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## **Burundi Assumes Leadership of the African Union: A Milestone for Regional Cooperation and Development**

**Bujumbura, Burundi. 14th February 2026.** The Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) congratulates the Republic of Burundi on assuming the Chairmanship of the African Union for 2026. This significant milestone highlights Burundi's commitment to unity, peace, cooperation, and regional stability.

As His Excellency President Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi takes on this leadership role during the 39<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis Ababa, ICGLR believes in Burundi's leadership to lead the African Union's political, social, and economic agenda, particularly in sustainable water management and sanitation—critical issues for community well-being.

The ICGLR believes that Burundi's leadership will be pivotal for the African Union's 2026 theme of "Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063". We urge all ICGLR Member States to support Burundi and drive forward binding decisions that can improve the lives of the people of the Great Lakes Region and the entire Continent.

The ICGLR is committed to supporting the African Union in tackling urgent security and humanitarian challenges and promoting economic development. Together, we can enhance regional integration and foster a brighter future for our communities.

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