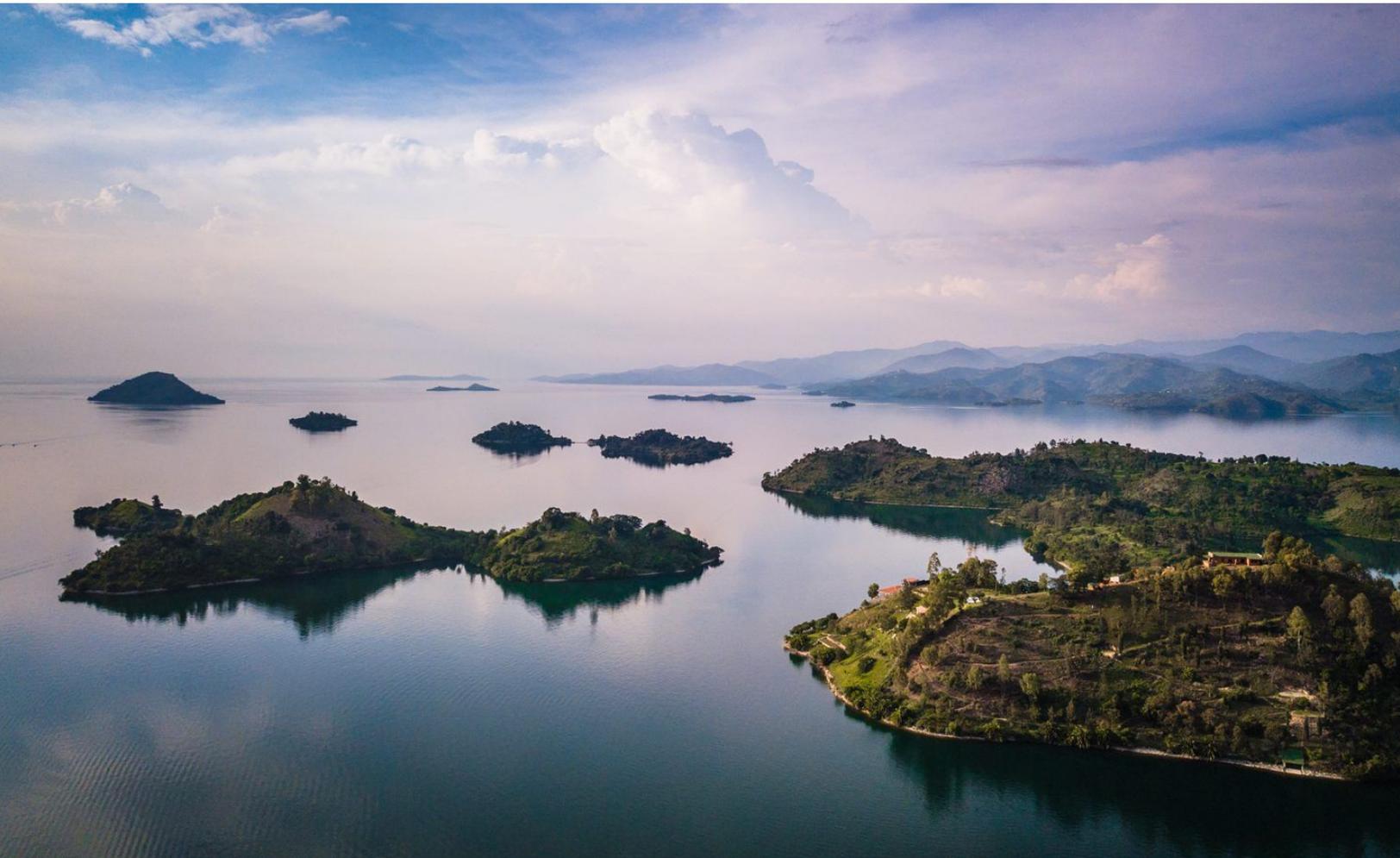




*Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda - Washington D.C.*

# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2020



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# BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



## *December 1st, 2020*

H.E. President Kagame participated in the African Diaspora Network (ADN) 10th year anniversary. President Kagame addressed the audience and inspired it to think beyond the present moment by mobilising resources and new ideas to accelerate the development of our people, and encouraged Africans in the diaspora to continue playing their role. The ADN plays a critical role in bringing together Africans and friends of Africa through an enabling ecosystem to create new possibilities for investment and growth in Africa.



## *December 2nd, 2020*

H.E. President Kagame together with Mr. Charles Michel, President of the European Council participated in the 5th Meeting on Europe-Africa relations, co-hosted by Mo Ibrahim and Etienne Davignon, alongside other Heads of State and Government. Discussions availed to be a good opportunity for honest and productive conversations on ways to strengthen the partnership of both continents going forward.

## BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



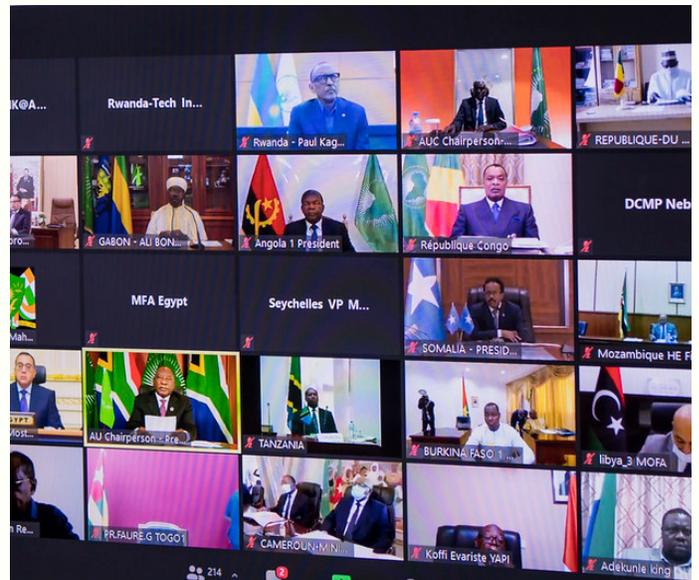
***December 5th, 2020***

H.E. President Kagame participated in the 13th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union. This session was dedicated to finalizing the instruments of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) ahead of the start of trading on 1 January 2021. President Kagame stressed the importance of this strategic framework as one that will propel the rebuild of African economies and strengthen Africa's resilience to future shocks.

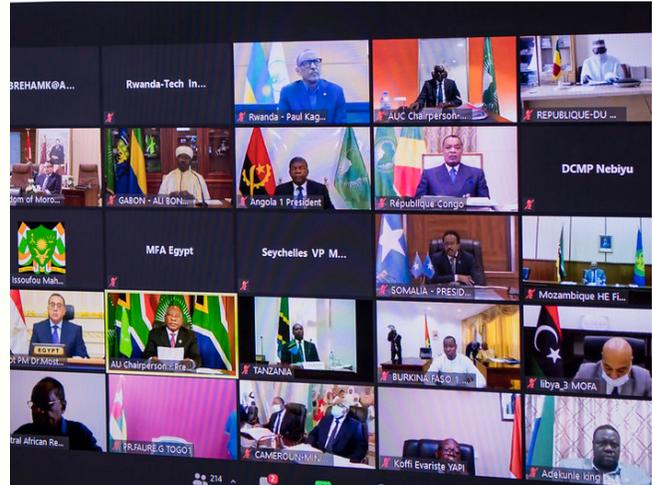


***December 6th, 2020***

H.E. President Kagame participated in the 14th Extraordinary African Union Summit, during which he gave a statement alongside other Heads of State and Government on the topic of the AU's 50th anniversary declaration on "Silencing The Guns in Africa". The Silencing The Guns initiative aims to promote prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa.



## BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



### *December 7th, 2020*

H.E. President Kagame, who also serves as the Chairman of SMART Africa Board joined other Heads of State and Government, their representatives and other delegates for the 9th SMART Africa Board Meeting. SMART Africa is a bold and innovative commitment from African Heads of State and Government to accelerate sustainable socio-economic development on the continent, ushering Africa into a knowledge economy through affordable access to Broadband and usage of Information and Communications Technologies. SMART Africa has developed the Africa Startups & ICT Ecosystems blueprint among other things.



### *December 8th, 2020*

At Urugwiro Village, H.E. President Kagame, who leads the African Union Institutional Reforms Process, met with the African Union Reforms Advisory Team alongside Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

## BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS



***December 9th, 2020***

Minister of State Prof. Nshuti Manasseh joined other world leaders at the 2020 World Press Freedom Conference. Prof. Nshuti reaffirmed the Government of Rwanda's unwavering contribution to strengthening the international normative framework guiding the safety of journalists and media workers.

***December 12th, 2020***

H.E. President Kagame participated in the Climate Ambition Summit, where he emphasized the collective responsibility and accountability to an ambitious action on climate change for a more resilient, healthy, and more prosperous world.



***December 16th, 2020***

Minister Vincent Biruta visited Spain for a working visit during which he discussed with his counterpart Minister Arancha González Laya on ways to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation. During his visit to Spain, Minister Biruta signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Political Consultations with Minister González Laya, aiming at establishing and further consolidating bilateral cooperation between Rwanda and Spain.

## RWANDA IN THE NEWS



### *December 4th, 2020*

The Government of Rwanda, Unilever Tea Rwanda and The Wood Foundation Scotland Africa have signed an agreement for a second phase of the Nyaruguru tea project. The development comes after the success of the first phase of the project completed ahead of schedule, with the farmers of Nyaruguru District in the Southern Province showing they can effectively plant to scale and produce high-quality tea. This will be supported by a dedicated farmer services company which has an existing 800-hectare commercial plantation feeding into the processing factory operated by Unilever Tea Rwanda.



### *December 7th, 2020*

Minister of State Prof. Nshuti Manasseh received returnees of African descent from the United States of America and other parts of the world who are looking to settle and make Rwanda their home.

## RWANDA IN THE NEWS



**FIGO AFRICA REGIONAL  
KIGALI CONGRESS**  
Virtual Event with a Hub in Kigali  
13-15 December 2020

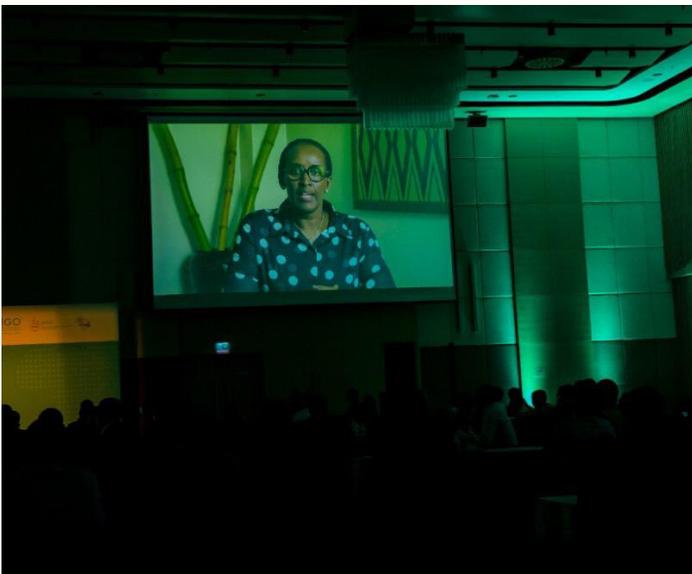
@FIGOHQ  
FIGOKIGALI2020.ORG

FIGO Regional Congress

FIGO International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics

RSOG Rwanda Society of Obstetrics & Gynaecologists

AFOG



### *December 13th, 2020*

First Lady, Mrs. Jeannette Kagame participated and gave remarks at the FIGO Africa Regional Kigali Congress by inviting all participants of #FIGOKigali2020 to commit to providing each woman with all the best options, to make informed decisions about such a special moment in her life and that of her entire family, and stressed that no woman should die while giving life.

## RWANDA IN THE NEWS



Rwanda Development Board CEO, Claire Akamanzi met with legendary musician, songwriter and producer Teddy Riley to discuss his VisitRwanda experience and business plans for Rwanda. During his visit, he also toured the ICT Innovation Centre in Kicukiro District in the City of Kigali where he learned about the facility's audiovisual and technology services for startups. During his visit, Mr. Teddy Riley also met with Rwandan musicians, DJs and producers to share insights on developing the country's vibrant music industry and reaching global audiences.

***December 14th, 2020***



***December 16th, 2020***

The Rwanda Development Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding with trade enabler DP World, UAE to launch a new global e-commerce platform, <http://Dubuy.com>, in Rwanda early next year. With the launch of Dubuy.com global E-Commerce platform hub in Rwanda, exporters & importers alike will have free access to this digital alternative route to the Gulf Cooperation Council market.

