"The magazine that sheds light on the image of Rwanda to the world"

Dear Readers,

It is our pleasure to bring to you the 3rd edition of the Rwanda Diplomatic Magazine: A quarterly publication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. This issue highlights the major events that marked the period of July, August and September 2008.

The headlines contained herein portray the strides Rwanda has taken worldwide as a country that values transparency, right relationships and mutual cooperation. Inside this issue, you find the judicial matters rising from the report about the role of France in the Rwandan Genocide commonly termed as Mucyo Commission; the bilateral and multilateral relations between Rwanda and other countries, as well as policy dialogues that focus on streamlining the areas of cooperation.

Similarly this magazine brings you the achievements earmarked by Rwanda in the sector of good governance where parliamentary elections concluded this last September placed the number of women represented in the parliament to almost 56%. This act resonates with the principles of capacity building that focuses on empowering women not only at the decision making level but also at the grassroots where decentralization is effectively taking route.

The will and the initiative of Rwandan administration to have a meaningful and well managed state is equally manifested in the efforts that organised the commonwealth international business forum held in Kigali from 29-31/10/2008. It goes without mention that this business mind brings with it vivid results where “Connect Africa” that took place in Rwanda in October 2007 translated into the 2008 Fibre Optic Project which is currently laying the infrastructure to connect the country and enhance technology advancement. Needless to say is that the speed with which our country embraced science and technology resulted in one laptop per child which saw its inauguration this October of 2008

Like many more good events that simply by pass our eyes on the daily basis the Rwanda Diplomatic Magazine aims at capturing the major events that occurred in our country at a particular time and impacted the lives of Rwandans politically, economically and socially with view of portraying the country’s image to our friends and partners both domestically and abroad.

Whilst acknowledging the selection bias among many choices on the events to highlight I do extend my apologies to those whose taste may not appear in this category of publication but equally hope that it will be enjoyable to those of you reading it and finding it their favourable.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a memorable and prosperous new year of 2009.

MINISTER
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"The cooperation between Rwanda and France should be based on truth, to prepare the interests of the future generations of both countries". These are remarks from the speech that the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda, Hon Rosemary Museminali, addressed to people on occasion of the Official launch of the Report of Independent National Commission responsible for collection of evidence indicating the role of the French State in the genocide against the Tutsi that was perpetrated in Rwanda in 1994.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Honorable Tharcisse Karugarama officially launched that report on 5th July 2008. It is a book of more that 500 pages released on the 16th November 2008. According to the Communiqué, France supported the administration of Habyarimana in the commission of genocide carried out between the following periods: October 1990 and March 1993, April and July 1994 and latter had a hand in the destabilization of Rwanda using elements based in the former Zaire (Republic Democratic of Congo). The communiqué states the five major points: 1) France knew that a genocide was being planned, 2) The primary role of France in the preparation of genocide, 3) France role in execution of the genocide, 4) The French army occupation, led to further massacres in the "Humanitarian Safe Zone", 5) French Political and military leaders who were involved in the 1994 genocide.

France knew that a genocide was being planned. Between 1990 until April 1994, there was presence of French army officers in all security organs of the country. French military advisors were in national army (Force Armée Rwandaise; FAR), Gendarmerie, National intelligence (CRCD) and in others special organs including the Presidential guard and Para commando Battalion. This clarifies the French military and the Leaders of the country were informed about a great massacre preparation.

France prayed a role in the preparation of the genocide. The report indicates that French leaders propagated the ideologies such as "mass Hutu to benefit on the detriment on minority Tutsi". On the 22nd June 1994, the President Mitterrand before his cabinet made the following remark in a way of explaining Tutsi genocide that was happening, that "Rwanda like Burundi is numerically dominated by Hutus, in that sense, it is common knowledge that most of the population is behind President Habyarimana.

Should the country be ruled by the minority Tutsi who are now based in Uganda where most wish to establish a "Tutsi land" includ-
ing not only Uganda, but also Rwanda and Burundi, certainly the track of democracy shall be interrupted. The remark such as this shows that the former French President, Mitterand, shared the anti Tutsi ideologies not only in Rwanda but also in the region and disseminated among his government officials. The ideology took birth from "Divide and Rule" policy of colonialists and the genocide extremists.

The Communiqué shows also how France was involved in Hutu-power (a coalition of opposition parties with the ruling party MRND against RPF). Hutu power was the architects of the genocide. France is also blamed to open support to the Rwandan National Army (FAR), even though the army was greatly inclined to commit genocide. She played a role in conceptualization and initiation of the civil defense program, a program that turned out to be a mechanism for executing Genocide.

This include military training and giving civilians, especially training Interahamwe in five military barracks where the French army were residing. A military police in French army Thierry Prunaud, during the interview conducted by French Television “France Culture” said “There were also trainings conducted for civilians during the time. France also played a role in expertly preparing lists of suspected Tutsi and others who are opposed to the government”. France had a role in the execution of genocide, through the appointment of Colonel Bagosora as the successor to President Habyarimana; Colonel Bagosora and others who composed the interim government have been under trial of ICTR (International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda), diplomatic and military support to the interim government while openly committing genocide and delivery of arms and ammunition to the inter-

im government during the genocide. Belgian Colonel Luc Marshall, who was heading the UNAMIR unit confirmed the following in “Le Monde” newspaper “…Cases of ammunition – probably five tons were discharged from a plane and were transported by vehicles of Rwandan army to Kanombe barrack which was used as the base for the presidential guard”.

The French army occupation led to further massacres in the “Humanitarian Safe Zone”. In what they called “Humanitarian intervention” Turquoise operation, some soldiers were briefed that Tutsi were massacring Hutu, the reason why they should intervene, things that the soldiers themselves find it was the opposite of what was happening on the ground.

The report shows that there was a continuation of political and logistical collaboration with the administration committing genocide even in the Turquoise Zone, Encouraging people to massively leave the country. Colonel Sartre organized a public meeting on July 13th 1994 at Rubengera encouraging people to flee to Zaire (current DRC) promising them a French support for immediate return, after RPF defeat the Ex-FAR and Interahamwe.


The minister of Justice and Attorney General, Hon. Tharcisse KARUGARAMA together with the Minister of information, Hon. Louise MUSHIKIWABO, concluded saying that these are not a criminal report or indictment, but an inquiry report that may be used by other legal suits that may follow through judicial institutions. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Hon. Rosemary MUSEMINALI said that the Cooperation between Rwanda and France should be built on truth in order to prepare a good environment that is beneficial to the new generations of both countries. She said “We don’t need to let our children with excess baggage, neither does France.

