

# REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and  
Development Cooperation

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### The Head of State leads a moralization session at the location of the body of justice



**T**his Tuesday, August 24, 2021 in Bujumbura, the economic capital of Burundi, the President of the Republic and Supreme Magistrate HE Evariste Ndayishimiye led a moralization session on good governance and patriotism for the Burundian justice body, in the goal of seeing how to improve services in this area, especially since it has already been shown that this sector is plagued by many evils and imperfections, particularly concerning corruption, economic embezzlement, etc.

It was a high level meeting which saw the participation of the Ombudsman of the Republic, Hon. Edouard Nduwimana, the Minister of Justice, magistrates, notaries, members of the bar, executives and senior executives working in the field of justice, magistrates of the various courts and tribunals and other officials working in this field, who were gathered in the premises of Lycée Nyakabiga in Bujumbura Town Hall. In this session, which is part of a morali-

zation campaign started a few months ago by the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye for the various socio-professional categories of the Burundian population, the Burundian Number One asked participants to draw inspiration from traditional law, morality, virtue and the social life of our ancestors and other normative sources, behaviors focused on daily life in order to be able to restore the image of Burundian justice.

As Supreme Magistrate, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye reminded them that they play the role of guarantors of fair justice. He insisted on the patriotic spirit which should animate all Burundian magistrates, so that they do not become complicit in any social injustice. He also invited them to invest in it to satisfy the entire population which has a lot of indignation today, especially in relation to the difficulty of access to fair justice, the delays in the implementation of the jurisdictions where he is more than urgent to carry out a profound reform of this sector.

The Head of State also said that Burundi is full of great potential for economic recovery. He called on members of the Burundian judiciary to know how to serve the people, the only real holder of power. To ensure

In this edition:	page
The Head of State leads a moralization session at the location of the body of justice	1
Opening of the meeting of the central committee of the CNDD-FDD party	2
The First Lady calls for a strong mobilization to support the National School Feeding Program	3
An ordinary session administration council of the CERDOTOLA will be held in Bujumbura from August 24 to 27, 2021	4
Holding of the 10th Ordinary Session of the Administration Council of International Center of Research and Documentation on African Traditions and Languages	6
Media Rease nr 24 consecutive to the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 25 august 2021	10

good governance in Burundi, the Head of State has also made it known that he is committed, on behalf of the People who mandated him, to crack down on all forms of corruption and economic malfeasance. In order to be able to guarantee this safer approach towards sustainable socio-economic development, he called on all members of the judiciary to banish corruption and other related offenses forever.

Before closing this moralization session, the Father of the Nation heard the grievances of some of the members of the Burundian justice body who expressed their concerns and their wishes. His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye encouraged them and promised to stay by their side. He finally invited them to work in synergy to promote fairness that greatly meets the expectations of the entire population. ([www.presidente.gov.bi](http://www.presidente.gov.bi))

## Opening of the meeting of the central committee of the CNDD-FDD party



the success of the projects and programs of the country, love the work. A good leader must have parental responsibility towards the people. Leaders from CNDD-FDD are called to remain humble, accept advice and learn from others. They must be helpful and supportive and win the trust of the population, insisted Honorable Réverien Ndikuriyo Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD Party.

The Head of State and President of the Council of Elders provided advice to members of the Central Committee. He welcomed the

**T**he CNDD-FDD party opened Thursday, August 26, 2021, a meeting of the Central Committee which will last two days at Buye in Mwumba commune of Ngozi province. The President of the Republic and President of the Council of Elders His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye also took part in this meeting. At the opening of the meeting, the Secretary General Honorable Réverien Ndikuriyo specified that this is an opportunity to assess the step taken since the last elections.

After evaluating the achievements recorded since the elections, the central committee will set itself the next steps to achieve the development goals that the ruling party has set for itself. The Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD calls on the party leaders to carry out works that honor their party.

To win this bet, the leaders from the CNDD-FDD must respect certain principles. The leaders must respect the principle of the primacy of the Almighty, love and pray God, intercede for the country and its leaders, pray for

holding of this meeting because the central committee of the CNDD-FDD party is the body that takes major decisions and is responsible for the implementation of the projects and programs of the party and the country, adopted for the development and well-being of the population.

