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The President of the Republic of Burundi Opens the 7th High-Level Forum for Women Leaders



The President of the Republic of Burundi and current Chairperson of the African Union, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, launched, on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, the opening ceremony of the 7th edition of the High-Level Forum of Women Leaders, organized by the Office of the First Lady for Development (OPDD), held on November 4 to 5, 2026, at the Kiriri Palace.

This high-level meeting, held under the theme "Empowerment of Girls and Women: A Strategic Lever for Human Capital Development and Strengthening Resilience to Climate Change," brought together several distinguished figures, including the First Ladies of the Central African Republic, Mrs. Brigitte Touadéra; of the Republic of Angola, Mrs. Ana Afonso Dias Lourenço, and the Republic of Senegal, Mrs. Marie Khone Faye.

In her welcoming remarks, the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, emphasized the importance of empowering women and girls, highlighting their pivotal role in the family, society, and the development of African nations. She stated that African women have always been a force for transformation and a pillar of development, highlighting the need to strengthen the participation of women and girls in development initiatives, particularly in the fight against climate change.

In this Edition:

	page
The President of the Republic of Burundi Opens the 7th High-Level Forum for Women Leaders	1
First Ladies of the Central African Republic, Senegal, and Angola participated in the 7th edition of the Women Leaders Forum	3
Burundi Vice President closes the 7th edition of the Women Leaders Forum and calls for accelerating their contribution to Burundi's development	3
Burundian Minister of Foreign Affairs meets with a delegation of EALA members	4
Burundi and France Review Issues of Mutual Interest and Prospects for Cooperation	5
EALA evaluates EAC legislative process and reaffirms its role in strengthening regional Integration	6
EALA assesses the EAC's legislative process and reaffirms its role in strengthening regional integration	7
EALA Members Assess the Implementation of the One Network Area within the East African Community	8

She thus called on women and girls in Burundi and the subregion to become more involved in protecting the environment, particularly by planting trees, establishing erosion-control hedges, and combating deforestation.

The First Lady of Burundi also emphasized the importance of controlling population growth through birth control, in order to help preserve natural resources and strengthen community resilience.

Taking the floor next, the President of the Republic of Burundi and current Chairperson of the African Union congratulated African women and girls on the progress they have made in their empowerment journey. He commended their evolving perspectives and actions while acknowledging their growing contribution to the well-being of families and the development of their countries. The Head of State particularly encouraged Burundian women and girls to dare to become entrepreneurs and to engage in all sectors of activity, including professions traditionally considered the preserve of men.

This 7th edition of the Forum will also feature the launch of the “Building Resilience” campaign, covering the period of 2025–2027, as well as the opening of the SaIEF-CEEAC International Women’s Entrepreneurship Fair.

These initiatives are aimed, in particular, at promoting women’s entrepreneurship, strengthening women’s economic capacity, and fostering their active participation in development efforts and in building resilience to climate challenges. **(Presidency)**

Burundian voters are called to the polls for the 2027 presidential election



On November 4, 2026, in Gitega, the President of the Republic of Burundi and current Chairperson of the African Union, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, officially called on Burundian voters to cast their ballots in the presidential elections scheduled for May 3, 2027.

Candidates wishing to participate in these elections are required to submit their candidacy applications to the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) from November 13 to 22, 2026.

Furthermore, all Burundian citizens who meet the legal requirements, whether residing in Burundi or abroad, are called upon to participate in the 2027 Presidential elections. Article 2 of the aforementioned decree specifies that voting shall take place from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. However, in duly justified circumstances, the presiding officer may decide to extend voting hours until 4:00 p.m. (16:00) at the latest.

For the 2027 presidential elections, the decree reiterated that the electoral district is the territory of the Republic of Burundi, subject to the participation of Burundians residing abroad. The elections will take place at polling centers and polling stations designated by the CENI and distributed throughout the national territory.

For Burundian citizens residing abroad, the decree states that voting will take place at the headquarters of the diplomatic or consular missions accredited there, in accordance with the specific procedures established by the Independent National Electoral Commission.

Furthermore, for Burundian citizens serving in peacekeeping missions, voting will take place in accordance with the practical procedures established by the Independent National Electoral Commission, in consultation with the command of the Burundian contingent in the country concerned. **(ABP)**

First Ladies of the Central African Republic, Senegal, and Angola participated in the 7th edition of the Women Leaders Forum



On Tuesday, November 3, 2026, Melchior Ndadaye International Airport of Bujumbura became the gathering place for several African dignitaries who had come to participate in the 7th edition of the High-Level Forum of Women Leaders, held from November 4 to 5, 2026.

