

# REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



## MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

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### STATEMENT DURING THE ADOPTION OF THE THIRD UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF RWANDA GENEVA, 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2021

**Delivered by: H.E. Ambassador Marie Chantal Rwakazina**

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**Madame President;**

**Distinguished Members of the Human Rights Council;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**Good afternoon!**

I am honoured to participate in this important session leading to the conclusion of the third cycle of Rwanda's Universal Periodic Review.

It is indeed a great privilege to represent the Republic of Rwanda at this session and reiterate Rwanda's firm commitment in the protection and respect of human rights.

**Madame President**, a few months ago, in January this year, Rwanda appeared before the esteemed Human Rights Council during the consideration of the National Report.

Rwanda was being reviewed for the third time and it was a refreshing experience adding to the experiences from the two previous reviews.

Before I proceed, Madame President, allow me to reiterate our sincere appreciations to the States that participated constructively during Rwanda's review and the many countries that engaged Rwanda in different forms through the interactive dialogue.

We appreciate the advance written questions, the recommendations formulated and all other invaluable inputs you put forward during the review.

We also wish to express our gratitude to the Secretariat for the hard work and great collaboration throughout the process.

You contributed in making Rwanda's 3<sup>rd</sup> review a success.

We particularly thank the Members of Troika: the representatives of Bangladesh, Poland and Togo for their time and efforts put into working on Rwanda's report.

We are thankful for the frank collaboration and flexibility extended to Rwanda Mission in Geneva during the process to date.

We further, acknowledge and thank the participation of other stakeholders in this process.

In this regard, we thank the Rwanda Civil Society for its invaluable role in the process. We noted your increased active, meaningful, open and honest engagement through the last five years. This shows us that we are working toward a common goal and shared values as a country.

Madame President, I may not conclude this part without noting the crucial role of other stakeholders including the Office of the One-UN in Rwanda, Development Partners and the National Commission for Human Rights.

As we are embarking on the new cycle, we look forward to continue working with all of you and count on your great contribution in the implementation of the recommendations that Rwanda committed to during the next cycle.

**Madame President,**

The Government of Rwanda has thoroughly reviewed all the 284 recommendations formulated during the January UPR review.

The Government of Rwanda supported and accepted a total of 160 recommendations, representing 56.34% of all received recommendations.

Comparing with the 2015 review where 21.83% of received recommendations had been supported, there is an increase of 34.51% in acceptance rate.

Madame President, the Government of Rwanda is proud of this high rate of acceptance.

In addition to the above, 75 other recommendations were noted as they are considered to already be part of ongoing government interventions and they will still be implemented.

Further, let me note that the few recommendations (49) which were deferred during the review, after examination and reflection, did not enjoy our support and we will not consider them further.

Our reasons are that those recommendations were found to be either unrealistic, not reflecting the reality on the ground, repeating unfounded allegations, irrelevant or based on wrong information.

This said however, the Government of Rwanda wishes to reiterate its commitment to an open and constructive engagement with any interested party acting in good faith to discuss any issues that would contribute to the further advancement of human rights in our country.

**Madame President,  
Members of the Human Rights Council,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

In conclusion, we reiterate the Government of Rwanda's firm commitment to the advancement of the human rights agenda at national, regional and global levels.

In the same vein, we pledge Rwanda's full support to the UPR process and the human rights council.

**THANK YOU!**