On the eve of the meeting of the CNDD-FDD party central committee which is held on Thursday and Friday in Ngozi, all the participants were tested for Covid 19. Mrs. Nancy Ninette Mutoni, Spokeswoman for this party indicates that this screening is organized to allow everyone to know their state of health. It is also a way of respecting the advice of health professionals regarding the COVID19 pandemic. This CNDD-FDD central committee has around 100 members. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## The First Lady calls for a strong mobilization to support the National School Feeding Program



**D**uring a feedback session on the lessons learned on the school integrated feeding program in Benin, this Tuesday, August 24, 2021, the First Lady Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye and President of the OPDAD called for a strong mobilization to support the national school feeding program in Burundi.

She urges Burundians to learn from Benin, which has a strong involvement of the government, local communities and technical and financial partners: "I take this opportunity to call on the population to take ownership of the national school feeding program, in particular parents of the students, by contributing with the little means they have. We cannot always count on the financial support of partners when we are able. It is high time to act."

In addition, Her Excellency the First Lady urges offi-

cial from the Ministry of National Education to revitalize the school garden system so that they also contribute to the sustainability of this program.

The national school feeding program in Burundi does not cover all the schools in the country for lack of sufficient resources, to which must be added the theft of food and a weak contribution from local communities, revealed Mr Liboire Bigirimana, National Director of School Canteens through a presentation made on the inventory. He added that this year it is planned to feed 660,000 schoolchildren for a budget of 14,543,110 US dollars.

Despite the lack of resources, the national school feeding program in Burundi has grown since the First Lady became its godmother," said Mr. Housainou Taal, Representative of the WFP, which reaffirmed the commitment of this organization to support the national school feeding program in order to continue to intervene in the fight against malnutrition.

During the discussions, the participants warmly saluted the leadership of Her Excellency the First Lady in the fight against malnutrition in Burundi and particularly for the promotion of the national school feeding program. Thus, the World Bank and certain international organizations such as the African Development Bank (AfDB) and International Funds for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have undertaken to provide their support.

[www.presidence.gov.bi](http://www.presidence.gov.bi)

## The First Lady urges parents to instill in their children values of valuing the work

**W**hile proceeding to the official launch of the activities of the "société Bene Ntare", this Wednesday, August 25 in Bujumbura, the First Lady, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye asked parents to instill good values relating to the valuation of work in their children.

"I take this opportunity to challenge parents to develop the love of work in their children to allow them to establish a solid foundation for their lives." Suggested the First Lady while announcing that it is time to stop the empty words but rather take action.

The "société Bene Ntare", created on July 1, 2020 brings together around 500 young people of various

talents who exercise different jobs with the aim of promoting their economic empowerment and contributing to the development of the country, revealed the Chief Executive Officer of the Company Miss Ndayishimiye Keza Navie Quetsia. The daughter of His Excellency the President of the Republic added that this company which offers various services intends to concentrate its energy in the manufacture of export products which will bring currency into the country and which will also contribute to the influence of Burundi in the concert of nations.

The launch of the activities of the "société Bene Ntare" was marked by the visit of the offices and the

exhibition of the products and services that are offered to the public. By carrying out this guided tour, Her Excellency the First Lady went to encourage other young people grouped together in the companies MOFAV Burundi and Let Company who also made it their mission to exploit their talents in order to create a better future. She took the opportunity to buy some items there to promote their products.

Not that as an encouragement, HE the First Lady offered a donation of 2 sewing machines to the “société Bene Ntare” within the framework of the Organization of the First Ladies of Africa in order to support this young generation with a promising future. ([www.presidence.gov.bi](http://www.presidence.gov.bi))

### An ordinary session administration council of the CERDOTOLA will be held in Bujumbura from August 24 to 27, 2021



**T**his Tuesday, August 24, 2021, on the behalf of His Excellency the President of the Republic, HE Vice-President Ir Prosper BAZOMBANZA received in audience, at the Presidential Palace NTARE HOUSE, the Executive Secretary of the International Center for Research and Documentation on African Traditions and Languages (CERDOTOLA), Mr Charles BINAM BIKOI. They exchanged views on ways and means to strengthen relations between CERDOTOLA and Burundi.

The Executive Secretary said he is also coming for an ordinary session of the CERDOTOLA Board of Directors which is being held in Bujumbura during the period of August 24-27, 2021.

CERDOTOLA was established in 1977 by the States of East and Southern Africa. To this end, the Executive Secretary indicated that the organization has

reached the age of maturity, that opportunities to work together exist and that the contribution of Burundians is necessary. He also stresses that Africa is reclaiming its dignity through the appropriation and enhancement of its heritage, culture and language.

Speaking, the Vice-President of the Republic began by welcoming the Executive Secretary of CERDOTOLA to our country. He added that thanks to the peace and security that reign throughout the national territory, CERDOTOLA has chosen to hold its board session in Burundi. He also affirmed that Burundi is well prepared to support the project to build the regional office and a house dedicated to culture in Burundi. ([www.presidence.gov.bi](http://www.presidence.gov.bi))

## The Prime Minister of the Republic of Burundi officially launches the industrial fair



**P**rime Minister CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni proceeded on Thursday, August 26, 2021, to the official launching ceremonies of the 4th edition industrial fair, organized by the Association of Industrialists of Burundi.

This industrial fair was marked by exhibitions of products, knowledge and technology under the theme: "a dynamic and responsible industrial sector committed to increasing exports and creating jobs".

The President of the Association of Industrialists of Burundi (AIB) Mr. Olivier Suguru specified that apart from the exhibition in this show, products made in Burundi, the participants will follow conferences related to exports and the creation of jobs for young people.

Mr. Olivier Suguru informed that at the end of the 3 days that this 4th edition industrial fair will last, solutions to certain challenges will be proposed but others do not find answers, among others the lack of qualified labor, the he lack of creativity, the lack of certifica-

tion of Burundian products, said Olivier Suguru.

The President of the AIB launches a strong appeal to the authorities of the country for a deep and structural reform of the Burundian Office for Standardization and quality control (BBN) with a view to its harmonization with the other offices of the EAC like the Burundian Office for Revenue (OBR), popularization and appropriation of laws on counterfeiting and industrial property.

Prime Minister CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni indicated in his speech that this 4th edition industrial fair offers an appropriate framework for Burundian companies to share their experiences and establish partnerships with other companies in the sub-region according to the win-win principle, said the Prime Minister. He urges Burundian industrialists to manufacture good quality products to make them competitive on the sub-regional, continental and even global market.

Prime Minister CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni said that the government of Burundi will spare no effort to develop the industrial sector. On this occasion, he called on Burundian industrialists to use their know-how so that Burundi, the region as well as the whole world is inundated with products made in Burundi.

On this occasion of the official launch of this 4th edition industrial fair, Prime Minister Alain Guillaume Bunyoni visited the stands of various industrial products. The industries that stood out received trophies. These are Savoror, Rudipaints and Azam.

[www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi)

## The President of the Senate appreciates the services of the Senators

**T**he Burundian Senate celebrated, on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, in Gitega, its 1st anniversary at work for its 2020-2025 mandate. The ceremonies saw the presence of the former Speaker of the Senate Honorable Réverien Ndikuriyo, the current Secretary General of the ruling party CNDD-FDD as well as other distinguished guests.

In his message for the occasion, the Speaker of the



Senate the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera thanked the Lord who kept him during the past year as well as the members of the Senate and his staff. He was delighted with the good collaboration that exists between the Senators and the Senators of the Senate, which facilitates the

smooth running of the activities of this institution.

The President of the Senate appreciated the performances of the senators during the period of a past

year. To encourage the participation of Senators in the holding of oral question sessions, he suggested that at least five oral questions be addressed to members of the Government per ordinary session.

As the guest of honor at the 1st anniversary ceremonies at the work of the Senate 2020-2025, the former Speaker of the Senate Honorable Réverien Ndikuriyo and Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD, encouraged the Senate

in its research work of the truth in relation to the events of 1972, in order to reconcile the Burundians.

In the morning, the Senators had visited the Germans' flaws of Nyakazu and the Karera falls in Rutana province. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## Holding of the 10th Ordinary Session of the Administration Council of International Center of Research and Documentation on African Traditions and Languages



**O**n August 26, 2021, the Minister of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture Ambassador Ezéchiel NIBIGIRA opened the work of the 10th Ordinary Session of the Administration Council of the International Center of Research and Documentation on African Traditions and Languages (CERDOTOLA). This Session was organized from August 24 to 28, 2021 in Bujumbura.

In his remarks, Ambassador Ezéchiel NIBIGIRA warmly thanked the Executive Secretariat of the CERDOTOLA who chose to hold this 10th Ordinary Session of the Administration Council of the CERDOTOLA in Burundi. He said that this is eloquent testimony to the confidence that this institution places in Burundi, which is obvious because Burundi has contributed to the smooth running of the CERDOTOLA, of which it has been a founding member since its creation in 1977.

The work of this 10th Ordinary Session of the Administration Council of the International Center for Research and Documentation on African Traditions and Languages (CERDOTOLA) continued behind closed doors.

Among the main conclusions of this 10th Ordinary Session of the Administration Council of the International

Center for Research and Documentation on African Traditions and Languages (CERDOTOLA) is the resolution to establish in Burundi a regional office of CERDOTOLA for the Southern Africa and East Africa.

Speaking of the resolution that had just been announced, the Executive Secretary of CERDOTOLA, Mr. Charles BINAM BIKOI congratulated Burundi, and suggested that the time has come to build together the dynamics in order to have good results.

As for the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research Dr François HAVYARIMANA who closed the work of this 10th Ordinary Session of the Administration Council he said that the Government of Burundi says it is satisfied and honored by the holding of this session in Bujumbura,

whose importance is no longer to be demonstrated in order to support the growth of country members. He finally thanked, on the behalf of the Government of Burundi, the Administration Council of the CERDOTOLA for the resolution establishing the regional office in Burundi.

Let's recall that the participants in the work of the 10th Ordinary Session of the Administration Council of the International Center for Research and Documentation on Traditions and African Languages (CERDOTOLA) began on August 25, 2021 with an excursion inside the country where they visited the source of the Nile in Bururi and the Karera Falls in Rutana.

( MFADC )



## Interview: Cooperation between Burundi, China is very fruitful, says Burundi official

**T**he cooperation between Burundi and China dating back to 1963 and further reinforced in 2000 through the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

has been fruitful, a senior Burundian official told Xinhua in an exclusive interview.

"The cooperation between Burundi and China is very fruitful because it is win-win cooperation. China brings financial, diplomatic and political support and Burundi does reciprocity in the diplomatic and political sectors," said Ines-Sonia Niyubahwe, spokesperson of the Burundian Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Ministry.

According to Niyubahwe, Burundi has taken advantage of multiple support in the context of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) since 2000. In the farming sector, China notably deployed high-level experts in agriculture including agronomists and interpreters in 2012 to help modernize Burundi's agriculture.

"Those Chinese experts have various specializations including veterinary medicine, fisheries, agriculture mechanization, rice growing and fertilization," she said, adding that those Chinese experts have contributed to the fight against hunger and the eradication of poverty in Burundi.

Niyubahwe indicated that the China-funded pilot farming research center on rice located in the province of Bubanza, western Burundi, operational since 2015, is contributing to the fight against poverty.

Regarding the energy sector, China has funded the



construction of a hydropower plant on the river Ruzibazi in the province of Bujumbura. The construction of the plant kicked off on Sept. 20, 2019, and has

reached a satisfactory step.

"In addition to the Ruzibazi hydropower plant project, China signed an agreement to provide technical assistance for the operation of three hydropower plants namely Mugere, Ruvyironza and Gikonge," said Niyubahwe. According to her, China also agreed to train Burundian technicians, to rehabilitate those dams and to partially provide spare parts for those dams.

