



President Ndayishimiye opens the 5th edition of the Continental Dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security

In this Edition:

page



President Ndayishimiye opens the 5th edition of the Continental Dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security

1

The Burundian Head of State concludes the Continental Dialogue and celebrates Inkerebutsi Day with the youth

3

OPDD: Audience granted to the ECCAS delegation

4

Diplomacy: Signing of 14 cooperation agreements between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of Burkina Faso

6

Strengthening diplomatic cooperation between Burundi and Burkina Faso

7

EAC's contribution to the fight against cross-border crime

8

Burundi and the UN strengthen their cooperation for regional stability

9

African Solidarity: Minister Édouard BIZIMANA and the Group of African Ambassadors with Congolese Refugees in Busuma

10

EAC integrated water resources management strategy (2026-2035)

11

The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye, also the current Chairperson of the African Union and African Union Champion for the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, officially opened the 5th edition of the Continental Dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, expanded this year to include the Women, around the theme: "Water, Peace and Inclusive Leadership in Africa: institutionalizing the strategic role of youth and women in conflict prevention, crisis management and sustainable peace

building through responsible resource governance".

In his speech, the Burundian Head of State first welcomed the young people and the various participants before recalling that the Burundian capital was designated African Youth Capital by Decision 868 of the 37th Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, which also institutionalized the Continental Dialogue as an annual event to be held in Bujumbura.

President Ndayishimiye emphasized that this meeting provides an opportunity to strengthen dialogue, innovation, and the mobilization of African youth in support of peace, security, and sustainable development. Addressing the issue of water, the President recalled that the African Union has designated 2026 as the year: "Ensuring sustainable availability of safe water and sanitation to achieve the goals of Agenda 2063." He stressed that access to safe drinking water remains a challenge for millions of Africans, with particularly severe consequences for women, girls, and children who sometimes travel long distances to collect it.

According to the Head of State, ensuring equitable access to water contributes to improving public health, promoting girls' education, strengthening women's economic empowerment, and increasing agricultural production. However, the scarcity and mismanagement of this resource can also become sources of tension between states and communities. President Ndayishimiye specifically mentioned tensions related to the sharing of resources in the Nile Basin, as well as conflicts between farmers and herders over access to water and grazing land. He called for sustainable and inclusive water resource management, strengthened cooperation between states, and the mobilization of investment and innovation to make water a driver of development, peace, and prosperity. The second focus of the presidential address was on consolidating peace and security, presented as an essential condition for sustainable development and the integration of the continent.

The Burundian Head of State reiterated that the African Union's objective of silencing the guns remains essential to enabling the free movement of people, goods, and services and to fostering the full realization of the African Continental Free Trade Area. He stated that conflicts in Africa stem from several factors, including weak institutions and poor governance, economic factors and competition for resources, as well as certain effects of the colonial legacy and geopolitical dynamics.

President Ndayishimiye also drew attention to youth unemployment, which can make young people vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups. He encouraged young people to prioritize entrepreneurship and the creation of economic activities, believing that Africa still has significant resources and opportunities to be developed. In this context, he called on young people

to disengage from violence and become agents of peace, development, and transformation for the continent.

The President stated that extending the Continental Dialogue to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda reflects a commitment to strengthening women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution processes. He noted that women are often among the first victims of conflict, but that they also play a crucial role in preventing violence and consolidating peace, particularly within families and communities. He therefore called for strengthening their participation in political life and decision-making processes. Regarding youth, he emphasized the need to consider them not merely as beneficiaries of public policies, but as strategic actors in Africa's transformation.

President Ndayishimiye also advocated for inclusive leadership, based on the participation of all segments of society. He emphasized the need to involve young people and women more in decision-making processes. For him, leadership must be geared towards the collective good and grounded in African values such as unity, solidarity, and Ubuntu.

According to the Head of State, responsible resource governance is also an essential element of the continent's stability. Africa's natural resources must be managed transparently, equitably, and sustainably to combat the "resource curse" and transform them into genuine drivers of economic development. The President of the Republic of Burundi called for increased investment in education, new technologies, research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. He encouraged young people to have greater faith in their abilities and to use their creativity to contribute to the continent's transformation. He also cited several initiatives implemented in Burundi to promote the economic empowerment of young people and women, including the Youth Economic Empowerment and Job Creation Program (PAEEJ) and investment banks for youth and women.

