

PARLIAMENTARY ACTION FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS (SDG-16)

(5 Minutes maximum)

© October 2023

- **Excellencies;**
 - **Distinguished Participants;**
1. Let me start by expressing my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the National Assembly of Angola, for the successful organization of this Assembly. I also extend my appreciation to the people of Angola for their warm welcome and generous hospitality!
- **Excellencies,**
 - **Distinguished Participants;**
2. Twenty-nine years ago, Rwanda had no future because of the Genocide against Tutsi, everything was a priority. Thus, the Leadership of Rwanda has spearheaded governance reforms to consolidate peace, build strong and accountable public institutions, create a safe, and stable environment conducive for investment.
 3. In light of that background, the Government of Rwanda has integrated and domesticated the SDGs in long term development aspirations of Rwanda, and many achievements have been realized:
 - The fifth population and housing census conducted in 2022, showed that Sustained economic growth over the past two decades has translated into improved wellbeing of citizens including increase of life expectancy to **69.6** years in 2022 from **51.2** in 2002;
 - The population below the poverty line has declined from **59%** in 2001 to **38.2%** in 2017. During the same period, the population living under extreme poverty has reduced from **40%** down to **16%** (NISR, 2018);
 - Rwanda's home-grown solutions drawn from our culture and history have significantly contributed to the promotion of social cohesion. After the Genocide against Tutsi, Gacaca Courts "**community-based dispute resolution mechanism**" were established not only to deliver justice, but to strengthen reconciliation. As the results, the Rwanda Reconciliation

Barometer-2020 showed that the status of reconciliation in Rwanda is **94.7%**;

- The model of Governance of Rwanda is "**Citizen-Centered**", that fosters citizens' trust and satisfaction as follows:
 - The Rwanda Governance Scorecard (9th edition) showed that safety and security remain the best performing pillar with a score of 95.47%;
 - Rwanda citizens have high trust in justice system with the score of 89.1% (RGS-9th edition);
 - The Rule of Law in Rwanda has had a noticeable growth, from the score of 67.71% in 2010 to 90.81% in 2022 (RGS-9th edition).

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4. The SDG-16 impacts other goals, increased accountability, greater citizen participation in decision making process, and increased transparency have positive effects on social protection, equal opportunities and poverty reduction.

5. Therefore, as representatives of citizens, we should play vital role in advancing progress towards SDG-16. In my Country-Rwanda, the Parliament contributes significantly to the implementation of the SDGs, through the exercise of its functions:

- The parliament of Rwanda reviews and approves the budget related to the implementation of SDGs and monitors their implementation through its oversight function to ensure that allocated resources reach intended beneficiaries and results.
- All standing Committees have a common responsibility of monitoring the implementation of SDGs. Each Committee monitors the implementation of at least one SDG.

- 6. **Excellencies,**
- 7. **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

8. Getting sustainable peace, and building effective institutions depends on the strong leadership and synergy among institutions in the implementation of Policies. Let us put our efforts together to turn Sustainable Development Goals into actions.

9. Lasting peace and social cohesion could not be achieved, without involvement of women and young people. Therefore, we should raise our voice for high representation of women and youth in conflict prevention and peace support processes at all levels.

THANK YOU!