REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

STATEMENT

By

ROBERT KAYINAMURA – Chargé d'affaires

At the Security Council Open Debate on


10th January 2020
Mr. President,

1. At the outset, Rwanda extends its congratulations to you for assuming the presidency of the Council for the month of January and to thank your delegation for organizing this important debate as we prepare to mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

2. We welcome the elected new members of the Security Council – Estonia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Viet Nam and wish them and their delegations success. We appreciate the contributions by Cote d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Peru and Poland to the work of the Council during their terms.

Rwanda aligns itself with the Statement on behalf of NAM

Mr. President

3. The authors of the UN Charter were not mistaken when they set off in this great document by recalling the horrors and pains of the scourge of war, which we unfortunately so easily forget. They did not envisage how much the international system would evolve, and they didn’t have to- their bitter
experience convinced them that multilateral cooperation was the only way to save mankind from destruction. And they were right. This is the true spirit of this organization. The purposes and principles of the UN Charter enhance this vision and practice of multilateral cooperation by encouraging states to pursue cooperation over isolation, peaceful settlement of disputes over war, and the pursuit of a common vision where member states relate as equals.

4. Indeed, the formation of the United Nations, and its evolution over the years, has shown us that multilateral cooperation is central to Peace and Security in the world.

Mr. President

5. The role of the United Nations is being questioned and international treaties challenged. This means that multilateral cooperation is at a crossroads, perhaps at a time when we need it most; with contemporary challenges, including climate change, terrorism, poverty and inequalities, which all require a reinvigorated multilateral system. No one doubts that no country is able to address these challenges alone. A stronger United Nations, reflecting the realities of the contemporary world, will allow it to meet the challenges in the international system today and in the years ahead.
Mr. President,

6. As Members of the United Nations, guided by the UN Charter, there are many achievements we can be proud of as we look back on the past 75 years. The world is a better place in many ways, be it in peace and security, economic development, human rights, social development, health, and many other sectors. Indeed if it wasn’t for multilateral cooperation, we may not have recorded much progress in these areas.

7. But there is still a long way to go. The world is a dynamic place, and history is always on the move. New challenges have emerged over the years and require us to adapt to them. To achieve this, allow me to make few points:

1) While we are all pursuing our national interests, at the core of it all, we need to build on the fact that the people we serve have common aspirations. They want to live in a peaceful, sustainable and dignified world. Let us build on these mutual aspirations rather than focus on myopic goals. Therefore there is need for the strengthening of international relations based on international law, and the UN remains the only universal global forum for open, continuous and honest dialogue.
2) There is need for all MS to uphold the Charter in the maintenance of international peace and security; we also must strengthen multilateral cooperation. Most contemporary challenges—be it terrorism, climate change, migration, transnational organized crimes, and many others—cannot be effectively addressed without multilateral cooperation.

3) Our world has been integrated and globalized far too deeply for us to dismember ourselves and try to fix things alone. In this regard, the United Nations will become even more relevant in the years to come, hence the need renew our commitment to the rules-based multilateral system.

4) As the primary body responsible for maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council also needs to make a wider and more effective use of the procedures and framework for pacific settlement of disputes, particularly Articles 33-38 of the UN Charter.

**In conclusion Mr. President,**

8. Rwanda reaffirms its commitment to the principles of the UN Charter, and we will continue to play our part to enhance multilateral cooperation in the pursuit of a just, peaceful, and prosperous world for all.

I thank you