

Information Note | 12th Umushyikirano

Kigali, 18-19 December 2014

Common Vision, New Momentum | Ikerekezo Kimwe, Twongere Imbaraga

Introduction

Umushyikirano is an annual forum that brings together leaders and citizens to discuss the country's development. Also known as the National Dialogue Council, this year the event will be held alongside the meeting of the Advisory Council for the National Commission for the Fight against Genocide. The two events will take place on 18-19 December 2014 at the Parliament of Rwanda and will be chaired by the President of the Republic.

The annual Youth Connekt Convention will also take place as part of this year's Umushyikirano. The convention will bring together more than 2,000 young people including entrepreneurs and professionals, innovators, artists, students, and young people living with disabilities. Attendees of the convention will follow and participate in the National Dialogue Council live from Petit Stade in Remera, Kigali. Two communities outside of Kigali will also join Umushyikirano via the national fibre optic video conferencing system.

Background

Umushyikirano is an annual event that gives Rwandans from all walks of life the opportunity to ask questions directly to their leaders. The event is chaired by the President and attended by members of the Cabinet and Parliament, representatives of the Rwandan community abroad, local government, media, the diplomatic community and others invited by the President. Governed by Article 168 of the Constitution, Umushyikirano is a forum where participants debate issues relating to the state of the nation, the state of local government and national unity. Umushyikirano draws its strength from the direct participation of citizens in holding their leaders to account.

Since the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, Rwanda has undertaken an ambitious nation-building project with the aim of becoming a knowledge-driven, middle-income country by 2020. Significant progress in achieving this goal has been made, but challenges remain. Therefore, this year's National Dialogue Council will serve as a platform for all Rwandans to reflect on the country's progress and share ideas to solve ongoing challenges.

The topics for Umushyikirano 2014 aim to highlight the progress made towards Vision 2020 and the steps needed to safeguard these achievements. The topics will also highlight the challenges Rwanda faces and stimulate discussion about the solutions and the strategies needed to reach the country's desired pace of development.

The theme for this year's National Dialogue Council is '*Common Vision, New Momentum*' | '*Ikerekezo Kimwe, Twongere Imbaraga*'.

Discussion Topics

Topic 1: Safeguarding our Achievements for a Better Future

Rwanda has registered tremendous progress over the past 20 years – politically, socially and economically. These achievements are the foundation of the country's future and a legacy for generations to come. It is therefore the responsibility of all Rwandans, young and old, to safeguard them and continue to strive for the country's development.

This session will include a presentation on the progress Rwanda has made across multiple sectors, from health, education and security, to politics, economic development and environmental protection. It will identify the achievements that need to be protected, the challenges to be addressed, and the role of all Rwandans in achieving new momentum as we strive for shared prosperity.

Topic 2: Family – A Foundation for National Prosperity

Rwanda's development depends on the health and prosperity of its families. Families also play an important role in preserving the country's cultural heritage and national values. The government, as per Article 27 of the Constitution, is required to enact legislation and build institutions that protect the family, especially the child and the mother.

Access to quality education, healthcare, financial stability, proper nutrition and gender equality are just some of the requirements for a family to thrive. Therefore, this session will discuss the role of the government in supporting families. The discussion will focus on strengthening existing programmes that support families. It will also identify the challenges faced by families and propose solutions.

Format

During each session, a lead institution will give a short presentation that will be followed by discussions. The event will be covered live on TV, radio and streamed online and citizens will be encouraged to participate through various platforms including SMS, e-mail, calls, Twitter and Facebook. The Prime Minister's Office will ensure all recommendations from the meeting are captured and will monitor and report on the implementation of the resolutions passed.

Attendees

About 1,000 people will attend Umushyikirano, including:

- Cabinet Members
- Governors of Provinces / Mayor of Kigali City and District Mayors
- Local Government / Community Representatives
- Representatives of the Judiciary
- Senior Commanders of RDF, RNP, NISS and RCS
- Permanent Secretaries / Secretary Generals of Ministries
- Heads of Public Institutions
- Members of Parliament from both chambers
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps
- Representatives of Political Parties
- Representatives of the Private Sector, Faith Based Organisations and Civil Society
- Heads of High Learning Institutions and Universities
- Representatives of Rwandans Living Abroad
- Friends of Rwanda

Programme

18 December 2014

Parliament of Rwanda

Activity	
Arrival of participants	
Arrival of the President of the Republic of Rwanda and the National Anthem	
Opening Remarks and State of the Nation Address by the President of Republic of Rwanda	
Report on the Implementation Status of 11th National Dialogue Council Resolutions	Rt. Hon Prime Minister
Discussion	Master of Ceremony
Topic 1: Safeguarding Our Achievements for a Better Future	CEO, Rwanda Governance Board
The Impact of the Governed-Governor Relationship on Development	Dr. Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
Why Rwanda should rely on its own solutions	Andrew Mwenda
Discussion	Master of Ceremony
Lunch Break	
Topic 2: Family: A Foundation for National Prosperity	Minister, Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
Discussion	Master of Ceremony
Closing and Cocktail	

19 December 2014

Parliament of Rwanda

Activity	
Arrival of participants	Master of Ceremony
Arrival of the President of the Republic of Rwanda	
Presentation: 20 Years of Renewal	Executive Secretary, National Commission for the Fight against Genocide
Discussion	Master of Ceremony
Adoption of Resolutions	Master of Ceremony
Closing Remarks by the President of the Republic of Rwanda	

Resources

For more information about the National Dialogue Council 2014, including about past events, please visit umushyikirano.gov.rw. You can also stay up to date by following [@Umushyikirano](https://twitter.com/Umushyikirano) on Twitter and liking the event [Facebook page](#). You can also learn more about Umushyikirano at www.rwandapedia.rw/explore/umushyikirano.

Visit www.youthconnekt.rw or follow [@YouthConnekt](https://twitter.com/YouthConnekt) for more information about the Youth Connekt Convention taking place alongside Umushyikirano.

Please direct all media enquiries to umushyikirano@ogs.gov.rw.

Photos from past events are available at www.flickr.com/govrw and www.flickr.com/paulkagame. Photos of this year's event for use by media outlets will be uploaded to www.flickr.com/govrw.

Meeting of the Advisory Council of the National Commission for the Fight against Genocide

Kigali, 19 December 2014

Background

The National Commission for the Fight against Genocide (CNLG) creates and implements strategies to fight genocide and its ideology. It is also responsible for combating denial of the genocide against the Tutsi, in Rwanda and abroad. In line with this mission, the Advisory Council of CNLG meets every two years to advise on the guidelines of the commission.

The meeting of the Advisory Council of CNLG is convened and chaired by the President of the Republic. The Advisory Council has met three times since the establishment of CNLG – in 2008, 2010 and 2010. The National Commission for the Fight against Genocide and its Advisory Council is governed by Law n° 09/2007 of 16/02/2007.

General Objective

The objective of the fourth meeting of the Advisory Council is to share ideas on the emerging challenges twenty years after the genocide against the Tutsi and to set guidelines and strategies to prevent and fight against genocide. The meeting will also discuss and create strategies to combat the denial and revisionism of the Genocide against the Tutsi, preserve its evidence and address its consequences.

Presentation: Twenty Years of Renewal

This presentation will cover the achievements and plans in the prevention and fight against genocide ideology, as well as its denial and the preservation of evidence of the genocide against the Tutsi. The conversation will also discuss how to ensure the welfare of genocide survivors and respond to cases of trauma.

Resources

The following web and social media sites contain resources that you might find useful when reporting on the 4th Advisory Council Meeting of the National Commission for the Fight against Genocide.

The National Commission for the Fight Against Genocide - www.cnlg.gov.rw

The National Commission for the Fight Against Genocide (CNLG) website contains latest news, photos, videos and resources related to the effort to prevent genocide in Rwanda. Here you can access publications and information about memorial sites across the country.

Official Website of Kwibuka - www.kwibuka.rw

The official website of Kwibuka contains information about the 20th commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi, a timeline of events from 1900 to today as well as survivor, perpetrator and rescuer testimonies, historical archives of photos and videos and much more. Members of the public can post messages of remembrance and contribute to Kwibuka via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the site itself.

Genocide Archive Rwanda - www.genocidearchiverwanda.org.rw

On this site you will find videos relating to the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi enriched with synchronised transcripts, searchable index terms and maps. Videos include testimonies of survivors and perpetrators, Gacaca Justice System court proceedings, and remembrance ceremonies.

Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre - www.kigalimemorialcentre.org

This site contains information about the centre in Kigali, which was created by a joint partnership of the Kigali City Council and the UK-based Aegis Trust. The centre contains a permanent exhibition of the Genocide against the Tutsi and an exhibition of other genocides around the world.

You can follow [@Umushyikirano](#), [@RwandaRemembers](#) and [@Kwibuka20](#) for live updates from the event.

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