



At the BRICS Summit, President Ndayishimiye speaks for an Africa committed to strengthened cooperation

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On September 13, 2026, on the final day of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, the President of the Republic of Burundi and current Chairperson of the African Union, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, spoke on behalf of an Africa committed to strengthening its partnerships and taking its rightful place in the dynamics shaping the world.

On this occasion, all the participating countries spoke at this major international event, which was held under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."

In his address, the Acting President of

the African Union, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, recalled that sustainable access to water and sanitation remains at the heart of the organization's priorities for 2026. He also highlighted three key drivers for accelerating the continent's economic transformation: water, transport infrastructure and energy, sectors that directly affect people's lives and determine the growth of African economies.

On behalf of the African people, the Burundian Head of State expressed his gratitude to India for its commitment to better representation of Africa in global governance bodies, particu-

larly through its support for the admission of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20. An important step towards more inclusive international governance that better represents the realities of the African continent.

Referring to the "Correct the Map" initiative, the Chairperson of the African Union, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, highlighted the support of the BRICS

countries for the adoption of the related resolution. Beyond a simple geographical representation, correcting the map also means correcting the perception of the continent. Through his participation in the 18th BRICS Summit, President Ndayishimiye carried an African voice resolutely focused on action and tangible results. His intervention reaffirmed a clear ambition: to make cooperation between Africa and the BRICS a true lever for development, investment, and transformation of the continent. **(Presidency)**

Child Protection: Burundi and UNICEF reaffirm their common commitment



On Thursday, September 17, 2026, the Head of State of Burundi and Chairperson of the African Union, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, received Ms. Etleva Kadilli, Regional Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), at the Gitega Palace. Discussions focused notably on cooperation between Burundi and UNICEF, as well as on initiatives aimed at the well-being and protection of children.

During the meeting, Ms. Etleva Kadilli commended the "very strong cooperation" between UNICEF and the Government of Burundi. She expressed her appreciation for the joint efforts undertaken to improve the liv-

ing conditions and well-being of children in Burundi. The UNICEF Regional Director also congratulated President Ndayishimiye on his role at the helm of the African Union and his commitment to the "Youth, Peace, and Security" agenda. In this regard, she praised the efforts made within the framework of the continental dialogue on youth, peace, and security, as well as on the promotion of women, peace, and security.

On his behalf, President Ndayishimiye welcomed the UNICEF official and expressed his satisfaction with the actions carried out by the organization for the benefit of Burundian children. He announced that the Government of Burundi plans to build a large child care and accommodation center with a capacity of 3,000 children. According to the proposed project, these children will also be able to receive schooling within the same facility.

This meeting thus demonstrates the commitment to strengthening collaboration between Burundi and UNICEF regarding issues of child protection, education, and well-being, in line with national priorities and continental commitments regarding women. **(Presidency)**

The Burundian Head of State gathers local authorities to discuss the development of communes



provincial governors, communal administrators, com-

On Thursday, September 17, 2026, the Head of State of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, presided over a meeting in Gitega with

munal council chairpersons, and communal engineers.

The meeting focused on presenting communal plans for developing spaces dedicated to public events and tourism within the communes. Through audiovisual presentations, all communal administrators outlined their visions and the plans envisaged for their respective communes. Following these presentations, the Head of State urged them to focus on two key areas: tourism and leisure. He recommended that 80% of the developed areas be dedicated to green spaces, aiming to create attractive environments for

both citizens and tourists.

