



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Asia

Europe

North America

Africa

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

South America

FEBRUARY 2009

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- * Strengthening Bilateral and Multilateral Relations
- * Drafting and amending of Agreements, Conventions and Treaties
- * Participation in Regional, International, Organisations and Meetings
- * Image Building
- * Diaspora Mobilisation
- * Promotion of Investment, Tourism and Skills transfer
- * Coordination with other Ministries and collaboration between Headquarters and Embassies

Pictorial





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VISION:

“A Rwanda that is politically economically harmoniously integrated in a peaceful and prosperous Region, Continent and the world”

MISSION:

“To elaborate strategies and programmes, whose objectives are to implement, monitor and evaluate Rwanda’s foreign policy as well as to clearly articulate this policy both inside and outside the country”

PILLARS:

Contribute to peace, security and stability of Rwanda by establishing and maintaining good relations with all countries;

Contribute to wealth creation through efficient development cooperation, investment, tourism promotion, transfer of knowledge, and technology, equitable trade and regional integration

Popular Remarks by H.E. Paul Kagame, President



“...Globalization, simply understood as the world drawn together by literally shrinking time and space, means that humanity is intrinsically linked – and that what happens in one part of the globe impacts the whole in one way or another.

More than ever before, different parts of our world depend on each other in various ways – in human intellect and talent, knowledge, technology, innovation, investment, trade, and finance. This means that we have at our disposal the tools to address most global challenges, with the enormous resources at hand, be it human or financial resources, technologies or the know-how.

Globalization is therefore good for the world’s inhabitants because it provides them with unlimited opportunities – if these opportunities are relentlessly and innovatively pursued.

Rwanda is determined to be part of this. We are establishing and executing policies aimed at ensuring that we actively and meaningfully participate in globalization in terms of addressing the challenges as well as reaping the benefits.”

**“PRESIDENTS DISCUSSING TOMORROW”
Jerusalem, Israel 13 May 2008**

A Word from the Minister



To all the staff of MINAFFET at home and on Foreign Service, distinguished colleagues and friends. The year 2008 has been a busy and an interactive year. It presented us with the opportunity to explore new ideas and opportunities much as it provided time to advance our skills and innovation in countering the challenges of work that awaited us.

Throughout the period numerous occasions provided us with the opportunities to interact with others, whether in the country or outside, with the view to further our relations and promote economic growth through wealth creation. To this note, I am indebted to all the stakeholders who stood with us in striving to overcome the economic challenges on the path to economic independence.

It goes without mention that the success we registered in 2008 resulted from the collective efforts of you all; I am grateful to that commitment and urge you to double it so as to maintain the pace. In this report, you are going to find positive results from the work you have all contributed to.

The enormity of challenges encountered on the way to this success tested our ability to turn them into positive opportunities for the benefit of all Rwandans. While entering the year 2009, MINAFFET continues to focus on its primary mission of promoting good relations and cooperation worldwide while emphasizing investment promotion and value addition in service delivery.

I would like to encourage everybody to focus on this year as a period of commitment and delivery to enlist more success.

As we look forward to more opportunities and challenges, I take this privilege to wish a happy and prosperous new year to you all.

Ministry Profile

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation is a public-accountable institution in charge of maintaining and enhancing the the country's good image, strengthening both and promoting bilateral and multilateral relations between of Rwanda with other countries.

In partnership with public and private institutions, the Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Ministry is at the centre stage for positive-profiling of Rwanda in addition to its critical role of executing diplomatic business.

Honorable Rosemary MUSEMINALI is the central prime-driver of the Ministry, deputized by Permanent Secretary, Mr. RUGIRA Amandin. To take the challenging but exciting diplomatic duty and responsibility head-on, the Ministry has departmental units encompassing Directors and Professionals have hierarchical protocols and procedures, but more often than not, the spirit of teamwork and expedite service delivery supersede the latter.

The Ministry's fame and firmness hinge on its unshakable pillars:

* Contribute to peace, security and stability of Rwanda by establishing and maintaining good relations

with all countries;

* Contribute to wealth creation through efficient development cooperation, investment, tourism promotion, transfer of knowledge, and technology, equitable trade and regional integration.

Informed by Rwanda's past characterized by sectarianism, unrests, and isolationism, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation confronts tomorrows' challenges with a well articulated vision: "Rwanda that is politically and economically harmoniously integrated in a peaceful and prosperous region, continent and the World."

In addition, every activity relating to foreign relations is inspired and guided by the Ministry's core values and principles as listed below:

- Promotion and protection of the national independence and sovereignty;
- Mutual respect between states;
- Equality and complementarity of sovereign states;
- Promotion and protection of mutual national interests;
- Search for solutions to national problems especially developmental problems;
- Cooperation with other countries in the elaboration and respect of international law.



Executive Summary

The annual report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda reflects a vehicle for reporting on its activities.

This report covers the period of the year 2008 and report provides an overview of the major activities carried out by the Ministry at the headquarters level and at the level of Embassies, activities that are mainly focused on the mission, vision and the mission assigned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation by the Government of Rwanda.

The report is divided into six main chapters:

The first chapter relates to the achievements of the ministry in collaboration with Embassies and other key partners on matters related to strengthening and promoting bilateral and multilateral relations worldwide. The major outcome is reflected in visits of high ranking personalities to Rwanda as well as those of the high profile of Rwandan Authorities abroad; diplomatic credentials, signing of protocols, treaties and agreements, opening of diplomatic representations and consular missions in foreign countries and other remarkable realizations.

The second chapter highlights some important international conventions, treaties and protocols adopted during the year 2008.

The third chapter outlines the organisation and participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in particular and of Rwanda in general in various important regional and international conferences. This chapter also shows the participation of Rwanda in conferences organised by regional and international organisations of which Rwanda is a member such as CEPGEL, EAC, COMESA, NBI, AU, UN, ACP among others.

In collaboration with Rwandan Diplomatic and Consular missions, the Ministry achieved a number of goals in connection with contributing to wealth creation through efficient development cooperation, investment promotion, transfer of knowledge and technology, equitable world trade and regional integration. The chapter IV highlights key achievements of the ministry for the year 2008 in this domain.

The fourth chapter relates to protocol activities oriented to portraying the good image of the country such as receiving and accompanying guests of honours, guiding and facilitating diplomatic mission accredited to Rwanda, organizing and coordinating visits of H.E. and delegations to various countries around the world and articulating the position of Rwanda on various issues.

Chapter VI portrays the achievements of Diaspora. These are grouped in three categories i.e. business and investment promotion, knowledge and skills transfer as well as image building.

The seventh chapter narrates the achievements of the Ministry through a harmonious and collaborative planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of activities between MINAFFET, Embassies and other partner institutions.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACCRONYMS

MINAFFET: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

BAD: Banque Africaine de Développement

AGOA: African Growth and Opportunity Act

USA: United State of America

ICT: Information and communication Technology

JPC: Joint Permanent Commissions

UN: United Nations

CEPGL: Communauté Economique des Pays des Grands Lacs

EAC: East African Community

COMESA: Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa

NBI: Nile Basin Initiative

AU: African Union

ACP: Afrique, Caraïbes et Pacifique

G77: Group of Seventy Seven (77) countries

AIDS: acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

ICGLR: International Conference of Great Lakes Region

RDB: Rwanda Development Board

ORTPN: Office Rwandais du Tourisme et les Parks Nationaux

RIEPA: Rwanda Investment and Export Promotion Agency

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

RDF: Rwandese Defense Force

SKT: Skills and Knowledge Transfer

DGD: Diaspora General Directorate

MIDA: Migration for the Development in Africa

TOKTEN: Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals

VoIP: Voice Over Internet Protocol

Chapter I

Strengthening Bilateral and Multilateral Relations



Strengthening Bilateral and Multilateral Relations



The Ministry's central role is to build and strengthen cooperation within the region and the world in general. This is achieved through the promotion of development cooperation programs undertaken by different Ministry Units in collaboration with Rwanda's diplomatic and consular missions abroad.

The year 2008 was a busy and eventful year as reflected by the visits of H.E the President of the Republic of Rwanda and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation as well as diplomatic credential representation in Rwanda. Indeed, as the Kinyarwanda metaphor blatantly says: "ifuni ibagara ubucuti ni akarenge" roughly translated in English as "the hoe that weeds friendship is a leg."

The ultimate outcome from these visits can be measured in terms of diplomatic credentials to Rwanda and Rwanda's representation in several countries, development cooperation indicators such as several agreements, protocols, Memoranda of agreement stipulating development support for different sectors in 2008 compared to 2007.



In a compressive way, the 2008 political and diplomatic landscape presents us a resounding rise in terms of Rwanda's representations to countries and several parts of the world.

In effect, two diplomatic bureaus were opened in South Korea and Singapore and a Consular post was opened in Luxemburg. Challenged by their fast development rate in the recent past, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation opened these diplomatic missions in Eastern Asian countries with a special focus on those in Asian Tigers bloc.

The historical facts reveal that Taiwan, Singapore, China, Thailand and other Asian Tigers member states were at the same development level as African countries in 1960-1980s. Thus, developing and strengthening relations with these countries aims at learning the exit strategies they used to extricate themselves from poverty and emerged as development success stories in the developing countries.

In addition, the Ministry has developed initiatives and frameworks such as Forum China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), Joint Permanent Commissions (JPCs) and we look forward to initiating and enhancing South-South Cooperation.

To reciprocate Rwanda's good will, many countries have presented their diplomatic credentials to H.E the President of the Rwanda Paul KAGAME seeking accreditation and representation in Rwanda.

Most importantly, Rwanda intends to open more diplomatic representations around the world focusing on the regions Rwanda is less represented and having strategic interests and comparative advantages.

Strengthening Bilateral and Multilateral Relations



THE PRESIDENT KAGAME: A REMARKABLE DIPLOMATIC FIGURE

In his commendable efforts of connecting Rwanda to the globe through establishing and strengthening bilateral and multi-lateral relations and cooperation, Rwanda's President His Excellency Paul KAGAME visited different countries in Africa, North America, Asia and Europe.

Motivated by the development realized by the eastern Asia the President of the Republic visited Singapore, Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam in May 2009.

While in Singapore as one example, the President KAGAME held talks with Lee Hsien, the Prime Minister who is also the head of the government and committed themselves to cementing the existing relations between the two countries. He visited institutions, companies and persuaded investors to invest in Rwanda and Africa.

So far, several tourists, investors and scores of other people have started coming to Rwanda a host of others have expressed interests.

Another noticeable outcome of these visits is the cooperation agreement signed between HIDA (Human Development Agency) and Singapore.

Vietnam-Rwanda Cooperation gained a laudable step as demonstrated by the signing of the Cooperation Agreement on Agricultural Exchange; Cooperation Agreement in the field of Health; Cooperation agreement in the field Educational and Technological Research. These diplomatic accomplishments were realized in 2008 thanks to President KAGAME's fast-rate-diplomatic skills.

The present warm relations between Vietnam and Rwanda herald future triangular cooperation model—that brings a third party on board to support



and monitor the joint projects.

Japan is continually becoming Rwanda's closest development partner. In 2008, H.E Paul KAGAME visited Japan to attend TICAD meeting that brought together the African Leaders and the Japanese. The meeting had been jointly organized and supported by Japan and UNDP.

Also, President KAGAME visited the South Korea and held talks with the H.E Lee Myong PAK the President of the Republic of Korea. The visit resulted into Korean head of state committing to support Rwanda by constructing technical and vocational schools worth US\$ 12,500,000.

To strengthen relations, President KAGAME and hosted Korean investors at a breakfast meeting and the latter promised coming to Rwanda to assess the available investment opportunities.

The President of the Republic had a visit to the UK to attend the MDG's call to Action and DFID speaker series in May 2008. During his visit, the Head of State met with the British Prime Minister (Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown) and several top authorities in the country.

The President hosted a business dinner for business leaders in Europe and met with representatives of All Party Parliamentary Group on Great Lakes region.

Again H.E. the President had a working visit of to Cambridge University in December 2008 where he gave the 2008 Dr S.T. Lee public policy lecture. He also had meeting between senior managers of Barclays investment Capital and other investors.

His Excellency President Paul KAGAME also visited Germany, Frankfurt, on 11 November 2008, where he had been invited to deliver a lecture on stock market exchange. He also visited Mrs. Rose KABUYE where she was detained.

HE Excellency Paul KAGAME was invited by the Secretary General of International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Dr Hamdoun TOURE, in Geneva, Switzerland, to deliver a keynote address at the occasion of the ITU Council Meeting on 12 November 2008

H.E President KAGAME attended in Washington D.C the first RWANDA DAY Business conference on September 19, 2008 in Boston, Massachusetts that attracted over 300 participants from Rwanda and the US. The guest of honor at Rwanda Day was His Excellency President Paul KAGAME.

Other visits to the United States by H.E President KAGAME include the following:

- Seattle Washington (January): The President visited to Seattle Washington from 9th -11th January where he met and held private discussions with President and CEO of Starbucks Howard Schultz.
- President KAGAME also visited Starbucks stores and tested Rwandan coffee sold at Starbucks outlets. The president also met with James Sinegal, the president and CEO of COSTCO.



Strengthening Bilateral and Multilateral Relations



- Florida (February visit): In February 2008 President KAGAME addressed the Bridging Civilizations Conference at Florida State University. The president was also awarded an honorary doctorate by T.K Wetherell, President of Florida State University which will be conferred on him in Rwanda in February 2009.

- Boston (February visit): President KAGAME on February 14th speaking at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting in Boston discussed the role that Education, Science and Technology played in Rwanda's political and economic recovery.

Washington D.C): In April, 2008 the President of Rwanda led a delegation from Rwanda to attending the summit on Higher Education for Global Development in Washington, D.C.

OTHER IMPORTANT VISITS OF THE HIGH PROFILE RWANDAN AUTHORITIES

In the spirit of serving as a team for collective success, Rwandan high profile personalities share the vision of making Rwanda a strategic destination. In so doing, they carry the image-building and foreign affairs role jointly together. It is not surprising therefore to visit different institutions from Ministerial, Directorial to the lowest administrative units working in unison to showcase Rwanda to investors, tourists scholars, researchers and accomplished development performers.

In the 2008, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Hon Rosemary MUSEMINALI visited Singapore and held important discussion ranging from diplomatic, human resource development, business et cetera.

Rwanda's Prime Minister Rt. Hon MAKUZA Bernard visited Turkey to attend the Turkey-Africa Summit held August 2008. Rwanda and Turkey agreed to sign a cooperation agreement in the near future.

Further, the Premier attended the summit of Head of State and Government grouped in Francophone in Quebec, Canada. In the meeting development and culture issues were discussed.

A high level delegation comprised of MINAFFET, MINECOFIN, Ministry of Science and Technology, RIEPA, RRA paid a visit to Ireland.

The delegation met with the Irish Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Enterprises, Employment, Irish Aid and Agencies, private sector companies in Information and Technology (IT) sector.

In the same year, several other Rwandan dignitaries including the Minister of Education, Commissioner General of RRA, some mayors, etc, paid official and study visits to Germany Institutions.

To translate the Ministry's foreign policy vision (see the Ministry's profile page), the minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation paid two working visits to the DRC aimed at reviving and normalizing diplomatic relations and addressing security questions in Eastern DRC.

The two sides agreed on the way forward in normalization of relations including re-opening of diplomatic relations and subsequent appointment of ambassadors, posting of staff by DRC to CEPGL Secretariat so that it becomes fully operational and jointly working on a plan to disarm and repatriate ex-FAR/Interahamwe.

So far, Rwanda—DRC relations and cooperation are good and the Ministry is committed to seeing peace and security return in DRC and the Great Lakes Region.



The visits of Rwandan authorities to several countries to develop and strengthen relations and cooperation can be summarized in the following tables.

PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME'S VISITS TO OTHER COUNTRIES

ITEM	COUNTRY (IES)	CONTINENT
1.	Germany	Europe
2.	United Kingdom	Europe
3.	Switzerland	Europe
4.	United States of America	North America
5.	South Korea	Asia
6.	Singapore	Asia
7.	Vietnam	Asia
8.	Kenya	Africa
9.	Burundi	Africa
10.	Uganda	Africa
11.	Nigeria	Africa
12.	Swaziland	Africa
13.	Zambia	Africa
14.	Japan	Asia
15.	UK	Europe
16.	Ireland	Europe

VISITS OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF RWANDA HON MAKUZA BERNARD.

ITEM	COUNTRY (IES)	CONTINENT
1	Canada(Quebec)	North America
2.	Burundi	Africa
3.	Turkey	Europe
4.	Germany	Europe
5.	Kenya	Africa
6.	Nigeria	Africa

Strengthening Bilateral and Multilateral Relations

VISITS OF HON ROSEMARY MUSEMINALI, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Africa is the continent that was extensively visited by Rwandan Minister with Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in her jurisdictions and responsibilities. This was in line with enhancing diplomatic relations, JPC frameworks and strengthening cooperation among States and governments.

Eastern Asia fares the second part of the World that scored higher visits by Rwandan Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in 2008.

These visits aimed at learning from allies' best practices, cementing diplomatic relations and cooperation between Rwanda and Asian Tigers countries.

ITEM	COUNTRY	CONTINENT
1.	Germany	Europe
2.	UK	Europe
3.	USA	North America
4.	Singapore	Asia
5.	Burundi	Africa
6.	Japan	Asia
7.	South Korea	Asia
8.	Vietnam	Asia
9.	DRC	Africa
10.	Swaziland	Africa
11.	Nigeria	Africa
12.	Australia	Australia
13.	Kenya	Africa
14.	Gabon	Africa

OTHER RWANDAN AUTHORITIES WHO VISITED DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

ITEM	OFFICIAL'S NAMES/DESCRIPTION	COUNTRY(IES) VISITED
1.	Hon. James Musoni, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning	Gabon
2.	Rwandan Parliamentarian & Ombudsman	Sweden
3.	Permanent Secretary in MINIRENA + Delegation	Study Visit to Sweden
4.	Hon. Vincent Biruta, President of the Senate	Burundi
5.	Hon. Inyumba Aloysie, Senator	Japan, Turkey, Burundi, Canada-Quebec,
6.	Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, Minister for Agriculture and Stanislas Kamanzi, Minister for Natural Resources	India
7.	Hon. Stanislas Kamanzi, Minister for Natural Resources	South Africa
8.	Senators	Belgium
9.	Parliamentarians, Foreign Affairs Commission	United Kingdom
10.	Stanislas Kamanzi, Minister for Natural Resources and his delegation	Uganda
11.	Mr. Amandin Rugira, Permanent Secretary withn the MINAFFET	Morocco
12.	Mr. Theodore Simburudari, President of Ibuka Association	Germany

The government of Rwanda considers opening diplomatic representations in different countries as a priority. Thus, in the past year, the country opened and sent several diplomats to different countries and we look forward to 2009 with plans of establishing many more diplomatic ties with several countries with strategic interests to Rwanda.

In more concrete terms, the table below presents the Rwandan diplomats accredited to different countries and their residence in 2008.

ITEM	NAME	COUNTRY OF ACCREDITATION	RESIDENCE
1.	Amb. Dr Emile Rwamasirabo	Malaysia	Tokyo
2.	Amb. James Kimonyo	Mexico	Washington
3.	Amb. Joseph Nsengimana	Venezuela	New York
4.	Amb. Claver Gatete	Iceland	London
5.	Amb. Eda Mukabagwiza	Cuba	Ottawa
6.	Amb. Jacqueline Mukangira	Denmark, Finland	Stockholm
7.	Amb. Eugene Munyakayanza	Swaziland	Pretoria



Due to the miraculous recovery from the shocks of the 1994 Genocide, Rwanda continues to enjoy tranquility and stability.

For its harmony, security and peace, it is now a safe destination point for high profile personalities ranging from Presidents, diplomats, accomplished business people, tourists, and academicians

Importantly to note, some of the remarkable visits from different parts of the world to Rwanda aimed at reciprocating the latter's efforts as well as the positive desire of strengthening the bilateral and multilateral relations and cooperation.

Strengthening Bilateral and Multilateral Relations

Illustratively, the table below shows high profile visitors Rwanda received in 2008.

ITEM	NAME	TITLE	COUNTRY /ORGANIZATION
1.	H.E Horst Kohler,	The President	Germany
2.	H.E Bill Clinton	The President(former)	USA
3.	H.E George W. Bush	The President	USA
4.	H.E Pierre Nkurunziza	The President	Burundi
5.	H.E Benjamin MKAPA	The President	Tanzania
6.	H.E Sassou NGUESSO	The President	Congo Brazza
7.	H.E Museveni Yoweri KAGUTA	The President	Uganda
8.	H.E Mwai Kibaki,	The President	Kenya
9.	Dr Ronald KABERUKA	The President	African Development Bank (ADB)
10.	H.E Yves SAHINGUVU	The Vice President	Burundi
11.	Ban Ki Moon	The Secretary General	UN
12.	Madame Sadako OGATA	JICA President	Japan
13.	H.E Dlamini TSCEKEDI	The Prince	Swaziland
14.	Hon. Gunilla Carlson	Minister	Sweden
15.	Hon Bernard KOUCHNER	Minister	France
16.	Joao Bernardo de Miranda	Minister	Angola
17.	Mme Korin KORTMAN	The Parliamentary State Minister	Germany
18.	Mme Clare Short	Former International Cooperation Minister	UK
19.	BAKEVYUMUSAYA	Minister	Burundi
20.	Hon. Louis MICHEL	Former Minister Currently, Commissioner	Belgium European Union
21.	Hon Karel de Gucht	Minister	Belgium
22.	Jendayi Frazer	Assistant Secretary of State	USA
23.	Hon Alain le Roy	Under the Secretary General	UN
24.	Prof. Dr. Bernhard	The President	Konrad and Adenauer Foundation

In the related development, the Rwanda Government has received numerous ambassadors' accreditations. The table highlights their names, country of origin and their residence.

ITEM	NAME	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	RESIDENCE
1.	Hon. Ivo Scapolo	Vatican	Kigali
2.	Hon. Hamdi, Bueha Sidi Mahmoud	Saharawi	Kampala
3.	Hon Ana Maria Fernandez Sampaio	Brazil	Nairobi
4.	Hon Dr. Fidel Mama Ayogu	Nigeria	Kampala
5.	Hon NARAJ SRIVASTANA	India	Kampala
6.	Hon PIETRO BALLERO	Italy	Kampala
7.	Hon ANNA GRUPINSKA	Polland	Nairobi
8.	Hon LISA FILIPPETTO	Australia	Nairobi
9.	Hon. APICHIT ASATTHA WASI	Thailand	Nairobi
10.	Hon STUART SYMINGTON	USA	Kigali
11.	Hon KEVIN KELLY	Ireland	Kampala
12.	MARIANO MANRIQUE LORES	Cuba	Kampala

The warm relations and partnership between Rwanda and other countries goes beyond opening formal accreditations, signing protocols, agreements and Memoranda of Understanding to community outreach by Rwanda's friends.

This is reflected by two and half weeks visit of 106 members of the British Conservative party members to Rwanda to volunteer in various areas that include education, health, justice and business. An estimate of 200 Conservative volunteers is expected to visit Rwanda next year. Apart from having an exciting practical exposure to Rwandan socio-economic contexts and dynamics, the voluntary service rendered to Rwandans by the British Conservative Party Members strengthened signifies Rwanda-UK growing relations and people-to-people diplomacy.

Further, Key British politicians and members of the civil society that include: Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, Hon. Clare Short MP, Sir David King (Oxford University), Sir Howard Davies (Director of LSE), Prof. Conor Gearty (LSE), Vice-chancellor of Southampton Solent University and Mary Robinson (former President of Ireland) also visited Rwanda.

