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Vice-President BAZOMBANZA officially launches the work of the 9th consultation meeting of the Association of Senates, Shouras and Equivalent Councils of Africa and the Arab World

On behalf of the President of the Republic of Burundi, the Vice-President of the Republic HE Ir Prosper BAZOMBANZA proceeded, this Monday, September 19, 2022 at



the hemicycle of Kigobe, to the official launch of the work of the 9th consultation meeting of the Association of Senates, Shouras and Equivalent Councils of Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), under the following main themes:

- The effects and repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic on Arab-African economies and the response of governments;
- And the Russian-Ukrainian war and its repercussions on supply chains, energy and food prices.

In his welcome address, the President of the Burundian Senate specified that the deliberations of the 9th consultation meeting of the Association of Senates, Shouras and Equiva-

lent Councils of Africa and the Arab World will mark a decisive stage in raising awareness the urgent need to face the challenges recorded by the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian-Ukrainian war.

In his speech for the occasion, the Vice-President of the Republic HE Ir Prosper BAZOMBANZA indicated that this 9th meeting seeks to achieve three objectives, namely: the promotion of debate, dialogue and Afro-Arab consultation on strategic and priorities in African and Arab regions, and better understand the repercussions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian-Ukrainian war; the establish-

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ment of parliamentary economic diplomacy which will explore ways and means of strengthening Afro-Arab economic cooperation; the sharing of knowledge and experience between parliamentarians.

"Global economic losses will amount to around 15 trillion by 2024 and banks have injected more liquidity into financial markets than they have done in the past ten years combined following the Covid-19 pandemic, and this according to the estimates of the International Monetary Fund", he said, also mentioning that the pandemic has led to a drop in economic, health and food security, the rise in energy prices and the supply chain disruptions. And to add that the economic performance of Arab and African countries over the past two years has been affected by the pandemic with the consequences of a significant drop in Gross Domestic Product, an increase in the unemployment rate and a signif-

icant increase in budget deficits and public debt.

Vice-President BAZOMBANZA further specified that the Russian-Ukrainian war, for its part, contributed to deteriorating global economic conditions, putting international relations under strain, increasing the level of uncertainty, aggravating the crisis of prices of energy, food, minerals and fertilizers and raise concerns about their supply.

Before closing his speech, the Vice-President of the Republic underlined that these meetings will make it possible to better understand the repercussions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian-Ukrainian war in order to address and mitigate the economic impacts of this pandemic and the repercussions of this war on Arab-African economies.

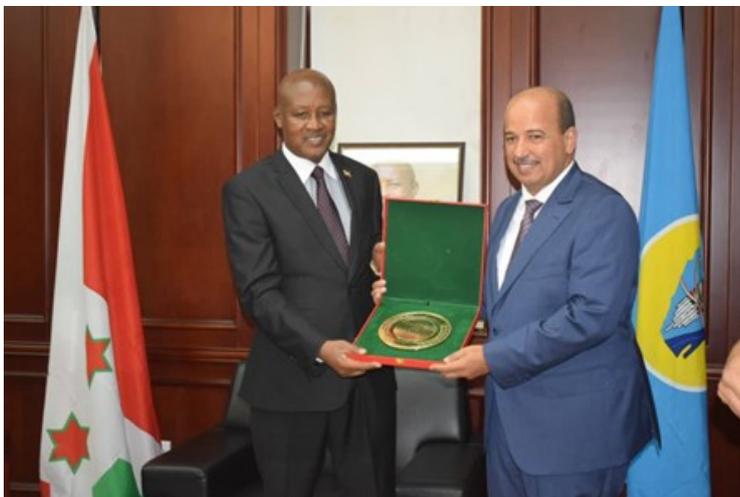
(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

The Burundian Vice-President receives in audience the President of the Moroccan Senate

The Vice-President of the Republic HE Ir Prosper BAZOMBANZA received in audience, on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, Mr. Mayara Enaam, the President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Morocco and President of the Association of Senates, Shoura and Equivalent Councils of Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA).

