



Qatar is committed to supporting Burundi in its socio-economic development



On the sidelines of the fifth United Nations Conference for Less Developed Countries (LDCs) which took place in Doha, the President of the Republic of Burundi H.E Evariste Ndayishimiye met His Highness the Emir of Qatar on the means and procedures of strengthening bilateral cooperation . They also had an opportunity to discuss on the security situation in the Great Lakes Region and the multifaceted support that Qatar can provide in efforts to pacify the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. This meeting materialized the common will of the Burundian and Qatar leaders to move towards closer relations of friendship and cooperation. Thus, in the same perspective, an agreement between the Government of the State of Qatar and the Government of the Republic of Burundi con-

cerning the regulation of the employment of Burundian workers in the State of Qatar was signed two days after the interview. To mark Qatar's determination to support Burundi in its drive for socio-economic development, the President of the Republic H.E Evariste Ndayishimiye exchanged with Mr. Khalifa Alkawuri, Managing Director of the Qatar Fund for Development, on cooperation opportunities in the priority sectors, including education, health, agriculture and infrastructure. At the end of these fruitful exchanges, it was decided to set up a joint technical commission which will examine the needs and the main projects which will benefit from technical and financial support. On the same diplomatic aspect of his working visit to Doha, the Head of State of Burundi and current President of the East African Community(EAC), H.E Evariste Ndayishimiye discussed in private exchanges with H.E Philip Mpango, the Vice-President of the United Republic from Tanzania. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

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Conference on Less Developed Countries: An Agenda for Action 2022-2031 to move from potential to prosperity



On March 5, 2023, the President of the Republic H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye participated in the official launch ceremonies, at Doha, of the work of the fifth United Nations Conference on the Less Developed Countries, which was chaired by His Highness the Emir of Qatar.

Leaders, Partners and Representatives of organisations from the international community met in Qatar to discuss how to accelerate the sustainable development of Less Developed Countries. This Conference was prepared in the first part of the Conference held on March 17 and April 1, 2022 in the General Assembly, to adopt the Doha action program (2022-2031), which follows that of Istanbul (2011-2020).

During his speech, the UN Secretary-General took offense at the low level of action to change things and

called for unity in action: "We can and we must unite" to transform the words of the Doha Program of Action into tangible results. Mr. Antonio Guterres called for a "true revolution in terms of assistance" in three respects: immediate aid to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), support to mobilize and optimize national resources, and imperative reform of the global system financial institution by creating a "new Bretton Woods". Indeed, it will be "the approach" to solve the problems of the less developed countries over the next decade, claimed the Emir of Qatar, in his capacity as President of the Conference. H.H. Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani reminded the rich and developed countries of their moral responsibility to help less developed countries: "It is not a favor". By announcing himself a donation of sixty million dollars to support the implementation of the program, the Emir invited other Member States to follow his example.

During the general debate that followed, the President of the Republic of Burundi H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye indicated that the Doha action program represents a great hope for the less developed countries, in particular Burundi, whose potentialities can easily be transformed into realities if human and financial capital is activated. (www.presidence.gov.bi)

H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye: "We must strengthen the south-south cooperation"



From 5 to 9 March at Doha, the high-level round tables relating to the Doha Agenda for Action were organised by the United Nations to share the experiences of the experts and representatives of countries and organizations on the best ways and means of placing potential for the achievement of the Program of Action.

On March 7, 2023, the Head of State H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye co-chaired, with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, the high-level thematic round table on

"strengthening the participation of the less developed countries in international trade and regional integration".

President Evariste Ndayishimiye reminded the considerable challenges for the less developed countries to integrate into global trading systems and seize opportunities in global value chains.

Based on regional integration and international trade as engines of inclusive economic growth, this round table was an opportunity for H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye to highlight the double pain of landlocked States, such as Burundi: "we must strengthen the south-south cooperation."

Indeed, the south-south cooperation and the signing of regional trade agreements will contribute to meeting some of the challenges posed to less advanced countries by the international trading system. The Burundian

Head of State therefore stressed the importance of structural transformation to integrate effectively.

The round table also benefited from the substantial contributions of the participants in the interactive debate and some lessons were learned, in particular on the urgency of increasing support for the sustainable recovery of less developed countries which have been severely impacted by the Covid pandemic19 as well as the current geopolitical situation.

It also appeared that much remains to be done to

support the efforts of the less developed countries with a view to their integration into world and regional trade. Beneficial and meaningful participation of less developed countries requires building productive capacities, infrastructure development, value addition and trade in value added products.

