

**PROMOTING PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND INCLUSIVE
SOCIETIES: FIGHTING INTOLERANCE**
(5 minutes)

▪ **Honorable Chairperson;
Distinguished colleagues;**

1. Let me take this opportunity to thank you once again for your participation and contribution to the previous IPU Assembly held in Kigali-Rwanda in October 2022.
2. On that occasion, His Excellency **Paul KAGAME**, the President of the Republic of Rwanda, recalled the role of Parliaments in fighting genocide ideology which is becoming a fast growing global threat to peace and security.
3. In that regards, the Parliament of Rwanda thanks the leadership of the IPU and the Parliament of the Kingdom of Bahrain for a continuous focus on the promotion of peaceful coexistence in our societies.
4. Rwanda opted for **consensual and pluralistic democracy** founded on power sharing, national unity and reconciliation;
5. In this regard, the motto of the Republic of Rwanda is “**UNITY, WORK, PATRIOTISM**”;
6. Rwanda has committed its self to respect the fundamental principles provided in the Constitution: Prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide; Eradication of discrimination and divisionism; Equitable power sharing; Building a state governed by the rule of law and Constant quest for solutions through dialogue and consensus;
7. As a way of strengthening tolerance among Politicians the **National Consultative Forum of Political Organizations** has been established as platforms in which members exchange ideas in order to consolidate unity and advise each other;
8. At policy level, Rwanda has adopted policies that promote social cohesion:
 - ◆ National Policy of Unity and Reconciliation;
 - ◆ National Gender Policy;

- ◆ National Social Protection Policy;
- ◆ National Policy on disability and Inclusion, etc.

9. The Parliament of Rwanda plays a crucial role in fighting intolerance and exclusion, through its legislative and oversight mission.

10. It has adopted several laws that promote unity and inclusiveness, and criminalizing divisionism.

11. The Parliament of Rwanda is also engaged in activities aiming at promoting peaceful coexistence, through Forums of Parliamentarians “Forum for Women Parliamentarians and Anti-Genocide Parliamentary Forum”.

12. Excellency’s,

13. As you might be aware, political instability, inequality, concentration of power, hate speeches are the root causes of intolerance and exclusion.

14. The situation in Eastern Democratic Congo is a concern for the whole region especially for Rwanda because of the continuous support by Republic Democratic of the Congo to FDRL, the rebel group composed mainly by those who committed Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda in 1994. This support is totally against the value of peaceful coexistence we are discussing in this Assembly. Rwanda has been victim of military attacks from that group, attacks that killed a number of innocent civilians. Instead of fixing the problem of more than 120 armed groups operating on its territory, DRC opted for the blame shifting game. DRC should prioritize a political a political solution to the insecurity crises rather than pursuing a military option as provided for in Luanda and Nairobi processes;

15. As you might be aware, political instability, inequality, concentration of power, hate speech are the root causes of intolerance and exclusion.

16. No country can eradicate the causes of intolerance on its own. We have to stay together and take measures to promote peaceful coexistence in our respective

societies, to stop hate speeches, build effective institutions and ensure good governance.

THANK YOU!