



RWANDA HIGH COMMISSION IN KENYA

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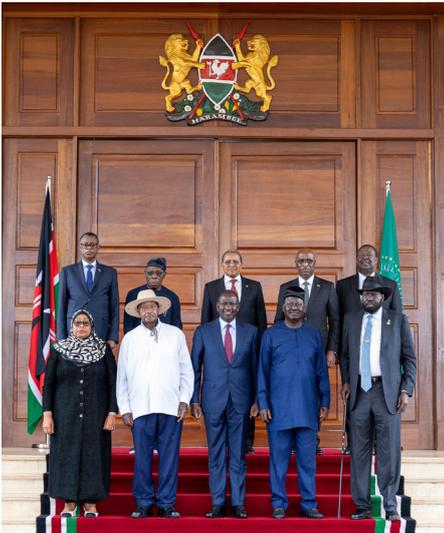
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2ND NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR TRANSFORMATION (NST2)

2024-2029 (5 Years)

Goals

GOAL 1 MODERNIZED AGRICULTURE

- Agriculture sector will achieve over **6% annual growth**, becoming more market-oriented and sustainable
- Productivity will increase by **more than 50%**, driven by an **85% expansion** in irrigated land, increased access to fertilizers and seeds, improved animal breeds, and a boost in domestic production of animal feeds

GOAL 2 JOBS FOR ALL

- 1.25 million** productive and decent jobs will be created, providing **250,000 new jobs** annually

GOAL 3 OPEN FOR BUSINESS

- Private investment will be doubled from **\$2.2 billion** in 2023 to **\$4.6 billion** by 2029
- Export levels will increase from **\$3.5 billion** to **\$7.3 billion**, fuelled by non-traditional products, agro-processing, and mining focusing on value addition

GOAL 4 MADE IN RWANDA

- Rwanda will become a hub for high-quality, locally-made goods that will boost the economy and create jobs, driven by significant investments in agriculture, manufacturing, and services

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Inaugural Address by President Paul Kagame

Kigali, 11 August 2024

I can only begin by thanking all Rwandans for putting your trust and confidence in me. It is an honour to serve as your President for another term.

To all our guests, friends, and partners, from near and far, your presence on this important day is very deeply meaningful and greatly appreciated. We are especially grateful to all the Heads of State and Government who have joined us or sent representatives. Many of you have accompanied our country and our people throughout this thirty-year journey of rebuilding.

The electoral campaign was a period of joy and satisfaction for all of us. Millions attended rallies, and almost everyone went to vote.

But it isn't just about numbers. There is a much deeper meaning behind what all of us saw and experienced. That reality is undeniable; it stems from the spirit of togetherness among Rwandans,

as well as a shared determination to be the owners of our future. This is exactly what we have been working for all of these years.

Rather than leaving behind new divisions to be healed, our political process is designed to renew and deepen our unity.

Over the past three decades, what Rwandans have managed to accomplish is even more than we expected. Indeed, it is beyond what words can describe, given where we started from. Our tragic past ignited a fire in each one of us: a fire of hope, resilience, and justice. This is who we have become as Rwandans.

In this year, 2024, the intersecting crises that define our region and our world continue to create uncertainty and distrust, as a result of unaddressed inequalities and double standards.

Peace in our region is a priority for Rwanda, yet it has been lacking, particularly in eastern DRC. But peace cannot be delivered by anyone from

anywhere, no matter how powerful, if the party most directly concerned does not do what is needed. Without that, the sincere mediation efforts by the mandated regional leaders cannot work as intended.

And here, I would like to pause to thank the President of Angola, President João Lourenço, and the President of Kenya, President William Ruto, among others, for everything they have done and continue to do.

Peace cannot happen all on its own. We all have to do our part, and the right things, in order to achieve and sustain peace. This should not be seen as a favour to anyone. For anyone to do what is needed for everybody to have peace can't be a matter of favours being dished out. It is an obligation. In the end, when it doesn't happen, that's why people stand up and fight for it.

It should be understood as a necessity, because it is a question of people's rights and there cannot be real peace if those rights are not respected. You can't wake up one day and decide to deny whoever you want their citizenship rights and expect to get away with it. There has to be a meeting in the middle. There has to be a compromise.

This is a time to reflect on the kind of world we want our children to live in. As a global community, we have more in common than we think, and within us we always have the tools to repair, to renew, and to reset. It does not mean that we have to agree on everything. But we must respect each other's choices, all of us doing the best we can in our unique contexts.

There is no longer room for the powerful to impose their vision about how others ought to live, or to create narratives that falsify the truth. This must always be resisted, even when under pressure.

But there is also no possible excuse for injustice, wherever it occurs, whether committed against us as Africans, or inflicted by ourselves. Indeed, we Africans are people who

have consistently fought injustice. We don't need any lessons about how best to do so. And we must all humbly acknowledge the necessity to adapt our political and governance systems to our specific conditions, and the expectations of our citizens.

Like everyone else, what matters most to us is to see our people living safe, healthy, and dignified lives. This is imperative, and it is a responsibility that we cannot evade or outsource.

Since its establishment, the African Union has been instrumental in building on this common heritage to forge a more integrated future, where the many voices of Africa can be heard. From security, to health, infrastructure, and jobs for youth, we are taking responsibility for our challenges and offering solutions. That is the mindset that brings us closer together and creates positive change over time for everyone.

Africa is home to some of the world's most ancient civilizations, but also to its most youthful population, who are as capable as you would find anywhere else. Our youth are energetic, innovative, and bold, and they are not afraid to change the status quo for the better, by demanding more of ourselves and from each other.

Throughout our campaign here, it was always humbling to hear the slogan "Ni wowe", meaning "It's you". But actually, in reality, it is not me alone, *ni mwebwe, ni twese* — it's all of us.

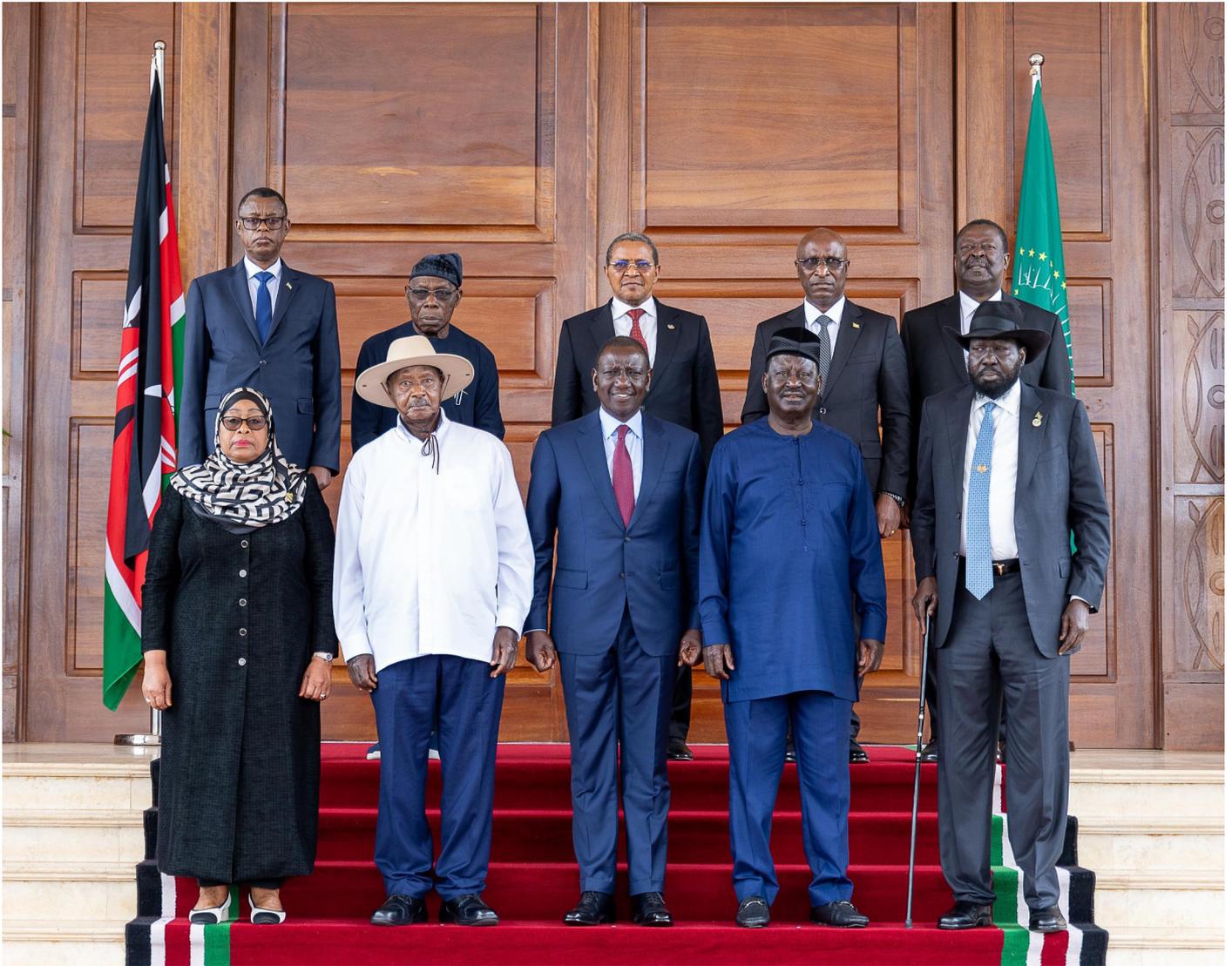
Our focus now returns to the future. For the last thirty years, our country has been a good work-in-progress. This new mandate means the beginning of even more hard work.