A call was made for complementary and supportive trade policies at all levels because doubling the share of exports from the less developed countries by 2031, as foreseen in the Doha Program of Action, is a challenge, but possible if appropriate international support is in place. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

The Vice-President calls on Burundian women to get involved in digitalization to develop Burundi

The Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi HE Ir Prosper BAZOMBANZA enhanced, on march 8, 2023 at Cibitoke, the ceremonies marking the celebration of the International Women's Rights Day, under the theme: "committed leadership for innovative digitalization in promoting gender equality". He calls on Burundian women to become more involved in digitalization to contribute effectively to the development of the country.

The said ceremonies began with an ecumenical prayer, followed by a parade of women and girls from various institutions and organizations based in Burundi.

In his speech, the Vice-President of the Republic HE Prosper BAZOMBANZA said that Burundi joins the whole world in celebrating the day with the aim of evaluating the step taken to promote the rights of women and analyze together the contribution of women to the development of their country. Referring to the theme of the year, the Vice-President of the Republic specified that since the advent of digitalization, many people thought that these technologies would only concern developed countries, but we see that currently in our country, they are of great interest to us.

He further stated that the responsible and hard-working Government under the enlightened leadership of the Head of State, HE Evariste NDAY-



ISHIMIYE is at work to allow all Burundians, in their corner on the locality, to have access to electric current. in order to make digitalization more operational, given its importance in the development of the country (monetary transfer, information and others) without forgetting that digitalization contributes to economic growth, brings people closer together and allows better use of resources.

The Vice-President of the Republic ended his remarks by encouraging the Burundian population, including women, to work to increase production

and took the opportunity to thank the development partners for the good relations of cooperation they maintain with Burundi and wished to strengthen these links for the interest of the Burundian people.

It should be noted that this day was also an opportunity to reward women who have distinguished themselves by showing exceptional qualities in their sectors of activity. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

International Women's Day Celebration



On March 8 each year, the world celebrates the International Women's Day. This year, it was celebrated under the theme: "committed leadership for innovative digitalization in favor of gender equality." In Burundi, the high-level ceremonies took place in the province of Cibitoke and were enhanced by the Vice-President Ir. Prosper BAZOMBANZA.

The next day, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation brought together the women of the Ministry to share a beverage. These ceremonies were enhanced by the presence of the Permanent Secretary

them. According to her, it was a good sign that proves the value that the Ministry places on women. She also expressed her satisfaction because, according



to her, the Ministry spares no effort to encourage the women of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation in their daily activities.

To end her speech, Mrs. Rose NDAYIKEZA asked her colleagues to make great effort in their activities to contribute more to raising performance.

The Permanent Secretary Mr. Ferdinand BASHIKAKO who represented the Minister reminded the women of the Ministry that this was an opportunity offered to them to assess their role in development. He also invited the

women of the Ministry to meet as soon as possible to discuss actions they can take to strengthen their personal and socio-economic development. He indeed deplored the fact that they only meet on March 8 each year and called on them to change their behavior. (MFADC)



of the Ministry, Mr. Ferdinand BASHIKAKO.

In her speech, Mrs. Rose NDAYIKEZA who represented the gender unit at the Ministry warmly thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation for having thought of them for this day dedicated to

Signing of a military cooperation agreement between Burundi and the DRC



Military cooperation between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo is formalized. On

Monday, March 6, 2023, the Burundian Minister of Defense and Veterans Affairs Ir Alain Tribert Mutabazi and the Congolese Minister of Defense and Veterans Affairs Ir Gilbert Kabanda Kurhenga signed in Bujumbura, a bilateral defense cooperation agreement between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The signing of the military cooperation agreement crowned the work of the first session of the joint defense and security commission between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Minister Ir Alain Tribert Mutabazi welcomed the firm commitment of the two Governments to strengthen military cooperation for lasting peace in the Great Lakes region in general and on the Burundian-Congolese borders in particular.

This agreement will undoubtedly make it possible to fight against the proliferation of weapons and criminal and terrorist groups within this region, and thus stem cross-border crimes between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, declared the Burundian Minister in charge of Defense Ir Alain Tribert Mutabazi. He added that this will allow free movement of goods and people for the economic and social development of the Burundian and Congolese peoples.

The Burundian Minister in charge of Defense re-

mindful that Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo share maritime and land borders, favorable to significant trade between the two countries. But, he underlined, it has become difficult for the Congolese and the Burundians to take advantage of this good neighborhood, because of the criminals, who infiltrate or settle clandestinely on the territories of the two countries, thus becoming an impediment to development.

It is in this logic that the leaders at the top of the two countries have decided to strengthen cooperation in matters of defense and security so that Burundians and Congolese are restored to their rights to live in peace and to trade. , unhindered said the Minister Alain Tribert Mutabazi.

