

**AMBASSADE DE LA  
REPUBLIQUE DU BURUNDI**



**A  
BRUXELLES**

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE GUEST OF HONOR: H.E. MR.  
THERENCE NTAHIRAJA, AMBASSADOR OF BURUNDI TO  
THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM, THE GRAND DUCHY OF  
LUXEMBOURG AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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*First WARESA Europe Awards*

*Berlin, June 27-28, 2025*

- ❖ *Your Excellency, Mr. President of WARESA Europe Awards;*
- ❖ *Excellencies, Ambassadors and Dear Colleagues;*
- ❖ *Esteemed members of WARESA;*
- ❖ *Delegates of African Embassies in Europe;*
- ❖ *Representatives from European Institutions;*
- ❖ *Distinguished African Academics, Researchers, Engineers, Scientists, Entrepreneurs, and Friends;*
- ❖ *Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen;*
- ❖ *All protocol observed.*
- ❖ *Good morning!*

1. It is with great honor and pleasure that I welcome you to the opening session of this **1st Edition 2025 of the WARESA Europe Awards**, here in Berlin — a city that embodies history, resilience and innovation, under the theme: ***“From Diaspora to Development: Honoring Agents of Change.”***
2. It is also a great honor and privilege to join you today for the inaugural of **the 1st Edition of the WARESA Europe Awards**, a visionary initiative that shines a spotlight on the accomplishments of young African researchers, engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs.
3. I therefore sincerely thank **WARESA** and **its devoted members** for organizing this significant event, which not only honors excellence but also promotes a strong spirit of innovation, collaboration and mentorship among Africans around the world.

**❖ Empowering the Africa diaspora**

4. **Dear guests!** We are gathered today to celebrate the commitment, expertise, and exceptional service provided by our embassies and diplomatic missions to the diaspora across Europe. **The WARESA Awards** are not simply a recognition ceremony; they also reflect the strong values of excellence, human diplomacy, and proper service to citizens.
5. **Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen!** This gathering is of profound significance. At a crucial time in Africa's development, the contributions of our skilled diaspora are more vital than ever. Around the world, we have witnessed the transformative impact of diaspora communities in advancing national progress.
6. Africa must also likewise tap into its vast talent abroad, particularly in **science, technology, engineering** and **entrepreneurship**, to fuel its growth and prosperity.

❖ *The role of African Governments and Diplomatic Missions*

7. African governments and their diplomatic missions have an essential role to play in this effort. As our countries continue to address priorities such as infrastructure, health, and education with limited resources, our Embassies continue to provide ongoing advice, outreach, and support to our students and professionals abroad.
8. **Dear participants**, in a constantly changing world, often marked by uncertainty, Embassies play a pivotal role. They are not only the guardians of our interests abroad, but also centers of solidarity, protection, and opportunity for our compatriots and partners.

❖ *Engagement de l'Ambassade du Burundi*

9. **Distinguished guests**, ladies and gentlemen! In this spirit, I am proud to reaffirm the commitment of the Embassy of the Republic of Burundi to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the European Union to support WARESA's decisive mission.
10. **Estimated WARESA members!** It is well known that your work is essential, not only to support researchers and professionals, but also to build strong networks for better future collaborations in the fields of research, entrepreneurship, and innovation.
11. Given that "**Unity is Strength**", I am convinced that, moreover, African Embassies in Europe will combine efforts, with a view to joining this effort of WARESA to train a new generation of actors of change for our continent.

❖ *Célébrer l'excellence et promouvoir l'inclusion*

12. **Dear guests!** As we celebrate this important milestone for WARESA, I warmly congratulate all the winners and participants. Your hard work, commitment, and achievements represent the hope and promise of Africa's future. The awards you will receive are, above all, a recognition of your exceptional work.
13. I therefore urge you to remain true to your ambitions and always bear in mind the responsibility that falls on us all to shape Africa's development.
14. My thanks, compliments and gratitude go to all members of WARESA for their strong commitment to gender equality, particularly through the creation of award categories reserved for women.
15. This is therefore an essential and commendable step towards the empowerment of young African women in the fields of science, leadership and innovation.

❖ *Ouverture officielle des WARESA Europe Awards*

16. **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!** It is in a spirit of celebration and determination, looking to the future, that I am honored to join you for the symbolic official opening ceremony of the **1st Edition WARESA Europe Awards**. May this event mark the beginning of even greater achievements for the African diaspora and the continent we proudly serve.
17. **Dear participants!** During this important event, we will have the opportunity to reflect together on the future of the diplomatic public service, to explore avenues for innovation, and to strengthen the ties of cooperation between our representations across Europe.

18. May today's discussions be a source of inspiration for all, and may they enable us to continue to serve our citizens with integrity, efficiency and humanity.

19. I would like to thank, once again with all my heart, the organizers, the partners, as well as all the delegations present for their commitment to making this **1st Edition of the WARESA Awards** a success.

❖ ***Your Excellency, Mr. President!***

❖ ***Your Excellencies, Ambassadors, and Colleagues!***

❖ ***Distinguished Guests!***

❖ ***Ladies and Gentlemen!***

20. It is with these words, observations, advice, thanks, compliments and gratitude that I declare open today's excellent ceremonies, rich in emotion and gratitude.

***Je vous remercie !***