Rwandan scholars have enjoyed from the intellectually stimulating UK academic environment in form of scholarships, study tours et cetera.

The study visits of Rwandan Government officials from PRESIREP, PRIMATURE and MINICAAF aimed at learning about the e-Cabinet systems of Ireland and United Kingdom stands as one case in point to cite.

The e-Cabinet is hoped to help (Rwandan) public servants delivery very expediently and sufficiently. And, this endeavor is practically feasible given the vision of Rwanda's leadership of turning this country into a regional IT hub and making Rwanda a knowledge-based economy and society.

The Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation, Madam Gunilla CARLSSON, accompanied by 7 Officials from the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs visited Rwanda on 10th-11th January 2008. She met with Rwandan authorities and discussed bilateral, regional and international issues, including the development aid to Rwanda and the need to channel it through general Budget Support.

Mr Anders NORDSTRÖM, Director General of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) paid a working visit to Rwanda in March 2008 to hold discussions with various Rwandan authorities, take a stock for the implementation of the programmes and projects funded by SIDA in Rwanda. He was accompanied by Kristina KÜHNEL, Acting Director in charge of the African Department in SIDA.



Strengthening Bilateral and Multilateral Relations



THE JPCs IN 2008: OUTCOMES AND FUTURE TARGETS

Joint Permanent Commissions (JPCs) are technical operational frameworks where programs, initiatives and sustentative intervention strategies are discussed and deliberated upon at length at sub-regional, regional and international level.

In this respect, Rwanda has got several JPCs with different countries especially in Africa. JPCs have become an effective forum where technical information has been shared and disseminated to the target recipients/end-users.

The JPC with Kenya was held in July and both countries agreed to strengthen bilateral relations especially by reducing roadblocks in Kenya that affect bilateral trade. Major cooperation areas agreed were in the following areas; Education, Trade and investment, Foreign Affairs, Education, Science and Technology, Security and defense, Agriculture, Tourism and wild life, Public service and capacity building. In most cases, Kenya offered training throats for Rwandans in various areas. Several exchange programmes were agreed upon.

Several other JPCs planned for the year (Uganda, Zambia, South Africa, Burundi) never took place due different reasons but the exercise entailed following the implementation of the 2007 agreed issues.

Belgium – Rwanda Committee of Partners (JPC), was held in May 2008 and reviewed the decisions of the JPC in 2005. The sectors supported under the Belgian Cooperation include health, Education, Agriculture and Infrastructure.

The annual Policy Dialogue with Japan was held in July 2008 to review the bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Both parties agreed to strengthen the cooperation in the areas of Human Resource Development, Improvement of Rural Infrastructure, Agriculture and some cross-cutting issues. The Japanese Cool Earth Initiative was presented to the Rwandan side.

Various cooperation agreements were signed between Rwanda and many countries like the UN., China, Germany and Belgium for technical and economic cooperation particularly to support the healthy sector and capacity building,

Chapter II:

*Drafting and amendment of
Agreements, Conventions,
Protocols and Treaties signed
between Rwanda and
other countries
or international organizations*

Rwanda as a country that respects and honours its international commitments and obligations, has put due priority, not only on ratification and amendment of Bilateral and multilateral Treaties, Agreements, Conventions and Protocols, but also on their follow-up and execution.

MINAFFET as National Custodian, has to make sure that Rwanda signs and ratifies those Treaties, agreements, conventions and Protocols and keeps an update inventory of all of them as they constitute the legal framework for the implementation of the Rwandan foreign Policy.

During the year 2008, the following international conventions and treaties have been adopted:

- Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Protocol
- Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects
- Convention relating to international exhibitions and to its protocol
- General Convention of cooperation for development between the Kingdom of Belgium and the Republic of Rwanda, signed at Kigali on 18 May 2004 Reservation on some articles has been removed:
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Reservation of Rwanda on article 9 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
- Reservation of Rwanda on article 22 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Chapter III

Participation in Regional, International Organisations and Meetings



Participation in regional, organisations and meetings



Rwanda is a member of and participates actively in several regional, continental and international organizations. These include; CEPGL, EAC, COMESA, NBI, AU, UN and its agencies, ACP, Francophone, G77 and applied to join the Common Wealth.

Concerning the African Union, Rwanda participated in the AU summit in Addis Ababa. The meetings were mainly concerned with the usual activities of the African Commission, the Audit Report of the African Union and elections of the new leaders of the commission.

AU meetings in Sharm El Sheik in Egypt revolved in the MDGs progress particularly the one related to Water and Sanitation. Rwanda presented its showcase in as far as this MDG is concerned and the progress already achieved.

At this meeting the heads of African States released a communiqué condemning the abuse of International Jurisdiction and also condemned the arrest warrants to the Rwandan Officials.

There were several EAC meeting held and a number of protocols agreed upon in regard to Rwanda's membership in the EAC. A joint EAC, COMESA and SADC meeting was held in Kampala and all levels from technical to Heads of States participated in the meeting. The parties resolved to work together and form a common market for all members in the region.

Rwanda also participated in several meetings of the ICGRL and monitored the implementation of the decisions taken thereafter, particularly the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region.



Also, On December 11th – 12th 2008, the CEPGL Council of Ministers Meeting was held in Bujumbura, Burundi.

One of the most important outcomes of the meeting is that the Government of DRC accepted to nominate its three senior officials to come and work at CEPGL

Headquarters in Gisenyi, joining the Rwandese and Burundian officials that had been nominated by their respective Governments twenty months ago and whose nomination had been decided by the extraordinary Council of CEPGL Ministers, held in Bujumbura on April 17th 2007.

The Government of DRC further committed itself to revive and renormalize its diplomatic relations with Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda through opening its Embassies in each of these neighboring countries, not later than the first quarter 2009.

Rwanda also participated in the UN permanent Consultative Meeting on matters of Security in Central Africa. The meeting appreciated the security progress in the region except in DRC, CHAD and Republic of Central Africa and Burundi.