President Ndayishimiye emphasized that this project is part of the implementation of the "Burundi: Emerging Country by 2040 and Developed Country by 2060" vision. He also encouraged the development of agritourism and the pursuit of investors capable of contributing to the creation of these tourism spaces, thereby fostering Burundi's development. During the same meeting, the Head of State ordered the compilation—within one week—of a precise list of farmers on every hill and their fertilizer

requirements. The goal is to enable the Government to better plan supplies and ensure equitable distribution. He also expressed concern regarding the diversion and illicit resale of fertilizer at inflated prices, as well as the lack of data needed to accurately assess farmers' actual needs. Regarding high-alcohol beverages, President Ndayishimiye called on the administration to redouble efforts to curb their consumption, highlighting their impact on health, families, and society. He reiterated that the ambition for Burundi to become an "emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060" relies on a healthy and productive population. **(Presidency)**

Gitega: The First Lady of Burundi provides assistance to support the "Nice Hope House" orphanage



On Tuesday, September 15, 2026, the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, visited the "Nice Hope House" center located on Zege Hill in the commune and province of Gitega. She brought aid intended to contribute to the well-being of the orphaned children cared for by the center.

During her visit, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye observed the living conditions of the children at "Nice Hope House." She toured the dormitories, the dining hall, the classrooms, and the areas designated for play and recreational activities. She also took a keen interest in the situation of the children, who had been deprived of their parents from birth, and who have now found a family-like environment at the center that fosters their personal growth.

On this occasion, the First Lady of Burundi presented a significant donation of supplies, including rice, beans, sugar, milk, biscuits, juice, porridge flour, and maize flour, as well as bath and laundry soap. Other donated items included school supplies, mattresses, body oil, and sports equipment such as balls and jerseys.

While presenting this aid, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye expressed her satisfaction at seeing that the children were well cared for and in good health. She noted that their appearance reflected the love and attention they receive at "Nice Hope House." She de-



scribed the donation as a gesture of love and encouragement for the children. She urged them not to lose heart over the loss of their parents, encouraging them instead to make the most of the environment provided to build their future.

Mr. Léopold Ntawuyankira, the head of "Nice Hope House," stated that the organization's work assisting orphans and street children began in 2007.

According to him, the initiative was launched at that time with the participation of children who were themselves living on the streets. Currently, fifty-eight children are housed and cared for at the center. In addition to these, other children receive support while living with their families. **(Le Renouveau)**

China celebrates its 77th Anniversary in Bujumbura



On the evening of September 16, 2026, in Bujumbura, the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China was celebrated in the presence of the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, congratulated the Chinese people on the occasion. He praised China's development model built on its own strengths, describing it as a source of inspiration for Burundi.

Mr. Bizimana noted that the friendly relations between Burundi and China, established in 1973, have strengthened over time, evolving into a strategic partnership in 2024. This cooperation is evident in sectors such as

infrastructure, health, education, and agriculture.

Minister Bizimana also emphasized that Burundi shares China's vision of a community with a shared future and supports initiatives aimed at fostering a more just world based on sovereignty and mutual respect.

For her part, the Chinese Ambassador to Burundi, Ms. Zhu Kewei, highlighted her country's economic performance, citing a growth rate of 4.7% and a 30% contribution to global growth. She reaffirmed China's commitment to peace and shared development through various initiatives championed by President Xi Jinping.

Regarding relations with Burundi, Ms. Zhu Kewei described the friendship between the two nations as fraternal and exemplary. She stated that China supports Burundi's presidency of the African Union as well as the "Burundi Vision 2040/2060" (aiming to become an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060), while reaffirming the commitment to strengthening the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

The reception was held in the presence of the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, as well as several high-ranking officials, ambassadors accredited to Burundi, and Burundian nationals who have studied or worked in China. (RTNB)

Regulation of medical products within EAC: National Assembly recommends safeguarding Burundi's interests



At the Kigobe Convention Centre, under the leadership of the National Assembly Spokesperson, the Right Honorable Daniel Gélase Ndobirabe, Members of Parliament met in a plenary session on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, and adopt-

ed the proposed agenda of activities for the August 2026 ordinary parliamentary session, covering the period from September 14 to 28, 2026. They also reviewed a report on participation in a workshop dedicated to analyzing the East African Community (EAC) draft bill on medical products, presented by MP Floribert Nzambimana. The workshop's primary objective was to examine the draft bill's content, identify potential improvements, and propose necessary amendments to strengthen legislation regarding medical products within the EAC.