For his part, the Congolese Minister of Defense and former combatants of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gilbert Kabanda Kurhenga, this agreement is a decisive phase which will help to formalizing, laying the necessary bases for cooperation and thus accelerate the implementation of areas of cooperation, among others, exchange of defense attachés, information, intelligence and experience, fight against terrorism and counter-insurgency, training in military training establishments, technical assistance, exchanges of instructors and students, etc.

The Congolese Minister of National Defense of the Democratic Republic of Congo took an opportunity to welcome the exuberant efforts, the commitment of the Burundian authorities, who continue to support the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) in this period. , through their contributions to the operations carried out by the DRC in the south Kivu sector and within the framework of the EAC regional force for the stability of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the sub-region. (www.rtnb.bi)

Mwaro: the Minister in charge of agriculture collects the grievances of the population



As part of the implementation of the recommendations of the recent government retreat, the Minister of Environment,

Agriculture and Livestock Dr. Sanctus Niragira met on Thursday, March 09, 2023, the population of Mwaro province , with a view to collecting the grievances of the population and taking them into account in the development of the Annual Action Plans (AAP).

The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock

Dr. Sanctus Niragira said that the Government's priorities include safeguarding the environment in order to maintain soil fertility, public-private partnership for agro-food processing, the construction of storage sheds and the improvement of animal breeds.

Among the grievances of the population of Mwaro are, among others, the lack of equipment to accompany the agro-pastoralists, the exiguity of the land, the lack of development partners, poorly managed buildings and the soaring prices of foodstuffs.

To the question of the development partners who do not intervene in the province of Mwaro, the Minister Dr. Sanctus Niragira reassured by affirming that the

mapping of the interventions is already in place for a good distribution.

Regarding the state lands looted by individuals, he said that these lands will be requisitioned and allocated to co-operatives to increase production.

With regard to the explosion of food prices, Minister Dr. Sanctus Niragira indicated that it depends on the production available in the country. It is in this perspective that the Government of Burundi is at work to sensitizing the farmers, civil servants and economic operators to invest more in the agricultural field in order to increase production. (www.rtnb.bi)

The Minister in charge of agriculture explains the main priorities of the Ministry



The Minister of the environment, agriculture and livestock, Dr. Sanctus Niragira, outlined the main priorities of this Ministry, during his visit to Ngonzi province, on Friday March 10, 2023.

These are the protection of arable land in particular and the environment in general, the growth of agricultural and animal production, as well as the conservation and transformation of food production. Regarding the first axis, the Ministry provides for the use of good quality manure, the planting of trees on all the mountains and on the banks of watercourses, and the tracing of contour lines.

Speaking on irrigation, Dr. Niragira revealed that the Ministry has identified irrigable areas to erect adequate infrastructure to cultivate even during the arid period. With regard to the growth of agricultural and animal production, there are plans to increase seed centres, the creation of agropoles in the Karuzi and Cibitoke provinces and agricultural outreach centers as well as the introduction of new crops. For the breeding component, the Ministry intends to introduce thoroughbred animals from Kenya and Belgium. Some 310 cows should arrive shortly in breeding centers. Regarding the conservation and processing of production, it is a question of multiplying the processing units, creating agro-pastoral centers in the communes and phytosanitary and veterinary pharmacists. Among the major challenges, he highlighted the population explosion, climate change, the lack of seed centers and agricultural experts, not to mention the notorious lack of the necessary agricultural equipment, laboratory equipment and mobility tools for agronomists.

The True and Reconciliation Commission is preparing a new phase



The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CVR), has announced that it will begin in March 2023, the phase of public hearings on the violence committed in 1972-1973 throughout the country. These hearings are of three types: pub-

lic hearings, in camera hearings and thematic hearings. In a lively press briefing on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, Mr. Pierre Claver Ndayicariye, the president of the CVR announced that the pilot hearing will be organized in Ruyigi province, in a commune to be agreed with the administration.

For the president of the CVR, these public hearings will become the truths already found by this commission and will give a voice to more people: witnesses, victims, survivors, authors and the public.

According to the CVR, these hearings thus allow stakeholders (victims, perpetrators, alleged perpetrators, witnesses, etc.) to shed light on the painful past that Burundi has known in the global effort of effective reconciliation between Burundians.

The president of the CVR Ambassador Pierre Claver Ndayicariye pointed out that the elements collected by the CVR in these hearings cannot be

used against the victims, the witnesses, the alleged perpetrators and the other deponents.

According to the president of the CVR, these public hearings allow us to get out of globalization, to free speech as an individual and collective therapy and to leave the lies of the State and families behind.

(www.rtnb.bi)

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