Their exchanges focused on strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation already existing between Burundi and Morocco through various fields such as education, agriculture as well as the exchange and sharing of experience in the field of decentralization.

The President of the Moroccan Senate specified that he is in Burundi at the invitation of the President of the Burundian Senate to take part in the 9th consultation meeting of the Association of Senates, Shoura and Equivalent Councils of Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA) and indicates that he is satisfied with the reception given to him as well as the



progress of the work of the meeting mentioned above.

"I also carry a message from His Majesty the King that we consider that Burundi is a reliable friend of Morocco and that he is committed to supporting Burundi in its socio-economic development and to working together", he hammered.

Speaking, the Vice-President of the Republic HE Ir Prosper BAZOMBANZA welcomed the achievements already recorded in the field of

education and asked Morocco to further support the socio-economic development of Burundi through the Government's priority projects, in particular education, projects relating to agriculture and livestock,

exchange and sharing of experiences and good practices in the field of decentralization, especially since Morocco is more experienced in this sector.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

Opening of a joint Burundi-Tunisia workshop on human trafficking



he added. Ambassador Epimeni Bapfinda made it clear that the Government of Burundi is firmly committed to combating human trafficking by making progress on four main pillars of the fight against trafficking, which are: prevention through awareness-raising, protection of victims through referrals, case tracking and assistance; prosecution through investigation and partnership/coordination.

On Monday, September 19, 2022, the Director General of the Diaspora, the Promotion of the Employment of Migrants and Non-Governmental Organizations and Foreign Non-Profit Associations (ASBL) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Ambassador Epimeni Bapfinda opened a joint Burundi-Tunisia workshop on human trafficking.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Epiménie Bapfinda welcomed the Tunisian delegation, he indicated that their presence is a tangible sign which indicates that combating human trafficking is also an ethical requirement, for each and everyone, regardless of their place in society, their role or their profession. He continued to make it known that human trafficking is a phenomenon that affects all countries in the world, including Burundi. It is a serious violation of human rights that attacks the most vulnerable in our societies, most of whose victims are women and children,

Strengthened by the misdeeds of the scourge, Burundi has opted to fight against this crime by collaborating with other States of the World, he pointed out.

The Director General in charge of promoting the employment of migrants recalled that in order to promote continental dialogue and share experiences and good practices between representatives of the Government of Burundi and those of the Government of Tunisia in protection, prevention, assistance and prosecution of the crime of trafficking in



persons, a visit to exchange experience by the two Governments took place in Tunisia from December 17 to 18, 2019. He said that this visit has been of paramount importance, as significant progress has been made in Burundi, which has made the United States Department of State's 2020 assessment of the fight against human trafficking Burundi at the level 2.

The Head of Mission of the IOM in Burundi Mrs. Vljaya SOURI, meanwhile, indicated that this visit of the Tunisian delegation aims to promote an exchange around the strengthening of processes and mechanisms for sharing and collecting information as well as referral mechanisms between various key stakeholders. "We are confident that from this dialogue between Tunisia and Burundi, there will be a better identification

of potential victims of trafficking in order to promote rapid and effective actions to protect them. It is also expected to strengthen bilateral cooperation and exchanges between the two countries on the 4Ps (Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership) in the fight against human trafficking, she pointed out

As for Mrs. Raoudha LAABIDI, Representative of the National Authority for the Fight against Human Trafficking in Tunisia, who represented the Tunisian delegation, she welcomed this cooperation between Burundi and Tunisia in the fight against human trafficking and announced that one of the expectations of this workshop was the exchange of experience between the two countries. **(MFADC)**

The Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Burundi presents a donation of three hemodialysis units offered by the Egyptian Government

On September 23, 2022, the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Burundi, H.E Yasser Elatawi, proceeded to the delivery of a donation of three (3) hemodialysis units offered by the Egyptian Government to Military and Police Hospitals of which two are for the Military Hospital of Kamenge and for the Police Hospital. This donation is granted within the framework of the implementation of partnership agreements in various areas of cooperation between the two sisterly countries.

The Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt took this opportunity to reiterate the will and determination of the Government of the Republic of Egypt to support the efforts of the Government of Burundi and His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi, in all areas in order to achieve sustainable development for the well-being of Burundians.

In her speech, Mrs. Léonie NDIHOKUBWAYO who represented the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation in these ceremonies appreciated the efforts of the Government of the Arab



Republic of Egypt through its multiple supports to meet the challenges affecting the country during these last few years.

Mrs. Léonie NDIHOKUBWAYO recalled, by way of illustration, that the Government of Egypt has been offering Burundi, for several years, technical assistance, in particular through the services of Egyptian doctors in various hospitals in the country, scholarships for university and post-graduate training, short-term training courses, and in other varied fields. "Burundi is currently working on economic recovery and national reconstruction within the framework of the National Development Plan of Burundi (PND 2018-

2027), in order to prepare a better future for its people. It is in this perspective that the Government of Burundi included priority actions in it to improve the level of health of the population”, she indicated.



Also according to Mrs Léonie NDI-HOKUBWAYO, this donation is an eloquent sign of the strengthening of friendship and Egyptian-Burundian cooperation. The receipt of this equipment comes as a response to the implementation of the Government's health program because it will contribute in improving access to care and increasing the level of health of the population through an efficient, strong and resilient health system. It will contribute to reduce the magnitude and severity of priority diseases and health problems. It should be noted that an Egyptian Engineer-Expert is expected in Bujumbura next week to proceed to the installation of these three hemodialysis units and the training of technicians from the said hospitals.(MFADC)

FOMI Company urged to redouble efforts to prepare fertilizers on time

The Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock urges the executives of the FOMI factory to redouble their efforts so that farmers can have organo-mineral fertilizers in sufficient quantities and as soon as possible to avoid not compromise this agricultural season 2023 A.

This recommendation was made on Monday, September 19, 2022, following a joint visit by the Minister in charge of Agriculture Dr Sanctus Niragira and his colleague in charge of the Interior Mr Martin Niteretse to the FOMI factory which manufactures organo-mineral fertilizers.

According to the Minister Dr. Sanctus Niragira, a few days ago, the Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca met the administrative officials of the provinces and municipalities and certain executives of the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock and the Ministry of Interior, Community Development and Public Security in Gitega, in a meeting to assess the pro-



gress of preparations for sowing the 2023 A season.

The observation was that the preparations among the farmers were going well, and that they were really advanced, but they raised a challenge according to which the fertilizers are slow to reach them. The Prime Minister had recommended to the leaders of FOMI to redouble their efforts to meet the needs of the population.

The visit of the two Ministers to the FOMI Company was part of the follow-up to reassure themselves that the promises kept by the executives of this company are being implement-

ed. The two members of the government noted that the company FOMI is at work but with regard to the quantities requested and the orders made by the Ministry in charge of Agriculture, there is a delay in the supply of these fertilizers.

"This is why we urge FOMI executives to redouble their efforts, so that this year, as the Head of State wanted, is really an agricultural year with good production, in order to provide each mouth with something to eat and that each pocket has money from the sale of agricultural surpluses", declared the Minister in charge of agriculture in an interview granted to the press. "We reiterate our encouragement to FOMI executives to redouble

their efforts to ensure that the rest of the necessary fertilizers are manufactured and delivered to farmers on time, so as not to compromise this agricultural season A", added Dr. Sanctus Niragira.

The Executives of FOMI reassured that this company is up to the task because the raw material is available, the employees work 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, and currently, every day Trucks load the fertilizers to transport them to the provincial capitals. (www.rtnb.bi)

Gitega: Uganda Airlines assists women in care at the Urumuri Center

The Urumuri center in Gitega received on Monday, September 20, 2022, a donation from Uganda Airlines. Most of the activities of this care center for women suffering from obstetric fistulas are coordinated by the "Fondation Bonne Action Umugiraneza" chaired by the First Lady of the country HE Angeline Ndayishimiye, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.

In his speech for the occasion, the coordinator of the "Fondation Bonne Action Umugiraneza", Mr. Aimable Sindayikengera, thanked Uganda Airlines for this support. He took the opportunity to launch a vibrant appeal to all charitable souls to come to the aid of vulnerable people and to follow in the footsteps of the Uganda Airlines Company.