We have to transcend that to enable the future generation to know the truth. The French people should know where their taxes went. They didn’t pay their taxes to buy the weapons that murdered Rwandans. Therefore, the launch of report is a positive way in Diplomacy rather than negative.

It strengthens the effort of Rwanda France relations which is undergoing because the truth is the basis of relations. If they want the truth, they should be our allies. The truth is a tool of Diplomacy”. She concluded.

Both the Communiqué and the report can be found via the following websites:

www.minjuste.gov.rw
www.gov.rw
During their 11th Ordinary Assembly held in Sharm El Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt from June 30, 2008 to July 1st 2008, the African Union Heads of States and Governments adopted a decision pertaining to the protection of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of African States against the abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction by judges from some non-African States.

His Excellence President of the Republic of Rwanda, Paul Kagame also attended the meeting and explained to His Counterparts issues related to the initiative that those judges take by preparing arrest warrants against African high ranking officials, particularly Rwanda.

Thus, African Heads of States declared that the abuse and misuse of indictments against African leaders by those judges is a violation of International Law and this affects negatively the sovereignty and integrity of African States. This also hinders the ongoing process of the political, social and economic development of Africa after conflicts and wars experienced in various countries of this continent. Surprisingly, the indicted men include those who played an important role in ending/stopping these wars and conflicts.

The case of Rwanda is a good example where, the indictment issued against senior government officials of the Republic of Rwanda by two European judges namely Fernando Andreu Mirrelles (Spain) and Jean-Louis Bruguière of France. The indicted persons are the same who led the activities to end the war and Tutsis genocide that resulted in the systematic massacres of about one million of Rwandans while the international community was watching. These judges were there and they followed the whole activity. Up to now, the confusion rises on the fact that they have not yet issued arrest warrants against genocide perpetrators.

When you analyze the conduct of these judges, it can be seen that there is another influence behind. There is an option that they are used by politicians from their countries because of the implication of those countries in supporting Rwandan genocide and war. Another option is that they may be manipulated by genocide perpetrators living in those countries.

The frequently asked question is to know what would happen if African judges apply the same system. African judges do not issue such arrest warrants; is it because there are no crimes committed against the African community? What would be the solution if worldwide judges indicted government authorities from any country anytime they want?

This makes me remember the meeting of Honorable Rosemary Museminali, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation with her colleague of ICELAND in Sharm El Sheikh talking about that issue. Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda was wondering what would happen if African judges took a decision to indict some of non-African leaders. Her colleague of ICELAND said “that would be difficult considering our history”. That history would start from the colonial era up to today.

Some of the resolutions on that matter are that those warrants shall not be executed in the African Union member States and shall be discussed between the 4e African Union and the European Union. It was also requested that the issue shall be brought before the UN General Assembly of September 2008.

It is worth mentioning that this resolution came just after the African Attorney Generals, the AU Assembly (PAP) and the regional inter-ministerial committee of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), had condemned the abuse of the principles of universal jurisdiction by these European judges.
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda prepared for and participated in the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The 63rd session of the UN General Assembly addressed the following major issues; food and energy security, climate change, peace and security and poverty and development.

In addition to participating in the General Debate of the General Assembly and following up on all the presentations made by different heads of states and government, the Ministry participated in several bilateral meetings and participated in several High-level Meetings; one on Africa’s development needs; state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward and the Millennium Development Goals and the other on the MDGs.

This meeting on Africa’s development needs addressed the overall theme of Africa’s development needs and the state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward in the form of statements and comments offering differing perspectives by various heads of state and government. This High-level meeting on the African Development Needs concluded with the adoption of a political deceleration a copy of which will be sent to us by our Permanent Mission in New York.

The Hon. Minister participated in a side event on the margins of the High-level meeting on the MDGs Africa Steering Group and the Gleneagles Scenario Approach for Scaling up Overseas Development Assistance. The side-event was attended by prominent personalities such as Jeffrey Sachs, Bob Geldof, Mark Malloch Brown, and Donald Kaberuka amongst others. Benin and Rwanda were selected to present their cases on the progress towards the achievement of the MDGs and the impact scaling up of ODA along the Gleneagles commitments had. The Minister presented Rwanda’s progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the gaps that remained particularly highlighting the millennium goals Rwanda may not be able to achieve unless ODA was scaled up significantly.

The Minister also participated in a side-event on the margins of the High-level Meeting on Africa’s development needs on accelerating implementation of commitments to gender equality & women human rights organized by UNIFEM. Participants included Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations, European Commission, H.E. Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Iceland, H.E. Ms. Vahab Gayflor and the Minister of Gender of Liberia among others. The event aimed at taking stock of achievements in the implementation of international, regional and national commitments to gender equality and women’s human rights identify the challenges faced by Member States in implementing these commitments and at making concrete, actionable recommendations to accelerate progress for the achievement of gender equality and women’s human rights. The Minister addressed the issue of women’s political participation and governance and highlighted recent developments in Rwanda in ensuring gender equality in the political and social economic development of Rwanda and various programs aimed at ensuring women’s human rights. Various participants commended Rwanda on her Parliamentary elections that had seen Rwanda lead the world in women’s parliamentary representation.

Bilateral Meetings: In a bid to expand and strengthen bilateral relations, the Minister together with the MINAFFET team attended a series of bilateral meetings with various Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other high ranking government officials. To mention; Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, Minister Foreign Affairs of Iran, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister of Qatar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria, Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Philippines, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium and the Minister for Development Cooperation, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Oman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa, Deputy Foreign Minister of Canada, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, External Affairs Minister of Western Sahara, US Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy and Human Rights David Kramer and finally, the Assistant Secretary of State for International Organisation Brian Hook.

The ultimate purpose of the bilateral meetings was to create or/and strengthen the cooperation especially in terms of trade and investment, exchange of experts or support in several fields like capacity building, Education, Energy, Mining, etc. Follow-up mechanisms were drawn and MINAFFET in collaboration with the embassies will ensure the realization. The Minister was also hosted at several high level banquets where she maws able to meet and exchange ideas with her counterparts. The Minister also met with the American Jewish Committee which promised to support Rwanda Diaspora Unit. The meeting was generally successful.
Governments around the world are beginning to think about the role their Diaspora can play in their Development. African countries have also begun to realize the importance all people of African descent can play in the development of this continent.

The government of Rwanda has recognized the important role its Diaspora can play in its Development. In 2001, a desk in charge of Diaspora was created in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and cooperation to help the Rwandan Diaspora to acquire services they need from their motherland.

