**Intervention by His Excellency Isaiah KUBWAYO,**

**Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi to the Kingdom of Morocco, at the International Conference on experiences of national reconciliation**.

Mr. President,

Distinguished participants

Ladies and gentlemen;

First of all, allow me to thank the Moroccan people for the warm welcome and the hospitality extended to my delegation, as well as the organizers of this important Conference, which addresses a very sensitive aspect of the contemporary life of nations.

It is also my duty to congratulate His Excellency Abdelhakim Benchamach, Speaker of the House of Councilors of the Kingdom of Morocco and President of ASSECAA, for his leadership and commendable initiatives for the promotion of the well-being of peoples from Africa and the Arab world.

Mr. President,

Today's nations are losing billions of dollars each year in both useless and avoidable conflicts. Once poorly managed, these conflicts, which come in various forms, are becoming more radical, and raise fears of catastrophic scenarios, such as large-scale massacres, the forced displacement of populations, the collapse of economies or, quite simply, the collapse of states.

Our country Burundi has a rich experience of conflict and national reconciliation to share. Indeed, the colonization of the country first by Germany, after by Belgium has destroyed some of the values ​​upon which the unity of the Burundian people was based. This made it difficult to manage the post-independence period.

The country has indeed experienced cyclical violence, with military coups as the way of accessing to power and repression as a mode of preserving it. The assassination by the Army in October 1993 of the first democratically elected President of the Republic, only three months after taking office, triggered a decade-long civil war. This war ended after negotiations that led to the signing of agreements that enshrine a system of power-sharing and the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms.

In order to build the national reconciliation project on a solid foundation, Burundi established an independent National Human Rights Commission; the National Observatory for the fight against genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity; the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; the National Commission and special Court for Land and other property, to restore to their rights the victims of the various cycles of violence whose properties have been stolen either by the State or by the individuals, as well as the Ombudsman Institution; to mention but a few.

The agreements: the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement signed in 2000, as well as the 2003 Global Ceasefire Agreement have proven to be important tools in promoting national reconciliation. Consequently, democratic institutions were established in 2010, 2015 and the country is moving towards new elections in 2020.

One of the most important aspects that should be highlighted as a guarantee of political stability and national reconciliation is the reform of the defense and security Institutions. Burundi has succeeded against all the odds, to put in place very quickly and without outside assistance, inclusive defense and security forces that inspire trust and confidence in everyone. It became almost impossible to exploit them or to use them to harm the interests of the Republic.

2015 was a test year, when an insurrectional movement broke out and led to a coup d’état attempt on May 13, 2015. The Army and the police stood up to defeat the coup plot and contained the insurrection, despite a whole campaign of demonization and attempts to divide them on ethnic basis, especially orchestrated from foreign countries.

Therefore, the sequence of events only confirms the trend towards a Burundian people reconciled with itself, ready to make sacrifice to defend its democracy, sovereignty and dignity on the world stage.

In this momentum of national dignity, the people of Burundi have unfortunately learned that not everyone is happy with their reconciliation. Some people have not hesitated to prove it, using the twisted means to discredit our institutions, through slander campaigns against the institutions or public figures. They do not hesitate to use human rights in their quest to get rid of a governance that does not suit them to replace it with their docile pawns.

Thank you.