At the end of the day, the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, welcomed her counterparts from the Central African Republic, Ms. Brigitte Touadéra, from Angola, Ms. Ana Dias Lourenço, as well as the First Lady of Senegal, Ms. Marie Khone Faye, all of whom had come to participate in the 7th edition of the Women Leaders Forum organized by the Office of the First Lady for Development of Burundi. **(Le Renouveau)**

Burundi Vice President closes the 7th edition of the Women Leaders Forum and calls for accelerating their contribution to Burundi's development



The Vice President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Prosper Bazombanza, on behalf of the President of the Republic of Burundi and current Chairperson of the African Union, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, closed the proceedings of the 7th edition of the High-Level Forum of Women Leaders on November 5, 2026, organized by the Office of the First Lady for Development (OPDD) at the Kiriri Palace.

On this occasion, the Vice President of the Republic of Burundi expressed his gratitude to the organizers, particularly to the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, and to the OPDD, for initiating and organizing this important gathering. He commended the establishment of a framework for exchanging ideas, experiences, and best practices aimed at strengthening women's leadership, promoting women's empowerment, and contributing to the country's socioeconomic development.

In this regard, he called on Burundian women and girls to redouble their commitment, initiative, and determination in order to fully play their role in the country's transformation.

His Excellency Prosper Bazombanza particularly emphasized the need to strengthen girls' education, ensuring that it is adapted to the realities and demands of today's world. He thus reiterated that education is a key driver of women's empowerment, before going on to encourage women's entrepreneurship, skills development, and the preparation of younger generations to take on the responsibilities of tomorrow. He was also sure to highlight the importance of maternal health, hygiene, and a balanced diet in promoting the well-being of women and families, without overlooking the vital role that women and girls play in achieving national development goals.

In closing the proceedings, the Vice President of the Republic of Burundi reiterated the call for greater mobilization of Burundian women and girls, so that they may become key players in Burundi's development, prosperity, and transformation. **(Presidency)**

Senate first Vice President Departs for a Working Visit to Belgium



The First Vice President of the Senate, the Honorable Générose NGENDANGANYA, flew to Brussels, Belgium, on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, where she will take part in a series of parliamentary meetings of the Organization of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (OACPS), scheduled for November 5 to 13, 2026, in Brussels.

These sessions will bring together, in particular, members of the regional parliamentary groups, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States, and the OACPS-European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly. **(Senate)**

Chemical fertilizers supply and court of decisions enforcement among Rutana commune residents'concerns



The Ombudsman of the Republic of Burundi, Ms. Aimée Laurentine Kanyana, met on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, with residents of the Rutana commune in Burunga province as part of a visit aimed at listening to citizens' concerns, explaining her institution's missions, and advocating for solutions to the issues raised.

During the meeting, discussions focused in particular on the Ombudsman's role as a mediator between citizens and public institutions. The session also allowed the new local authorities to better understand the Ombudsman's mandate and its role in resolving disputes.
Among the concerns raised by the residents were difficulties related to the supply of chemical fertilizers, the condition of roads, access to electricity, and the enforcement of court decisions. In response to these grievances, Ombudsman Kanyana reassured participants that the concerns of general interest raised would be brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities in order to seek appropriate solutions. She also encouraged citizens to speak candidly about the problems they face so that lasting solutions can be found.



The Burundian Ombudsman also urged administrative officials to exercise greater diligence in addressing citizens' concerns and to place service to the public at the center of their responsibilities. Following discussions with the public, the meeting continued with confidential hearings devoted to specific cases presented by certain citizens. **(ABP)**

Burundian Minister of Foreign Affairs meets with a delegation of EALA members



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, received a delegation of members of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), led by the Honorable Victor Burikukiye, in an audience on November 4, 2026, in Bujumbura. This courtesy visit was part of a working mission carried out by the delegation in Burundi.

Discussions focused primarily on several concerns related

to the functioning of the EALA and the implementation of its missions within the partner states of the East African Community (EAC).

In particular, the members of parliament drew the Minister's attention to the challenges associated with the EALA's legislative process. They expressed concern about the slow pace at which laws adopted by the EALA are enacted and incorporated into national law by member states. According to them, certain laws approved by the regional assembly take a considerable amount of time to be reviewed and adopted by national parliaments, which limits their effective implementation.

The delegation also raised concerns regarding the proposed reform of the EALA's funding. , the members of parliament emphasized that the proposed new budgetary guidelines could pose a major challenge to the institution's operations, particularly given that each partner state would be required to directly cover the salaries of its members of parliament as well as certain related expenses.

Discussions also focused on the need to raise awareness among the Burundian public about the issues surrounding regional integration. The members of parliament noted that a significant portion of the population remains insufficiently informed about the role of the EALA and the concrete benefits resulting from the regional integration process. They therefore called for the implementation of more sustained communication and awareness-raising strategies to bring citizens closer to regional institutions. They also raised the issue of outstanding financial contributions from certain partner states, as well as the dissemination of laws adopted by the EALA.

The issue of harmonizing laws adopted by the EALA with national legal frameworks was also addressed. The parliamentarians highlighted certain challenges related to the effective implementation of these laws in member states, particularly in Burundi. Participants also emphasized that the publication of these texts in the EALA Official Gazette, which is based in Uganda and available primarily in English, limits their accessibility to many populations in the region. They deemed it necessary to establish mechanisms to ensure these texts are more widely disseminated down to the community level in order to promote their adoption by citizens.

The discussions converged on the idea that publishing EALA laws in the Official Gazette of Burundi (BOB) would be an effective way to increase their visibility and accessibility to the Burundian public.

Responding to these concerns, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana noted that some of the issues raised fall within the institutional and legal framework of the East African Community and may, if necessary, require amendments to the EAC Treaty. He assured the delegation that these concerns would be brought to the attention of the relevant bodies, notably the EAC Council of Ministers, so that they could be examined and addressed with appropriate solutions.

Finally, the Minister reaffirmed the Government of Burundi's commitment to regional integration and to strengthening cooperation within the East African Community. He wished the delegation every success in carrying out its mission and assured them that the Ministry remains committed to continuing close collaboration with the EALA to promote regional integration shared goals. **(MFARIDC)**

Burundi and France Review Issues of Mutual Interest and Prospects for Cooperation



On Tuesday, November 3, 2026, the Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, Ambassador Else NIZIGAMA NTAMAGIRO, received the French Ambassador to Burundi, Ms. Caroline VINOT, who was paying a courtesy call.

The discussions focused on several issues of mutual interest, including the security situation in the Great Lakes region, strengthening bilateral cooperation in the areas of public safety and civil protection, and Burundi's participation in the 2026 Paris Peace Forum.

Regarding the regional situation, the two sides discussed security challenges in the Great Lakes region and ongoing efforts to promote peace and stability. The French Ambassador also expressed the desire to continue consultations with Burundian authorities on these issues. The meeting also focused on the visit of France's Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, Mr. Emmanuel Cohet, who will be in Burundi from November 4 to 5, 2026, and who plans to meet with the country's senior officials.

The discussions also focused on the invitation extended to the Burundian Minister of Foreign Affairs to participate in the Paris Peace Forum, scheduled to take place in Paris on November 10 to 11, 2026. Ms. Caroline VINOT emphasized the importance of Burundi's participation in this event, particularly during its term as chair of the African Union.

Discussions also focused on strengthening cooperation in the areas of civil security, border management, and migration flows. In this regard, the Minister's Assistant reaffirmed the Burundian government's commitment to combating irregular migration and promoting safe and legal pathways for mobility.

Finally, the French Ambassador announced the preparation of a new development cooperation program covering, in particular, economic development, infrastructure, youth mobility, and training.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the two officials expressed their satisfaction with the quality of the friendly and cooperative relations between Burundi and France and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the dialogue and partnership between the two countries. **(MFARIDC)**

EALA evaluates EAC legislative process and reaffirms its role in strengthening regional Integration



On November 4, 2026, Ambassador Rémy BARAMPAMA, Head of the Coordination Office for Burundi's Integration Process into the East African Community (EAC) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, representing His Excellency the Minister, who was unable to attend, officially opened the activities dedicated to monitoring the implementation of the commitments under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP).

This activity is part of the follow-up to the commitment adopted by African states at the African Union Summit held in July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique, which calls for the allocation of at least 10 percent of national budgets to the development of agricultural sector. This decision reflects the commitment of the continent's states to make agriculture a strategic driver of economic growth, food security, job creation, and poverty reduction.



In his opening remarks, Ambassador Rémy BARAMPAMA emphasized that this initiative aims to assess the extent to which EAC partner states are complying with this commitment, as well as to evaluate the coherence and effectiveness of efforts to promote agricultural develop-

ment within the region. He noted that the work will also help identify persistent challenges and constraints that continue to hinder the achievement of the set objectives, while formulating concrete recommendations likely to accelerate the implementation of the commitments made. These recommendations will help improve the effectiveness of public policies and strengthen the impact of budgetary resources allocated to the agricultural sector.

Ambassador BARAMPAMA reiterated that agriculture remains a vital sector for the economies of the East African Community's partner states. According to him, increasing investment in this sector is essential to ensuring food security, enhancing the resilience of populations in the face of economic and climate challenges, and supporting inclusive and sustainable growth. He also expressed his deep gratitude to the members of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) for their ongoing commitment to strengthening the regional integration process.

Furthermore, he emphasized that the EALA plays a vital role in ensuring that Community policies and regional legislation take into account on-the-ground realities and effectively address the legitimate aspirations of the people of the partner states.

Through this initiative, the partner states of the East African Community reaffirm their determination to honor the commitments made under the CAADP and to promote modern, productive, and sustainable agriculture. **(MFARIDC)**

EALA assesses the EAC's legislative process and reaffirms its role in strengthening regional integration



On Thursday, November 5, 2026, Ambassador Rémy BARAMPAMA, Head of Actions in charge of coordinating Burundi's integration into the East African Community (EAC) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, represented His Excellency the Minister at the official opening of the oversight activities organized by the Committee on Legal Affairs, Rules, and Privileges of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA).



This meeting, held at the Best Outlook Hotel, was dedicated to reviewing the EAC's legislative process and assessing the commitment of partner states and stakeholders to the implementation of the regional integration program.

In his remarks, Ambassador BARAMPAMA highlighted the essential role of the EALA in drafting and adopting the Community laws necessary for the implementation of the East African Community Treaty. He also emphasized the EALA's role in overseeing the Community's activities and its contribution to promoting good governance, transparency, accountability, and democratic participation within partner countries. He emphasized the responsibility of EALA members to raise public awareness of the benefits of regional integration, while ensuring that citizens' concerns are taken into account in Community policies and legislation.

The discussions helped identify several challenges related to the East African Community's legislative process, including shortcomings in communication and the dissemination of information among regional institutions, partner countries, and the public.

Participants made various recommendations aimed at improving the effectiveness of the legislative process, strengthening stakeholder engagement, and consolidating the achievements of regional integration within the East African Community. **(MFARIDC)**

EALA Members Assess the Implementation of the One Network Area within the East African Community



On 6 November 2026, Ambassador Rémy BARAMPAMA, Head of the Coordination Unit for Burundi's Integration Process within the East African Community (EAC) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, representing the Minister who was unable to attend, officially opened a monitoring activity organized by the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment.

The activity, held at Best Outlook Hotel, aimed to assess the progress made in implementing the One Network Area (ONA) within the East African Community.
The activity brought together representatives of the relevant ministries, regulatory authorities, telecommunications operators and other stakeholders.

In his remarks, Ambassador BARAMPAMA welcomed the progress made in reducing roaming charges, while emphasizing the need to step up efforts to ensure transparent, fair and non-discriminatory rates across all Partner States, including Burundi. He recalled that regional integration should also promote affordable access to information and communication services, thereby contributing to the development of a fully digitally integrated EAC.

For his part, Hon. SAIDI KIBEYA, an EALA Member, who also represented the members of the Committee on Communication, highlighted that the meeting aimed to assess the effectiveness of the One Network Area, review the rates charged for mobile roaming services, examine achievements, challenges and regulatory gaps, and gather information and recommendations to strengthen regional digital connectivity.



The meeting concluded with presentations and contributions from participants, which highlighted the main challenges encountered in implementing this initiative, both by regulatory authorities and telecommunications operators. **(MFARIDC)**

More than 50 youth Center leaders are being trained in computer use

On Tuesday, November 3, 2026, more than 50 young members of the Youth Center committees from various communes of Burunga Province participated in a computer training session. Organized by the Provincial Directorate for Youth, Sports, and Culture, this training aimed to build the capacity of young people in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT).

In his remarks, the provincial director of youth, sports, and culture, Mr. Luc Nkurunziza, noted that this training is part of the implementation of the national policy aimed at supporting young people in their personal and professional development.

According to him, proficiency in digital tools is an important means for young people to contribute to the development of their families and their country.
He also encouraged the participants to revitalize the various youth centers so that they can continue to play their



role in mentoring and training young people. He asked them to take good care of the equipment made available to them so that it can continue to serve other young people for years to come.

Mr. Nkurunziza encouraged all young people to attend youth centers, emphasizing their importance in strengthening social cohesion, acquiring new skills, particularly digital skills, and promoting young people's personal growth and participation in community development.

The participants were pleased with the initiative, which allows them to gain practical computer skills. They encouraged other young people to attend youth centers to take advantage of the various learning opportunities offered there.

They also asked the organizers to hold this type of training more frequently, to provide youth centers with sufficient computer equipment, and to conduct regular visits to ensure the smooth operation of these facilities and to offer them ongoing support. **(ABP)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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