The Government of Rwanda reaffirmed its commitment by creating an organ in charge of Rwanda Diaspora on 28th February 2007. This organ became Diaspora General Directorate (DGD) on 20th June 2008. The mission of Diaspora General Directorate is “To mobilize Rwandan Diaspora for unity/cohesion among themselves targeted for the promotion of security and socio-economic development of their homeland.” DGD will act as a link and bridge between the Rwandan Diaspora and their motherland. Its general objective is “To create a conducive environment enabling Rwandan Diaspora to be a strong cohesive community with a constructive relationship with their motherland aiming at national development of Rwanda.”

From the beginning of year 2008, the Diaspora General Directorate has achieved a lot. It has started to provide various services like Information on investment opportunities; Information on vacant posts that are in the country especially in public institutions; Availing information on unity and reconciliation; Passport assistance; Criminal record assistance; Tax exemption assistance and information on acquiring plot of land in Rwanda.

It also provides current information to the Rwandan Diaspora on events taking place in Rwanda and among Rwandan Diaspora all over the world.
In May 2008, DGD organized a three day programme for Rwandan Diaspora students in Burundi who were briefed on national policies and programmes for the Development of Rwanda, like Vision 2020 and EDPRS. They also visited Gisozi Genocide Memorial where they paid respect to 1994 genocide victims and they were given explanations on how this was planned and executed. This was very important because most of them were still young and living outside of their motherland. They took a commitment to fight against the genocide ideology.

Diaspora General Directorate played a role in organizing Fespad (Panafrican Dance Festival) 2008 edition, which took place in Kigali and around the country from 27th July to 2nd August 2008. Five Cultural troops of Rwandan Diaspora took part in this event. These troops are Ihanika/Belgium, Intwari/UGANDA, Urunana/Suisse, Injanji/BURUNDI and Diazmut which was formed by Rwandan diaspora artists from different countries.

Diaspora General Directorate facilitated the Rwandan Diaspora working in United Nations to help the Genocide survivors of Akumunigo cell in Nyamirambo sector. This was done in partnership with IBUKA, The umbrella association for Rwandan genocide survivors. The UN employees gave 4,087,500 FRW to survivors’ cooperative called “Terimberi” to boost their goat rearing project. This action showed that the Rwandan Diaspora can play a big role in resolving problems caused by the Genocide and many others if well coordinated.

The Rwandan Diaspora is playing a critical role in the economic Development of the country through investing and encouraging others to invest in Rwanda. This is done through different events like the 2nd Rwanda Diaspora Business Expo, a three day event hosted by Rwanda Diaspora Investment UK Ltd (RDI) in conjunction with the Rwandan Embassy in the UK, Rwanda Investment & Export Promotion Agency (RIEPA) and Rwanda Private Sector Federation (PSF). Held in London from 22nd to 24th August 2008, it helped the country to showcase its products in the UK and EU markets.
Kigali City has been granted the Habitat Scroll of Honor Award 2008 for its many innovations in building a model, modern city symbolized by zero tolerance for plastics, improved garbage collection and a substantial reduction in crime. Kigali City is the first city authority to win this prestigious award in Africa.

The Habitat Scroll of Honor is the most prestigious award given by the United Nations in recognition of work carried out in the field of human settlements development. The aim of the award is to honor individuals and institutions that have been instrumental in improving the living conditions in urban centers around the world.

According to a statement posted on the UN Habitat website it is indicated that, “From 1998, the authorities in Kigali began restoring the city’s lost glory. They targeted garbage collection, and banned the use of plastic bags. The streets and pavements were beautified, and public transport was upgraded. Other areas included improvement of the sewage system and slum upgrading. In just one decade, Kigali has been transformed into a place to which people come from all corners of the world to see and learn how they can replicate the Kigali modernization and urban conservation model at home”.

The award was presented to the Kigali city during the global observances of World Habitat Day today 6th October 2008 in Angola’s capital-Luanda. The Mayor of Kigali city Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira received the award on behalf of Kigali city.

The Habitat Scroll of Honor award was launched by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in 1989. Its aim is to acknowledge initiatives which have made outstanding contributions in various fields such as shelter provision, highlighting the plight of the homeless, leadership in post conflict reconstruction, and developing and improving the human settlements and the quality of urban life.

Other cities that won this award this year include Shaoxing and Zhangjiagang in China and Ciudad Juarez in Mexico.

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9th ORDINARY SUMMIT OF HEAD OF STATE

THE 9th ORDINARY SUMMIT OF HEAD OF STATE ELECTS

H.E. PAUL KAGAME CHAIRPERSON OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

The 9th Ordinary Summit of Head of State of the East African Community Heads of State was held in Rwanda on 26th June 2008, at the Kigali Serena Hotel and attended by the following Head of States:

H.E. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI, President of the Republic of Uganda;

H.E. MWAI KIBAKI, President of the Republic of Kenya;

H.E. JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE, President of the United Republic of Tanzania;

H.E. PAUL KAGAME, President of the Republic of Rwanda;

H.E. PIERRE Nkurunziza, President of the Republic of Burundi;

In attendance were the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister of Rwanda, BERNARD MAKUZA, the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers, Rt. Honourable ERIYA KATEGAYA, the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. JUMA V. MWAPACHU and the Counsel to the Community, Hon. WILBERT T. K. KAAHWA.

The Summit unanimously elected H.E. Paul KAGAME, President of the Republic of Rwanda, Chairperson of the EAC Summit and his tenure begins immediately at this Summit Meeting. H.E. Paul KAGAME graciously and with humility accepted the election and expressed his readiness to serve the East African Community with a high level of commitment.

The same day, His Excellency President Paul KAGAME, with other Heads of East African States, inaugurated officially the East African Investment Conference, held at the same venue, from 26th to 28th June 2008.

Were present over 800 leading business executives from the East African Region and others from Africa, Europe, USA and Asia.

1. Outcomes of the Summit of EAC Head of States

The Summit took note with satisfaction the emerging peaceful conditions in Burundi and expressed solidarity with the on-going peace process between the Government under the leadership of K.E. Pierre NKURUNZIZA and the FNL-Palipehutu and called upon all parties engaged in the peace process to stay in the course to enable Burundi the return to a state of security and stability.

The Summit accepted Burundi’s request to pay only 1.0 million as a budget contribution for the two financial Years 2007/2008 and 2008/2009, after a briefing on the current financial position of the Republic of Burundi. In this regard, the Summit decided that the shortfall in the contribution s arising from Burundi’s request shall be shared equally by other four Partner States.

The Summit appointed Judges of the East African Court of Justice and designated President, Vice President, Principal Judge and Deputy Principal Judge of the Court.
The Summit welcomed the idea of the East Africa Community undertaking Military Field Exercises being an important factor of EAC’s integration and decided that the exercises be postponed until the next Financial Year 2009/2010. The Summit decided that the time has come to put in place a housing policy geared at acquiring and/or constructing houses for all key Community Staff. The EAC should approach Banks and Financial Institutions as well as Social Security Funds with a view to structuring mortgage lending for effecting the housing policy.

The Summit considered the proposal for the conclusion of a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement between the East African Community and the Government of the United States of America and directed that the Council of Ministers works closely with the Secretariat on the conclusion of the Agreement prior its signing at the AGOA Conference in mid July 2008.

The Summit directed that the Secretariat reviews and improve its proposal on rotation of Executive Staff in EAC following its directive that the comprehensive roadmap on EAC’s institutional development be charted out and that such roadmap informs the staffing of the EAC as well as the staff rotation programme.

The Summit endorsed the proposal to hold a Tripartite Summit of EAC-COMESA-SADC in October 2008 in Kampala, Uganda.

The Summit directed the Secretariat to review the quorum in sectoral meetings with a view to enabling the EAC to be more effective. The review proposal should include proposal for the amendment of the Treaty of the East African Community and the Rules of Procedure should be tabled before the next meeting of Ministers in September 2008.

The Summit reflected on the current global and regional food crisis, specifically on the high prices of food that threaten social stability in some parts of the world and considered that one of the immediate intervention to boost agricultural productivity in the region is to exploit the available natural gas and phosphates in Tanzania and Uganda for production of fertilizers. The Summit decided that joint financing of fertilizer production should be undertaken as a priority EAC regional project under the framework of Agricultural and Food Security Programme.

The Summit decided to deliberate at the next Summit a report presented by The leadership of the East African Business Council incorporating many proposals on how the business environment in the EAC can be improved.

The Summit addressed itself to the current global energy price crisis and underscored the need to expedite the implementation of the Power Master Plan in order to ensure the region of adequate power supply.

The Summit expressed serious concern about the political situation in Zimbabwe after elections. The Summit urged the ZANU-PF and the MDC leaders to come together and work out an amicable solution through dialogue in the interest of all Zimbabweans.

2. Principal Recommendations of the EAC Investment Conference

The Government of Rwanda, through its agency, the Rwanda Investment and Export Promotion Agency (RIEPA), in collaboration with the East African Community Secretariat and the Regional Investment Promotion Agencies/Authorities (IPAs), organised the first edition of the East African Investment Conference, whose theme was “Leveraging the East African Market through Trade and Investment.

The Conference was designed to showcase the region’s business and investment opportunities and its potential to serve as a commercial platform for servicing the continent since the region has always been perceived as one market and lead to increased inflow of local and foreign investments, crafting joint ventures between the regional block and foreign entrepreneurs, increase exports and employment opportunities due to increased investments.

Conference deliberations focused on investment opportunities across Mining, Transport and Infrastructure Development, Energy, Tourism, ICT, Broadcasting and telecommunication, Financial Services Sector, Leather goods production, agro-processing and manufacturing.

The Conference, through plenary sessions and one-on-one meetings provided excellent opportunities for business networking between local, regional and foreign investors.

This forum also provided a platform for the East African Countries to deal with the policy issues affecting individual countries, like existing non-tariff barriers etc...

During the investment conference, a number of issues were discussed during the Plenary Sessions, the Break Out Sessions and the One on One Meetings. Below are some recommendations and outcomes emanating from One-on-one meetings.
2.1 Main Recommendations
In the area of infrastructure (energy and transport) EAC partner states have to:

- Establish an EAC Investment Company/Fund to be heavily popularised and publicized to invest in the infrastructure sector and to raise funds from local sources for infrastructure development in the region;
- Commission multiple contractors to speed up construction of railway lines;
- Create a network of African Companies who are experts in infrastructure fields and can undertake infrastructure development projects at reasonable cost;
- Build and transfer (turnkey) projects commissions in the region need to emphasis transfer skills through training as part of deliverable to avoid current failure of sustainability of these projects;
- Encourage project promoters to take into account environment conservation when planning energy ventures, occasioned by climate change challenges.

In the area of industrial growth and regional trade through value added:

- EAC needs to develop harmonized standards and identify markets that accept the EAC standards;
- EAC can benefit through promotion of home market for locally produced goods;
- EAC should develop policies and strategies on prohibition of exports of raw materials in crude form which can viably be processed within the region in order to promote value addition;
- There should be strategic interventions on mindset change and attitudes of East African to enhance appreciation of locally produced goods, enhance entrepreneurial orientation in order to transform the informal sectors into formal sectors.
- Development of backward and forward production linkages for strategic industries such as breweries is essential in order to create import substitution of raw materials currently imported from outside EAC.
- Areas that escalate costs along the business supply chain from production to consumption such as corruption, clearance delays, infrastructure bottlenecks, etc... should be addressed for the promotion of cross-border value addition linkages in EAC.
- Commercial farming should be revamped in the region to ensure adequate supply and quality of agricultural raw materials and products which would attract investment in value additive activities.
- Private sector partnerships through business alliances, corporate transparency, and assertiveness in investment through acquisition of shares in local and foreign firms supported by focused regional and national policies should be enhanced to spur value additive investment.

In the area of financial mobilisation and accessibility for enhanced economic growth:

- EAC must find solution to the challenges identified in the financial sectors such as high interest rates or spreads, high liquidity ratio in terms of money circulation outside the banks and very low rate of savings, lack of long term financing, lack of harmonized capital development incentive measures, corporate culture that focuses on conventional and traditional banking system and undeveloped institutional investors such as the pension funds.
- Policy reforms are required to accelerate capital accounts by Partner States that have not undertaken such reforms, pension reforms and development of capital and insurance products.
- Credit Reference Bureaus should be established to enable banks make proper assessment of the level of risk of borrowers which will lead to reduction in the cost associated with risk and lower interest rates.
- Governments should put in place incentives to attract financing from the Diaspora and banks need to diversify financial products to attract money from the Diaspora.
- Partner States should develop and establish infrastructure funds and other long term resource mobilization schemes to finance development projects in the region.

In the area the role of ICT in fuelling regional trade investment

- EAC Member States need to address the ICT policy and regulatory framework in the region
- The Region needs to concentrate on storage, connectivity and content.
- EAC need to plan together to make the Region a hub in ICT.
- ICT can be used to redress the problems of NTBs in the Region and in preparation of trade data, ICT can also be used in trade facilitation programmes.
- ICT can be used to promote trade in the Region especially in the aviation industry and in the financial markets through electronic transaction
- ICT will facilitate the integration of the EAC economies.

2.2 Outcomes from One-On-One Business Meetings

One of the main objectives of the East African Investment Conference held in Kigali from 26th to 28th June 2008 was to provide a platform for business people, government officials and other stakeholders to network, discuss and debate ways of spurring investment and trade in this region. In this line, One-on-One meeting activity was an important component of that conference.

