



**REPUBLIC OF RWANDA
PARLIAMENT | THE SENATE**

STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF RWANDA

Theme: Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future

Occasion: 149th IPU Assembly, Geneva- Switzerland

Date: 15th October 2024

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

1. On behalf of the Parliament of Rwanda, I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation to our Organisation for convening this 149th Assembly. We are also grateful to Switzerland for their continued commitment to generously hosting us.
2. It is very important to gather here in Geneva to explore how we can harness science, technology and innovation to the benefit of all. The theme of this Assembly is very pertinent in the times we live in.

Excellencies;

3. The Government of Rwanda's vision aims at transforming the country into an upper-middle economy country by 2035, and into a high-income economy by 2050.

4. In 2020, the Government of Rwanda adopted a Science, Technology and Innovation Policy.
5. The Government also adopted the National Artificial Intelligence Policy in May 2023, which serves as a roadmap to enable Rwanda harnessing the benefits of artificial intelligence. Rwanda is set to become a hub for Artificial Intelligence Research in Africa.
6. In light of the implementation of those policies, allow me to highlight some achievements:
 - The establishment of various Science, Technology, Research and Innovation Institutions such as Carnegie Mellon University, and the Africa Institute of Mathematical Sciences, to name but a few,
 - Partnering with high end manufacturers such as BionTech for key vaccines production on the African Continent,
 - The establishment of research and innovation funding programmes such as the National Research and Innovation Fund (NRIF) fostering research uptake in Rwanda and supporting research activities that address societal and industry needs;
 - Establishment of the Centre for the 4th Industrial Revolution in Kigali Rwanda.
 - Increased Investments in Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development.
 - Using “DRONES” to deliver life-saving blood products and vaccines to remote health Centers;

- Introduction of “Smart Classroom” initiative aimed at digitalizing education from a paper-based system to the one that allows access to a variety of teaching and learning methods using technology; and
- Most government services are now available online, where citizens can easily access them without having to travel long distances or brave long queues to be served.

Excellencies;

7. In Rwanda, women and youth are particularly involved in technology and innovation. Digital and mobile technologies have enormous potential for youth and women by providing them with opportunities and allowing their voices to be heard.

Excellencies;

8. I would like to recall that it is also our shared duty as Parliaments to promote the use of technology for the benefits of humanity. The spread of hate speech and misinformation that we see online, should be condemned in strong terms.

9. Before concluding, my delegation would like to express our strong rejection of the emergency item submitted by the DRC delegation (of the Democratic Republic of the Congo), in total disregard of discussions of the African geopolitical group last Sunday as well as the ongoing regional peace processes. The so-called emergency item is inadequate both in procedure and substance and has no other purpose other than spreading false accusations against my country, Rwanda. We call upon this esteemed Assembly to dismiss altogether the repetitive behavior of the delegation of the DRC, to introduce such an emergency item.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION