



President Ndayishimiye receives Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov



The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, received in audience, on Friday, July 10, 2026, at Ntare Rushatsi Palace, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov, on a working visit to Burundi, heading an important delegation.

This meeting allowed the two personalities to reaffirm the solidity of the friendship and cooperation relations between Burundi and the Russian Federation, as well as their willingness to further strengthen this partnership, particularly

in the sectors of agriculture, energy, health, education, infrastructure, transport, trade, and technology transfer.

In his capacity as current Chairperson of the African Union, the Burundian Head of State also shared the continent's priorities and advocated for a fairer representation of Africa on the United Nations Security Council, both regarding permanent and non-permanent seats.

The discussions also covered the main challenges facing the continent,

In this Edition:

page

President Ndayishimiye receives Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov

1

Burundi's First Lady returns home with two prestigious international distinctions

2

Regional Conference on Central Africa: Towards immunizing the region against internal manipulation and external predation

3

Youth on holiday called to actively engage in various works

3

Burundi Hosts the 3rd International Conference on Kiswahili and Artificial Intelligence

4

Strengthening the partnership between Burundi and IRRI

4

Burundi and China sign a development cooperation agreement to strengthen community-impact projects

5

Visit to the Uwiragiye Foundation

5

Bilateral Cooperation: Burundi and Russia strengthen strategic axes in Bujumbura

6

notably the security situation in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sahel, as well as the fight against the Ebola epidemic. On this occasion, President Ndayishimiye reaffirmed his commitment to dialogue and the principle of African solutions to African problems.

The audience was also marked by the invitation extended to the Burundian Head of State to participate in

the third Russia-Africa Summit, scheduled to take place in Moscow on October 28 and 29, 2026.

President Ndayishimiye favorably welcomed this invitation and will take part in this high-level meeting in his dual capacity as President of the Republic of Burundi and current Chairperson of the African Union. In this capacity, he will co-chair the Summit's proceedings, illustrating Burundi's growing stature on the African and international stages. **(Presidency)**

Burundi's First Lady returns home with two prestigious international distinctions



On July 12, 2026, the First Lady of the Republic of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, returned to the country after a mission that took her to the United States of America and the United Kingdom, during which she received two prestigious international distinctions recognizing her commitment to health, education, and women's empowerment.

Upon her arrival at Bujumbura Melchior Ndadaye International Airport, the First Lady was welcomed by a large crowd, including women leaders, members of the Umugiraneza Foundation, and many citizens who came to share this moment of national pride.

The first distinction was awarded to her at the United Nations headquarters in New York. This recognition highlights her action in favor of expanding access to essential health services, her commitment through the "Socle du Savoir" school, which promotes quality education, nutrition, and awareness for young girls about the risks associated with early pregnancies, as well as her support for women's empowerment, support for

women suffering from obstetric fistulas, and victims of gender-based violence through the provision of a shelter and support services. This distinction also acknowledges her support for the creation of a medical center in Ngozi dedicated to mental health and psychological support.

The First Lady also received the Global Health Award, a distinction presented at the Parliament of the United Kingdom in recognition of her leadership and efforts in improving health services and the well-being of the Burundian population.

Addressing those who came to welcome her, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye expressed her profound gratitude for this warm welcome and dedicated these distinctions to the Burundian people and to all those who work daily for the country's development.

She emphasized that these awards constitute recognition of the work accomplished in service of the population and are not an end in themselves. She thus invited every Burundian to continue serving with dedication, humility, and perseverance, recalling that the most precious distinctions are those that result from a sincere commitment to the well-being of the community.

She also urged everyone to work with determination, not in the pursuit of rewards, but with the concern to serve the population with devotion, recalling that works accomplished with sincerity always end up being recognized.

Upon her arrival at the Kiriri Palace, H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye was received in audience by the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, to whom she presented the two distinctions. The Head of State, also current Chairperson of the African Union, extended his warm congratulations, emphasizing that these prestigious honors not only honor the First Lady but also Burundi as a whole.