**Congratulations to RDB and DP World, UAE for this milestone!**

## RWANDA IN THE NEWS



*December 20th, 2020*

The Government of Rwanda has deployed force protection troops to the Central African Republic, under an existing bilateral agreement on defense. Rwandan troops will also contribute to ensure a peaceful and secure general elections, 22 months after the peace agreement which was reached between the Government and fourteen armed groups. The Rwanda Defence Force is also one of the largest troop contributors to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) since 2014.



*December 21st, 2020*

H.E. President Kagame delivered the State of the Nation Address and held a virtual press conference, which was followed by an interactive session with citizens across the country. President Kagame reassured Rwandans that despite the shock of Covid-19, and the many adjustments the country has had to make, the state of Rwanda remains strong. President Kagame asserted that resilience is the capability to withstand hard times, but without compromising long-term health and well-being, or the ability to prosper in the future.



## RWANDA IN THE NEWS



*December 28th, 2020*

Brian Kelly travelled to Rwanda – founder of “The Points Guy” an American travel website and blog that produces news and stories on travel. Mr. Kelly has over 4 Million social media followers. His trip to Rwanda was highlighted through various social media platforms and thus viewed by many. Rwanda remains open for international and domestic tourism with strict adherence to COVID-19 prevention measures. For more information about traveling to Rwanda and COVID-19 safety guidelines, please visit [www.rdb.gov.rw](http://www.rdb.gov.rw) or [www.rwandaembassy.org](http://www.rwandaembassy.org)

# THE EMBASSY



## Maranyundo Initiative

We are looking forward to being together with you for our Hamwe event on December 3rd for lively performances, interviews, and stories directly from the Maranyundo girls themselves.

**MEET YOUR WONDERFUL HOSTS FOR THE EVENT:**

My name is Umwali Kelly. I am a Senior-6 student in Math, Physics and Computer Science, and the Head Girl at the Maranyundo Girls School. I live in Musanze, Northern Rwanda with my parents and two siblings. I came to Maranyundo in 2018 to start advanced level (high school). The first thing that fascinated me, or anyone who comes to Maranyundo, is the school campus. The view will take your breath away! But beyond that lies the heart of Maranyundo—its leaders, staff and students. Our school provides quality education with highly qualified teachers. In addition to

## *December 3rd, 2020*

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana virtually joined the Maranyundo Initiative to celebrate Maranyundo Girls School Annual event. The Ambassador commended the students' adaptability during COVID-19, as Rwanda continues to find ways to ensure learning is uninterrupted while building resilience for future crises.

On the same day, Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana and Ambassador Tibor Nag, Assistant Secretary of African Affairs at the Department of State met to discuss bilateral relations between Rwanda and the United States and their shared interest. Ambassador Nagy also celebrated Rwanda for being technologically advanced and hoped for the country to be the “academic capital of Africa”.

## THE EMBASSY



### *December 18th, 2020*

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana attended a virtual meeting held by Mr. Taufila Nyamadzabo, Executive Director, World Bank Group. The meeting was to inform members of the Africa Group I constituency on areas the Executive Director will be focusing on delivering. The following are the strategic goals for the member countries:

- (i) increased resource mobilization to finance the development agenda;
- (ii) enhanced private sector development with particular focus on the growth of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises;
- (iii) enhanced engagement with Constituency countries and;
- (iv) improved diversity and representation in the World Bank Group.

Mr. Nyamadzabo also reiterated his offices' continued relationship with the Constituencies' Ambassadors in Washington D.C.

## THE EMBASSY



***December 9th, 2020***

Rwanda Ambassador to the United Nations, Valentine Rugwabiza and Ambassador Noor Qatar Sulaiman signed a Joint Communiqué to establish Diplomatic Relations between Brunei Darussalam and Rwanda. Both countries are champions of inclusive development, access to health services, quality education and digital technologies for all.

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## RWANDAN COMMUNITY IN THE U.S.



*December 19th, 2020*

IBUKA, the umbrella body for survivors of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, has finally launched its chapter in the United States, “**IBUKA-USA**”. IBUKA-USA will be headquartered in Delaware. IBUKA works towards justice, memory preservation, supporting genocide survivors and peace-building, and also has played a major role in ensuring those who committed crimes of genocide are brought to justice, in countries where it has chapters. **Congratulations to its first leadership team, presided by Mr. Jason Nshimye!**

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