In total 120 requests of One-on-one meeting were officially handed to the EAC secretariat among which 59% were from foreigners while 41% were from participants residing in Rwanda.

Most of the conference participants arranged one-on-one business meeting for their own.
Parliamenatry elections

Rwanda rank the First in the world, in Gender promotion; 56 per cent of women are Parliamentarians. One of them is a Speaker of Chamber of Deputies.

Many People wonder why Rwanda is the first in the world to have a large number of women in Parliament. The point highlighted below can be your answer.

The feminist movement argues that the increase of women participation in decision making process decrease war and enables to tackle conflict issues in a peaceful way. Rwanda is one of the Great Lakes Region Countries which faced the evil of war and genocide. Before 1994, Rwandan women like many other citizens were corrupted and manipulated by the genocide regime that preached them hatred based on politicized ethnic groups and extreme obedience of political decision that they didn’t contribute in.

After 1994, Rwanda adopted a policy of promoting women in the decision making process in a considerable way. People were taught about the gender equality and gender promotion. Many laws have been made to reinforce gender equality and promote equal opportunity in both social and political way. Law and Education contributed much to sensitize people that a boy and a girl have both equal rights in education and inherited property, either or finance.

The number of women in local institutions increased since 1995. It steps ahead after 2003, where women become more than 30 percent in the cabinet and more than 40 per cent in Parliament.

The legitimacy of women is not only a result of political promotion but also of the women initiative to reconstruct their country and bring its unity and reconciliation. Many women who fled the country since 1950s were able to educate their children and struggle for the survival of their families in an unbearable refugee condition that nobody could expect them to do. Even after war and genocide Rwandan women played a crucial role in building a torn society. The widows became the heads of even extended families and others supported their family in absence of their husbands who were in jail due to the crimes they made in Genocide.

A great number of women were found in Lucrative and non lucrative Associations, Cooperatives, aiming at rising their families income. They participated in Gacaca court and other national programs focusing on whatever can bring unity and reconciliation in their country.

Furthermore, women engaged themselves in fighting to overflow the dictatorial regime that killed innocent people. The Rwanda Patriotic Army accounted a considerable number of women soldiers committed to fight for national interests during war and liberate the country. This sound like the rise of women after WWI and WWII, where women got opportunity to fill the gap of men and serve their countries in both military and industrial career. This helps the society to overcome what was called cultural taboo to the rationalization of women as able and constructive like men. Therefore to have 56 per cent of women in parliament in 2008 is not a hazardous achievement for Rwandans; it is a result of both political will of incumbent leaders and their own contribution to the country’s need.

Rwanda responded to the need of UN
In 2003 UN set a target for Nations to implement 30 per cent female representation in parliament. Consequently, The Constitution of Rwanda voted in 2003, enforced that law, the Parliamentary vote gave immediately the 39 women seats per 80 total seats. By law, women have a privilege of 24 seats in parliament that they share according to different provinces and the City of Kigali (Concessions). In 2003 they gained an additional number of 15. In 2008, they get an additional number of 22 to gain 46 seats per 80, these means that women also get seats in the different political parties, youth and other representation set by law.

Vision 2020 of Rwanda relies on knowledge based economy. Female literacy has risen from 10 per cent to over 50 percent over the past fourteen years. Government of Rwanda availed a 50 per cent loan access to woman aiming to help poor women to set up projects.

With the economic growth rate of 7 percent, promotion of science and technology, Human Right and Rule of Law, Rwanda is an opportunity to whoever needs to invest in and have a safe business project in Africa. The women that Rwanda has in Parliament in 2008 is not a hazardous achievement for Rwandans; it is a result of both political will of incumbent leaders and their own contribution to the country’s need.
The Sixth Session of the Kenya/Rwanda Joint Permanent Commission (JPC) was held in Nairobi, from 10th to 11th July 2008. The Session was officially opened by Honourable UHURU Kenyatta, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade of the Republic of Kenya, and was officially closed by Honourable Moses WETANG’ULA, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya. Honourable Rosemary MUSEMINALI, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda was leading the Rwandan delegation.

On Rwandan side, the meeting was also attended, on Ministerial level, by Honourable MUREKEZI Anastase, Minister for Public Service and Labour and Honourable Agnes KALIBATA, Minister of State in charge of Agriculture.

In their opening statements, the leaders of Kenyan and Rwandan delegations hailed the warm and cordial relations existing between the two countries. They both emphasized the need to deepen and enhance the excellent bilateral cooperation to higher levels.

They also stressed the need for the two countries to share each other’s strengths with a view to increasing capacities in the areas of cooperation, such as foreign affairs, security and governance, economic as well as social affairs. They therefore called on all concerned stakeholders of both sides to play a leading role in enhancing cooperation for a more effective development.

During the Meeting, discussions were conducted in three working groups and their reports were presented or submitted by the groups’ respective chairpersons to the plenary.

The aforementioned working groups were constituted as follows:

I. The Foreign Affairs, Security and Governance Working Group, composed of the areas such as: Defence, Police, Public Service, Justice and Legal Affairs, Immigration, Prison Services, Labour and Local Governance.

II. The Economic Affairs Working Group, composed by the following areas: Trade, Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock, Energy, Tourism, Information and Communication Technology, Water and Irrigation, Cooperative Development, Forestry and Wildlife, Environment and Natural Resources, Transport.

III. The Social Affairs Working Group, composed by the following: Education, Health, Gender, Youth, Culture and Sports, Humanitarian Affairs.

During this bilateral cooperation meeting, three Memoranda of Understanding and one agreement, engaging partnership and cooperation between different institutions of both sides were signed. Those are: 1) The Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of Labour; 2) The Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of Immigration and Emigration; 3) The Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of Correctional Services and 4) The Agreement on Exchange of Sentenced Prisoners.

Furthermore, apart from the signing of those MoUs and Agreements, the meeting was a fruitful discussion forum, in which a number of important decisions were taken and recommendations were made for the good of both countries’ respective populations.

