

ENHANCING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH INCLUSIVITY, TRUST AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

(6 minutes)

- Excellency President of this session,
- Dear Colleagues,

1. On behalf of the Parliament of Rwanda, I wish to express my gratitude to the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania, for the successful organization of this Assembly. I also extend my appreciation to Dr. TULIA Ackson, the President of IPU for her outstanding leadership. **ASANTENI SANA!**
2. The Parliament of Rwanda is very pleased with this theme of General Debate, entitled “**Enhancing Good Governance and Empowering Communities through Inclusivity, Trust and Opportunities for All**”. This theme reminds us that sustainable development can only be achieved when citizens trust public institutions and when governance systems are responsive, transparent, and accountable to the people they serve.

- Excellencies,

3. Following the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, my country Rwanda faced profound challenges: restoring governance,

rebuilding confidence in state institutions, and bringing Rwandans together around a shared national vision.

Despite the magnitude of these challenges, Rwanda, through the visionary leadership, has successfully positioned good governance as a cornerstone of its development journey.

4. Rwandans made a triple choice:

- to stay together:
- to think big:
- to be accountable:

5. Rwanda has placed inclusiveness and citizen participation at the centre of governance. We firmly believe that effective governance is built upon the active involvement of citizens in the decisions that affect their lives. By creating avenues for dialogue and participation, we have strengthened trust between citizens and public institutions, enhanced transparency and accountability, and promoted a culture of shared responsibility.

6. Colleagues, allow me to share some successful stories:

- i. The Constitution of Rwanda provides for an annual national dialogue “ **Umushyikirano**” in our national language “ which brings together the President of the Republic and the citizen representatives from all walks of life;

- ii. According to IPU records, Rwanda now leads the world with the highest number of powerful women in Parliament at 63.75%.

In Rwanda, Youth and persons with disabilities are represented in the Parliament and in various public institutions, reflecting efforts to ensure that different segments of society have a voice in the decision-making;

- iii. Rwanda Governance Score Card shows that Citizen participation is high, the levels of participation ranges between 80% and 100% across various initiatives and public processes. This demonstrates a strong culture of civic engagement and that citizens are actively involved in shaping and supporting national development priorities.

- **Excellencies,**

- 7. To conclude, allow me to underline that, good governance is the foundation of peaceful, inclusive and sustainable societies. As parliamentarians, we have a vital role in strengthening it by ensuring that public institutions are transparent, accountable, responsive and accessible to all.
- 8. We should help to build societies where every person has a voice, by advancing inclusive laws, encouraging open dialogue, strengthening accountability, and ensuring that no one is left behind.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION