

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

**OPENING REMARKS AT 9TH AFRICAN WORKING GROUP ON CYBERCRIME
FOR HEADS OF UNITS**

SERENA HOTEL, 18th July 2022

By Dr. UGIRASHEBUJA Emmanuel, Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Inspector General, Rwanda National Police,
Secretary General, Rwanda Investigation Bureau,
Mr. George M. KINOTI, INTERPOL Executive Committee Delegate for AFRICA,
Mr. Craig JONES, Director of Cybercrime, INTERPOL,
Dr Gustav H. YANKSON, Chairman of the African Working Group on Cybercrime,
Heads of National Cybercrime Units,
All protocols observed,
Ladies and Gentleman,

Good morning and warm welcome to Rwanda to our guests.

It is my honour to deliver opening remarks for this African Working Group Meeting, an event that gathers global experts as well as both public and private sectors to discuss challenges and recommend solutions to combat one of the growing threats to our economy and to our financial security. Cybersecurity is an issue of profound importance in today's technology-driven world, a fact of life for all of us.

It is therefore with esteemed pleasure that Rwanda hosts here today the 9th African Working Group Meeting for Heads of Cybercrime Units together with the Africa Cyber Surge Operation, which also includes capacity building, and is organised and hosted for the 2nd time in Africa.

In the spirit of good partnership and collaboration, allow me to start by recognising both teams of INTERPOL and Rwanda Investigation Bureau for the successful preparation of this event. Hosting for the 2nd time the African Working Group Meeting for Heads of Cybercrime Units and the Cyber Surge Operation is an achievement that the Government of Rwanda is grateful.

The Government of Rwanda greatly appreciates INTERPOL's continued support in the fight against cybercrime and its effort in enabling African countries to engage in discussions with experts and learn from their experiences on diverse aspects of cybercrime.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as the world continues to recover from the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, practices including the increased use of virtual workspaces, online marketplaces and e-Governance have become the norm. While this presents opportunities to revamp economies and streamline public service delivery in general and the justice in particular, it unfortunately and simultaneously increases exposure to cybercrime.

Cybercrime is not only a question of attacks against the confidentiality, integrity and availability of computer data as well as systems, it is also against the core values and the potentiality of human development on societies increasingly relying on information technology. In light of this, we have the duty to protect our society and individuals against such cybercrimes. To this effect, an efficient criminal justice response is vital.

Cybercrime is increasingly becoming organized, highly sophisticated, which has unfortunately led to insurmountable financial losses by governments, institutions, businesses and individuals from across the World, including RWANDA.

Thus, Law enforcement agencies must step up their efforts to responses against cyber threats to remain effective by enhancing measures to detect and prevent the attacks to the source, where investigation and prosecution can effectively take place.

We all have a role to play in order to fight cybercrime more efficiently. Countries need to use collective efforts and work more closely with other stakeholders with the aim to share vital information in the detection, prevention and investigation of cybercrime. Additionally, we should always be ahead of cyber criminals by understanding new trends and responding with innovative solutions. I therefore call upon INTERPOL for

increased cooperation, technical and operational support to African law enforcement agencies.

Addressing cybercrime challenges requires greater commitment to cybersecurity. We ought to work closely in order to share information and experience to counter the increasing threats posed by cybercrime. As often being said, "Information is power."

Sharing information empowers law enforcement agencies and officers to be able investigate and to bring criminals to justice. We will never succeed if we do not work together, share information and expertise, as well as utilize all the tools at our disposal to proactively counteract the increasing threats posed by cybercrime and that is the reason why we are gathering here today.

I wish to express my appreciation to each and every one of you here present representing different stakeholders in supporting to secure Rwanda and Africa's cyber space and wish you all fruitful deliberations.

Allow me once again mention that while I have no doubt that these meeting and trainings will strengthen your knowledge and boost your collaboration, I wish to reiterate the commitment of the Government of Rwanda in working hand in hand with countries, agencies and organizations that are on the forefront of fighting cyber related crimes through different means, whether political, legal, financial and technological aiming to support the law enforcement agencies.

On this note, I officially declare this 2022 edition of the 9th African Working Group Meeting for Heads of Cybercrime Units and the Africa Cyber Surge Operation open and wish you a pleasant stay in Rwanda and safe journey back to your respective countries upon completion of this meeting and the Africa Cyber Surge Operation.

Thank you!