**BURUNDI: ONGOING EROSION OF THE RULE OF LAW**

**THE RULE OF LAW IS ESSENTIAL TO:**

- Guarantee justice, peace and the respect for fundamental rights as well as economic opportunities for all Burundians
- Reduce corruption
- Fight poverty

However, the rule of law is still eroding* despite the stated intention of President Ndayishimiye to restore it:

- Constitution, laws and procedures are not respected; authorities condone violations such as the lack of financial disclosure by public representatives
- Authorities make decisions outside their framework of competence and without regard for procedures, for example: Immediate collective dismissal of accountants at the commune level and of tax collectors in Bujumbura (Mairie) by the Minister of the interior, community development and public security
- Legally binding decisions are not implemented, including judicial decisions for release

**THE PRINCIPLES OF LEGALITY, LEGAL CERTAINTY, PREVENTION OF ABUSE OF POWER, EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW AND NON DISCRIMINATION, AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE ARE NOT GUARANTEED IN BURUNDI**

* The Ibrahim Index of African Governance of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation indicates a decline of more than 12 points between 2010 and 2019, mainly since 2015.