In concluding his remarks, President Ndayishimiye expressed his hope that the work of this 5th edition resulted in an ambitious yet realistic roadmap for strengthening the contribution of young people and women to peace, security, and development in Africa. He called on participants to work towards an Africa that prioritizes integration, dialogue, innovation, and peace, and where young people and women are fully empowered to contribute to building a prosperous, integrated, and peaceful continent. **(Presidency)**

President Ndayishimiye inaugurated a drinking water distribution project



The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye, inaugurated on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, more than one hundred and eighty (180) public drinking water taps installed by the NGO AMAZI WATER in the localities of Tenga and Rubirizi in Bujumbura province.

This achievement reinforces efforts to promote universal access to drinking water and improve living conditions for the population. Addressing the beneficiaries, the Burundian Head of State expressed his gratitude to the NGO AMAZI WATER for this initiative, while encouraging them to continue their efforts to further contribute to improving access to drinking water in Burundi.

President Ndayishimiye emphasized that access to sufficient drinking water is essential for develop-

ment. Beyond meeting daily needs, water plays a crucial role in hygiene, sanitation, and disease prevention and control. The project relies on a borehole that currently collects approximately 600,000 liters of water, distributed through a 21-kilometer network of pipes. The ambition is to gradually increase this capacity to 3 million liters, with the goal of serving around 120,000 people. This initiative thus represents a significant contribution to efforts aimed at bringing drinking water closer to communities and reducing the difficulties associated with accessing it.

The Burundian Head of State also encouraged residents of areas lacking access to drinking water to work together and take initiatives, particularly by mobilizing to acquire pumps and pipes. These efforts can then be supported by the new "Water Initiative" service of the Presidency of the Republic, established to assist communities in their efforts to access this essential resource.

This project aligns with the vision of the President of the Republic of Burundi, who prioritizes access to drinking water, in accordance with the priorities of the African Union, thereby improving the living conditions of the population.

He further reassured that efforts will continue to ensure that all hills in Burundi have access to drinking water by 2030. **(Presidency)**

The Burundian Head of State concludes the Continental Dialogue and celebrates Inkerebutsi Day with the youth



The President of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Ange-

line Ndayishimiye, graced with his presence, on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at the Public Garden, the closing ceremonies of the 5th edition of the Continental Dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security in Africa, combined with the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, as well as the celebration of the 4th Inkerebutsi Day edition. High-ranking officials from the country, the African Union and development partners, alongside many young people from Burundi and several African countries, took part in these ceremonies.

In a festive atmosphere, punctuated by Burundian music and cheered by the audience, Inkerebutsi Day celebrated the talent, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit of Burundian youth. Among the ten finalist projects,

three were recognized and awarded by the Burundian Head of State.

The project that came in first place was Mr. Bosco Nzisabira's hydroelectric project. He received 20 million Burundian francs. The traditional Indangaburundi club, ranked second, received 15 million Burundian francs. Third place went to Dr. Jackson Nsabyumva, who received a trophy for his project to produce fertilizer from rabbit manure; he received 10 million Burundian francs.

Addressing the youth in his closing remarks, the Friend of Youth, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, shared a personal story, recalling the difficult circumstances he had faced throughout his life. He encouraged young people to work hard, to be entrepreneurial, and to join forces to combat poverty. He specifically urged them to invest more in agriculture and livestock farming, emphasizing that the key to progress lies in work, entrepreneurship, and job creation.

At the continental level, the current Chairperson of the African Union called on African youth to distance them-

selves from conflict and become a generation of peace ambassadors, committed to fighting poverty and injustice. He emphasized the essential role of young people and women, who must be considered architects of peace and not mere beneficiaries.

The 5th edition of the Continental Dialogue thus embodies the commitment made by President Ndayishimiye in his acceptance speech for the presidency of the African Union, particularly in favor of strengthening the complementarity between the Youth, Peace and Security and Women, Peace and Security agendas.

