



The Burundian head of state receives in audience the European Union Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region



The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, received in audience Mr Johan Borgstam, the European Union's Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, at Gitega Palace on Tuesday November 05, 2024, during which they discussed about the political and security situation in the Great Lakes Region, particularly in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The new European Union Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, whose mandate began on September 01, 2024 told the press that it was a

friendly exchange with the President of the Republic on the current situation in the Great Lakes Region and in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as the efforts of the international community to support stability.

During the audience, Mr Johan Borgstam also appreciated the steps taken by Burundi in its quest for development, in view of the various ongoing achievements in the country which, according to him, reflects a high level of hope among the Burundian people.

After giving a brief overview of the situ-

In this Edition:

page

The Burundian head of state receives in audience the European Union Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region

1

President Ndayishimiye launches the Torch of Peace, 18th edition

2

Gitega: the Head of State meets the leaders of Burundi's registered political parties

2

Young people are called upon to take ownership of Burundi's vision

3

Validation of an Orientation Guide for Safe Migration Respectful of the Rights of Burundian Migrant Workers

4

The Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research reassures new teachers

5

REMARKS DECLARED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ALBERT SHINGIRO, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI ON THE OCCASION OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE RUSSIA-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP FORUM

10

ation in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Burundian Head of State and Chairman of the Regional Mechanism for monitoring the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation for the DRC and the Great Lakes Region recommended international synergy to fight against the armed groups operating in the East of the Democratic Republic

of Congo.

While expressing his wishes for success in his new role, the Burundian Number One also promised the new Representative of the European Union full collaboration for the success of the processes in Luanda and Nairobi. **(Presidency)**

President Ndayishimiye launches the Torch of Peace, 18th edition



On Saturday November 9, 2024, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste, launched the 18th edition of the Torch of Peace in presence of the President of the National Assembly, the President of the Senate, the Prime Minister, the Ombudsman, members of the government and other dignitaries gathered at the Urunani Stadium in Buganda, Cibitoke province.

The President of the Intwararumuri Team (the caravaneers of the Torch), Ir. Epipode Baranyikwa began by announcing that the 18th edition of the Torch of Peace would be touring the country in 22 days, i.e. the 42 communes of the 5 new provinces established by Decree No. 1/05 of March 16, 2023, on the theme: Burundians, let's vote for the leaders who will guide us

towards achieving the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060.

All of the country's 118 communes have drawn up their Communal Development Plans, which are to be combined with the development plans of the 42 new communes and forwarded to their respective provinces for joint budgeting, said the President of the Republic of Burundi, Evariste Ndayishimiye, after announcing that the year 2025 marks the beginning of a developed Burundi. He expressed the wish that this 18th edition of the Torch of Peace would bring a unifying spirit to the implementation of projects of community interest in the country's 118 communes, now reduced to 42.

"Soon it will be election time, and I urge you to vote for leaders who have political programs likely to contribute to development," emphasized the Burundian Number One, convinced that the implementation of the Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060 will be possible if the country is equipped with enlightened leaders for development.

He also stated that the 18th edition of the Torch of Peace reminds us that peace has been hard won in Burundi and that it brings hope for the future and love that will further unite Burundian people for development. **(Presidency)**

Gitega: the Head of State meets the leaders of Burundi's registered political parties

On Thursday November 07, 2024, the Burundian Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, met in Gitega with representatives of Burundi's registered political parties, representatives of movements affiliated to them, and provincial governors.

The theme of the meeting was "the role of political parties in the country's development and in achieving the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060"

In this meeting, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, expressed his



satisfaction that young people begin to change their mentality. They are in the process of investing in income-generating sectors such as agriculture, live-stock breeding, etc., said the Head of State.

The President of the Republic, Evariste Ndayishimiye, went on to discourage the behavior of certain people who want to eat without having worked, or who do not want to start their own business, and who are waiting to be employed by the State. He called on the population to work hard and

overcome the fear of failure, with a view to achieving sustainable development. He urged political leaders to be good leaders, ensuring good management of public affairs and fighting against injustice, which is one of the sources of conflicts in the country.

The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, indicated that Burundi is making significant progress in terms of political stability, because on the eve of the 2025 elections, peace reigns in the country, and good cooperation between the political parties prevails on the ground.