As for the Representative of the Uganda Airlines delegation, she indicated that the company responded to the call of the First Lady of the Country and President of the "Fondation Bonne Action Umugiraneza", during the launch of the campaign for the treatment of fistula obstetrics at the regional



hospital of Gitega, inviting benefactors to help women suffering from this scourge.

Uganda Airlines welcomes and encourages the involvement of the First Lady of the country HE Angeline Ndayishimiye through her "Fondation Bonne Action Umugiraneza", in improving human health and the lives of vulnerable people in different sectors.

The donation consisted mainly of flour for porridge, sugar, rice, beans, soaps, loin-cloths, oil, etc.

(www.presidence.gov.bi)

Speech of HE Evariste Ndayishimiye in the 77th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly of United Nations

First of all, we give thanks to the Almighty, the All-Merciful God for allowing us to participate in these meetings here in this beautiful city of New York in very good conditions.

Excellency Mr. Csaba Korosi, President of the 77th ordinary session of United Nations General Assembly;

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads of State and Government;

Majesties,

Mr. Secretary General of the United Nations;

Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads of Delegations,

Distinguished Delegates; Ladies and gentlemen,

1. At the beginning of my remarks, allow me, Your Excellency Mr. the President, to express my sincere gratitude to the government and American people, particularly the one of New York City, for the legendary welcome and hospitality reserved for myself and the delegation accompanying me.

2. I would also like to express my sincere and warm congratulations to His Excellency Mr. Csaba KOROSI, for his brilliant election as President of the 77th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Burundi, through my voice, assures you, Mr. President, of its full support and cooperation throughout your mandate in the service of humanity.

3. At the same time, I would like to express my deep gratitude to your predecessor, Mr Abdullah SHAHID, for the remarkable work carried out under extremely difficult conditions marked by the current crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the security crises in several regions of the world.

4. It is in this same context that I pay a well-deserved tribute to the Secretary General of our Organization, Mr. Antonio Guterres, who has spared no effort to properly accomplish his mission in this difficult situation marked by various crises and paradoxes.

5. I also take this favorable opportunity to send my warm greetings to all the participants in this Session, particularly those whom I have not yet seen since my arrival here. May God remain with us all and bless the work of the Session already underway.

Excellency Mr. President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. A Burundian adage that I am translating to you directly here says: "In a climate of peace, the pruning hook can be used as a mower", to say that where there is peace, everything is possible. The world should learn from it today. Unfortunately today, the world has become a huge tower where we witness, our eyes full of tears, macabre acts in some nations of the world because of wars, horrible massacres, flows of refugees as well as food shortages and destabilization global economic systems.

7. The countries of the world are currently undergoing upheavals from the situation in Ukraine. In Africa, terrorism and violent extremism still strike in the Sahel region, the Horn of Africa and Central Africa with a tendency to spread to the southern region of Africa. The

same is true in other parts of the world because, it has been noted, terrorism has no borders, climate change that causes famines has no limits. But together, with the policy will, we can defeat these scourges, I am confident.

8. I am confident, Mr. President, because my country Burundi knows too much, following the repetitive political crises that we have gone through which not only have destroyed human lives, but also the environment. Today, we have recovered and the country is well on its way to socio-economic development.

9. Burundi is trying to walk in this line, benefiting from the dividends of peace, security, stability and social cohesion regained thanks to the Burundians themselves, but also thanks to the contribution of other States. We therefore hope that the spirit of peace, fraternity and justice be the concern of all so that all the peoples of the world fully enjoy their rights to live well in dignity. And on the humanitarian level, Burundi has welcomed on its soil with warmth and dignity thousands of refugees from the DRC, of all ethnicities.

Excellencies;
Ladies and gentlemen;

10. Peace is a subject close to our hearts, its absence weighs heavily on the lives of our peoples. It is in this spirit that we will not allow ourselves at any time to shirk, whenever it comes to executing security decisions from this majestic and important International Organization that is the United Nations.

11. It is in this concern that Burundi continues to fight strongly to contribute to the return of peace in the countries where it is troubled, within the framework of the High Institution of the United Nations or that of the African Union or the region. Witness our current intervention in Somalia and the Central African Republic. In the same concern, Burundi is committed to contributing to the return of peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) within the framework of the initiative of the East African Community. I take this opportunity to ask the international community to support this "Nairobi Initiative".

12. Still within the framework of peace and security, participation in this Session suggests that I very humbly request the involvement of the United Nations in tracking down the terrorist groups that are beginning to infiltrate our sub-region, without forgetting those who are already happening in other parts of the world. The East African Community, of which Burundi holds the Presidency, has just welcomed a new member, the DRC and, with the other Heads of State of the member countries, we have set ourselves the objective of stabilizing the entire community so that the populations of our countries finally focus on socio-economic development projects.

13. It is for this reason that the Government of Burundi is in the process of developing the road, the railway and the air as well as lake transport in order to succeed in the multimodal and interconnected approach at the national and sub-regional level which is imposed on my country in an unavoidable way. Burundi, together with the DRC and Tanzania are working closely to carry out the ambitious Uvinza-Musongati-Gitega-Bujumbura-Uvira-Kindu railway project to connect the three countries and the two Atlantic and Indian oceans. This Megaproject will not only boost the economies of the three countries but also facilitate the movement of goods and people in the sub-region.

14. We hope that the Member States of the United Nations community will rise up as one to protect and promote all the human rights that humanity should enjoy without distinction of any kind. We appreciate what is already being done today, but more needs to be done for man to fully enjoy all the rights conferred on him by human nature.

15. This is why I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the international community for the efforts it has made to restore peace and stability in my country. In this context, it behooves me to inform this august assembly that fair justice for all is a reality today, and that human rights, including the right to expression and the press, are respected on the entire territory of Burundi.

16. Unfortunately, however, some civil servants, carrying the torch of certain institutions of our organization, discourage this positive development by politicizing democracy and the fight against impunity. In some countries, including my own, when democracy as defined takes root, some UN officials distort it by calling it unbelievable and non-inclusive to keep us in unnecessary tension. When we fight daily against impunity, some UN officials still seek to disqualify our actions.

17. It is therefore high time, Mr. President, for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to sit down together with our countries to have a common reading of the direction of the policies of our countries, instead of wanting to remotely guide its actions through Commissions and Offices of Special Rapporteurs unilaterally. The time has come, Mr. President, for the United Nations to recognize the progress made by my country over the past 17 years and to understand that the status of a fragile country applies no more to Burundi.

Excellency Mr. President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

18. Man is at the heart of the economy from the family to the global level. We must therefore contribute to the development of human capital by providing our populations with the appropriate tools, experiences and knowledge adapted to the demands of today's life.

19. We must find solutions to counter the threats to our economy, our health, our education system, our peaceful coexistence, in short, our way of living well in our States and between the States of the world.

20. We know that the United Nations is concerned to help improve the living conditions of the peoples of the world through access to sufficient family income to ensure a decent standard of living. Education is a key element in achieving this.

21. Speaking of education, I could not be more explicit than Nelson Mandela when he said I quote: "Education is the most powerful weapon to change the world", end of quote. Several years after this famous quote, this solution to bring about positive change within our communities is still relevant. Education enables young people to have aspirations and ambitions for the future and is an effective tool in the fight against violence and terrorism.

22. This is how in my country, we are in the process of initiating reforms, rethinking the policy of the education system in order to make our youth more professional than servant of the public service. We are happy to note that, in my country, free education has signifi-

cantly increased the enthusiasm for school, both for girls than for boys and that school drop-outs at the basic education level, often linked to food insufficiency, distance from schools and lack of school fees, have significantly decreased.

23. In order to transform young people into agents of peace and inclusive development in Burundi, we have set up an ambitious program for the economic empowerment and employment of young people (PAEEJ) whose mission is to reduce the unemployment rate by creating jobs for young people through entrepreneurship. To support this program, we have made available to young people, the youth investment bank and a stimulus, guarantee and support fund (FIGA) to facilitate their access to credit.

