian economy will be supported by quality infrastructure, a competitive agro-industrial sector on the international market, a mining sector exploited for the benefit of society, and a high-performing, modern public services sector. **(ABP)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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