Why not do even better than we have done? That expectation to keep improving is not a dream, it is realistic. We can do it, and we will do it.

Above all, we will be together, and I thank you once again for renewing the privilege to serve our country.

May God bless Rwanda and Africa, and all of us Africans.

Rwanda graces Hon. Raila's AUC candidacy official launch



President William Ruto and leaders from the East African region pose for a group photo at the occasion of the official launch of Raila Odinga's AUC Chairmanship candidature in Nairobi. Courtesy

Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, James Kabarebe, represented President Paul Kagame at the official launch of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga as the Kenyan candidate for African Union Commission (AUC) chairmanship, in Nairobi.

Hosted by President William Ruto, the event was attended by President Kaguta Museveni of Uganda, President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania, President Salva Kiir Mayardit of South

Sudan, and Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca of Burundi among others.

In his speech, President Ruto sent a message of gratitude to East African Community leaders who attended the ceremony, saying their presence at the event showed their commitment to unity and the growth of the EAC region.

He noted that EAC leaders understand the power of working together and the importance of

having a united voice, insisting that the region has for a long time been a beacon of resilience and innovation in the continent. Rwanda was among EAC countries that expressed support for Odinga's AUC candidacy. During his visit to Kigali in March this year, Odinga met President Paul Kagame to discuss "issues of regional and continental interest." In the meeting, President Kagame assured Odinga of Rwanda's support in his bid and during his tenure if he wins the seat.

Inside Rwanda's new five-year development strategy

On August 23, the Government of Rwanda approved the 2nd National Strategy for Transformation (NST2). The 5-year strategy is built on five priorities: job creation, export promotion, quality of education, reduced stunting & malnutrition, and enhanced public service delivery.

Below is an overview of the 13 goals under NST2:

2ND NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR TRANSFORMATION (NST2)

— 2024-2029 (5 Years) —

Goals



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- Agriculture sector will achieve over **6% annual growth**, becoming more market-oriented and sustainable
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GOAL 4 MADE IN RWANDA

- Rwanda will become a hub for high-quality, locally-made goods that will boost the economy and create jobs, driven by significant investments in agriculture, manufacturing, and services



GOAL 5 SETTING SOLID FOUNDATIONS FOR EDUCATION

- Pre-primary enrollment will increase **from 35% to 65%**, reaffirming the country's commitment to promoting early childhood education as the foundation for lifelong learning



GOAL 6 DEVELOPING SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE

- **One million coders** will be **equipped**, and **500,000 people** will be **trained** in advanced ICT skills
- TVET centers of excellence will be **established to provide skills** in high demand by market



GOAL 7 QUALITY HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

- Access to **quality healthcare** will be increased by **quadrupling the number of registered health workers** and improving maternal, child, and infant health services



GOAL 8 INTENSIFYING THE FIGHT AGAINST MALNUTRITION

- Efforts will be intensified to **combat malnutrition**, aiming to halve stunting rates from **33% to 15%**



GOAL 9 UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND ELECTRICITY

- By 2029, **every household, school, and health facility in Rwanda** will have access to clean water, sanitation, hygiene services, and reliable electricity



GOAL 10 PROMOTE #VISITRWANDA

- Tourism revenues will **nearly double**, **establishing the country as a top destination** for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) as well as key sporting events



GOAL 11 NO ONE LEFT BEHIND, A SINGLE DIGITAL ID

- A Single Digital ID system will be **introduced, revolutionizing access to government services** and making it easier and faster for Rwandans to interact with public institutions



GOAL 12 UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO E-GOVERNMENT

- By 2029, **all government services will be fully digitized**, enhancing service delivery and accountability



