

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE VISIT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL DELEGATION IN BURUNDI

1. From 21 to 22 January 2016, a UN Security Council huge delegation undertook a mission to Burundi to find out about the political and security situation in the country.
2. The Government of Burundi thanks the United Nations Security Council for taking the initiative to travel to Burundi to get in touch with the reality on the ground despite the negative images and alarmist reports conveyed by detractors who constantly depict Burundi as a battered and bloodletting country, and consequently a risky destination.
3. During its visit, the delegation met various actors in Burundian including politicians, civil society leaders, and officials including representatives of the Government, His Excellency the President of the Republic in the lead, with whom they were able to discuss frankly about the realities prevailing in Burundi.
The Government is particularly pleased that the delegation agreed to travel much of the country by road to realize first hand that peace and security in the country are no longer subject to doubt, not to mention the warm welcome the people of Burundi granted to the delegation.
4. It should be recalled that this mission comes after the Peace and Security Council of the African Union took the decision to propose the sending to Burundi of a 5,000 men military force called "Mission Africaine de Prévention et de Protection", MAPROBU in French acronym.
5. The Government of Burundi takes this opportunity to once again invite the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to follow in the steps of the UN Security Council and pay a visit to the country, and this time for sufficient time to travel around Burundian territory to find out in its turn about to the political and security reality prevailing for the time being.
Indeed, the Government of Burundi is convinced that the decisions by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, including the sending of foreign troops in Burundi were made on the basis of erroneous or manipulated reports, therefore in total ignorance of the inside story of the country.
6. As far as it is concerned, the Government of Burundi remains open to working with all its partners such as the African Union, the UN and other actors working to

help find a solution to the problems facing Burundi, yet with due respect for its sovereignty.

Done at Bujumbura, January 24, 2016
Philippe NZOBONARIBA
Secretary-General and Spokesman
of the Government