

# REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



## PARLIAMENT CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

**The 145<sup>th</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY, 11<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**Remarks by Rt. Hon. Mukabalisa Donatille, Speaker at the inaugural ceremony**

**Kigali Convention Center, 11 October 2022**

**Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Rwanda;  
Honorable President of the IPU;  
Honorable Secretary General of IPU;  
Distinguished Speakers of Parliament;  
Hon Parliamentarians;  
Distinguished officials of Rwanda;  
Your Excellencies members of the Diplomatic corps;  
Distinguished guests;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

I am greatly honored by the opportunity to address this distinguished assembly.

Allow me to start by extending special thanks to you, Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Rwanda, for having accepted to grace this inaugural ceremony of the Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly with your presence, despite your busy schedule.

Your Excellency, thank you very much.

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome, on behalf of the Parliament of Rwanda, and myself, to our distinguished guests who have travelled from all four corners of the globe to be with us here in Rwanda for the 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-parliamentary Union.

We are more than happy that this high-level meeting is one of the few IPU gatherings that has been possible to take place in person since the start of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Your presence here, your contribution to the debates as well as everyone's commitment, will, with no doubt, determine the success of this Assembly.

## **Your Excellency,**

The global organization of parliaments, IPU, works closely with the United Nations and other multi-lateral bodies to promote democracy, peace and cooperation among peoples.

IPU works to ensure there is a parliamentary dimension to international cooperation, global governance as well as in the resolution of major international issues.

Indeed, the primary goals of IPU are peace and democracy. IPU is committed to ensuring that women are able to participate equally in politics. Democracy means all voices are heard.

The theme of this Assembly "**Gender Equality and Gender Sensitive Parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world**," is a wakeup call to Parliamentary institutions to reflect and take stock on current state of gender equality and change dynamics to advance gender mainstreaming in the political and economic spheres of our respective countries, as we lose a lot due to gender inequality practices

In Rwanda, promoting gender equality and women in leadership is a constitutional imperative. There is a strong political commitment at the highest level and adequate measures are taken at all levels to boost gender equality and women political participation as well as women empowerment. Thanks to gender sensitive laws and policies, women of Rwanda are very active and participate equally to men in the socio-economic transformation of our country. Your Excellency, We are very appreciative of the great importance you have attached to Women's inclusion in governance.

**Your Excellency;  
Distinguished guests;**

While looking forward to a fruitful Kigali Assembly, allow me to once again, sincerely thank all the delegates for having honored our invitation to attend this IPU Assembly, and the trust placed in the Parliament of Rwanda to host this important event, and reiterate our strong commitment to meet your expectations. Welcome to Rwanda, Murakaza neza

I thank you for your attention.