President Ndayishimiye concluded by calling for the establishment of mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the commitments made, in order to translate them into concrete actions. After thanking all those who contributed to the success of this important event, he invited the participants to bring this agenda to life in their respective countries. He concluded that Africa needs a youth that is empowered, engaged, and responsible, capable of taking its destiny into its own hands and building the Africa we want. **(Presidency)**

OPDD: Audience granted to the ECCAS delegation



On Wednesday, August 12, 2026, in Bujumbura Province, the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, received a high-level delegation from the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) who came to learn about the humanitarian activities of her foundation, "Bonne Action Umugiraneza." She was asked to sponsor a large gathering of women entrepreneurs from the region to visit the hospital offering free eye care. For his part, the President of the Economic Community of Central African States and Head of the delegation, Dr. Ezéchiel Nibigira, expressed his

admiration for the achievements observed there. He emphasized that by restoring health to citizens, these initiatives are a credit not only to Burundi but to the entire region. Dr. Nibigira made a passionate appeal to the entire region, the Burundian people, the ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States), and the international community, urging them to support the actions of the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation. He emphasized the essential role of this organization, which carries out noble and beneficial work focused on preserving human health, the true foundation of all development.

Concluding the discussions, the Commissioner of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in charge of gender equality, human development, and health, Mrs. Nelly Banaken Eleme, spoke on behalf of the entire delegation to express her warmest thanks. She congratulated the First Lady of Burundi, as well as the Government of Burundi, for all the actions undertaken to promote the health and general well-being of the population. Emphasizing the direct impact of free eye care on the daily lives of beneficiaries, she reiterated that "sight is life," thus justifying ECCAS's strong support for these initiatives that restore hope to the elderly. Speaking through the President of the ECCAS, Mrs. Banaken concluded by

gratefully assuring the First Lady of Burundi that she can count on ECCAS's continued support for all fu-

ture initiatives dedicated to the health of Burundians and all African peoples. **(Le Renouveau)**

Plenary session: MPs examine the evolution of the country's economic indicators



Under the chairmanship of the First Vice-Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, the Honorable Fabrice Nkurunziza, the National Assembly held a plenary session on Monday, August 10, 2026, dedicated to reviewing several reports from the Bank of the Republic of Burundi (BRB) concerning economic indicators. The analyzed reports highlighted the performance and challenges observed in various sectors of the national economy, including agricultural and industrial production, foreign trade, public finances, the monetary sector, and the banking sector.

The first report presented was an analysis of the Bank of the Republic of Burundi's economic indicators for October and December 2025. The report was presented by Member of Parliament Célestin Niyonsaba, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Good Governance and Privatization.

This report examines trends in production, prices, foreign trade, the exchange rate, public finances, the monetary sector, interest rates, and indicators of the banking sector's soundness. The analysis reveals that coffee and tea production increased during the periods under review. However, industrial production declined, primarily due to underperformance in the chemical industry.

The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Political and Administrative Affairs, Foreign Relations, and the East African Community, the Honorable Ernest Niyokindi, then presented the BRB's analysis of economic indicators as of the end of January 2026. This

report focuses on developments in production, prices, foreign trade, public finances, currency, exchange and interest rates, and the banking sector.

According to the committee's findings, coffee and tea production at the end of January 2026 was lower than that observed during the same period of the previous year. Mr. Pacifique Ndiwokubwayob, the Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee on Education, Youth, Sports and Recreation, Culture and Communication, presented the analysis of the BRB's note on economic indicators at the end of February 2026. He indicated that the committee met on June 15, 17 and 18, 2026 to analyze this note, which compares the economic and financial situation of Burundi between February 2025 and February 2026.

Regarding the tea sector, the BRB report indicates a decline in green leaf tea production by the Burundi Tea Board (OTB). Production forecasts were not met, primarily due to a labor shortage for harvesting at the various processing plants.

The commission also notes the disinterest of some tea farmers, some of whom have abandoned or uprooted their tea plantations. In light of this situation, the commission recommends that the Government strengthen the mechanization of the agricultural sector within the tea industry and implement incentive measures for tea farmers, similar to those already in place for coffee farmers.

Honorable Nkurunziza stated that reviewing these reports allows members of parliament to better understand the situation in the various sectors of the national economy. He emphasized that the members of parliament adopted the parliamentary commission's work schedule, which was drawn up on Friday, August 7, 2026, by the expanded bureau of the National Assembly. **(Le Renouveau)**

The Prime Minister's office meets with provincial and municipal officials of Bujumbura Province



The Prime Minister's Office organized a two-day meeting for provincial and municipal officials from the Bujumbura province, who are key players in community development and bringing services closer to citizens.