He subsequently invited the young members of political parties to take the lead in realizing the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. They are encouraged to always consult with the older generation in order to understand the root causes of past project failures, to avoid making the same mistakes. Finally, these young people were urged to embody discipline, obedience, and love for their country, which are essential foundations for achieving development. **(RTNB)**

Young people are called upon to take ownership of Burundi's vision



On Wednesday November 06, 2024, the President of the Senate, the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, accompanied by the Senator elected in the Municipality of Bujumbura and the Head of Cabinet of the Mayor of the city, took part in the 5th edition of the Junior Prayer Breakfast 2024, organized by a forum of young African leaders, under the theme: Youth at the service of the vision of Burundi, an emerging country in 2040 and a developed country in 2060. The forum took place in Muha commune,



at Donatus Conference Centre.

In his teachings to these young people, the President of the Senate urged them to focus on developing leadership and to take ownership of the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060.

He also called on them to be stable and complete, to thrive both physically, professionally, and spiritually, and

to develop human capital to achieve the vision of Burundi.

The President of the Senate, the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, gave further advice in which he

called on them to be patriots, to respect the law, to think about what they do to others, to be public servants and to be good examples for their own edification on the one hand and the edification of others on the other. **(Senate)**

Validation of an Orientation Guide for Safe Migration Respectful of the Rights of Burundian Migrant Workers



On Tuesday, November 5, 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), organized a workshop in Muramvya to validate an orientation handbook for Burundian migrant workers and private recruitment agencies. The workshop was opened by Ambassador Justine NISUBIRE, Director General of Diaspora, Promotion of Migrant Employment, NGOs and Foreign Non-profit organization.

In her opening remarks, Ambassador Justine Nisubire expressed her gratitude to the partners present, including IOM, for their ongoing support in the field of migration. "Your presence testifies to your commitment to migration that respects human rights," she stressed, highlighting the importance of this handbook, which will enable migrant workers to learn more about their rights

and the protection mechanisms available. This orientation guide is also part of the bilateral agreements signed between Burundi and various destination countries to promote safe, managed migration.

The training guide aims at informing migrant workers about essential topics such as working conditions, rights and duties, safety and the skills needed to work abroad. It is in line with the recommendations of the Global Compact on Migration, which encourages comprehensive pre-departure orientation programs, including modules on law against human trafficking, patriotism and cultural awareness.

IOM representative Florence Kaneza expressed IOM's satisfaction at the progress made in this area. She pointed out that the guide contributes to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reducing inequality) and SDG 16 (promoting peaceful societies). "By facilitating managed labor migration, this guide strengthens not only the security of migrants but also the prosperity of their families and communities of origin," she added.

The workshop continued with an in-depth analysis of the document, enabling participants to examine each section and propose adjustments to ensure its relevance and effectiveness. In the end, the document was validated with a few recommendations. **(MFADC)**

Burundi's Ambassador to New Delhi attends the 7th General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in New Delhi

From November 3 to 6, 2024, the Seventh Session of the ISA Assembly was held in New Delhi, India, at the Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan. The meeting was attended by key stakeholders and decision-makers in the solar sector, including world leaders, energy ministers, and heads of international institutions, pioneers in the global energy industry, experts, investors and business leaders. Burundi

was represented by His Excellency Ambassador Aloys Bizindavyi, Burundi's Ambassador to New Delhi.

The solemn opening ceremony of the ministerial plenary was presided over by the new Indian Minister for New and Renewable Energy, His Excellency Mr Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi. It began with a presentation by the Director General of the ISA, on the activities carried out and



the projects financed by the Alliance during 2024.

The purpose of this session was to renew the ISA's governing bodies, in particular by electing the President and Co-President of the ISA as well as a new Director General. India and France were elected respectively to the Presidency and Co-Presidency of the ISA, as well as to the new Director General. India's candidate for the post of Director General (ISA), Mr Ashish Khanna, who was supported by the Government of Burundi, was elected as the

next Director General for a 4-year term starting in 2025.

The discussions focused specifically on the adoption of the report of the 6th Session of the ISA Assembly, the granting of observer status to some countries, the audit of financial accounts, the increase in capacity-building projects set up by the ISA, the granting of partner status to certain organizations, the restructuring of the Alliance's financing mechanism, the implementation of the ISA's strategic plan, key programs and the formulation of relevant solutions to the critical stages encountered in accelerating the global deployment of solar energy.

