REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

Statement by
Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations

At the UN General Assembly plenary meeting on the

*Report of the Security Council for 2018*

10th September 2019
Madam President,

Let me start by thanking the members of the Security Council and the Secretariat for producing the annual report of the Security Council (A/73/2). I also thank the President of the Security Council, the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, for presenting the report this morning.

The UN Charter, in Articles 15 and 24 to be specific, provides for this important opportunity for the General Assembly to consider the work that the Security Council has accomplished in a given year. Therefore for Rwanda, we reaffirm the importance of this essential task of the General Assembly to have the occasion to comment on and review the work of such an important body of the United Nations. It is a vital exercise in transparency and accountability that can enhance the symbiotic relation between the General Assembly and the Security Council if exercised effectively.

For this to be possible, it is essential to have timely submission of the annual report to allow member states adequate time to study the report, prepare and deliver substantive feedback. The current report was made available only on 22nd August 2019, leaving us with very little time to go through the 200 plus page document and prepare a statement. This has been the trend for a number of years now and is doing a disservice to Member States and to the Security Council itself which could gain beneficial feedback on its work. My delegation therefore calls on the members of the Security Council and the President of the General Assembly to work together and ensure timely submission of the report and better scheduling of the plenary meeting to consider the annual report.

We request the Security Council to abide by their provision in Note 507 to submit the annual report to the General Assembly in the spring of the reporting year.
We would like to emphasize the need to improve the content of the annual report from a purely activity based report to also include analytical elements. Given the broad range of important topics covered by the Security Council, it would be beneficial to have an analytical assessment of the manner in which the Council handled the issues in a given year.

Madam President,

On specific issues covered in the annual Report of the Security Council for 2018, let me touch on a few important thematic issues for my delegation.

1. On the issue of strengthening Peace and Security in Africa, let me express Rwanda’s appreciation for the Council’s continued support for enhanced Partnerships between the UN and Regional organizations. Partnerships between the UN and regional arrangements, including the African Union, European Union, and regional economic communities and mechanisms, have become an increasingly important means of addressing complex peace and security challenges.

2. In 2017, the UN and AU signed the Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, which provides the basis for the enhanced organizations’ collaboration in conflict analysis, preventive diplomacy, mediation, peace operations, and peacebuilding. The UN-AU Partnership Framework should capitalize on regional peace frameworks and mobilize further support for regionally led peace processes and initiatives. We would encourage candid and sustained cooperation in that direction going forward.

3. We also take note and commend the Council’s work on highlighting issues of strengthening performance and accountability in peacekeeping operations. This is one of the key themes of A4P and implementation of Security Council mandates such as protection of civilians, ensuring distribution of
humanitarian assistance and ensuring political engagements in a favourable
environment. In this regard we encourage Security Council to share its
assessment of the impact of continued funding shortage and unpredictable
funding on the performance of UN peacekeeping.

4. We appreciate that the Council, in its report reflected the importance of the
Women, Peace and Security Agenda. It is a powerful agenda for moving
from exclusive to democratic decision-making, from gender inequality to
gender justice and from conflict and violence to sustainable peace.

5. On the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, we take
note of the positive step by the Council in recognizing a number of
delegations’ concerns with regards to the Mechanisms approach of early
release of persons convicted by the ICTR (captured in Resolution 2422 of
2018), including recommending to the Mechanism to find an appropriate
solution such as putting in place conditions on early release. Such
measures would ensure that the MICT, which we have invested so much in,
does not lose all credibility.

6. Finally, Rwanda emphasizes the importance of this meeting to the UN
Charter objective of accountability and transparency to the United Nations
Security Council to the General Assembly. Only by implementing this
objective seriously, the UNSC will salvage the legitimacy of the mandate it
serves on behalf of all members.

I thank you for your kind attention.