REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

P.O. BOX 160 KIGALI

Welcoming remarks by the Hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney General

- Honorable Mrs Aichatou Mindaoudou Soulemane, Head of Delegation,
- Distinguishes Members of the Delegation,

Good afternoon

It is an honour and privilege for me to once again welcome The AU delegation to Rwanda after your recent visit of 25 July this year. It is good to see you back and we are grateful that you have again considered the Ministry of Justice during this second visit.

Distinguished guests, this visit happens a few days ahead of our legislative elections that are planned on 2nd and 3rd September and as I mentioned during your last visit, such visits present opportunities for us to learn from others and as a result improve in whatever we are doing as a country.

Our legal framework on elections and electoral processes shows that the foundation of the Rwandan legal framework on elections and the electoral process is the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda itself.

- **Article one** provides that source of the National Sovereignty are Rwandans themselves and is exercised in accordance with the Constitution.
- **Article 2** provides that suffrage is universal and equal for all Rwandans. That all Rwandans, both men and women, fulfilling the requirements provided for by law, have the right to vote and to be elected.

In addition to the Constitution, Rwanda also has a law governing elections.

- Organic Law N°001/2018.OL of 25/03/2018 Governing Elections.
- The purpose of the law is to determine the modalities on how Presidential, legislative, local, National Councils elections and referendum are conducted.
- The organic law in Article 62 – 100, gives details on the presidential and legislative election process. While articles 62-74 provide for common provisions for presidential and legislative elections. Articles 82 to 100 are dedicated only to the elections of members of Parliaments.

With regard, to disputes settlement.:

- The law N°30/2018 of 02/06/2018 determining the jurisdiction of courts gives to the Supreme Court the jurisdiction over petitions contesting results of the referendum, presidential and parliamentary elections [article 69 (6)]. Articles 76 and 77 set out the procedure for the hearing of these petitions.
- **Article 36** provides that the Labor and Administrative specialized chambers of the Intermediate Courts hear all claims relating to disputes

arising from elections of administrative leaders except those who are tried in other courts.

- **Article 49** provides that among the special jurisdiction of the High Court in administrative matters, the High Court hears election petitions of administrative leaders at Provincial and Kigali City levels.

Given the complexity of elections and electoral process, a Presidential Order was adopted on 2nd June 2018 with the purpose of determining polling days and the electoral campaign period for Members of Parliament. In addition to that the National Electoral Commission issued on 09/07/2018, regulations that exhaustively explain how the elections will be conducted.

It is important to also mention that Rwanda's legal framework on election and electoral process as briefly described above is complemented by the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance to which Rwanda is a party since July 2010.

Distinguished Guests, allow me before concluding to inform you that the Ministry of Justice is closely follows the whole process and to the best of our knowledge the process proceeding peacefully. We expect the same climate on polling days and after

Head of Delegation, distinguished guest, with these remarks, permit me to end here and allow a conversation as we are eager to hear and learn from each other.

Thank you!