There were Tripartite Plus Meetings between Uganda, Rwanda, DRC and Burundi one of the outcomes of which was a Joint Military Plan to disarm the FDLR Militias and dismantle their bases in DRC.

By the end of the 2008, Rwanda has had good relations with all international organization of which it is a member. Rwanda has supported other countries in the international forum depending on the existing bilateral relations.

In the same framework, Rwanda got support in from friendly countries in some international organizations.

Participation in regional, organisations and meetings



Rwanda supported the candidatures of different countries in the following international Organization; HRC, IOM, WIPO, UNSC, ICJ, ECOSOC, ITSO, INTERPOL and CRC.

Rwanda also honored its commitments and contributions in the international organizations. It is in 2008 that Rwanda became a member of IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency).

The Secretary General of the United Nations visited Rwanda at the invitation of the Rwandan Government in order to smoothen the relations between Rwandan and the UN.

The Secretary General met with the president of the Republic of Rwanda and other Rwandan official and discussed on the issues related to progress on attaining the MDGs, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Connect Africa ICT initiative, the hybrid force in Darfur among others.

The Ministry prepared and participated in several meetings in different international organizations

In the United Nations, Rwanda represented by the Permanent Mission in the New York has participated in several UN meetings and kept a healthy relationship in the Organization.

President Paul Kagame together with the Minister of Foreign Affairs participated in the UN General Assembly and took the opportunity to meet and talk to different heads of states and government on several bilateral issues.

During the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly Meeting in New York, the Minister Foreign Affairs took the opportunity to meet and talk to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to discuss bilateral relations.



Among others we can mention the foreign affairs ministers of; Czech Republic, Kuwait, Iran, Qatar, Austria, Germany, Philippines, Belgium, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Singapore, Oman, South Africa, Canada, Ukraine, Algeria, and Western Sahara. Although some countries sought political support on some international matters, both parties seized the opportunity to discuss bilateral issues and how cooperation can further be strengthened.

As an active member of AU, Rwanda participated in several meetings organized by the Union.

Particularly, the President of the Republic together with the Minister of Foreign Affairs participated in the 11th Meeting of the AU Heads of States.

In the framework of her work as the African High Representative of AIDS vaccine program, the first lady had a working visit in Geneva, March 2008.

In this framework, Rwanda participated in and hosted several international conferences.

Participation in regional, organisations and meetings



Particularly, Rwanda Hosted the East African Community Heads of State in Which Rwanda was elected the Chair for the community.

Rwanda also hosted the first East African Investment forum as well as other meetings like, parliamentary conference on the Great Lakes Region, Development Partners' meeting, East African Legislative Assembly Meeting, Development of Action plan on Arms Control and Management, the Francophone, AU Ministers of Justice and attorney generals, ICGRL, Tripartite plus, meetings, Common wealth policy Unit meeting,

In line with its mission to contribute to peace, security and stability in the region, continent and the world in general, Rwanda has participated in several regional and international conferences aimed at restoration of peace and stability in the region.

Among these are the Tripartite Plus meetings, ICGLR meetings, AU Peace and Security Council meetings, and a number of meetings in UN.

Chapter IV

Promotion of investment, tourism and skills transfer



Promotion of Investment, Tourism and Skills transfer

In addition to classical diplomacy, Rwanda in collaboration with the Rwanda diplomatic and consular missions abroad is committed to strengthening economic diplomacy as prescribed in its second pillar, ie contributing to the creation of wealth through efficient development cooperation, investment the Ministry aims at contributing to wealth creation through efficient development cooperation, investment and tourism promotion, transfer of knowledge and technology, equitable world trade and regional integration.



The Rwandan government officials and business men have seized all the possible opportunities to meet investors and other business men from different countries and enticed them to do business in Rwanda. H.E the Republic of the Republic of Rwanda attended different investments seminars and presented business papers to different international conferences.

Several investment seminars were organized by the RIEPA in collaboration with our embassies.

As part of their primary mission, Rwanda's Embassies and Honorary Consuls played a big role in attracting investors and tourists to Rwanda and to market Rwanda as a secure and peaceful country and a cherished destination for investment and international conferences.

Embassies facilitated all the visits in the countries of their accreditations, negotiated training opportunities for Rwandans and engaged in many diplomatic duties to build the image of their country and create awareness of Rwanda abroad.

In most of the exhibitions and trade fairs held, Rwandan products like coffee, uduseke (the traditional baskets commonly known as "peace baskets") and other handcraft products were made known to the world markets.



It is important to note that Rwandan coffee and other Rwandan products are now available on the world market.

The year 2008 was characterized by several embassy activities in relation to investment promotion and tourist attractions.

Rwandan Embassies abroad, in conjunction with Commercial attachés and consulars, Rwanda Investment and Export Promotion Nodal Offices reached to several investors and businessmen.

As a result several companies or individual investors are already operating or will soon start their operations within the country.

Many investors and business men have made some study visits to establish investment opportunities in Rwanda.

Most embassies held sensitization seminars aimed at marketing Rwanda and mobilized participants to the Commonwealth East African Business Forum that took place in Kigali in July 2008.

The Embassy in China mobilized investment promotion seminars in coastal cities of China, Hangzhou Zhejiang, and in Shanghai, on 20 November 2008 aiming at marketing Rwanda's investment opportunities, friendly regulations and benefits from doing business in Rwanda, within East African Community perspective. As a result, several Chinese Construction, Media and electronic Companies have established business in Rwanda.



Promotion of Investment, Tourism and Skills transfer



The embassy in London worked closely with RIE-PA and other national agencies and facilitated to organize trade shows, crafts exhibition, investment sessional meetings and mobilized investors and tourists to have Rwanda as their destination.

The Embassy engaged a high number of British companies, most of which have already established in Rwanda.

With the facilitation of the Japanese embassy, Mr. Sato, a Japanese investor has started up a Bio-Fertilizer factory in Rwanda.