Several countries, selected from among those best illustrated for their efforts in deploying solar energy, were congratulated and rewarded by the presentation of trophies to the Minister by the ISA's leaders. After the presentation of the trophies, the new Indian Minister for New and Renewable Energies, His Excellency Mr Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi, presented to the delegates the various points on the agenda of this 7th Session of the Assembly.

After long, frank and constructive discussions, the ISA member countries made pertinent recommendations on all the points on the agenda of this 7th Session of the ISA Assembly. The experts' in-depth deliberations on the various thematic issues raised enabled the ISA Secretariat to refine its programmatic direction for the future. The implementation of fruitful cooperation between ISA member countries in order to successfully deploy solar energy around the world was discussed.

The ISA is an international organization with 120 members and signatory countries, working with governments to improve energy access and security worldwide. (MFADC)

The Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research reassures new teachers

On Tuesday, November 5, 2024, the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Service, Labor, and Employment, organized a meeting in the provincial capital of Gitega, aimed at provincial education directors and provincial public service officials. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss about the recruitment of new teachers and the reasons for the delays in salaries for some teachers recruited last year.

Regarding the issue related to the payment of salaries for some new teachers, the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, Mr. François Havyarimana, noted that some of these teachers' files are at the provincial level, others are at the ministry level, and most of these files are incomplete. One or another document is missing for the Ministry of Public Service, Labor, and Employment to process these files so that these teachers can be paid.

For this reason, the two ministries have agreed as fol-



lows: all files at the provincial level must be sent to the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research by the end of this week. All files missing any documents must be completed by the end of this week. If it turns out that certain documents need to be issued by the Ministry of Public Service, Labor, and Employment, it has been agreed that a request from the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research must be sent to the Ministry of Public Service, Labor, and Employment by the end of this week. Finally, all files that are already complete must also be sent to the Ministry of Public Service, Labor, and Employment by the end

of this week.

Regarding the recruitment of new teachers, the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, Mr. François Havyarimana, specified that normally the test should be organized before the beginning of the school year. However, since the candidates for the teacher recruitment test were engaged in the population census, the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research stated that they did not want to organize this test before the school year began.

During this meeting, the participants agreed at the level of the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research to prepare the recruitment plan during this week, in order to submit it to the public service before the end of this week. The Ministry of Public Service, Labor, and Employment committed to communicate the deadline for submitting applications at the latest next week.

According to the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, the meeting was highly anticipated by teachers who had spent several months in service without being paid, as well as by most schools. (RTNB)

The Ministry of Public Service, Labor, and Employment calls for sustained collaboration with its partners



The Ministry of Public Service, Labor, and Employment organized a forum on entrepreneurship, vocational training, and employment from November 6 to 8, 2024, in Gitega, with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The theme of the forum was: "Together for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship, Vocational Training, and Employment." This event marks a significant moment in the fight against unemployment in Burundi, particularly among young people, women, and individuals with special needs, as emphasized by the Minister of Public

Service, Labor, and Employment, Mr. Venuste Muyabaga.

The forum saw the participation of young entrepreneurs, those involved in vocational training, and informal sector workers. The presentations and discussions over the three days focused on the challenges, opportunities, and perspectives of the entrepreneurship and vocational training sector, which is a reliable source of job creation for young people and women.

In his opening statement, he emphasized that employment is a key factor in improving living conditions and reducing poverty. "Access to stable and well-paying jobs can transform lives and promote sustainable economic development," he stated, reminding that the government's long-term vision is to make Burundi an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. This ambition is supported by the revised National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2027, which guides actions across all sectors of national life.

According to the Minister of Public Service, Labor, and Employment, the Burundian government considers youth as a valuable and indispensable human resource for the country's economic progress. He further indicated that strengthening vocational training is essential to increase the employability of this segment of the population. He announced the creation of vocational training centers in each commune, with a current total of 216 Trade Education Centers and 16 Vocational Training Centers.

In response to the persistent challenges related to unemployment, the Government has implemented several policies to support the employment of young people and women. Among these are the National Employment Policy (PNE), the National Policy on Labor Migration (PNMMO), and the National Social Protection Policy (PNPS). These initiatives aim to promote inclusive socio-economic integration.