He also commended the remarkable work accomplished by the entire staff of the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation, whose dedication and

actions on behalf of the most vulnerable contribute to Burundi's international standing. **(Presidency)**

Regional Conference on Central Africa: Towards immunizing the region against internal manipulation and external predation



From July 9 to 10, 2026, Burundi became the capital of regional security. The country hosted a two-day conference bringing together heads of Intelligence and Security Services from Central Africa. At the heart of the discussions was the fight against insecurity caused by rebels and negative armed forces, in a global context marked by multilateralism and geopolitical rivalries.

During the official opening, the Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, Mr. Prosper Bazombanza, welcomed the relevance of this meeting. He stressed that Central Africa faces complex challenges, characterized by the activism of armed groups, terrorism, transnational organized crime, and cyber threats, exacerbated by climate change.

The Burundian Vice-President also denounced external covetousness for the region's immense natural resources, specifying that these riches fuel wars fueled by multinational interests to the detriment of

equitable partnerships. To combat these threats, Mr. Bazombanza called for the strengthening of inter-service cooperation and the coordination of operations, based on mutual trust. He nonetheless invited participants to clear-headed introspection, affirming that Africa's ills do not come solely from outside.

According to him, it is crucial to address the root causes, notably governance flaws, the deficit in territorial control, identity tensions, and the porosity of borders. The Vice-President expressed the wish that these meetings result in realistic recommendations, in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063, which aims at "silencing the guns" by 2030.

For his part, the Administrator General of Burundi's National Intelligence Service (SNR), Mr. Ildephonse Habarugira, recalled the objective of this meeting. He urged for innovative synergy to pacify the Great Lakes region, scarred by three decades of chronic violence. The Head of Burundian Intelligence, Mr. Vénant Ndayishimiye, insisted on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR), epicenters of the sub-region's security dynamics. Mr. Habarugira warned that the global race for rearmament and the unregulated use of artificial intelligence represent new threats to territorial sovereignty. He called on the Conference of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) to play a leading role. According to him, the continent's security must be conceived and built by Africans themselves, through firm political will to immunize the region against internal manipulation and external predation. **(Le Renouveau)**

Youth on holiday called to actively engage in various works



On Thursday, July 9, 2026, the First Vice-President of the Senate, Honorable Générose Ngendanganya, proceeded to harvest rice in her field located on the Mparambo hill, Rugombo zone, Cibi-

toke commune, in Bujumbura province. Honorable Ngendanganya invited the surrounding population to promote rice cultivation as this crop is particularly well-suited to the locality. She also encouraged households to develop vegetable gardens to enhance food security. She called on youth on holiday to actively engage in various works to improve their living conditions. **(Senate)**

Burundi Hosts the 3rd International Conference on Kiswahili and Artificial Intelligence



From July 5 to 7, 2026, Bujumbura became the regional capital of multilingualism and digital innovation by hosting the 3rd International Conference on Kiswahili. Held under the theme "Kiswahili, Multilingualism and Artificial Intelligence: Shaping the Future of Linguistic Sovereignty, Cultural Security and Regional Integration," this meeting brings together member countries of the East African Community (EAC).

The proceedings were officially opened by Lydia Nsekera, Minister of Youth, Sports, and Culture. In her address, she expressed her gratitude to the organizers for choosing Burundi as the host of this edition.

She recalled that Kiswahili is a living language, taught, spoken, and integrated into everyday communication,

and that Burundian leaders themselves are fervent users of it.

The Minister also welcomed the participants, among whom was His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, and invited them to celebrate the 5th World Kiswahili Day, commemorated every July 7, as an opportunity to strengthen development strategies for African languages, notably Kirundi, the national language of Burundi.