For instance, we shall cite herein the following most important decisions and recommendations:
- The Kenyan Government renewed its commitment to help the Government of Rwanda in its endeavour to equip the Rwanda Public Service with qualified employees. In this regard, Kenya has provided the Rwandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs with 4 slots for diplomatic training of its staff;
- Kenya will go on training the Rwanda Defense Forces’ staff in the field of Peace support and disaster management;
- Kenya pledged to increase the training slots accorded to Rwanda Police Officers;
- In the field of Justice, both sides agreed to speed up the process of finalisation, signing and implementation of the Extra-Tradition Treaty;
- In the field of Immigration, Kenya informed that it has removed for Rwandans wishing to go to Kenya the requirement to apply for an entry visa, starting by the 1st June 2008. It was also noted that the use of a huge stamp by Kenyan Immigration Services to mark the entry visa in passports had been stopped. Last, Kenya has accepted to provide trainings to Rwandan Immigration Staff in the field of detection of false/forged travel documents.
- In the field of trade, Rwandan Delegation submitted to the Kenyan Delegation the results of a study conducted by Rwandan Government on Non Tariff Barriers which Rwandan Businessmen are faced with. The Kenyan Deputy Prime Minister acknowledged that the non tariff barriers constitute the major hindrance trade development in the East African Community Region and pledged the support of the Kenyan Government to remove all the reported non tariff barriers.
1. Issue of bilateral interest:

A) Evaluation of bilateral relations
The Cooperation between the Republic of Rwanda and South Korea was established in 1963. The two nations share an excellent bilateral relation and good working relations at the multilateral level, based on the promotion of technical cooperation, economic and social development.

There have been exchange visits between the two nations. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MINAFFET) visited South Korea in October 2005 and November 2006; and the Rwandan Minister of State in charge of Economic Planning visited South Korea in April 2006. H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda visited South Korea in May 2008.

The former Minister of South Korea H.E. Ki Ban Moon, visited Rwanda in late May 2005. Dr. Yung Wao Yi, the Deputy Director of Human Resource Development (HRD) visited Rwanda in April 2006, for Phase one of the agreed programme between HRD Korea and Human Resources Development and Institutional Capacity Building (HIDA). KOICA office was opened in Rwanda in 2006.

B) Bilateral Agreement:
Rwanda and South Korea have signed an agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation; and another agreement on the Korean Overseas Volunteers Programme.

Further discussions are still being held on “agreement on Protection and Promotion of Investment” and “Presidential Decree on Preferential tariff for least Developing Countries”.

The Final Version of the agreement on Protection and promotion of investment has been sent to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for approval. The above agreement will be signed on 1st of November, 2008.

C) Grants:
South Korea has donated agricultural equipment -3 power tillers (MINAGRI), computers, printers and photocopier (KIST), two limousines (President’s office) and one ambulance (MINISANTE). South Korea also dispatched volunteers and offered scholarships and training to competent Rwandans.

2. Assistance offered to Rwanda:

A) Dispatch of Experts:
An expert is currently working with MINICOM in the area of Industrial policy.

B) Development studies: KOICA project:
KOICA is currently funding a feasibility study of Water Resources Development in Nyabarongo River, amounting US$ 500,000 for a duration of two years. The project was approved on March 26th 2007 and is in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands, Environment, Forestry and Water.

The hand-over ceremony of the feasibility study of the above project between KOICA and the Ministry of Natural resources took place on 29th August, 2008.

C) Training courses in Korea:
During the Fiscal Year 2007, Ten courses were issued in the area of Information Management, Groundwater resources development and Management, E-business, HIV/AIDS prevention and eradication, leadership training, Customs Administration technique.

For the Fiscal year 2008, 25 courses has been offered to Rwanda in the area of Agriculture, Information technology, Diplomacy, Capacity Building for Gender Policies, statistical.

D) Volunteers to Rwanda:
There are currently seven volunteers in the field of computers, science education, electronic machinery and mechanical engineering. These volunteers are working with HIDA, RITA, KIST, FAWE Secondary, ETO Kibuye and ETO Nyamata (2).

E) Scholarship Programme:
Two Masters Degree scholarships were offered in the area of International Development and International Trade and Business.


During the Fiscal year 2008, the Government of Korea will assist Rwanda in the following Projects:

- Combating HIV/AIDS
- Combating Malaria
- Building Capacity in National Planning and Resource Mobilization for Economic Development in Rwanda. The delegation Team for this project was in Rwanda from 19th July to 3rd September 2008.

H.E Shigeo IWATANI, Ambassador of Japan, heads the Japanese Delegation and Hon. Rosemary MUSEMINALI, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation head the Rwandese Delegation.

Hon. Minister in her opening remarks expressed appreciation for the support of the Government of Japan and emphasis that, this particular policy dialogue should reflect the theme of the TICAD IV, namely, “Towards a Vibrant Africa”.

She emphasized that in that spirit our future bilateral relations should reflect this fact and focus on projects and initiatives that contribute to acceleration of economic growth in Rwanda.

During the dialogue, the Government of Rwanda briefed the Japanese Delegation on the status of the macro-economy in Rwanda, and EDPRS Monitoring Framework.

The Japanese Delegation briefed on the status and the progress of Japanese ODA, especially 3 Cooperation Programs according to an indicative “Rolling Plan”.

The Japanese Delegation presented the Cool Earth Partnership initiative and the Rwandan Delegation agreed to hold consultations within the relevant institutions and emphasized the fact that at the moment the level of development in Rwanda does not permit Rwanda to produce greenhouse gas emission.

The two Delegations recognized the success of the TICAD IV held in Japan in the end of May.

The Government of Rwanda requested the Japanese Government to scale-up support for economic growth and align its assistance to Rwanda Aid Policy. As to the scaling up, Japanese delegation reiterated the commitments made by the Government of Japan during the TICAD IV to double ODA without debt relief to Africa by 2012.

The Government of Rwanda requested the Government of Japan to consider the following projects that will be officially submitted in near future;

* Scaling up TVET sector
* NUR construction of the academic blocks
* Land Husbandry, Water Harvesting and Hillside Irrigation (LWH) Project
* Solar Energy and Hydro-electricity Project

The Government of Rwanda will officially submit the request for the use of the Counterpart Fund for the Non-Project Grant Aid for 2005 for rehabilitation of the Tumba College of Technology and the Kicukiro College of Technology.

The two Delegations agreed to continue to strengthen bilateral cooperation around the two priority issues: Human Resource Development and Rural Development.

The Government of Rwanda requested to reconsider the Kibungo-Ramiro Road Construction Project which was declined by the Government of Japan in 2007 emphasising that this project is especially in line with one of the TICAD IV focused areas.

The Government of Rwanda further explained that the project would enhance regional integration following the completion of the Kicukiro-Nemba Road and the proposed new Bugesera Airport.

The Government of Rwanda requested the Government of Japan to show the annual budget on the Rolling Plan.

The Government of Rwanda also proposed to hold a mid-term review meeting at technical level to evaluate the implementation progress which the Japanese delegation did accept.

In the framework of the TICAD IV, the Government of Rwanda could now propose new projects in line with 3 priority programmes where the Government of Japan pledged its support.

