

## PRESS RELEASE

### Continental Dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security

*Bujumbura, Burundi, 24 April 2022:* The Republic of Burundi, in its capacity as Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) in April 2022, hosted an AU organized **Continental Dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security on 23 April 2022**, in Bujumbura, Burundi. The Continental Youth Dialogue took place on the sidelines of the PSC meeting on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS), scheduled to take place on 25 April 2022.

The objective of the Dialogue was to promote the youth peace and security agenda through advocacy and participation of young women and men across the Continent to meaningfully contribute to the implementation of the YPS Agenda in Africa. The Dialogue was also an opportunity to gather information from youth across the Continent.

The Continental Dialogue was aligned with the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security and its Ten-Year Implementation Plan, which was adopted in June 2020 by the AU PSC. It also built on the recommendations made in the Secretary General's report on Youth, peace and security (March 2022), which recalls that *"inclusive partnerships with young peacebuilders are crucial to the youth and peace and security agenda and should be prioritized by all partners"*.

The Dialogue was officially opened by H.E. Ambassador Ezechiel Nibigira, Minister of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture of the Republic of Burundi. The H.E. Ambassador Nibigira emphasized the importance of inclusion and participation of youth in peace, security and development programmes in the Continent, as well as protecting and empowering the youth in order to channel youth's energy in development activities.

The Dialogue was organized by the AU, in collaboration with UNDP and was facilitated by the African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAPs) from the five regions of the AU namely, Mr. Achaleke Christian Leke, Central Africa; Ms. Diana Paulo Chando, East Africa; Ms. Khouloud Baghoury, North Africa; Ms. Cynthia Chigwenya, Southern Africa, and Mr. Mohamed Kunta, West Africa, in the presence of Ms. Chido Cleo Mpemba, the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the AU Commission on Youth. Members of Burundi National Youth Council, Ministry of East African Community Affairs, youth, sports and culture, youth and youth organization from Burundi, as well as from different AU Member States, UNDP and CSOs were represented. Other youth across the Continent participated virtually through Zoom Platform.

The outcome of the Dialogue will be presented to the PSC on the meeting scheduled to take place on 25 April 2022.

**For further information, please contact:**



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