24. The same is true for women who moreover occupy a high percentage among young Burundians. We have created the Women's Investment Bank, and are continuing reforms aimed at improving women's health and education. The First Lady of Burundi opened a hospital to treat obstetric fistulas for women and, together with Burundi's development partners, she continues to innovate to significantly improve the lives of Burundian women.

25. Mr. President, the urgency is at the same time in the fight against the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, I launch a vibrant appeal to all the development partners of the African Continent to take courageous measures intended to support the economies of African States which are very severely affected by the effects of the various current crises. Knowing that no country in the world was created to be assisted forever, this support should be provided through mutually beneficial strategic partnerships focused, among other things, on investment, trade promotion and technology transfer.

26. To develop human capital and make the population dynamic and productive, the Government is in the process of providing each commune with at least one hospital and health centers to prevent and treat diseases, epidemics and pandemics. We congratulate ourselves on having been able to fight the COVID-19 pandemic effectively, but the fight continues. I also inform you that free health care is guaranteed for children under five and for pregnant women who give birth in public hospitals and health centers.

27. In this context, the fight for the economic development of my country goes first through the development of the agricultural sector. It is to this end that my Government has baptized this year "year of agriculture in Burundi" under the general theme "Agriculture, source of the national economy". Our agenda for agricultural development is first and foremost about changing mindsets and modern practices. We encourage the population to aim further by not just producing for local consumption but also and above all for export, to join forces to work together in agricultural cooperatives; to aim for the progressive replacement of the hoe by modern tools and agricultural technologies.

28. In the context of the environment, Burundi does not sit idly by, especially since we are experiencing cases of drought in certain regions, flooding of rivers and lakes, floods and landslides which sometimes cause death and destroys houses, plantations, thus leading to food insufficiency.

Faced with this, Burundi joins the decision of the world by carrying out works of protection, conservation and management of the environment through various activities throughout the national territory.

29. All this is accompanied by learning about resilience against climate change, not only

by the practice of hillside irrigation but also by actions to protect the soil by tracing contour lines and reforesting all land as part of the project initiated by the government: “Ewe Burundi Urambaye”. In my country, one day a week is set aside for this purpose on the whole national territory.

30. We must also see to it that production support infrastructure is gradually developed, particularly energy and transport, to better ensure the growth of other growth and job-creating sectors. The Government of Burundi has undertaken a vast project to develop the energy sector by mobilizing resources through co-financing and private sector investments. This involves highlighting the potential of hydroelectric, solar, peat, geothermal resources and municipal waste.

31. The two sectors that I have just highlighted also provide crucial support for the exploitation of the potentialities of the mining sector. Here we want to develop a mutually advantageous and balanced technical and financial partnership in the field of prospecting, exploitation and processing of mining and geological products, the studies of which reveal a very rich and still virgin subsoil.

Mister President,
Ladies and gentlemen,

32. For peace and development to be a reality, good governance and good management of public finances must be promoted. This not only makes it possible to combat the frustrations within the citizens which are at the origin of social conflicts but also it makes it possible to plan the national economy well. We inform you that the National Anti-Corruption Mechanisms and related activities are greatly strengthened and that acts of corruption are effectively combated and citizens are satisfied with them.

33. For economic activity, Burundi is on the right track by leveraging its mineral resources, road, maritime and rail transport routes soon, to economic operators. We would also like to inform investors that the shoreline of Lake Tanganyika is being developed to develop tourism, and that other new tourist sites are being developed in the interior of the country.

Mister President,
Ladies and gentlemen,

34. Before concluding my remarks, I would like once again to reaffirm my country's determination to continue to maintain good diplomatic relations and mutually advantageous cooperation (win-win) with all States and all international organizations within the framework of facing the fundamental challenges that threaten all of us.

35. We welcome the resumption of good political, diplomatic and economic relations which had been frozen with certain States and international organizations. Our ardent wish is to maintain good and strong relations with countries and international organizations that contribute to a bright future for Burundi and all the countries of the world.

Thank you for your attention.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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