MP Nzambimana explained that the draft bill aligns with Article 118 of the Treaty establishing the EAC, which provides for, among other things, the harmonization of medicine registration procedures, the control of pharmaceutical standards, the harmonization of national health regulations, and the promotion of good practices in medi-

cine procurement. It is also modeled on the African Union's model law on medical products regulation.

Following the discussions, the Burundian MPs recommended strengthening national capacities in the pharmaceutical sector and safeguarding Burundi's

interests during the process of harmonizing medical product regulations within the EAC. In this regard, they specifically recommended accelerating the ongoing process of establishing a Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Burundi. (**Le Renouveau**)

National Assembly Spokesperson travels to Russia on a mission to observe the legislative elections



On Wednesday, September 16, 2026, the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Right Honorable Gélase Daniel Ndabirabe, traveled to the Russian Federation at the invitation of that country's authorities to observe the legislative elections held on September 18, 2026.

The Right Honorable Gélase Daniel Ndabirabe noted that this visit is based on the principle of reciprocity expressed in Kirundi as "Gusubiriza abagenzi mu ndumane"-meaning it is a way of reciprocating the gesture made by the Russian delegation that conducted an election observation mission in Burundi during the last legislative elections in June 2025.

The Speaker of the National Assembly recalled that the Russian Federation had sent nearly five delegates to Burundi at that time-representing various levels and political parties to observe the conduct of the elections. He emphasized that this new mission offers an opportunity to strengthen friendly relations between Burundi and the Russian Federation, as well as to consolidate cooperation in the realm of parliamentary diplomacy. (**Le Renouveau**)

Bubanza Commune: Senate President calls for revenue mobilization to foster local development



Accompanied by the Honorable Léocadie Ndacayisaba, elected Senator in Bujumbura Province, the President of the Burundian Senate, the Right Honorable Gervais Ndirakobuca, held a meeting on Monday, September 14, 2026, at the Bubanza commune headquarters. The meeting was attended by members of the communal council, heads of department, and leaders of zones from the commune, as part of efforts to monitor the implementation of the decentralization

policy.

The Right Honorable Ndirakobuca commended Bubanza commune for its efforts in collecting communal revenue, amounting to between 120 and 150 million Burundian francs-and urged that these funds effectively contribute to the development of both the commune and the province. He noted that his previous visit to Bubanza commune had taken place on October 2, 2025, and had provided an opportunity to review how the State had transferred certain responsibilities to the Bubanza communal administration as part of the decentralization process. He stated that the Burundian Senate deemed it essential to maintain close ties with communal administrations, given that monitoring the implementation of the decentralization policy is one of its core missions.

Mr. Ndirakobuca called upon all citizens of the commune to view Bubanza as their own-regardless of

whether they originated from the former Musigati or Bubanza communes-and to work in a spirit of complementarity. Finally, he reiterated that the Senate serves as a link between the communes and high-level State institutions, enabling communal concerns to be conveyed to national authorities. He also asked the communal council to adopt provisional internal regulations to prevent any paralysis of communal activities that could hinder the commune's smooth operation. He also called on communal officials to improve their organization so that no communal employee goes unpaid, emphasizing that it is the commune's responsibility to ensure its staff are paid. In his view, if such a situation was to arise, the commune would be shirking the responsibilities entrusted to it by the State.

The Right Honourable Ndirakobuca commended Bubanza municipality for its efforts in collecting monthly communal revenues-amounting to between 120 and 150 million Burundian francs-while urging that these funds not be used solely for operating expenses. He reiterated that no country can develop without respect for the law and called on communal authorities to encourage the entire population to turn to the competent judicial bodies whenever they suffer harm or injustice, in order to put an end to the practice of vigilante justice.

Finally, Mr. Ndirakobuca distributed copybooks to children in Bubanza commune who began the 2026–2027 school year on Monday, September 14, 2026. (**Le Renouveau**)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation opens the training program for newly appointed Burundian diplomats



On September 14, 2026, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, inaugurated a five-day training course for Burundian diplomats newly appointed to represent Burundi abroad, as well as for officials from the Ministry.

In his opening remarks, Minister Edouard Bizimana congratulated the new diplomats on the trust placed in them and reminded them of the importance of the mission entrusted to them. He emphasized that representing Burundi abroad is an honor and a privilege, but above all, it constitutes a significant responsibility. Given the numerous challenges facing the world today -including geopolitical conflicts, economic and environmental issues, and the evolving nature of relations between states-the Minister stressed the need for eve-

ry diplomat to possess the knowledge, skills, and tools required to perform their duties effectively. It was with this in mind that the Ministry organized this training to build the capacity of both diplomats and Ministry staff.

The Minister urged them to amplify Burundi's voice, placing particular emphasis on economic diplomacy-which the country needs to accelerate its development and contribute to implementing the vision of "Burundi: an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060."

He also reminded them that they would serve as the living embodiment of Burundi's image abroad. Consequently, their daily actions must be guided by key fundamentals: defending Burundi's strategic interests; engaging in negotiation to exert influence, forge alliances, and help ensure the country's security and prosperity; promoting Burundi's image, culture, and values; and serving and protecting Burundian citizens residing abroad.



Minister Edouard Bizimana also offered several recommendations to the participants, notably regarding respect for the chain of command, the maintenance of strategic

dignity, and the importance of visibility and impact in their work. He reminded them that a skilled diplomat must be well-prepared, well-equipped, attentive to national and international current events, and capable of adapting to the daily changes occurring worldwide. He assured the participants that the Ministry's headquarters would remain fully available to support them and contribute to the successful fulfillment of their mission.

For her part, Ms. Emma N'Gouan-Anoh, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Burundi, welcomed the Ministry's initiative and expressed her appreciation for the relevance of the topics covered during the training. She highlighted, in particular, the importance of issues related to law, diplomatic protocol, global international policy challenges, and the digital land-



scape. Ms. N'Gouan-Anoh emphasized that, beyond traditional diplomatic duties, diplomats must now act as strategic negotiators and investment promoters, capable of leveraging opportunities to foster

national development. She stressed the need for diplomats to be equipped to respond effectively to the many challenges facing the modern world and to actively contribute to advancing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). (MFARIDC)

Ambassador-designate of French Republic presents true copies of credence to Burundian Minister of Foreign Affairs



On Tuesday, September 15, 2026, His Excellency Ambassador Dr. Édouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, received in audience Her Excellency Ms. Caroline Vinot, Ambassador-designate of the French Republic to Burundi, who came to present copies of her Letters of Credence.

The two officials discussed matters of common interest aimed at further strengthening bilateral and diplomatic relations between Burundi and France. In her remarks, Her Excellency Ms. Caroline Vinot expressed her admiration for Burundi since her arrival in the country. She reaffirmed her commitment

to strengthening diplomatic and economic partnership between the two countries particularly by contributing to efforts to improve the business climate, supporting Burundi in the implementation of its development projects, and promoting investment in various sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Bizimana stressed that Burundi wishes to take its cooperation ties with France to a higher level. He referred to the persistent security challenges in the region, particularly in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and called on France and the European Union to play an active role in supporting the peace and security initiatives already underway, particularly through Resolution 2073, the Doha Agreements and the Washington Agreements.

The Minister stressed the need for all partners to uphold the fundamental principles of human rights, while ensuring strict respect for the inviolability of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and their sovereignty.

In response, Her Excellency Ms. Caroline Vinot assured that France remains effectively engaged in supporting peace and security initiatives in the region.

