REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

FINAL REMARKS ON THE ADOPTION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW WORKING GROUP REPORT ON RWANDA
JANUARY 29, 2021: HELD VIRTUALLY

Delivered by: Hon. Johnston BUSINGYE, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Republic of Rwanda, Head of Rwanda Delegation.

Madam President;
Members of the Working Group;
Madam Rapporteur;
Members of Troika;

It is my privilege and honour, once again, to participate, on behalf of Rwanda, at the adoption of the UPR Working Group draft Report on Rwanda.

Allow me to begin by extending our heartfelt appreciations to all States that participated in this third review of Rwanda and for the many recommendations put forward to us in the spirit of the constructive dialogue that characterizes the UPR as a unique process. We are thankful to all of you.

I also wish to express our gratitude to the members of the UPR Working Group and the Secretariat for the hard work and collaboration throughout the process. You made Rwanda's review smooth, enjoyable and successful.

We particularly thank the Members of Troika: the representatives of Bangladesh, Poland and Togo, for their time and effort to work on Rwanda's report. We are thankful for the frank collaboration and flexibility extended to our team in Geneva during the process.

Madame President, as we noted during the opening session, the review provided us with an important opportunity to share and learn from the conversations we had. It provided a mirror through which we, as a country, are able to see where things are going well and where more effort is needed.

I wish to reiterate the commitment of the Government of Rwanda to the implementation of the recommendations that enjoyed our full support. They will be as much a key component of my Government's human rights agenda for the next five years as they are important for the furtherance of human rights safeguards.

For those that we took note, it is because they are already part of ongoing programs, actions, policies or reforms and we will continue to work in the same direction.

Recommendations said to be for examining did not, and will not, enjoy our support. We will communicate our response to the Working Group, in conformity with the rules of the process.

Madam President, preparations for the national implementation process, particularly awareness on the outcome of the review are already underway. Stakeholders' consultations are planned in the coming days. They will be followed by the development of an implementation roadmap.

The concluded cycle was inclusive, we will make the next one even more inclusive, citizen centred and participatory.

Madame President; permit me to conclude by expressing our gratitude to the whole body of stakeholders including Rwandan Civil Society Organizations, UN agencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Rwanda Private Sector, Development Partners and the many government institutions for the invaluable support and effort they invested in this review.

We are, indeed, counting on you for the cycle that starts now.

I thank you.