Held from August 10th to 11th, 2026, the meeting aimed to fully familiarize these officials with the tools of public granaries, decentralization reforms, and program budgeting.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Frédéric Nimubona, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister, indicated that this meeting concerned officials at the provincial and municipal levels directly involved in the management of public funds. Following the promulgation of the finance law, two decrees were also issued outlining the hierarchical roles of each individual at the provincial and departmental levels, as well as at the central level. He added that there is also a decree defining the new functions of the National Municipal Investment Fund (FONIC). The objective of the meeting was to ensure that participants fully understood these documents, decrees, and the various tools associated with this acquisition.

Participants must be familiar with these decrees and the different tools involved in the sound management of public finances. Mr. Nimubona urged these key actors in local development to pay close attention and ask questions to clarify any ambiguities so that, once back at the municipal and provincial levels, they can implement sound management of public funds and facilitate the implementation of public activities. **(Le Renouveau)**

Diplomacy: Signing of 14 cooperation agreements between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of Burkina Faso



As part of strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of Burkina Faso, the first session of the great joint co-operation commission between the Government of the

Republic of Burundi and the Government of Burkina Faso was organized in Bujumbura, from August 10 to 13, 2026.

As a prelude to the ministerial session, the experts' meeting was held from August 10 to 12, 2026, in Bujumbura. During three days of work, the experts, led by Comrade Ambassador Hermann Yirigouin TOE, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Head of the Burkina Faso experts' delegation, and Maître Ancile NTAKA-BURIMVO, Director General in charge of the Program for the Defense of Burundi's and Burundians' Interests Abroad and Head of the Burundian experts' delegation, rigorously and astutely examined the numerous cooperation opportunities between Burundi and Burkina Faso in strategic sectors such as agriculture and livestock, security, civil protection, air transport, higher education and research, health, vocational and technical training, youth, employment, labor and social protection, sports, as well as disaster prevention and humanitarian crisis management.

The ministerial meeting was held on August 13, 2026, in Bujumbura, under the co-chairmanship of His Excellency Ambassador Edouard BIZIMANA, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi, and His Excellency Comrade Karamoko Jean Marie TRAORE, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso.



At the opening of the ministerial session, on behalf of His Excellency Comrade Captain Ibrahim TRAORE, President of the Faso, Head of State, Comrade Karamoko Jean Marie TRAORE, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, extended warm congratulations to His Excellency Mr. Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi, and to the Burundian people, for the successful organization of the 5th edition of the Continental Dialogue on Youth, Peace, and Security. He indicated that the Joint Commission is not merely a diplomatic formality but a governance tool for cooperation, the forum where the political intent of two Heads of State is transformed into concrete programs, measurable projects, and tangible results for the Burundian and Burkinabe populations.

His Excellency Ambassador Edouard BIZIMANA, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi, paid tribute to His Excellency Comrade Captain Ibrahim TRAORE, President of the Faso, Head of State, for his leadership and constant commitment to

a sovereign and prosperous Africa, as well as for the fight against terrorism. He also hailed the initiatives undertaken under his leadership in favor of the socio-economic development of Burkina Faso, peace, and security.

On the occasion of this first session, the two Heads of Delegation proceeded to sign fourteen (14) legal instruments covering the fields of diplomacy, agriculture, security, youth and sports, higher education, civil protection, health, mobility, employment, labor, social protection, technical and vocational education and training, and risk prevention and disaster management.



The Burundian Party submitted two (02) draft Memoranda of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of Burkina Faso in the fields of mines and energy.

It should be noted that, in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 of the General Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Burkina Faso and the Government of Burundi, signed on December 12, 1997, in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, the second session of the Great Joint Cooperation Commission between the Republic of Burundi and Burkina Faso will be held in Burkina Faso in 2028, on a date to be agreed upon mutually through diplomatic channels. (MFARIDC)

Strengthening diplomatic cooperation between Burundi and Burkina Faso

On August 12, 2026, in Bujumbura, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, received

in audience His Burkinabe counterpart, Mr. Karamoko Jean Marie Traoré, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, on a courtesy visit. Minister Édouard Bizimana expressed his sincere

thanks to his counterpart for making this trip, which is in line with the recommendations from the recent state visit made by His Excellency the President of Burundi, the current Chairman of the African Union, and the President of Burkina Faso.