Minister Bizimana concluded by reaffirming that the Government of Burundi remains committed to working

closely with France to advance development projects and strengthen bilateral relations in a spirit of enduring

partnership. (MFARIDC)

Presentation of the true copies of the letters of credence by Ambassador-designate of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Burundi



On Tuesday, September 15, 2026, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, received in audience Her Excellency Mrs. Ingie Sherif El Samanoud, Ambassador-Designate of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Burundi, who came to present true copies of her letters of credence.

After welcoming her, Minister Bizimana congratulated her on the confidence placed in her by her Government. He expressed his wish that she would continue

the work of her predecessor, particularly by further revitalizing bilateral relations and effectively carrying out her mission. The Minister reaffirmed Burundi's readiness to work hand in hand with Egypt.

Expressing her deep appreciation for the warm welcome extended to her, Her Excellency Mrs. Ingie Sherif El Samanoud said she was honored and at ease working closely with the Government of Burundi. The discussions between the two officials focused on matters of common interest which aimed at further strengthening the bilateral and diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Ambassador-Designate announced that Egypt would host a Business Forum and a Summit in October 2026, and requested the participation of His Excellency the President of Burundi, in his capacity as Chairperson of the African Union. Minister Bizimana assured her that Burundi would confirm its participation through the appropriate diplomatic channels.

Regarding the disputes surrounding the Nile River, the Minister stressed that Burundi's position is that these issues should be resolved in a balanced manner, while respecting the rights of all parties concerned.

At the close of the audience, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana wished Mrs. Ingie Sherif El Samanoud every success in carrying out her noble mission. He reaffirmed Burundi's readiness to cooperate with Egypt in all areas and to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. (MFARIDC)

First Political and Diplomatic Consultations between Burundi and Vietnam



On Tuesday, September 15, 2026, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, received a delegation led by His Excellency Mr. Le Anh Tuan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Af-

fairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

This meeting took place within the framework of the first political and diplomatic consultations between Burundi and Vietnam, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Hanoi on April 4, 2025. After welcoming the Vietnamese delegation, Minister Bizimana outlined the proposed key areas of cooperation, highlighting on: education and research; agriculture; technological exchanges; tourism.



Regarding education and research, the Government of Burundi seeks to benefit from specialized training in the fields of environmental protection, scientific research, and mineral identification and exploitation. In the agricultural sector, Burundi aims to establish a partnership with Vietnam to improve production methods, particularly through mechanization, the exchange of expertise, and the processing of agri-

food products.

In terms of technology, the two countries are considering partnerships for technology transfer and cooperation on digital transformation.

As for tourism, Burundi, rich in largely untapped potential—wishes to draw upon Vietnam's recognized expertise in the development and promotion of tourist sites.

The two delegations also discussed political and diplomatic matters. They agreed to support each other in defending their national and international interests, particularly within multilateral forums.

Both parties expressed their commitment to strengthening their bilateral ties and consolidating their friendly cooperation, especially regarding the defense of either country's sovereignty. Finally, they reaffirmed their commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with the fundamental principles of impartiality and universality. (MFARIDC)

Presentation of the true copies of credence by the European Union Ambassador-designate to Burundi



His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, received His Excellency Mr. Alessandro Villa, Ambassador designate of the European Union Delegation to Burundi, based in Bujumbura-in an audience on Tuesday, September 15, 2026. Mr. Villa came to present the true copies of his letters of credence.

In his remarks, His Excellency Alessandro Villa expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome extended to him by the Government of Burundi. He hailed the friendly and cooperative relations between Burundi and the European Union, describing them as a valuable asset. He emphasized that working closely with the Burundian Government is a privilege, enabling a better understanding of national policy and the definition of future steps for bilateral cooperation.