In the medical sector, Niyubahwe said the cooperation between Burundi and China is very good with the deployment of missions of Chinese medical experts like ophthalmologists who treat patients suffering from cataracts.

Other Chinese medical specialists in radiology, surgery, and laboratory medical equipment were also sent to Burundi.

"China has also contributed a lot in the fight against the current COVID-19 pandemic through providing Burundi with medical and protection kits against the pandemic," she said.

"We hope that cooperation will continue to increase in order to reach a historic level," she added. ([http://www.news.cn/english/africa/2021-08/28/c\\_1310154643.htm](http://www.news.cn/english/africa/2021-08/28/c_1310154643.htm))

## Disaster risk management at the heart of the National Platform for Risk Prevention and Disaster Management



**T**he Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security, through the National Platform for Risk Prevention and Disaster Management (PFN-PRGC) organized in Ngozi with the support of UNDP and IOM, a workshop for training and harmonizing the knowledge of risk prevention and disaster management actors. This workshop lasted two days.

As indicated by the President of the National Platform for Risk Prevention and Disaster Management Police Commissioner Anicet Nibaruta, the objective of the workshop was to have the same reading of the missions that are assigned to the National Platform for Disaster Management Risk Prevention. It is about helping people, protecting their property and protecting the environment in an emergency. He also clarified that it was a retreat to upgrade knowledge in the field of disaster risk reduction with new members of the national platform and other humanitarian actors.

During the two days, the participants discussed the mission of the national platform in charge of disaster management. According to the president of the platform, they analyzed together the state of affairs in Burundi. They learned about how disaster risk reduction is done globally and regionally. They noted that Burundi shows significant enough progress to have put in place disaster risk reduction structures from the national to the local level, continued CP Anicet Nibaruta.

During the workshop, the Chair of the platform said that this structure has developed preparation and response tools including the contingency plan for the national disaster risk reduction strategy, aligned with the global framework for disaster risk reduction. disaster risks and at the national development plan. "The National Disaster Mana-

gement Platform is on track with global guidance and recommendations to better reduce risk and manage disasters," said CP Anicet Nibaruta.

Despite these advances, the President of the PFN-PRGC stressed that there is still a long way to go. It is for this reason that recommendations have been made so that the platform can live up to its mission.

This involves, among other things, pursuing community awareness activities to reduce the impact of bush fires and road accidents which cause many deaths and investing in the integration of disaster risk reduction aspects. and adaptation to climate change in communal community development plans.

For him, we can no longer speak of disaster management today without taking into account the concept of risks. He said that these concepts of disaster management will be systematically integrated into school curricula because the national platform wants children to learn from an early age, aspects of disaster risk reduction and the aspect of climate change.

Regarding the management of the victims of floods linked to the overflowing of the waters of the Rusizi, Mpanda and Kajeke rivers associated with the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika, the members of the national platform agreed to focus much more on the management of this issue together with the General Directorate of Regional Planning and the General Directorate for the Integration of Disasters at the level of the Ministry in charge of National Solidarity.

The participants in this workshop also made an assessment of priority needs in Rumonge province and Makamba province and noted that people and households were affected by the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika which caused their displacement. These people need to be assisted and the national platform is in the process of building up humanitarian assistance that it will provide to these households. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## OBR warns all who use children in customs fraud



**T**he Office Burundais des Recettes (OBR) met on Tuesday August 17, 2021, stakeholders in the field of child protection to raise awareness in the fight against child labor in informal trade, fraud and smuggling. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss ways and means of protecting children against the abuse of fraud.

OBR Director of Communications Stany Ngendakumana said the OBR was surprised to see taxpayers steeped in fraud use children in these activities, especially at borders.

Mr. Stany Ngendakumana said that from now on all the children who will be caught in the street with informal goods or contraband goods or customs fraud will be handed over to human rights associations to help search for

the perpetrators so that they are brought to justice and tried for having abused these children.

During the interventions, they agreed that it is necessary to sensitize families, collaborators as well as taxpayers themselves to renounce this bad practice of using children in customs, tax and smuggling fraud activities. Recommendations were formulated at the end of this meeting, among others: increase the number of ideas exchange sessions between the OBR and other stakeholders responsible for applying the law, advocate for children used in fraud and smuggling, exchanging information and sharing information etc ...

[www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi)

1

**REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI****PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
Secretariat-General of the State****MEDIA RELEASE NO 24 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 AUGUST 2021**

A Cabinet Meeting was held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2021, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi.

After the presentation of the agenda, His Excellency the President of the Republic invited the Prime Minister to present the summary of the observations resulting from the preparatory meeting of the Council of Ministers which the Prime Minister chaired on Monday 23 August 2021, and which was devoted to the analysis of the same files on the agenda.

After restitution by the Secretary General of the State to the President of the Republic, the the following items were analyzed:

**1. Draft decree on the missions, organization and functioning of the Permanent Secretariat of the Superior Council of Magistracy, presented by the Minister of Justice.**

The Constitution of the Republic of Burundi provides for the establishment of an organ in matters of justice, called the "Superior Council of the Magistracy", the presidency of which is ensured by the President of the Republic in his capacity as Supreme Magistrate.

The missions and powers assigned to this body are specified in Organic Law No.1 / 02 of January 23, 2021 amending Organic Law No.1 / 13 of June 12, 2019 on the organization and functioning of the Superior Council of the Magistracy.

This law provides for a Permanent Secretariat to support the Superior Council of Magistracy.

Decree n ° 100/063 of 22 September 2020, reorganizing the services of the Presidency of the Republic for its part, places the Permanent Secretariat of the Superior Council of the Magistracy, among the specialized administrations under the Presidency of the Republic.

This draft decree clarifies how this Permanent Secretariat will operate.

The Permanent Secretary of the Superior Council of Magistracy is called upon to coordinate the activities of the Permanent Secretariat of the Superior Council of Magistracy and of the Permanent Secretariat of the Superior Council of Prosecutors. It is placed under the direct authority of the President of the Republic

The Permanent Secretariat of the Superior Council of Magistracy is made up of three specialized units responsible respectively for the good administration of justice and the fight against impunity, the discipline and career of magistrates, and finally administrative and financial affairs.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers adopted this project with, among other observations:

- Prepare a presentation note for this draft decree;
- Combine or put under the same chapter provisions which deal with the same subject;
- Properly frame the scope of action of the Superior Council of Magistracy with regard to judicial decisions because it only intervenes for appeals on decisions that have become final;
- Specify that the Permanent Secretariat makes proposals to the Superior Council of the Magistracy and not to the Government.

## 3

The Ministers in charge of Justice, the Interior and National Education will support in the finalization of this text.

**2. Draft ministerial order establishing a framework for participatory management of protected areas in Burundi**, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

Protected areas were created but their management used methods that excluded local populations, hence the birth of conflicts around these protected areas.

Yet local communities are the first to exert pressure on the resources of protected areas to meet their multiple needs, including the search for fuelwood, the search for medicinal plants and food resources.

The coordination of management actions for protected areas is the responsibility of the Office Burundais pour la Protection de l'Environnement with regard to its missions, but it cannot do it alone without the participation of other partners, in particular the local administration, the local populations, etc.

To address the shortcomings observed, Law No. 1/10 of March 30, 2011 establishing protected areas in Burundi indicates the mechanism for participation and engagement of stakeholders in the management of existing and future protected areas. It also provides for the establishment of a support committee for each protected area.

However, some protected areas do not have a support committee, and even for those that do, their establishment and organization are not uniform.

This draft ordinance standardizes the management mode of protected areas by establishing a participatory management framework. It sets up a support committee made up of officials from the body in charge of protected areas, officials from the local administration and elected representatives of the neighbouring populations.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with, among other recommendations:

## 4

- Avoid the use of the term "indigenous" in the text because it creates confusion with the risk of singling out part of the population;
- Specify that the body responsible for the protection of protected areas is the Burundian Office for the Protection of the Environment "OBPE";
- Use the term "protection of areas" instead of "conservation of protected areas" to avoid confusion in interpretation.