The discussions focused on topics of common interest, including strengthening bilateral and diplomatic relations between the two countries. This visit also falls within the framework of the work of the Joint Cooperation Commission, whose conclusions will culminate in the signing of cooperation agreements on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at the Best Outlook Hotel in Bujum-

bura. Both officials reaffirmed their shared commitment to consolidating the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation existing between Burundi and Burkina Faso.

Appreciating the nature of the draft agreements being finalized, the two Ministers agreed to ensure their effective implementation in order to guarantee mutual benefits for both countries.

Taking the floor, Minister Karamoko Jean Marie Traoré commended his Burundian counterpart for his commitment to implementing national policy under the enlightened leadership of His Excellency the President of Burundi and Chairperson of the African Union. He also paid tribute to the Burundian Head of State's policies in support of youth and women, both nationally and continentally, as well as his dedication to promoting South-South cooperation and unity within the African Union. Minister Traoré concluded by expressing his gratitude for the official invitation extended to the President of Burkina Faso for an upcoming state visit to Burundi.

For his part, Ambassador Édouard Bizimana requested Burkina Faso's support in diplomatic efforts to persuade Mali and Niger to comply with the rules and standards of the African Union, in order to strengthen regional cohesion. He reaffirmed that Burundi will continue to consolidate the achievements of bilateral cooperation between Burundi and Burkina Faso, working together to combat poverty and insecurity. **(MFARIDC)**

EAC's contribution to the fight against cross-border crime



On Wednesday, August 12, 2026, in Bujumbura, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, presided over the official handover ceremony of a donation consisting of two Toyota Hilux vehicles, offered by the Gen-

eral Secretariat of the East African Community (EAC), represented by His Excellency Ambassador Stephen Patrick Mbundi, Secretary General of the Organization. These vehicles are intended for the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security, represented on this occasion by the Minister, Honorable Léonidas Ndaruzaniye.



In his address, Minister Édouard Bizimana expressed, on behalf of the Government of Burundi,

his deep gratitude for this donation, stressing that it will

contribute significantly to the fight against cross-border crime.

Taking the floor, the EAC Secretary General reiterated the strategic importance of this support, explaining that the Secretariat intends, through this gesture, to strengthen relations with Burundi while providing a concrete response to the security challenges observed at the borders.

He highlighted the objectives pursued.: consolidating security, facilitating the movement of goods and services, promoting cross-border tourism, encouraging regional integration and streamlining trade.

He concluded by stating that Where peace and security reign, development becomes inevitable and

unavoidable ».

In turn, the Honorable Léonidas Ndaruzaniye expressed his gratitude to the EAC Secretariat for this essential support in the area of public safety. He assured them that these vehicles would be used



in accordance with their mission and in strict compliance with the principle of good governance. (MFARIDC)

Burundi and the UN strengthen their cooperation for regional stability



On August 13, 2026, His Excellency Mr. Edouard BIZIMANA, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, received in audience Mr. Huang Xia, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the Great Lakes region.

The discussions covered several topics of common interest, including the security situation in the Great Lakes region, particularly in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), as well as efforts to promote peace and stability in the region. At the beginning of the interview, Mr. Huang Xia congratulated Burundi on the organization and success

of the 5th edition of the Continental Dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security and Women, Peace and Security in Africa, held in Bujumbura from August 10 to 12, 2026. He also commended Burundi's commitment to the "Silencing the Guns" initiative, as well as the emphasis placed on youth and the role of women in development, conflict prevention, and the promotion of peace and security on the African continent. Interested in the recent evolution of the security situation in eastern DRC, Mr. Huang Xia requested the Minister's assessment of the latest developments.

In response, His Excellency Minister Edouard Bizimana indicated that the security situation continues to deteriorate, particularly with the ongoing occupation of several territories by the M23 and its allies. This situation is also exacerbating the humanitarian crisis and the suffering inflicted on the civilian population.

The Minister stressed that the search for a lasting solution necessarily involves the effective implementation and operationalization of the agreements and commitments already signed, with a view to achieving lasting peace and restoring security in the DRC. He also indicated that the M23 and its allies maintain links with Burundian armed groups, which is a source of concern for the security and stability of Burundi and the entire region.