Below is a highlight of some investment initiatives undertaken by our embassies in promoting business investments and tourism

- The diaspora association of Rwandans around the globe has initiated a project to build apartments, swimming pool, conference hall, etc. RIEPA has already met with them and will facilitate the with requirements. it is also important to note that a member of the rwandan diaspora has bought some bonds in the capital market
- The embassy in Brussels met with Mme Sekamana Thérèse and Mr. Gérard Raballand who intend to put up an assembling plant for “generators” that are wind driven (use wind). Tthe embassy also met mr. alfredo cestari, who has visited rwanda in order to start investment in energy and construction sectors
- Mr. Cliver, a swiss investor wishing to invest in hospitality school visited rwanda and met with high government officials.



The embassy also held talks with mr. andreas brunner who wishes to put up big buildings in kigali

- “ a b l - group” a germany based investment group have started a business company “African development corporation” in kigali and has shares in simtel and brd



- an agreement has been signed with gamac and roc to start a distillery of liquors from bananas and other rwandan fruits.
- rabobank, a dutch based bank has bought 35% of the shares in banque populaire.
- star telecommunication started up a “pay tv project” in kigali

At several occasions in the US, in UK and else where, the President and other high ranking officials have met and held talks with investors.

- Generally, Rwandan Embassies and consular missions also carried out an outreach campaign by approaching

Promotion of Investment, Tourism and Skills transfer



foreign companies and industries to relocate to Rwanda.

Others have been enticed to brand and market Rwandan products such as coffee, tea, coloured baskets (AGAS-EKE), fruit and vegetables, in

foreign markets. The results have been impressive as export revenue have increased.



The year 2008 was also characterized by massive training for Rwandans. The embassies played a very important role in mobilizing training program at different levels and in different fields and the trend still continues.

In general, the Ministry and the embassies link up with local institutions like RDB (RIEPA) and ORTPN facilitate the organisation of investment conferences and trade exhibitions in various countries with an intention to attract foreign investors.

Embassies, ORTPN and RIEPA mobilised Rwandan Diaspora throughout the world to market Rwanda's products abroad and to build partnership with foreign investors intending to plough their monies in Rwanda such as the Rwanda's Day Investment Conference, in Boston, aimed at mobilising US investors, etc.

Chapter V.

Image building of Rwanda



The year 2008 was exciting and eventful in as far as building Rwanda's image through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

This can be thoroughly demonstrated by the accomplished activities such as visits and receptions of high profile dignitaries and delegations, positive profiling of Rwanda using the strategic information tools such as the international, national press, websites and people-to-people diplomacy strategy.

All these activities were achieved thanks to Protocol, Communication and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Units, Embassies and Honorary Consulates.

V.1. PROTOCOL ACTIVITIES AS A REQUISITE FACTOR FOR IMAGE-BUILDING

In the last year, Rwanda received high profile personalities such as heads of state and governments, heads of international and regional organizations, Ministers, special envoys and ambassadors, Members of Parliament, accomplished business tycoons.

In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation organized ceremonial events to mention but a few: presentation of credential letters of new Ambassadors accredited to Rwanda, memorial events (Mourning, Heroes Day, Liberation Day)

To guide and facilitate diplomatic missions in Rwanda, the Ministry elaborated and published the Diplomatic Directory and the Protocol Guide.

The Diplomatic Directory has been a significant tool for guiding service delivery.



V.2. COMMUNICATION, PRESS AND ICT AS CHANNELS/ TOOLS OF IMAGE- BUILDING

To articulate Rwanda’s position on several issues (regional and international) these achievements have been registered in 2008:

- * Conceptualization, construction and launching of the Minaffet and Embassies websites;
- * Publication of Diplomatic Magazine
- * Press briefings, Press conferences and communiqués
- * Internet based intra-communication
- * Press monitoring and analysis
- * Promotional tools (brochures, folders, badges)
- * Packaging of information translated from national language (Kinyarwanda) into two international languages (French & English) and vice versa.

V.3. THE ROLE OF EMBASSIES AND HONORARY CONSUL-ATES IN IMAGE-BUILDING

Presenting Rwanda’s positions in high level international conferences for instance Permanent Mission of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations and embassies accredited in other prominent organizations (New York, Geneva, Addis Ababa, Nairobi & Berlin);

Organizing and coordination of H.E President Kagame’s visits in several countries, and other Rwandan high profile personalities (Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, President of the Senate, Parliament Speaker, etc)

Image Building of Rwanda



Dissemination of strategic information to private and public institutions (press, embassies, NGOs);

Coordination of other image building events (Expos and exhibitions, Sports and Culture, ICT, Tourism and Good governance awards) in South Africa, Berlin (Germany) respectively.

Follow-up on RDF & National Police Peacekeeping operation zones (Khartoum, New York Embassies)

Lobbying against the abuse of the principle of Universal Jurisdictions and its unintended consequences;

Mobilization of public to participate in key national events (Liberation day, Tutsi Genocide Commemoration, Heroes Day, Conference presentations about Rwanda's investment potential and opportunities).

Chapter VI.

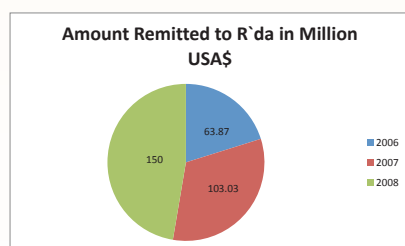
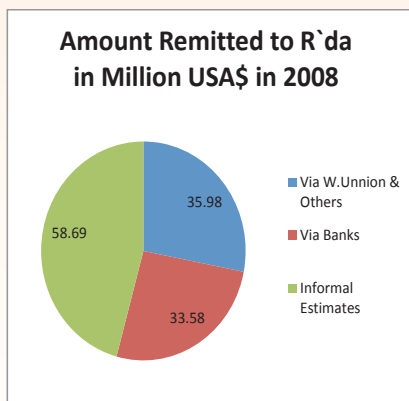
THE DIASPORA AS AGENTS OF RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND IMAGE-BUILDING



As far as Diaspora is concerned, 2008 was characterized by substantive activities such as mobilization of Rwandan Diaspora, conceptualizing and elaborating Diaspora guiding Strategic Framework.

To accomplish its notable mission, the former Diaspora Desk was transformed into Diaspora General Directorate and was tasked to coordinate, mobilize and harmonize Diaspora related activities inside and outside Rwanda.