**3. Draft ministerial order regulating the rights of use of biological resources in protected areas and other natural environments**, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

Currently, it is increasingly recognized that any initiative to conserve biological diversity that does not take into account the rights, needs and interests of local communities is doomed to failure.

Indeed, many protected areas are created on the ancestral territories of these communities, from which they have often been expelled.

The question that arises is to know to what extent and in what terms customary rights and traditional practices of local communities can be recognized in the context of the management of protected areas in Burundi.

Law n ° 1/10 of May 30, 2011 on the creation of protected areas in Burundi provides for the promotion of user rights, but this promotion is only possible through adequate regulations that take into account the real situation of users and biological resources concerned by the right of use.

This draft ordinance is proposed within this framework, and fixes in particular the general principles for the management of the biological resources of protected areas and natural environments, the conditions of exercise of the rights of use, the tools essential for the rational exploitation of biological resources subject to user rights and control mechanisms, etc.

At the end of the discussions, the draft ordinance was adopted with, among other recommendations:

## 5

- Provide for an exception with regard to research activities, for the take-pay principle to be applied to any activity linked to the removal of genetic or biological resources;
- Provide a temporary zone before the protected area where activities can be carried out;
- Have the annexes approved by the Minister in charge of the Environment before their signature by the Director General of the Burundian Office for the Protection of the Environment;
- Enrich the list of biological resources concerned and write their names in Kirundi;
- Specify that the annexes are an integral part of the text.

**4. Draft ministerial order regulating the management of invasive alien species**, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

One of the main threats to biodiversity is invasive species.

These threats take different forms and affect native species and the structure and function of ecosystems.

Invasive alien species can also have a significant adverse effect on human health and the economy.

Considering the fact that new invasive alien species are likely to be introduced at any time in Burundi and that the species already present are spreading and expanding their range, there is an urgent need to take measures to stop their spread.

Law n ° 1/10 of May 30, 2011 on the creation of protected areas in Burundi already provides that the Ministry having nature conservation in its attributions takes the necessary measures to prevent the introduction of exotic species that threaten the ecosystems.

This draft ordinance is proposed as an implementing text of this law.

After analysis, the project was adopted with, among other recommendations, to rework the table annexed to the project concerning invasive alien species to be eliminated by arranging the names according to their family and in alphabetical order in collaboration with the Minister in charge of National Education.

## 6

The names of these species must be written in Kirundi.

**5. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS of the Republic of Burundi**, presented by the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.

The aim of this memorandum of understanding is to strengthen and develop joint and mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of health and medical science on the basis of the friendship between the two parties.

The parties will contribute in particular to development in the following areas:

- Prevention and control of infections;
- The training of specialists in the field of health;
- Prevention of non-communicable diseases;
- Protection of mother and child, etc. ...;

After discussion and debate, the draft memorandum was adopted.

**6. Note concerning the increase in the share capital at the Banque de l'Habitat du Burundi (formerly FPHU)**, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

The Fund for the Promotion of Urban Housing (FPHU) was created in 1989 with the sole shareholder of the State of Burundi with a share capital of 100 million Fbu. Its main mission was to finance the first housing for executives and agents of the State and parastatal enterprises.

From 1993, the Urban Housing Promotion Fund became a mixed company with a capital of Four Hundred Nine (409) million BIF distributed among fourteen (14) shareholders.

Currently, it has a capital of Thirteen Billion Nine Hundred and Thirty Five Million Six Hundred and Seventy Five Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Four Fbu (13,935,676,294) distributed among 27 shareholders, of which 67.08% belong to the State of Burundi.

In order to promote housing, the Government recommended that the Fund be transformed into a Bank, which would enable it to mobilize more resources.

## 7

This happened this year because the Urban Housing Promotion Fund (FPHU) became the "Housing Bank of Burundi" and was approved by the Bank of the Republic of Burundi.

It is in this context that this new bank wishes to mobilize the resources to increase its capital, from 13 billion of Fbu to 20 billion, which will come primarily from the contribution of current or potential shareholders.

The State of Burundi being the promoter and main shareholder, if it wants to maintain 67% of the shares, it is essential to increase its capital by Four Billion Six Eighty Fifteen Million Six Hundred Thousand BIF (4,695,600,000) in order to maintain its level of representativeness on the Board of Directors.

After analyzing the Note, the Council of Ministers recognized the need for the Fund to become a Bank and made the following observations and recommendations:

- The process of transferring the Fund to the Bank was carried out without the State, the main shareholder, having been consulted by its representatives in the administrative bodies of the Fund;
- It is necessary to establish responsibilities for the shortcomings observed in this process;
- A detailed note explaining the process of transfer from the Fund to the Bank is required;
- It must be ensured that the Fund's initial missions, namely the promotion of housing, remain the same;
- We must ensure that the Bank really works in order to promote housing by lowering the interest rate so that it stands out from commercial banks;
- It is necessary to ensure that the staffs meet the necessary conditions required for a Bank.

The Minister in charge of infrastructure will ensure that the legal framework governing this new structure is put in place and that the recommendations made are implemented.

**7. Note on the start-up of the Burundi Digital Broadcasting Company (STNB),** presented by the Minister of Communication, Information Technologies and Media.

The government of Burundi and the Chinese company StarTimes Communication Network Technology Co Limited have agreed to create a mixed company responsible for the management, operation and maintenance of the digital television network as well as the

## 8

repayment of the credit contracted by the Burundian government for the establishment of the digital television broadcasting network.

The said company called Société de Télédiffusion Numérique du Burundi (STNB) was actually created in 2015, but is not really functional to date due to the lack of management bodies.

The articles of association of this company set its capital at 150 million fbu with shares distributed in proportions of 40% for the State of Burundi and 60% for Startimes.

The total cost of the contract was US \$ 32,600,000, a credit contracted by the State of Burundi, which was used to carry out the project.

The start-up of the Burundi Digital Television Company remains imperative to make digital television broadcasting operational and thus avoid the deterioration of the equipment installed since 2016.

This note indicates the crux of the problem, the steps taken to bring this file to fruition as well as the roadmap for the effective start of the company.

It also indicates the points that have not found consensus and to be negotiated with the Chinese side, namely:

- The distribution of statutory positions within the Board of Directors and General Management of the Burundi Digital Broadcasting Company;
- Funding of the start-up budget of the Burundi Digital Television Broadcasting Company;
- The contract between the Burundian side and the Burundi Digital Broadcasting Company for the management, operation and maintenance of the digital television infrastructure belonging to the State of Burundi as well as the repayment of the credit.

During the analysis of this Note, the Council of Ministers made the following observations:

- It is important to make the Société de Télédiffusion Numérique au Burundi (STNB) operational as quickly as possible;
- It is essential to check whether the contributions of the two parties make it possible to make the company operational and if necessary, increase the capital by the shareholders;

## 9

- We must negotiate the distribution of statutory positions within the Board of Directors and Management of the Digital Broadcasting Company in Burundi (STNB);
- It is necessary to ensure that the rights of the State of Burundi are safeguarded with regard to the management of the infrastructure because it is its property especially since it was put in place on the credit that it contracted;
- It is necessary to set up a team of experts to assess the contributions of each and audit the use of the funds that the company StarTimes has used for the establishment of the infrastructure;
- National Television must always be accessible free of charge.

### 8. Any Other Business

The Minister of National Education and Scientific Research presented a note relating to the setting of the minimum pass mark for the national competition and the orientation procedures for post-basic education, Edition 2021.

He indicated that the minimum pass mark for the national certification and orientation competition is 90/200, or 45%.

He also indicated the modalities of access to boarding school, in schools of excellence and in vocational training centres and in vocational education centres.

The Council of Ministers has asked that in terms of class size, it should be set at 50 students to take into account the possibilities of repetition.

Taking this new orientation into account, the minimum pass mark for the national certification and guidance competition of 45% may be slightly lowered.

**Done at Bujumbura, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE  
Secretary-General and Spokesman.-**

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

## Department of Communication

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