GOAL 13 EMBRACING PARTNERSHIPS

- Economic diplomacy and international cooperation will be strengthened to secure trade and investment opportunities and elevate Rwanda's global profile to drive shared prosperity
- Rwandan Community Aboard will actively contribute to and support national development goals
- Peace and security will be maintained, ensuring a stable environment for Rwanda's continued growth and active engagement of communities

RwandAir registers 80% revenue growth in 2023

The national carrier RwandAir has recorded a substantial increase in its total revenues from Rwf341 billion (more than \$255.4 million) in 2022 to Rwf620.6 billion (more than \$465.1 million) in 2023, representing an 82 per cent growth.

The progress was registered after a drop in revenues from Rwf334 billion in 2019, to Rwf300 billion in 2020, and Rwf271 billion in 2021, according to the Rwanda Fiscal Risk Statement (FRS) by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN).

The two years when the dip in the airline's revenues occurred reflect the Covid-19 pandemic that shook the travel and tourism industry globally.

However, after the pandemic, says RwandAir CEO Yvonne Manzi Makolo, the airline has seen an exceptional level of growth.

"IATA [International Air Transport Association] projections show demand for air travel tripling in the next 20 years. The potential for growth is therefore enormous. Our recent growth is down to three key factors: Rwanda's tourism boom, investment in cargo and our growing Kigali hub," She said.

RwandAir has been a key driver of Rwanda's tourism growth with the airline's extensive network, connecting Africa to the world with its highly successful European and Middle Eastern routes.

"The airline has become key to the government's ambitious tourism plans; the country saw over 1.4 million tourists arrive in 2023, almost triple that of 2021. In addition to our traditional tourists visiting the national parks and cultural sites, Kigali is now the second-most popular city for conferences after Cape Town in Africa. This tourism growth is very much down to our connections," Makolo remarked.

On cargo growth, Makolo observed that it is in line with the country's strategy of opening Rwanda to the outside world through trade. Earlier this year, RwandAir launched two new cargo routes to Dubai and Djibouti, and with some new aircraft deliveries in the pipeline, the plan is to open more routes.

The national carrier targets to double its fleet from the current 12 airplanes within five years, in line with sustaining a significant revenue growth it registered in 2023.



Rwanda extends import tax exemption for electric vehicles

Rwanda has renewed a zero-rated import duty on electric and hybrid vehicles, extending the tax exemption until the end of the new fiscal year 2024/25.

The decision seeks to accelerate the transition to electric cars and motorcycles and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The government first initiated a

zero-rated import duty on electric vehicles (EVs) in April 2021, as it stepped up efforts to encourage uptake of EVs and investment in the budding sub-sector.

The latest extension of the waiver was one of the tax incentives announced for the fiscal year 2024/25.



An electric car at a charging station at Kigali Convention Centre. Courtesy

Rwanda donates \$1.2m to Caribbean countries hit by Hurricane Beryl

Rwanda has donated up to \$1.2 million (over Rwf1.5 billion) in support of relief efforts by Caribbean countries hit by Hurricane Beryl in late June and early July.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the government allocated \$300,000 to each of four affected Caribbean nations, namely Grenada, Jamaica, Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

“Rwanda has answered the call for solidarity by the Commonwealth Secretary General in support to Commonwealth countries affected by Hurricane Beryl,” the ministry said in a statement on August 26.

Rwanda became a member of the Commonwealth in 2009. In 2022, President Paul Kagame was elected the Commonwealth Chair-in-Office, a position he held until in March 2024.

The solidarity with Caribbean countries follows Rwanda’s donation of 2000 tons of maize in July to Zimbabwe and Zambia, both hit by extreme droughts.

“Rwanda remains ready to support, within its means, global solidarity efforts for countries affected by natural disasters and extreme weather events, as it has done in the past in the region and beyond,” the foreign ministry added.

Peace beyond borders: 20 years of contributing to a safer world

Three decades ago, Rwanda was a nation in desperate need of peacekeepers. Today, it is the second largest contributor to global peace missions. Rwanda has transitioned from a country in need of peace to one that helps provide peace to others, as evidenced by extensive involvement in United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) peacekeeping missions, as well as its bilateral military cooperation with African countries.

