

# **BURUNDI: NO REAL PROGRESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND BAD GOVERNANCE**

The fight against corruption is an official priority of President Ndayishimiye and the Government of Burundi. Given the endemic nature of corruption\* and the severity of poverty in Burundi, it is imperative to address this issue effectively if meaningful progress is to be made in human rights, development and good governance in general.

**However, few measures have been taken thus far, the effectiveness of which in stopping the deep-rooted practices of corruption and embezzlement is yet to be seen, and are generally limited to ad hoc gestures and controversial decisions, such as**

A project of the Government to abolish the Anti-corruption Special Court and Anti-corruption Special Police Unit

The collective dismissal of public servants accused of corruption

The dismissal of the Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism due to allegations of corruption

The unilateral suspension of all mining contracts, reportedly to renegotiate better deals for Burundi

**The President has expressed an ambiguous position about corruption**

Inconsistencies and reversals about the implementation of State officials' constitutional obligation to declare their assets

Declaration that he accepts officials taking bribes "to contribute to the development of the country"

**In order to prevent corruption in the long term, the Government of Burundi should**

Establish significant sanctions for acts of corruption which would constitute effective administrative, regulatory, financial and economic deterrents

Reform and improve the efficiency of the specialized anti-corruption institutions

Ensure that renegotiations of mining licenses are carried out in full transparency to preclude the new agreements from giving rise to corruption

Promote transparency and good governance in the management of natural resources, by *inter alia*:

- Implementing the OECD Due Diligence Guidelines for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains from Conflict Affected and High Risk Areas
- Taking all necessary measures to immediately comply with the ICGLR Mineral Tracking and Certification System
- Fully adhering to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)

\* In 2020, Burundi ranked 165 out of 180 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index.