The conference pursues several strategic objectives:

- Regional integration: Consolidating the cohesion of EAC countries through a common language.
- Sustainable development: Harnessing the potential of digital technology and AI to support cultural and educational policies.
- Linguistic sovereignty: Avoiding the marginalization of African languages in the global digital space.
- Declaration of Bujumbura: Elaborating a founding text that positions Kiswahili and other African languages as full-fledged actors in the digital revolution.

Beyond Kiswahili, this conference highlights the need to promote all African languages as vectors of cultural security and development. Burundi, by hosting this meeting, confirms its pioneering role in cultural diplomacy and its commitment to making African languages pillars of regional integration and technological innovation. (MFARIDC)

Strengthening the partnership between Burundi and IRRI



On Tuesday, July 7, 2026, in Bujumbura, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integra-

tion, and Development Cooperation, received in audience Mrs. Sofia Tesfazion, IRRI's Regional Director for Africa, on a courtesy visit.

Mrs. Tesfazion expressed her gratitude for the warm hospitality she has received since her arrival in Burundi. She also commended the quality of the partnership relations between IRRI and the country, recalling her organization's areas of intervention and expressing her wish to expand the scope of cooperation, particularly on the economic level.

Inspired by the slogan of the President of the Republic of Burundi: "Umunwa wose uronke ivyo kurya, Umufuko wose uronke amafaranga" (Everyone must find food, every pocket must have money), IRRI has been committed since 2008 to contributing to food security. The results are tangible: statistics reveal a significant increase in rice pro-

duction, both in quantity and quality. The Imbo plain and the SRDI are now widely exploited thanks to improved seeds and agricultural techniques introduced by IRRI.

Taking the floor, Minister Bizimana thanked the organization for its concrete achievements on the ground. He stressed that rice, now counted among the staple foods in Burundi, and did not hold this

place before. He encouraged IRRI to expand its interventions, particularly in terms of farmer training and scientific cooperation with sub-regional and international universities.

In conclusion, His Excellency the Minister reaffirmed Burundi's availability to work closely with IRRI, in order to consolidate gains and open new perspectives for agricultural and economic development. **(MFARIDC)**

Burundi and China sign a development cooperation agreement to strengthen community -impact projects



The Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the People's Republic of China signed, on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, a Development

Cooperation Agreement aimed at supporting the implementation of development projects in Burundi.

The Agreement was signed by Her Excellency Madame Zhu Kewei, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Burundi, and His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation. Following the signing ceremony, Minister Édouard Bizimana indicated that this Agreement will finance small-scale development projects for the benefit of Burundian populations, particularly projects with a strong community impact. He underscored that this support constitutes a new illustration of the excellence of the friendly and cooperative relations that have united Burundi and China for several decades. Taking the floor, Her Excellency Madame Zhu Kewei reaffirmed that China remains a reliable, sincere, and long-standing partner of Burundi. She recalled

that her country has continuously supported Burundi in its efforts to improve the living conditions of its people and to promote its economic and social development, notably through the implementation of the Vision Burundi, an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. The Chinese Ambassador also indicated that the signing of this Development Cooperation Agreement constitutes new proof of the solidarity, friendship, and strategic partnership that bind the two countries.

According to her, this cooperation will contribute to supporting Burundi in its modernization efforts, economic transformation, and sustainable development. Referring to the continental context, Her Excellency Madame Zhu Kewei emphasized that the year 2026 is of particular importance due to Burundi's presidency of the African Union. She specified that this support also reflects China's willingness to accompany Burundi in the exercise of this high continental responsibility, by contributing to the strengthening of its development capacities.

The signing of this Agreement thus further consolidates the cooperative partnership between Burundi and the People's Republic of China, founded on mutual respect, solidarity, and a shared vision of development for the benefit of both peoples. **(MFARIDC)**

Visit to the Uwiragiye Foundation



On the morning of July 10, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, made

a visit to the UWIRAGIYE Foundation, located on the Kabezi hill, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province.

This visit was part of the Government's desire to observe, on the ground, the achievements of this Foundation in implementing a diplomacy in service of local development as well as Burundi's vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060.