In this context, the Burundian Office of Employment and Labor (OBEM) was established to coordinate the implementation of the PNE and other entrepreneurship programs.

It has also mentioned the Economic Empowerment and Youth Employment Program (PAEEJ), which encourages self-employment through cooperatives and business incubators, while providing technical

and managerial assistance to entrepreneurs.

Regarding financing, the Government has founded institutions such as the Youth Investment Bank (BIJE) and the Fund for Impulse and Guarantee (FIGA) to support entrepreneurial projects. The minister also praised the Investment Bank for the Development of Women (BIDF), which supports women's entrepreneurship, an important lever for equitable economic growth.

The Minister of Public Service, Labor, and Employment has called for reinforced collaboration with development partners and the private sector, emphasizing that the government alone cannot solve the issue of mass unemployment. He encouraged local and international stakeholders, including the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), to unite their efforts and resources to support national initiatives. "A synergy among partners and a combination of financial resources are essential to ensure the success of our employment policy."

This forum, scheduled to last for three days, will provide an opportunity to debate, exchange experiences, and present projects aimed at promoting the economic and social inclusion of youth and women in Burundi. It is also an opportunity for young innovators to expose their products in order to stimulate potential customers. (RTNB)

The rehabilitation work on the section of the Gikoma River at the United Nations Roundabout is progressing well



The Director General of the Burundi Maritime and Port Authority (AMPB), Madame Godeliève Nininahazwe, visited Bujumbura-Bubanza road on Tuesday, November 5, 2024,

to assess the progress of the rehabilitation works on the section between the United Nations Roundabout and the Gikoma River, which is currently inaccessible.

According to the Director General of the Maritime Authority, this section is part of the rehabilitation project for the port of Bujumbura, as it constitutes part of the bypass road of the RN1, along which heavy trucks will transport goods to this port. She indicated that the rehabilitation works on this section are progressing well, as some owners of various infrastructures who had been slow to demolish their properties are now in the process of doing so.

According to the Director General of the Maritime Au-

thority, the infrastructures that have not yet cleared the right-of-way fall into two categories: public infrastructures such as police/military camps and schools, as well as private infrastructures such as residential and commercial buildings.

The Mayor of the city of Bujumbura, Mr. Jimmy Hatungimana, expressed his satisfaction with the progress of the rehabilitation activities for this section. He called on the owners of various properties who have not yet complied with these activities to do so during the week of November 4 to 10, 2024. The Mayor of Bujumbura told the property owners who are unable to

clear the right-of-way themselves report this so that the project can assume responsibility of the task. However, the costs of these works will be endured by the property owners in this case, the mayor specified.

She stated that those who have cleared the space in accordance with the law have already received their compensation or are on the waiting list. The Director General of the Maritime and Port Authority of Burundi, Mrs. Godeliève Nininahazwe, urges those who have not yet cleared the space to do so quickly in order to receive their proportion of the compensation. (RTNB)

Bujumbura: The General Directorate of the Maritime and Port Authority is conducting sensitization workshop



The Director General of the Maritime and Port Authority of Burundi emphasized that a week is granted to the representatives of the fishermen to convey the message from this workshop to other fishermen, as there will be collaboration between the administration and the marine

The Maritime and Port Authority of Burundi organized a sensitization workshop on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, for the legal representatives of fishermen, beach chiefs, and administrative officials, in order to inform them about the content of certain regulations.

The Director General of the Maritime and Port Authority of Burundi, Mrs. Godeliève Nininahazwe, specified that this regulation concerns the content of the joint ministerial ordinance establishing the rate of fees classified on maritime and port transport activities in Burundi. She indicated that this ordinance was signed for the implementation of the law governing fishing and aquaculture in Burundi.

police for the implementation of this ordinance.

She informed that sanctions related to this will range from fines to imprisonment. In this workshop, an appeal was made to fishermen who use prohibited nets that cause the destruction of marine flora and aquatic life. One example given is that 1 kg of ndagala "Umugala" yields 1 ton of "big" ndagala if left to grow.