The achievements of General Directorate for Rwandan Diaspora in 2008 can be presented in three categories notably: Business and Investment Promotion, Knowledge and Skills transfer as well as Image-building. To accomplish the tasks stated below, the role of embassies in different countries was very crucial throughout the year.



1. Business and Investment Promotion; In this regard, the Rwandan Diaspora was mobilized for investment and money transfer in form of remittances totaling to 150 Million US dollars. Retrospectively, there was 103 in 2007 and 60 millions in 2006. There is a visible increase of remittance as indicated by a comparative analysis of 2008 and the two years.

In same development, Rwanda Diaspora Mutual Fund was conceived, deliberated upon and established with full autonomy pending launching. This clearly demonstrates Rwanda's gradual but promising paradigm shift from foreign aid dependency to mutual cooperation with development partners.

2. Skills and Knowledge Transfer (SKT); To tap quality and professional expertise, the Diaspora General Directorate (DGD) jointly with Public Service Commission, mobilized and availed Rwandan Diaspora with local and international job opportunities via on-line communication system.



Further, under the Migration for the Development in Africa (MIDA) and Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) frameworks, at least 95 Rwandans volunteered to come and provide their expertise in different areas.

3. Image-building; given its central role, Rwanda's image was promoted and portrayed in the following forms:

- * cultural exhibitions
- * formal presentations,
- * lobbying
- * Civic education of young Diaspora specific groups for instance solidarity camps for students

To build consistency and coherence on key national policies and programs such as civil education (Ingando) governance matters, Rwandans in Diaspora were sensitized to participate in parliamentary elections and Diaspora Retreat as well as ID Project data entry process.

Emphatically, to create informational and relational exchanges, the Diaspora General Directorate created a weekly newsletter named—"Diaspora E-News Letter". This communication strategy is incorporated in the Ministry's website.

The Diaspora as an Agent of Resource mobilisation and Image building



V.1. THE ROLE OF EMBASSIES IN THE DIASPORA MOBILIZATION

The embassies have mobilized and sensitized Rwandans in Diaspora in different ways:

1. Mobilization and Sensitization Role; embassies have played very important mobilization and sensitization roles in condemnation of arrest of the Chief

State Protocol, Madam Rose Kabuye as well as calling for participation in the year 2008 parliamentary elections.



Demonstrations against the arrest of Ms. Rose KABUYE in Stockholm, Sweden

The Rwandan Diaspora acted as promotional agents by showcasing Rwanda's investment potential and opportunities in different areas for instance, Rwandans living abroad lured foreigners to invest in Rwanda, organized exhibitions and conferences aimed at marketing Rwanda's products to mega companies.

2. Anti-Genocide revisionism and negationism Campaigns; the Diaspora have been proactive in the fight against reductionism as well as the deliberate denial and negation of the 1994 Tutsi Genocide.

This can be indicated by their participation in the Commemoration of the 14th Tutsi Genocide, demonstration against the abuse of the Universal Jurisdiction and tracking of Genocide fugitive still at large in different countries.



Chapter VII

THE LINKAGE AND COORDINATION ROLE BETWEEN MINAFFET, EMBASSIES AND THE KEY PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

To achieve the Ministry’s mission, it was imperative to have a harmonious and collaborative planning, implementation as well as evaluation and monitoring of activities between MINAFFET, Embassies and Partner institutions.

a. Effective and expedient Communication Systems; In abide to share information on key foreign policy frameworks and initiatives, the Ministry enhanced and updated a user friendly communication systems such as “Voice Over Internet Protocol(VoIP)” , Skype, outlook and video conferencing equipments connecting the Ministry and other key partner institutions.

b. Capacity-building; under human resources development framework, MINAFFET, the Ministry of Labor and Public Service and Rwanda Student Financing Agency (SFAR) worked together to build capacities of public servants in form of scholarship, in-service-training in and outside the country.

In particular, some of the staff for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation were trained in matters relating to diplomacy and ICT.



Conclusion

It is very encouraging to note that cooperation between the Government of Rwanda and other countries worldwide has improved tremendously and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation continues to liaise closely with all partners in view of achieving the vision, mission and objectives of the Ministry.

This will give a new vitality to the Rwandan diplomacy and enable it to contribute to peace, security, stability and prosperity of Rwanda, the region, the African Continent and the World in general.

The task ahead is enormous but strategies put in place to achieve the Ministry's objectives are bearing fruits.

The ministry is proud of the work done by its staff in general and by diplomatic and consular missions abroad particularly in promoting tourism, attracting foreign investors as well as reflecting a good image of the country.

We believe that furthering the combined efforts in 2009, we shall do ever better.

Ambassadors who presented Credentials



H.E. Amb. Anna Maria Sampaio Fernando:
Brazil,



H.E. Amb. Hamdi Bueha Sidi Mahmud :
Saharawi Arab Republic

The Ambassadors who presented their Credentials are: -

H.E. Amb. Sampaio Fernando Maria :Brazil,

H.E. Amb . Dr. Fidel Mama Ayogu : Nigeria,

H.E. Amb. Sampaio Fernando Maria : Saharawi Arab Republic and

H.E. Amb. Sampaio Fernando Maria :Vatican.

H.E. Amb. Mr. Makken Franciscus Albrecht: Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

H.E. Amb. Mr. Goemans Ivo: Kingdom of Belgium

H.E. Amb. Madam Anna Grupinska: Republic of Poland with Residence in Nairobi

H.E. Amb. Mr. Pietro Ballero: Ambassador of the Republic of Italy with Residence in Kampala

H.E. Amb. Madam Lisa Filipetto: The Commonwealth of Australia with Residence in Nairobi

(the first Australian Ambassador to be accredited to Rwanda)

H.E. Amb. Mr. Niraj Srivastava : Ambassador of the Republic of India with Residence in Kampala



H.E. Amb . Dr. Fidel Mama Ayogu : Nigeria



H.E. Amb. Monsignor Ivo Scapolo (Mgr) :
Vatican



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