Finally addressing Burundi's role in the search for a solution to the crisis in the DRC, His Excellency the Minister clarified that the dialogue must remain primar-

ily a dialogue between Congolese people themselves. Burundi, he explained, is simply supporting and facilitating efforts toward dialogue and the search for peace-

ful solutions, in a spirit of regional solidarity and the promotion of peace. (MFARIDC)

African Solidarity: Minister Édouard BIZIMANA and the Group of African Ambassadors with Congolese Refugees in Busuma



On August 14, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Édouard BIZIMANA, together with the Group of African Ambassadors accredited to Burundi, paid a solidarity visit to the Busuma site hosting Congolese refugees in Buhumuza Province. The delegation was accompanied by the UNHCR Representative in Burundi, Mrs. Brigitte MUKANGA-ENO. The purpose of the visit was to assess the living conditions of refugees who fled the conflicts in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, to express the support and solidarity of African countries, and to bring them a message of hope. On this occasion, the Group of African Ambassadors accredited to Burundi donated humanitarian assistance worth 50 million Burundian francs, as a result of a fundraising initiative organized by African diplomatic missions present in Burundi.



Regarding the voluntary return of refugees, the UNHCR Representative in Burundi indicated that a tripartite meeting bringing together Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and UNHCR, recently held in Kinshasa, had agreed to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of refugees, in strict compliance with security conditions. She specified that about 1,000 refugees are repatriated every week, while ensuring that return areas provide sufficient guarantees of security and stability.

As far as he is concerned, H.E. Ambassador Édouard BIZIMANA warmly thanked the Group of African Ambassadors for this gesture of solidarity. Addressing the refugees, he said in Swahili: "Tuko hapa kwa sababu tunawapenda." ("We are here because we love you.") The Minister recalled that this was not the first visit made to the camp and that the Government of Burundi remained aware of the difficult conditions in which refugees live. He added that, although important, the assistance provided can never be enough, stressing that the real solution lies in the restoration of peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. "What we are bringing today is important, but the real solution is for the DRC to regain peace," he emphasized. The Minister also reaffirmed that Burundi will continue to support all regional and international initiatives aimed at restoring lasting peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Speaking on behalf of the Group of African Ambassadors, the Ambassador of Kenya to Burundi, H.E. Henry WAMBUMA, stated that this visit embodied African values of unity, compassion, dignity, and Ubuntu. He noted that this initiative was part of the activities marking the celebration of African Unity. "Our presence here is a message: you are not forgotten." He recalled that the assistance provided, worth 50 million Burundian francs, demonstrated the solidarity of African peoples with their brothers and sisters in distress.

In the various statements delivered, the speakers expressed their deep concern about the conditions in which refugees are living and underscored the urgency of greater mobilization by the international community to address their humanitarian needs. (MFARIDC)

EAC integrated water resources management strategy (2026-2035)



On Wednesday, August 12, 2026, in Bujumbura, Mr. Séverin Mbarubukeye, Permanent Secretary in charge of East African Community Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, officially opened the national consultation meeting on the draft integrated water resources management strategy of the East African Community (2026-2035) and its action plan.

Organized over three days, this meeting aims at gathering technical contributions from national stakeholders in order to develop a regional policy instrument to promote sustainable, coordinated, and integrated water resource management. It falls within the framework of the implementation of Article 111(2) (d) of the Treaty Establishing the East African Community, which commits partner states to cooperate for the sustainable management of shared natural resources.

Water, the foundation of life and development, supports agriculture, energy, industry, biodiversity, public health, and the livelihoods of millions of people. However, the region faces increasing challenges. Climate change, rapid population growth, watershed degradation, pollution, pressures on water demand, and the recurring impacts of floods and droughts all require strengthened regional cooperation and coordinated responses.

This national consultation is of particular importance, as it takes place while Burundi holds the presidency of the African Union, under the theme of the year 2026, "Ensuring the sustainable availability of safe

water and sanitation systems to achieve the goals of Agenda 2063." The validation of this regional strategy will directly contribute to the realization of this continental priority by promoting sustainable water governance, strengthening cooperation on shared resources, and improving resilience to climate change.



The Government of Burundi remains fully committed to implementing EAC projects and programs aimed at strengthening regional integration and sustainable development.



To this end, it has already adopted several legal and policy instruments, including the National Water Policy, the National Water Strategy, the Water Code, the National Sanitation Policy and Strategy, as well as programs such as "PROSECEAU" And "PAEPA – Amazi Iwacu", in addition to climate change adaptation initiatives. (MFARIDC)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

www.mae.gov.bi

Twitter: @MAEBurund