



JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ
24th Meeting of the Tripartite Commission
for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees living in
Tanzania

White Sands Beach Resort, Dar es Salaam, 30 November 2023

The 24th Meeting of the Tripartite Commission for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in Tanzania was held at White Sands Beach Resort, Dar es Salaam, on 30 November 2023.

The Delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania was led by **H.E. Eng. Hamad MASAUNI**, Minister of Home Affairs.

The Delegation of the Republic of Burundi was led by **H.E. Mr. Martin NITERETSE**, Minister of Interior, Community Development and Public Security.

The Delegation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) led by **Ms. Mahoua PARUMS**, UNHCR Representative in Tanzania.

The Tripartite Commission:

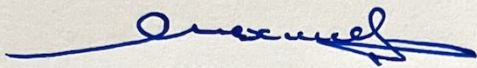
- **Acknowledged** the spirit and the provisions of the Tripartite Agreement on the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in Tanzania of 8 May 2001 (hereby referred to as the Tripartite Agreement), which has since then guided the voluntary repatriation to Burundi from Tanzania in compliance with international conventions and national laws;
- **Noted** that from September 2017 to 27 November 2023, the concerned parties have jointly facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 164,631 Burundian refugees from the United Republic of Tanzania in safety and dignity;
- **Appreciated** the commitment from the parties to promote the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees living in the United Republic of Tanzania who are willing to return to their country of origin in accordance with the principles guiding voluntary repatriation;
- **Recalled** the decision/recommendation of the 23rd Tripartite Commission for parties to consider moving from facilitation to promotion of voluntary repatriation and implement a well-defined roadmap informed by the impact assessment on the increase in the repatriation package based on available resources;
- **Appreciated** the commitment from the parties to abide by the domestic, regional and international laws which govern the principle of non-refoulement as stipulated in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees in conjunction with its 1967 Protocol and the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa;

- **Recognized** the traditional hospitality and generosity of the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania, who have hosted thousands of refugees for decades, and in pursuance of its international obligations, will continue to keep its doors open to those refugees who meet the relevant criteria under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees in conjunction with its 1967 Protocol and the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa;
- **Noted** that while some refugees may opt to return now, others may still have well-founded reasons acceptable by all parties for not seeking to return after promotion of voluntary repatriation and will continue to benefit from international protection in the United Republic of Tanzania;
- **Recognized** the firm willingness of the Government of Burundi to receive its citizens who voluntarily want to go back home and noted that the reintegration capacity in Burundi should be enhanced such that returnees are able to access to assistance to make their return sustainable and voluntary repatriation a lasting solution;
- **Noted** that all parties to the Tripartite Commission agree that the Republic of Burundi is safe and peaceful;

The Tripartite Commission decides to:

1. Scale up voluntary repatriation to Burundi in a way to move from facilitation to promotion in line with a well-defined roadmap as agreed and as convened and established during the 28th TWG meeting held between 28-29 November 2023 in Tanzania.
2. Establish a task force to oversee the promotion of the return process, to ensure the implementation of the road map and data sharing.
3. Establish a task force at camp level, comprising UNHCR and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, to resolve inactive cases of households which are inactive as well as households which comprise both active and inactive family members.
4. Put in place mechanisms enabling to conduct the repatriation of up to 2,000 refugees per week as agreed by the parties during the 28th TWG meeting.
5. Reinvigorate efforts to mobilize funds to ensure that the transition from facilitation to promotion of the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees from the United Republic of Tanzania and their reintegration in Burundi is successful and lasting, for which adequate funding as well as the technical, financial, and logistical support from both Development Partners and the Regional Bureau is imperative. Such efforts should include joint donor cross-border missions as well as missions to key donor countries aimed at supporting repatriation.
6. Upscale and expand information sharing campaigns in the United Republic of Tanzania to promote voluntary repatriation as well as protection monitoring in return areas in the Republic of Burundi.
7. Employ transparent communication between country of asylum and country of origin on the number of returnees and cases of individuals with vulnerabilities.

8. Organize as the earliest opportunity a cross-border meeting on education between the Ministries of Education of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Government of Burundi, as well as representatives of ministries in charge of voluntary repatriation, with UNHCR, to discuss administration of exams of Burundian refugees in Tanzania and any other educational issues, not later than end of February 2024.
9. Adopt the report, the roadmap and the workplan of the 28th Technical Working Group of the Tripartite Commission for the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees hosted in the United Republic of Tanzania appended in Annex I, II, III and IV respectively.



H.E. Eng. Hamad MASAUNI

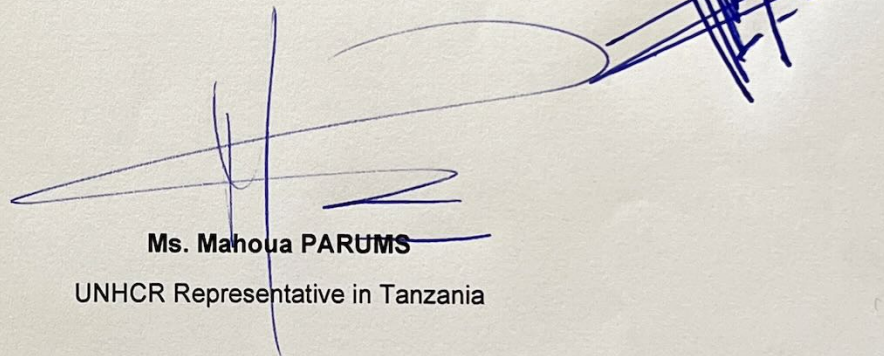
Minister of Home Affairs

For the Government of the United Republic of
Tanzania

Mr. Martin NITERETSE

Minster of Interior, Community Development and
Public Security of the Republic of Burundi.

For the Government of the Republic of Burundi



Ms. Mahoua PARUMS

UNHCR Representative in Tanzania

For the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees