

**Forum: Citizen Forum on Inequalities****Theme: How to reduce inequalities at different scales?****Name of citizen: Margot**

Marital status:	Level of education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Married/in a relationship</li><li>○ <b>Single</b></li><li>○ With children, if so, how many: 2</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Primary</li><li>○ <b>Secondary</b></li><li>○ University</li></ul>

**1. How does the theme of inequalities concern you?**

As a representative, I defend political, economic and cultural interests of my country to protect the duties of the citizens. The theme of inequalities concern me a lot because the Burundi is very concerned by these problems. That's why we must to take care about these problems to ameliorate the situation of this country. The Burundi is a part of the poorest countries of the world.

Let's start about Economic inequalities .Extreme poverty: Approximately 3 out of 4 Burundians live below the poverty line. Unequal access to employment: The majority of the population depends on subsistence agriculture, with few opportunities in other sectors. Very low incomes: The average annual income per capita is among the lowest in the world.

Inequalities between urban and rural areas: Cities (such as Bujumbura) are home to most services and infrastructure, while rural areas are very poor.

Inequalities in access to education. Low literacy rates, especially among women and in rural areas. Difficult access to secondary and higher education, mainly for poor families. Lack of infrastructure (schools, equipment, qualified teachers), especially in rural areas.

Inequalities in access to healthcare. Lack of hospitals and health centres in rural areas. High infant and maternal mortality rates. Limited access to medicines and quality care, especially for poor populations. Gender inequalities in reproductive health (access to contraception, care during pregnancy, etc.). Social and ethnic inequalities. Burundi has a history marked by ethnic conflict (between Hutus and Tutsis), which has left deep inequalities, although the Constitution now attempts to rebalance representation. Minority groups can still be marginalised in certain areas (education, politics, employment, etc.)

Political inequalities Political power is highly centralised. Access to power is limited for certain groups or political opponents. Freedom of expression is restricted: journalists and members of the opposition may be subjected to pressure or arrest.

Regional inequalities. Some provinces receive more services, development or investment than others. Unevenly distributed infrastructure: roads, schools, electricity, drinking water, etc

Gender inequality. Women have less access to education, formal employment and positions of power. Gender-based violence is still widespread. Women are under-represented in politics, despite quotas imposed by the Constitution.

## **2. What do you suggest at your level?**

We could support businesses in their projects and create new jobs from an economic perspective. From an education perspective, we could build more schools, especially in rural areas. Train teachers and pay them better. Make school truly free education (fight against early marriage, raise awareness among families). Build and equip more health centres, particularly in rural areas. Provide free or subsidised healthcare for the poorest members of society. Train more healthcare personnel.

Combat discrimination in government, the military, the media, etc. We must ensure free elections and encourage citizen participation. I think it is really important to enforce laws on gender equality. Support women entrepreneurs and political leaders. Combat violence against women (laws, awareness campaigns, support services). Encourage girls to enrol in school and stay in education.