The wearing of life jackets is mandatory to reduce the incidents that sometimes occur in Lake Tanganyika, whether for fishermen or other users of the lake's waters, added the Director General of the Maritime and Port Authority, Mrs. Godeliève Nininahazwe. (RTNB)

A delegation from the World Bank is visiting the achievements of young people supported by the project aimed at improving the skills and employability of women and youth



The Sector Director for Education at the World Bank, Mrs. Meskerem Mulatu, conducted a series of visits on Thursday, November 7, 2024, in Isare, in Bujumbura province, to assess the achievements of the alternating apprentices from the Vocational Training Centers (CEM) of Rushubi and Mageyo, beneficiaries of the Project for Supporting the Improvement of Skills and Employability of Women and Youth (PACEJ), with the support of the World Bank.

The Project for Supporting the Improvement of Skills and Employability of Women and Youth is a government initiative in Burundi funded by the World Bank, in collaboration with a new approach to learning based on alternating training in Vocational Training Centers, aimed at out-of-school and unemployed youth aged 15 to 25, whether they have basic education or not. The apprenticeship lasts for one year and is free of charge. It covers fields such as hospitality, construction, agro-livestock, agro-food processing, tailoring, automotive mechanics, and information and communication technologies.

These alternating apprentices demonstrate their skills with artisans, producers, and other targeted stakeholders who have the capacity to host and mentor apprentices, possess technical or professional knowledge, and have experience in guiding apprentices, located near the Vocational Training Centers (CEM).

The Sector Director of Education at the World Bank, Ms. Meskerem Mulatu, visited the CEM in Rushubi. This center offers training in welding, agriculture-livestock, and agro-food processing. After visiting the Rushubi Vocational Training Center, the World Bank delegation, accompanied by representatives from PACEJ and local administration, visited a banana farmer artisan in Kibuye, where the Kibuye Drinks Company, a banana wine production unit, is also located.

This unit trains over 118 apprentices, including women, single mothers, and girls, who make up 75% of its workforce. The delegation also visited a stable at the Rushubi parish, which contributes to the training of these young alternating apprentices in livestock farming, before concluding with a discussion session with the staff of the Mageyo Vocational Training Center. According to the coordinator of PACEJ, Mrs. Béatrice Samandari, the purpose of the visit is to conduct a self-assessment in order to understand the challenges and seek ways to overcome them, thus achieving the predefined objectives of the project.

She thanked the World Bank team, particularly the sector director for education, who came to learn about the achievements of these young apprentices. She expressed her gratitude to this Bretton Woods institution for its various forms of support provided to the government of Burundi, particularly in the field of education, which is the cornerstone of a country's development.

The sector director for education at the World Bank, Mrs. Meskerem Mulatu, expressed confidence that these apprentices will acquire skills in agriculture and livestock. Furthermore, they have already begun to integrate into the value chain between production and the processing of products.

The young beneficiaries are pleased with this training and are requesting support in tools and other materials to sustain the knowledge gained from this training. This project aimed at improving the skills and employability of women and youth covers the entire country and collaborates with all vocational training centers, the University of Burundi, artisans, and producers who mentor these young people. (RTNB)

REMARKS DECLARED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ALBERT SHINGIRO, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI ON THE OCCASION OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE RUSSIA-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP FORUM

Sotchi, November 10, 2024

Your Excellency Mr Sergey LAVROV, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation,

Your Excellencies Ministers, my dear counterparts,

Excellencies Representatives of international and regional organizations,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen, all protocol observed,

- 1) First of all, on behalf of my fellow delegation, I thank the Government and people of Russia, and more particularly citizens of the city of Sochi, for the warm and fraternal welcome and all the attention my delegation and I have received since our arrival in this beautiful and splendid city of Sochi.
- 2) **Excellencies, Ministers, distinguished delegates,** this conference comes at the right time and is in line with the recommendations of the Second Russia-Africa Summit held in 2023 which, as you know, introduced a new format for dialogue that will regularly meet at ministerial level.
- 3) This first conference offers to us an excellent and unique opportunity to hold frank and sincere discussions in a climate of trust and mutual respect, with a view to strengthening the multifaceted and multidimensional cooperation between Russia and African countries in all its aspects: politics, security, the economy, trade, science and education, culture and humanitarian aid, international information security as well as the cooperation in international organizations.

4) Our common goal today is to strengthen and diversify existing harmonious relations between the Russian Federation and Africa in a number of areas that meet the interests of our peoples. At this point, I would like to focus on cooperation in the fight against terrorism, international information security, and the prevention of space arms race.

5) Indeed, current international relations are marked by a series of misunderstandings and unilateralist trends, some of which are factors of dangers capable of threatening the foundations of multilateralism. The ambivalence in politico-strategic approaches, where two trends seem to be emerging, namely those seeking the status quo of a quasi-unipolar world, and those seeking emergence of a multipolar world, is also a source of concern. I have to say that resistance to the advent of a multipolar world is a waste of time, because this world that we want, this world where our countries will have free choice to enter into partnerships with countries of their choice, this world where political independence of our countries will be a reality, we can already see it coming at the end of the tunnel and no one will be able to stop this moment towards multilateralism that is inclusive and respectful of all countries, whatever their size, level of development or geographical location.

6) **In terms of peace and security**, we call on all parties to the numerous conflicts currently tearing the world apart to use the tools for the peaceful resolution of disputes that preventive diplomacy makes available to us. I would mention dialogue, cooperation and negotiation to avoid the flare-up and recurrence of violent conflicts. Everyone knows how war starts, but no one can predict its end with any accuracy. Messages of peace should therefore take precedence over the arms race and the obsession of some parties to conflicts to win at all costs through muscle diplomacy, ignoring the vital interests of both sides, but also forgetting that wars can never be won, because they leave behind a whole chain of ruin, misfortune, humiliation, desolation, heartbreak and despair among the populations we are supposed to protect.

7) Concerning this situation, Burundi reiterates its commitment to cooperate with all countries in the world to fight against international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We also recognize that terrorism cannot and must not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnic origin.

8) We also remain concerned about the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, which continues to be a threat to international peace and security, particularly in Africa. We stress the importance of strengthening international cooperation with a view to implementing the African initiative to silence arms on the African continent by 2030.

9) Speaking of international peace and security, we cannot pass over in silence the thorny issue of the reform of the United Nations Security Council, whose negotiations have become elastic to the detriment of Africa, the only continent excluded from the category of permanent members and which is under-represented among the non-permanent members elected for a two-years term. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Russian Federation for its ongoing and unconditional support for the common African position on this issue reflected in the Consensus of Ezulwini and the Declaration of Syrte, which aims at correcting this notorious historical injustice against Africa. It is not right to continue to exclude 1.4 billion African citizens from the table where more than 70% of the decisions affecting them are taken.

10) **Your Excellencies Ministers, distinguished participants,** at a time when the world and trade are becoming increasingly digital, it is now imperative for all countries to have access to the Internet, including artificial knowledge, which is making the revolution of the world. The ever-widening gap between the countries of the global North and South means that the latter are losing out on a large number of social, scientific and economic opportunities. There is an urgent need to bridge this digital gap in the legitimate interests of current and future generations.

11) **With regard to the prevention of space arms race**, Burundi advocates methodical and committed inter-state cooperation for the peaceful use of outer space. The major space powers and interested developing countries should conduct a constructive and frank dialogue for the exclusively peaceful use of outer space in the interests of all mankind. Burundi will join efforts to strengthen and develop an international political framework to ensure strategic stability, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

12) **Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests**, this conference is an ideal opportunity to strengthen partnership and open collaboration between African countries and the Russian Federation in key areas of development and stability in the world. To build a robust partnership that can have a positive impact on the lives of our peoples, particular emphasis should be placed on promoting investment, trade, education, health, agriculture, food security and sovereignty, geological exploration through win-win partnerships, and the transfer of technology and skills.

13) Lastly, I would extend my congratulations to the Russian Government and People for their excellent organization of the 16th BRICS Summit on Russian soil in Kazan from October 22 to 24, 2024. The resounding success of this Summit was a shared success and gave a glimmer of hope to the countries of the global South that the BRICS could gradually constitute a viable alternative and a counterpoint to the unipolar world we live in today.

14) Before wrapping up, I would like to reiterate Burundi's firm commitment to working together with other African countries to build, strengthen and perpetuate a solid, pragmatic and mutually supportive partnership with the Russian Federation in a spirit of trust and mutual respect through mutually beneficial partnerships.

Thank you for your kind attention!

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

www.mae.gov.bi

Twitter: @MAEBurundi