This August, Rwanda marks 20 years since its first deployment in a peacekeeping mission, in what has become one of Rwanda's foreign policy pillars. With an approach that goes beyond securing international personnel or infrastructure, Rwandan peacekeepers provide comprehensive support to maintain peace, mitigate the risk of conflict re-emergence, and improve the lives of local communities. This conscious policy choice is drawn from our recent history, where well-armed peacekeepers abandoned civilians in the face of grave danger. It also enabled by Rwandan's efforts over the years to build a professional and disciplined army and police. Rwandan peacekeepers are called to prioritize civilian protection, guided by the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine and the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians.

When the crisis began in Darfur in 2003, many referred to what was unfolding as "another Rwanda". In 2004, ten years after a Genocide had unfolded at home, the AU and UN approached Rwanda for assistance, and the country agreed to send troops. Rwandan forces were sent to protect AU observers under the UN mission, helping to stabilize a region where over 10,000 people had been killed and millions displaced.

Similarly in 2010, Haiti was devastated by one of the worst earthquakes in history, resulting in over 300,000 deaths and massive displacement, Rwanda responded by sending a Police contingent. For nine years, until the mission ended in 2019, Rwandan peacekeepers performed various duties, including patrolling, escorting, providing humanitarian assistance, and protecting key installations and internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. In addition, they managed public order, protected UN delegates, and offered emergency services to the local population. Rwandan police has carried similar missions elsewhere including Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

In 2012, following South Sudan's declaration of independence the UN created a stabilization force and invited Rwanda to contribute troops to this new mission. Two years later, in response to the crisis unfolding in the Central African Republic (CAR), the UN Security Council authorized the deployment of a multidimensional peacekeeping operation – MINUSCA. Additionally,

Rwandan peacekeepers under the United Nations Mission in South Sudan being decorated with UN Service Medals in recognition of their peacekeeping service. Courtesy



under bilateral cooperation, Rwanda deployed troops to CAR in December 2020 to safeguard the capital city, Bangui, against rebels during a crucial election period. Since then, Rwanda has continued to support CAR in maintaining peace and contributing to the reform of its security sector.

More recently in 2021, Mozambique faced a severe crisis when heavily armed fighters linked to the ISIS attacked security forces, displaced hundreds of thousands of civilians and occupied the Cabo Delgado region. Rwanda, under a bilateral agreement, deployed forces at Mozambique's request to restore order. Within weeks, Rwandan and Mozambican forces stabilized occupied territory, and civilians were able to return safely to their homes.

In all these deployments, Rwandan forces bring more than just security to the areas they operate in. They introduce solidarity initiatives like Umuganda, a community service practice where people clean their neighbourhoods and later hold meetings to discuss issues affecting their communities. In Darfur and South Sudan for example, Rwandan troops (a significant part of which is composed of women) addressed women's safety by introducing cooking stoves that reduce the need for firewood, minimizing the risk of attacks while fetching wood.

Rwanda's evolution from recipient to provider of peace and security demonstrates that through resilience, political will and cooperation, peace can be achieved anywhere. In today's increasingly fractured context, the world must work together more to address common security challenges. Our country knows all too well what happens when nations choose to turn a blind eye to civilian suffering and insecurity. Rwanda remains ready to always do what we can, within our means, to ensure that the horrors of our past are never repeated, either at home or abroad.

The article was written by Olivier Nduhungirehe, Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Rwanda renews agreement to host asylum seekers from Libya



L-R: The tripartite agreement was signed in Addis Ababa on August 22, with the Rwandan government represented by Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the AU Maj Gen (Rtd) Charles Karamba. Courtesy

Rwanda has extended its agreement with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Refugees Agency (UNHCR) to host refugees and asylum seekers from Libya until 2025.

At the signing of the tripartite agreement in Addis Ababa on August 22, the Rwandan government was represented by Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the AU, Maj Gen (Rtd) Charles Karamba.

First signed in 2019 and renewed in 2021, the agreement led to the establishment of an Emergency Transit Mechanism in Gashora, Eastern Rwanda.

Rwanda has since received more than 2,300 refugees and asylum seekers, who had been stranded in Libya after their risky attempts to cross the Mediterranean into Europe. They are of

different nationalities, including Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire and Mali.

So far, a total of 1,813 of the evacuees have been resettled to third countries.

"The agreement reaffirms the commitment of all parties to provide protection and seek durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers evacuated from Libya," read a joint statement. "While maintaining its core mission, the ETM in Gashora, Rwanda will continue to provide a safe haven for refugees and asylum-seekers evacuated from Libya," it added.

Rwanda also reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to receive and protect these individuals, as well as others identified as particularly vulnerable and at-risk.



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