The two Delegations agreed to continue to strengthen bilateral cooperation around the two priority issues: Human Resource Development and Rural Development.
General Historical background

Since 1994, the Government of Rwanda has been widening, diversifying and strengthening its relations with other countries, regional and international organizations. New Embassies, diplomatic Representations have since been opened, including London, New Delhi, Tokyo, South Africa, Oslo, Stockholm, Khartoum, Singapore, South Korea, in addition to a number of Consular Missions were opened in various countries around the world.

Rwanda has also signed general cooperation agreements with several countries as well as and specific technical agreements to serve as legal frameworks for bilateral relations and cooperation. In the same vein, Rwanda has reinforced the existing technical framework called Joint Permanent Commission (Commission Technique Mixte) with several friendly countries.

This is a bilateral framework in which all forms of bilateral cooperation programmes and projects are discussed, approved, and their implementation evaluated and monitored. It is held annually or biannually, depending on the arrangements agreed upon by Rwanda and each of her development partners.

Mid-term reviews are also held by technicians of both sides to evaluate the level of implementation of programmes and projects agreed upon in the previous session of the Joint Permanent Commission, and if need be to propose new orientations or necessary adjustments.

This framework is important as it increasing ownership of Government of Rwanda as the beneficiary of cooperation programmes, while at the same time ensuring transparency, accountability, joint monitoring and evaluation of the utilisation of aid.

Given the importance of this JPC Framework, a number of countries have entered into this arrangement while others have asked Rwanda to start such bilateral cooperation.

It was therefore in this light that a Belgium - Rwanda Special Meeting of the Committee of Partners was held in Kigali, on 29 May 2008.

Before indulging in the proceedings of the Meeting itself, it would be ideal to a give an outline of the history of Rwanda – Belgium relations.

Rwanda became a UN Trustee of the Belgium Kingdom in 1916, following the defeat of Germany in the First World War. Rwanda therefore remained under the Belgian Colonial Government until 1 July 1962 when she gained independence.

From independence to 1994, Rwanda and Belgium maintained good relations based more or less on paternalism. After the 1994 genocide in which also 10 Belgian peacekeepers also lost their lives, the relationship between the RPF - led Govt. of National Unity gradually improved and Belgium rose to the occasion to respond to emergency needs like most European and American countries.

The bilateral relations and cooperation have further been cemented by regular high-level visits at the State or Presidential level, at the Ministerial level and at the technical level as well as at the parliamentary level. Such exchanges have had such an impact in areas of development cooperation and general bilateral relations.

In 2004, a New Cooperation Agreement was signed between the countries, renewing cooperation and actually giving it a new face. It was this same Agreement that was recently passed by Rwandan Parliament to be ratified.

This paved the way for the reinforcement of the JPC and the most recent session of the JOINT PERMANENT COMMISSION (October 2006) committed this cooperation to a four – year term. But in between, there will be annual consultations to review the progress of the cooperation projects.
The last annual consultation was held in Kigali on the 29th of May 2008.

The Belgian cooperation assistance has been increasing gradually: the new cooperation programme covers the 2007 - 2010 period and major areas of intervention include good governance, rural development, health, education and Multi-sector support.

The CTB (Belgian Cooperation Agency executes aid programmes) in collaboration with Rwanda Government through technical Ministries.

Since the beginning of 2007, the Belgian Government has manifested the will to place its cooperation within the PARIS DECLARATION dynamics through aide harmonization and alignment and by allowing Rwanda Government a say in the decision-making as far as cooperation programmes are concerned.

Another big step is that during the last JPC in October 2006, the Belgian Govt. decided to give Sector Budget Support in Education, Health and Justice and there is likelihood of entering into other domains like Agriculture and Infrastructure in that framework of Sector Support in future.

Belgium is at the moment among the most important donors in terms of bilateral quality and quantity assistance. She has also accepted to consolidate programmes and projects for better management and impact. Cooperation between Rwanda and Belgium like any other country is transparent and is properly co-managed by both Governments. In addition Cooperation programmes are executed within their timeframe. The Belgian Government has deployed enormous efforts in the revival of CEPGEL.

While Sector Budget Support is good, it would be better to move towards General Budget Support, as some other European countries are doing, for better efficiency and more ownership of programmes within the spirit of the Paris Declaration and the Belgian Govt. really seems to be willing. Strengthening cooperation and support in the development of our Private Sector and in promoting Investments in general is another area that should be looked into. It is noteworthy that Belgian business people have visited Rwanda and Rwandan businessmen have visited Belgium in recent times (2004). There is also need to strengthen cooperation in Capacity building for Rwandan through higher Education and training.

At the political level, there exists already an Inter-Parliamentary “Groupe d’Amitié” between the Rwandan and Belgium Parliaments. The two institutions have been exchanging visits and other visits are planned in the future. At Multilateral level, parliamentarians also meet in the annual ACP- Inter-parliamentary Forum.

Although Rwanda is not a donor country, it also has something to offer in form of business exchange. The volume of business between Rwanda and Belgium is not substantial- at least not in Rwanda’s favour. Rwanda exports fruits small amounts. The market is there but there is no capacity. Rwanda also exports small amounts of Tea and coffee. But all in all it is more because of lack of capacity than absence of market.

Belgian Chamber of Commerce visited Rwanda twice in 2006 and 2007. There have been a negligible number of investors from Belgium to Rwanda despite traditional ties between the two countries.

BELGIUM - RWANDA SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PARTNERS

Coming back to the 29 may 2008 Belgium - Rwanda Special Meeting of the Committee of Partners and in the framework of the implementation of the Decision of the 23 -24 October 2006 JPC to set up a kind of mid-term review mechanism called the “Special meeting of the Committee of partners: mechanism, its second session was held in Kigali on 29 May 2008.

The meeting was co-chaired by Bruno GEORGES, Deputy Director General in the General Directorate in Charge of Development Cooperation (DGCD) in the Federal Public Service in charge of Foreign Affairs, External Trade and Development Cooperation and Mr. RUGIRA Amandin, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

The Rwandan delegation included officers from Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, representatives from technical Ministries while the Belgian delegation was composed of the Chargé a.i at the Belgian Embassy in Kigali and other diplomatic personnel, the Adviser in charge of Government Programmes in DGCD – Brussels, Cooperation Attache’s and representatives of the Belgian Technical Cooperation (CTB-BTC) – Kigali.

In his introductory remarks, Mr RUGIRA Amandin welcomed the organisation of the Second Special Meeting of the Committee of Partners instituted by the 23 -24 October 2006 JPC. He stressed that this was an important mechanism to evaluate the 2007-2010 Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP) and if necessary reorient activities and modalities for the implementation of ICP.