The EU Ambassador reaffirmed his commitment to revitalizing cooperation, focusing on the economy and the fruitful partnership between the two parties. He also indicated that he would prioritize regular dialogue to effectively carry out his mission in Burundi. Topics discussed included preparations for the partnership dialogue between the EU and Burundi, the Global Gateway Forum, the promotion of cultural exchanges, and support for humanitarian initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, His Excellency Minister Bizimana welcomed the positive impressions expressed by the Ambassador upon his arrival, viewing them as a sign of determination and commitment to Burundi. He noted that cooperation between Burundi and the European Union had faced challenges since 2015, with some partners having suspended or halted

their collaboration. In this regard, he encouraged the new Ambassador to redouble his efforts to revitalize this cooperation.

The Minister reaffirmed that Burundi is a stable and peaceful country and expressed appreciation for the EU's commitment to supporting the nation in realizing its vision: becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. He also welcomed the idea of fostering cultural diplomacy between the two parties. His Excellency Bizimana drew attention to the persistent insecurity in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and its impact on Burundi. He called

for the European Union's active involvement in helping to pacify the region and bring about a cessation of hostilities. In response, Ambassador Alessandro Villa assured that the European Union remains concerned about the security and humanitarian situation in the region and pledged his personal commitment to making a positive contribution.

Both parties reaffirmed their determination to work closely together and strengthen bilateral cooperation. The Government of Burundi confirmed its commitment to spare no effort to work together with the European Union in a spirit of constructive and sustainable partnership. (MFARIDC)

Burundian Minister of Foreign Affairs welcomes the "Great Africa Cycling Safari" Cyclists



On September 18, 2026, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard BIZIMANA, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, welcomed the cyclists of the "Great Africa Cycling Safari" Association, who are participating in the 9th Edition of the East African Community Cycling Tour. Speaking on the 9th Edition of the "Great Africa Cycling Safari," organized this year under the theme "Propelling East Africa through Peace, Security, Health, Access to Water, Food Security, and Sustainable Mobility," he indicated that Burundi is particularly pleased to welcome the cyclists to Bujumbura following their crossing of the Burundian-Tanzanian border at Mugina-Manyovu on September 16, 2026, during which they had the opportunity to pedal together along the shores of Lake Tanganyika and appreciate the diversity of Burundian landscapes and hills.

While deploring what happened in Kenya, His Excellency the Minister stated that this initiative, though sporting in nature, is of paramount importance for the regional integration process and constitutes a strong symbol of unity and fraternity among East African citizens, the cornerstone of sustainable development.



Furthermore, he noted that cycling and the community development activities carried out by the cyclists during their journey, the exchanges between populations to promote social cohesion among East African citizens, the promotion of tourism, and the discovery of Burundi's rich cultures ultimately aim to bring East African peoples closer together and progressively consolidate the sense of belonging to a Community with a shared destiny, as stated in the EAC motto: "One People, One Destiny."

As for John Palongo, the founder of "Great Africa Cycling Safari," he pointed out that while the East African Com-



munity has developed important institutions and negotiated and signed various protocols and policies, the true test of regional integration lies in how ordinary East African citizens live their daily lives. This is why the "Great Africa Cycling

"Safari" cyclists are crossing borders to raise awareness among East African populations about the EAC regional integration process and to understand how regional integration is perceived by East African citizens.

According to him, the EAC Cycling Tour has demonstrated that while the distance between countries can be measured in kilometers, the distance between our peoples can be shortened simply by creating opportunities to meet, interact, and work together while safeguarding peace and security. (MFARIDC)

Closing Ceremony of Diplomatic Training for Newly Appointed Diplomats



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, officially closed, on September 18, 2026, a diplomatic training program organized for newly appointed diplomats and several officials from the Ministry. The training was held in Bujumbura from September 14 to 18, 2026 under the theme "Economic Diplomacy and Cooperation Strategies in the Digital Era."



In his closing remarks, the Minister said that the training marks the beginning of a diplomatic career for the newly appointed Ambassadors and will help them effectively carry out their missions. He highlighted the relevance of the topics covered, particularly economic and strategic diplomacy, as well as planning tools that will support them in carrying out

their responsibilities, including the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB).

Addressing the newly appointed diplomats who will represent Burundi abroad, the Minister noted that diplomacy is a complex field. He encouraged them to demonstrate a strong sense of responsibility and sound judgment, to remain well trained, informed and connected, and to make use of appropriate strategies to build trust and strengthen relations with partners. He further noted that challenges would inevitably arise in the course of their missions, but encouraged them to turn these challenges into opportunities to make a difference, while respecting the chain of command and contributing to Burundi's development.

Before concluding his remarks, the Minister thanked the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for funding the training and for its commitment to continue supporting the Ministry in other areas, including defense, security, the National Assembly, education, etc with a view to developing a strong pool of professionals for Burundi's diplomatic service.

On behalf of the newly appointed and former diplomats who participated in the training, Ambassador



Domine Banyankimbona expressed her appreciation for the initiative to train diplomats who will represent the country on the international stage.

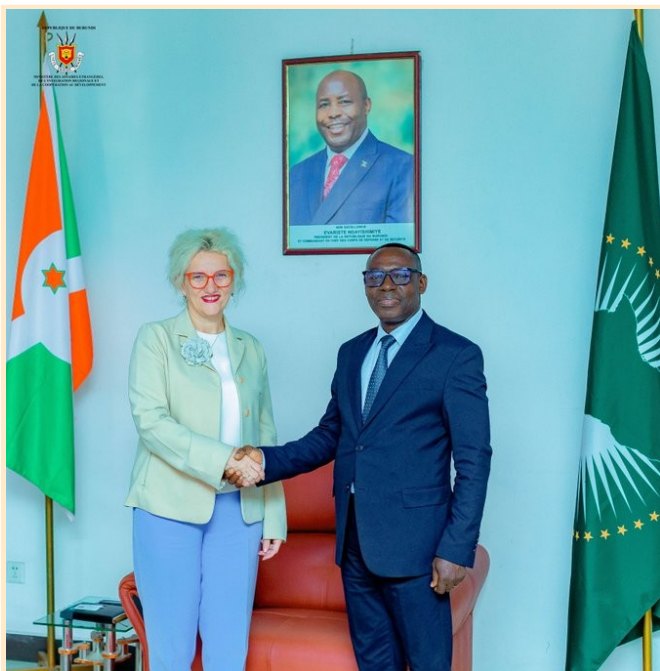


Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Jonas Mfouatie, Deputy

Resident Representative of UNDP in Burundi, said that UNDP would continue supporting Burundi in strengthening its capacity in economic diplomacy.

He welcomed the initiative and commended the Ministry for organizing the training. He stressed that Burundi's diplomacy should go beyond simple diplomatic representation, and that it is important to consistently consider what the Burundian people stand to gain from each agreement negotiated and signed, in order to safeguard and advance the country's interests on the international stage. (MFARIDC)

Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Receives UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa



On September 16, 2026, Mr. Sophonie NITUNGA, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, received Ms. Etleva KADILLI, UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Discussions focused on strengthening the strategic partnership between Burundi and UNICEF, particularly regarding the rights and well-being of children and adolescents.

During the meeting, Ms. Etleva KADILLI commended Burundi's leadership within the African Union, especial-

ly in promoting priorities benefiting children, youth, and communities. She also acknowledged the Government's efforts in hosting refugees and supporting returnees. She reaffirmed UNICEF's commitment to continuing its partnership with the Government to support refugee, displaced, and returning children.

Ms. KADILLI noted that UNICEF has begun the process of developing its next cooperation program with Burundi for the 2028–2032 period, which will align with national priorities, including the Burundi 2040–2060 Vision, decentralization, and human capital development.

Finally, she announced the upcoming conclusion of the tenure of Ms. France BÉGIN, the UNICEF Representative in Burundi.

