



**REPUBLIC OF RWANDA  
PARLIAMENT | THE SENATE**

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**STATEMENT OF THE PARLIAMENT OF RWANDA**

**Theme: Parliamentary Diplomacy: Building Bridges for  
Peace and Understanding**

**Occasion: 148<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Geneva- Switzerland**

**Date: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

**Hon. NYIRASAFARI Espérance, Vice President of the  
Senate of Rwanda**

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- **Madam President of the Assembly;**
- **Excellencies,**

**1.** Good morning!

**2.** On behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Rwanda, allow me to thank the leadership of the IPU for a continued focus on the promotion of peace, through the choice of this theme: **"Parliamentary Diplomacy: Building Bridges for Peace and Understanding."**

- **Excellencies,**

**3.** Before 1994, Rwanda experienced a lack of peace because of governance characterized by divisive policies along ethnic lines.

4. Those divisive politics resulted into the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi which was stopped by the intervention of the then Rwandan Patriotic Front Army (RPA), led by the current President of the Republic of Rwanda, H.E. Paul Kagame. Rwandans remain committed to continuously honor the memory of over a million victims, reflecting on the lessons learnt from that painful period in our history, and further paying tribute to the heroes who made sacrifices to bring it to an end.

5. Despite the challenges Rwanda faced in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, the nation has now transformed into a peaceful country characterized by unity and social cohesion among its population. We chose to embrace a vision of **“consensual and pluralistic democracy”** founded on the principles of power-sharing, equal opportunity, inclusiveness and resolution of conflicts through dialogue.

▪ **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

6. Governments worldwide conceive and implement mechanisms aimed at conflict resolution and peacebuilding within their respective countries. Through parliamentary diplomacy, parliaments should likewise assume strategic positions to reinforce and consolidate these efforts.

7. It is particularly imperative for Parliaments to advocate for and encourage governments to implement peace agreements, but also to enact policies that have a positive impact on peace at the national, regional, and international levels.

▪ **Excellencies;**

8. Regarding my country, Rwanda, allow me Madam President, Excellencies, concerning the false allegations by the delegation

of DRC in its statement delivered yesterday; to reiterate that my previous replies to those unfounded allegations were very clear. I would like to further emphasize to this Assembly that the FDLR, a Rwandan ethnic militia consisting of individuals who participated in the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, is currently active in the DRC. The FDLR continues to propagate hate speech and genocide ideology with impunity. Their presence along the border of Rwanda, their association with the DRC national army, and their preservation by the DRC Government poses a serious security threat not only to Rwanda but also to the entire Great Lakes Region.

**9.** The Government of DRC signed on to Luanda and Nairobi processes as an implementing partner and should focus on their full implementation. Attempts by the DRC to sabotage or abandon these regional agreements can only be seen as a choice to perpetuate conflict and insecurity.

**10.** Therefore, Rwanda urges the international community, including through platforms such as this Assembly, to call upon the Government of the DRC to cease its collaboration with and preservation of the FDLR, and implement effectively the above-mentioned regional processes as well as other international facilitations and peace mechanisms.

- **Excellencies;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**11.** Thirty years after the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, many genocide suspects remain at large as they fled Rwanda and found refuge in various countries. It is imperative that measures be taken to prevent them from evading accountability for their crimes.

**12.** In conclusion, we would like to invite you to join us in learning from and sharing the lessons of our painful past, as we continue to work towards effective approaches to peaceful settlement of conflicts and forge understanding among people and stabilization during times of crisis.

**13.** I thank you for your kind attention.

**End.**