He recalled that the Belgo-Rwanda Cooperation dates back from the 1960’s and during the Second Session of the JPC in October 2006, the 2007 -2010 ICP was adopted with a total envelope of 140 Million Euros. He noted that Rwanda was emerging from a traumatising genocide context and therefore values the cooperation with development partners like Belgium.
He recalled that this cooperation is within the framework of the General Cooperation Agreement that was signed on 18 May 2007, replacing the old one that had been signed on 13 October 1962, that highlighted areas of intervention, namely health care, agriculture and food security, basic infrastructure, conflict prevention, and community consolidation, cross-cutting issues such as human rights, gender equality, social economy and environmental protection.

He hailed the efforts deployed by the Belgian Government to align its commitment and aid assistance to sector budget support, with the possibility of switching to general budget support (GBS), which the form of aid preferred by the Government of Rwanda.

In response, Mr. Bruno GEORGES said that he was rejoiced to head the Belgian delegation to the country that was becoming a cherished investment and touristic destination, thanks to her development vision and achievements. He stressed that the Belgian Government was committed to the principles of the Paris Declaration and this has been facilitated by the fact that Rwanda has innovated its aid coordination and utilisation policies on the basis of solid foundations of her Vision and planning strategy though the integration of development aid into various sector strategic policy frameworks, based on EDPRS and Vision 2020.

He added that this had enabled donor countries to channel part of their aid though sector budget support. He also noted that the 2007-2010 ICP was almost half way and that its implementation would soon be evaluated in order to draw lesson for improving the execution of the next ICP. He pledged that the Belgian Government would endeavour to channel its various cooperation sectors though the ICP framework, with the concern to harmonise aid management. In conformity to the European Directives, Mr. Bruno GEORGES equally added that the Belgian Government will try to concentrate its efforts in areas where she has a real comparative advantage, compared to other donors present in Rwanda.

Following these introductory remarks, the mid-term review whose major objective is the evaluation of the implementation of the projects included in the Indicative cooperation programme (ICP) examined the following issues:

1. The need to harmonise and standardise the reporting system;
2. The need to shorten the expenditure/planning ratio;
3. The issues of better management of scholarships offered to Rwanda;
4. The evolution of implementation of strategic frameworks such as EDPRS, Vision 2020, governance, Vision 2020 –UMURENGE, etc;
5. Implementation of the Paris Declaration based on principles of ownership, alignment, harmonisation and responsible co-management of development projects and programmes;
6. The new project cycle proposed by the Belgium Government;
7. Official adoption and validation of the identifications for the 2009 Programme (MOH, MINRENA and MINAGRI);

In the framework of major orientations of the 2007-2010 ICP, four sectors were identified during the Special Meeting of the Committee of Partners and these were:

1. Potable Water and sanitation Programme in NYARUGURU, HUYE and GISAGARA Districts in Southern Province – PEPAS Phase II;
2. Institutional support to the Ministry of Health – Phase IV;
3. Support to the Rwanda Seed Sector – Phase II;
4. Support to small livestock keeping Project.

In conclusion the two delegations appreciated the cordial relations existing between Belgium and Rwanda and pledged to widen, strengthen and diversify them in the framework of the Paris Declaration.
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda wishes to express its deepest concerns in relation to the information and reports that in the current war in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, involving FARDC and rebel forces in Congo, FARDC is fighting in alliance with Ex FAR INTERAHAMWE/FLDLR.

The government of Rwanda condemns this action which is unacceptable and tantamount to effectively arming and therefore strengthening these genocidal forces contrary to the letter and spirit of the Lusaka Agreement, the Pretoria Agreement, the Nairobi Communiqué, the recent UN resolution 1804 and the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes region and is indeed contrary to the Tripartite Plus arrangements that both countries subscribe to.

The government of the Republic of Rwanda further expresses its strong concern against recent reported atrocious acts by DRC Security agencies in abducting, torturing and even killing of innocent Rwandans in Eastern DRC.

The government of the Republic of Rwanda demands that the dangerous association with the rebel forces that are the root cause of instability in our region ceases. The government of Rwanda equally urges that the DRC Government agencies urgently stop the harassment and torture of Rwandan citizens in the DRC.

The International Community must raise their voice in condemnation of these unacceptable actions that contradict all standing agreements, communiqués and resolutions relating to disarmament and demobilization of these negative forces as a true solution to the Peace and Security problem in the Great Lakes region.
Rwanda Opens new Embassies

In August 2008, the government of the Republic of Rwanda resolved to open diplomatic representations in South Korea. This is in the framework of improving relations between Rwanda and this country.

Comparing to the last 40 years, South Korea has achieved an outstanding economic development. Thus, Rwanda will learn much from this country especially in areas of economy, education, technology, etc.

The Embassy of South Korea in Rwanda has its residence in Dar es Salaam / Tanzania. With the aim of promoting cooperation between Rwanda and Asian countries, a diplomatic representation was established in Singapore.

H.E. Kagame receives New Ambassadors

President Paul Kagame at Urugwiro Village has received letters of credence from ten more new Ambassadors accredited to Rwanda.

President Kagame congratulated each new Ambassador to Rwanda on their new tour of duty and conveyed the support, friendship and openness on behalf of the Government of Rwanda.

He thanked the Ambassadors for the keenness expressed to strengthen ties with Rwanda in areas of cooperation and investment, and noted that he looked forward to building on the existing good bilateral relations.

He wished the new Ambassadors resident in Kigali, as well as their families a pleasant stay in Rwanda and assured those based in Kampala and Nairobi that they would be warmly received on their frequent visits to Rwanda.
H.E. Kagame receives new Ambassadors

Those Ambassadors are:

H.E Amb. Sampaio Fernando Maria: Brazil,
H.E Amb. Dr. Fidel Mama Ayogu: Nigeria,
H.E Amb. Sampaio Fernando Maria: Saharawi Arab Republic and Vatican.
H.E Amb. Mr. Makken Franciscus Albrecht: Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
H.E Amb. Mr. Goemans Ivo: Kingdom of Belgium
H.E Amb. Madam Anna Grupinska: Republic of Poland with Residence in Nairobi
H.E Amb. Mr. Pietro Ballero: Ambassador of the Republic of Italy with Residence in Kampala
H.E Amb. Madam Lisa Filipetto: The Commonwealth of Australia with Residence in Nairobi (the first Australian Ambassador to be accredited to Rwanda)
H.E Amb. Mr. Niraj Srivastava: Ambassador of the Republic of India with Residence in Kampala

H.E Amb. Anna Maria Sampaio Fernando: Brazil,
H.E Amb. Hamdi Bueha Sidi Mahmud: Saharawi Arab Republic
H.E Amb. Dr. Fidel Mama Ayogu: Nigeria
H.E Amb. Monsignor Ivo Scapolo (Mgr): Vatican