Permanent Secretary Sophonie NITUNGA expressed the Government of Burundi's appreciation for UNICEF's work on behalf of children and vulnerable populations, including refugees and returnees. He welcomed the positive cooperative relationship between Burundi and UNICEF and reaffirmed the Ministry's readiness to continue and strengthen this collaboration.

Regarding the upcoming departure of Ms. France Bégin, UNICEF Representative in Burundi, the Permanent Secretary commended the quality of the collaboration during her tenure and wished her every success in her future roles. He encouraged her to remain an "ambassador for Burundi" wherever she might be sent to serve. (MFARIDC)

Bujumbura hosts the 18th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defense, Safety and Security



Brigadier General Gaspard Baratuza, Spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defense, held a press briefing on Monday, September 14, 2026. He announced that Bujumbura hosted the 18th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defense, Safety and Security (STCDSS) from September 15 to 18, 2026.

In his opening remarks, General Baratuza noted that the Specialized Technical Committee on Defense, Safety and Security is one of the African Union's technical bodies tasked with advising the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on matters of peace, defense, and continental security. He explained that the committee brings together ministers responsible for defense and Home Affairs, heads of national safety and security institutions from African Union member states, and representatives of Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs). Regarding the organization of this 18th

session, he specified that a preparatory meeting of experts took place from September 15 to 16, 2026. A meeting of Chiefs of Defense Forces and heads of safety and security services was held on September 17, 2026, followed by the session of the relevant ministers on September 18, 2026.

Regarding participation in the session, 43 countries have already confirmed their attendance, alongside representatives from Regional Economic Communities and regional mechanisms-notably the East African Standby Force (EASF), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the North African Regional Capability-which have also confirmed their participation. The proceedings focused, among other things, on assessing the political and security situation on the continent and strengthening African mechanisms for conflict prevention and management. The recommendations resulting from this meeting will be submitted to the Peace and Security Council and the Assembly of the African Union.

Regarding Burundi, he stated that hosting this session -and the participation of so many countries-is a great honor and reflects the renewed confidence of regional and continental partners in the nation, particularly given Burundi's steadfast commitment to peace and security in Africa. Finally, he took the opportunity to call upon the Burundian people in general, and the residents of the economic capital, Bujumbura, in particular, to extend a warm and dignified welcome to these distinguished guests; the aim is to burnish the country's image while upholding the customs and traditions that define its people. (*Le Renouveau*)

FOMI provides school supplies to 300 students in the Mutimbuzi area



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On Wednesday, September 16, 2026, the management of Fertilisants Organo-Minéraux (FOMI)-a company specializing in the production of organo-

mineral fertilizers-offered school supplies to 300 students from the Buhomba primary school and schools in the development villages of the Mutimbuzi zone, Ntahangwa Commune, in Bujumbura Province.

Speaking on behalf of the management of Fertilisants Organo-Minéraux Industries, the company's Commercial Director, Mr. Jean-Pierre Nzobandora, stated that the donation benefited 150 students from the Buhomba basic school and another 150 from basic schools in the Mutimbuzi zone's development villages. According

to him, this initiative reflects FOMI's commitment to contributing to the development of the education sector, which is considered a pillar of the country's overall development.

The distributed school supplies included copybooks, pens, and geometry sets. Priority for the donation was given to students from low-income families. Each beneficiary received 15 copybooks, two pens, and a geometry set to help them pursue their studies under better conditions.

Representing the local administration in the Mutimbuzi zone, Mr. Damien Barindambi commended the gesture made by Fertilisants Organo-Minéraux Industries for children from vulnerable families. He thanked the company for considering these students and for its commitment to supporting struggling families in the field of education. One of the student beneficiaries expressed his gratitude to FOMI for the gesture. He thanked the company for thinking of students in need of support and offered his best wishes and blessings to the company's leadership. (RTNB)

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