It also aimed at highlighting local initiatives likely to inspire the international community in terms of social development and inclusion.

Created in 2018, the UWIRAGIYE Foundation works in the social field, specializing in the care of blind and visually impaired children. Its vision is to enable every Burundian child with a visual impairment to fully enjoy all their rights, on the same basis as other children.



Taking the floor, the President of the Foundation, Mrs. Sylvie UWIRAGIYE, indicated that her institution has already achieved significant accomplishments. It notably ensures the education, accommodation, comprehensive care, supervision, and health care of the children it hosts.

She specified that the Foundation has grown from 24 children in 2018 to 104 children living with a visual impairment, plus 291 non-disabled children, in line with its approach based on inclusive education.

Mrs. Sylvie UWIRAGIYE also emphasized that students from the Foundation achieve excellent results in

national exams. Buoyed by these performances, she aims at further expanding the Foundation's scope of action by developing an establishment meeting international teaching standards, in order to offer these children more opportunities to flourish and compete on an international scale.

Very satisfied with the achievements of this Foundation, Minister Édouard Bizimana commended this community and humanitarian commitment, which constitutes a concrete example of solidarity and inclusion. He recalled that diplomacy begins within the community, through grassroots actions, before extending beyond national borders.



According to him, a country's development also depends on the ability of its citizens to promote initiatives that foster social progress.

The Minister finally reassured that the Government of Burundi, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, will support the UWIRAGIYE Foundation by facilitating the establishment of partnerships with foreign organizations and institutions, in order to strengthen its capacities and support its actions on behalf of children with visual impairments. (MFARIDC)

Bilateral Cooperation: Burundi and Russia strengthen strategic axes in Bujumbura



On Friday, July 10, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation,

His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, received at Melchior Ndadaye International Airport the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation,

H.E. Sergey Lavrov, on a working visit. Upon his arrival, after a warm welcome at the airport, the Russian delegation was taken to the Kiriri Garden Hotel, where a working lunch bringing together the Burundian and Russian delegations was offered.

This meeting provided a privileged opportunity for the two parties to exchange views on several areas of common interest and examine prospects for strengthening bilateral cooperation. Continuing the agenda of this official visit, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation of Burundi, H.E. Édouard

Bizimana, led the Russian delegation to Ntare House Presidential Palace for a presidential audience.

On site, the guests were received in audience by the Burundian Head of State and Chairperson of the African Union.



At the heart of this exclusive meeting, the two parties welcomed the excellence of the diplomatic relations linking Burundi and the Russian Federation. The discussions, characterized by cordiality and mutual respect, allowed for a review of several strategic development sectors. The major pillars of Sino-Russian cooperation notably discussed were:

- . Agriculture: Modernization of techniques and food security.
- . Energy and Mines: Sharing of expertise, nuclear energy, and structuring investments.

- . Trade and Economy: Smoother trade exchanges.
- . Education and Health: Capacity building, grant provision, and health support.

The Burundian Head of State and his interlocutors insisted on the absolute necessity of accelerating the effective implementation of the various bilateral agreements already signed between the two countries, in order to translate diplomacy into tangible results for the populations.

The substance of this visit also materialized before media professionals during a joint press conference. This exercise in transparency gave rise to a particularly enriching cross-exchange.

Burundian press professionals addressed their questions directly to H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov, head of Russian diplomacy, who reaffirmed Moscow's support for Burundi's development projects, while Russian journalists were also able to question the Burundian Minister of Foreign Affairs on the prospects of this alliance in East Africa.

At the end of this intense and fruitful diplomatic agenda, the Russian delegation was escorted by Burundian officials to the Melchior Ndadaye International Airport. It was in an atmosphere of mutual satisfaction that the delegates boarded, thus sealing the success of a visit that promises to redefine the Burundi-Russia axis for years to come. (MFARIDC)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

www.mae.gov.bi

Twitter: @MAEBurund