

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI**PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the Government****STATEMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION 36/19 ON THE RENEWAL OF THE MANDATE OF THE
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON BURUNDI**

1. Since 2013, Burundi has been under stinging attack by the Human Rights Council which constantly passes Resolutions without valid reasons. Prior to the 2015 electoral crisis, attention was focused on whether or not to maintain an Independent Expert who was none other than the Algerian Fatsah OUGERGOUZ. The Human Rights Council wanted to maintain him while his mission was to end with the establishment of the CNIDH. The objective of the Human Rights Council manipulated by the bloc of Western countries and their allies was to keep the country on the agenda and hence portray Burundi as a country with massive violation of human rights, consequently requiring particular attention.

Harassment has increased from 2015 until the recent session held in Geneva from 11 to 28 September 2018, a session during which a Resolution renewing the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi was voted by 23 votes in favor, 17 abstentions and 7 votes against.

2. The Government of the Republic of Burundi has learned with indignation the vote of the Resolution of the Human Rights Council at the end of its 39th session, held on September 28, 2018, renewing the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry when the latter was already rejected. At this stage, the Government of the Republic of Burundi wishes to inform the national and international opinion that this Resolution as well as the politically motivated and influenced reports that preceded it; namely, the EINUB Report, the Report by the OUGERGOUZ Commission and DOUDOU DIENE Report are null and void.

3. The Government of the Republic of Burundi calls on the People of Burundi to stay cool, calm and collected as they have always done, to go about their daily development activities, to remain united in keeping of peace, security and national cohesion.

4. The Republic of Burundi has constantly alerted the national and international opinion of the dangerous drift towards the use of certain international bodies, including the Human Rights Council as a tool of pressure and political destabilization against some countries including Burundi. This unjust policy of selectivity and double standards is contrary to the principles of universality, inalienability and indivisibility of human rights and the shared values contained in the Charter of the United Nations.

5. The latest illustration is the presentation, on 17 September 2018 during the 39th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, of a report that is both defamatory and false. This tendentious report has no other purpose than to discredit the democratically elected institutions and to spread doubt, confusion and discord among Burundians.

6. In addition, the Republic of Burundi has protested against the regular collaboration with Burundians under international arrest warrant while the Human Rights Council should be a model in the fight against impunity. No rule of law can allow a United Nations body to be complacent with the putschists and others in conflict with national and / or international laws.

7. Based on the above mentioned reasons, the Government of the Republic of Burundi, through the Cabinet Meeting of 3 October 2018 set up a Commission to outline the various unilateral and unjust decisions of the Human Rights Council against Burundi and to propose to the Government an appropriate decision to be taken.

8. This Commission will make a thorough global analysis on the ins and outs of the various reports on Burundi since 2015, the various reactions, suggestions and recommendations of the Burundian people, the various institutions of the country such as the Parliament, vis-à-vis of the hidden agenda contained in the various resolutions and reports of certain foreign countries against Burundi as well as the international context.

9. In any event, the Government of the Republic of Burundi reiterates its determination to protect and promote human rights in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006. International dialogue and cooperation based on mutual respect and the use of universally accepted mechanisms such as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) constitute the cornerstone of the Government of Burundi in the process of protecting and promoting human rights.

Done at Bujumbura, October 08, 2018
Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE
Secretary-General and Spokesman
of the Government.-