



14th WORLD EXPORT DEVELOPMENT FORUM (WEDF)/3<sup>rd</sup> WOMEN  
VENDORS EXHIBITION AND FORUM (WVEF)  
WELCOME REMARKS BY THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR/UNDP  
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

Nyakubahwa, Your Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda  
and our Chief Guest of Honour;

Her Excellency the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia,

Madame Arancha González, Executive Director, International Trade Center;

Honorable Francis Gatare, The Chief Executive Officer, Rwanda Development  
Board;

Senior Leaders of Rwanda;

Honorable Ministers;

His Worship the Mayor of Kigali,

Distinguished Delegates and Participants;

Excellencies, Ambassadors and Heads of Diplomatic Missions;

Senior Colleagues from the UN Family here present;

Representatives of the Private Sector, Civil Society and the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen

All Protocols Observed.

Allow me to start by saying to you all, Mwaramutse, Which means Good Morning,  
Bonjour.

And Mura Kaza Neza A Warm Welcome to you all.

Your Excellency Mr. President, allow me to start by extending to you personally, your Government and the people of Rwanda the warm greetings from the Rt Honourable Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator and the United Nations Development Group Chairperson on the occasion of these important events. She would have loved to be here personally, but owing to unavoidable circumstances, she could not. She also sends her heartfelt congratulations for the selection of Rwanda as the first African country to host WEDF. She believes that this is a further testimony to your visionary, competent and innovative leadership, which in large measure has produced the remarkable development results that Rwanda has achieved over the past two decades. Rwanda's performance in leading its development in innovative ways has been exceptional during the last two decades.

The Rt. Honourable Helen Clark would also like to salute the partnership between ITC and the Government of Rwanda through RDB and associating the One UN Rwanda in organizing these Forums. She also commends ITC for ably arguing the case for Rwanda to host this historical Forum. ITC occupies an important place in the UN System's support to inclusive industrialization and growth, development of SMSEs and their more active participation in the export markets as well as economic empowerment of women. We are pleased to note that Ms Arancha Gonzalez has brought a new sense of dynamism into ITC since she took over as the new Executive Director.

In my capacity as the One UN Resident Coordinator here in Rwanda, I would at this point like to reinforce the point already made that ITC has indeed made a wise choice in Rwanda as the host for the first WEDF in the Africa continent. Under

the competent leadership of President Kagame, Rwanda has indeed made remarkable progress in the post-Genocide against the Tutsi period with respect to building a stable and democratic society, attainment of high levels of real economic growth and significant poverty reduction as well as laying the foundations for sustainable long term development. Through the country's Vison 2020 and the EDPRS2, we believe that it is now on the threshold of a truly inclusive economic transformational process.

One could go on and on in citing impressive development results, but time will not allow that. Nonetheless, I cannot proceed without noting two particular areas of relevance to these two Forums: Firstly, like most people, my attention has been caught by the commendable performance by the country in the World Bank's 2014 Doing Business Report in which Rwanda's ranking moved from 54<sup>th</sup> in the 2013 to 32<sup>nd</sup> in 2014 out of 189 countries classification, indicating a 22 positions jump, further improving its earlier good performance. Rwanda is also a global leader in the empowerment of women and gender equity, which have by now been broadly appreciated as essential ingredients for the sustainable development of any country. It is also a leader in the promotion and application of ICT in development.

The World Export Development Forum is indeed a global patent initiative and its 2014 theme, "**Creating jobs through trade**", makes it particularly timely and pertinent for most African countries. It evidently resonates with Rwanda's current economic transformation strategy, which puts emphasis on diversification of the productive base, significant investment and export promotion, private sector development and economic empowerment of the women and youth and accelerated job creation, aiming at creating 200,000 jobs per year during the next 5 years. All of these objectives cannot be attained without broadening and deepening the SMEs

and enhancing their participation in the export markets. I dare say that this is indeed the case in most other developing countries.

The UN system in Rwanda is committed to scaling up its support to Rwanda's accelerated development, poverty reduction and transformational agenda within the framework of a strengthened Delivering as One. We are now well-placed to do that given that we have taken a lead globally in the application of the principles of the new generation of delivering as one. The One UN Rwanda's Development Assistance Plan, the UNDAF, which runs from 2013-2018 is fully aligned to the country's transformational agenda over the same period.

In particular, I would like to mention that the One UN Family in Rwanda, in strong collaboration with its sister Agencies such as the ITC, UNCTAD, UNIDO, ILO, UNEP, UNCTAD, and the World Tourism Organization, are geared up through important joint programmes to support inclusive industrial development, export promotion, economic empowerment of women and sustainable employment creation. All of this is underpinned by the green growth strategy.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentleman, once again, on Behalf of the UNDP Administrator Mrs. Helen Clark, and on behalf of the One UN family here in Rwanda, let me thank the ITC and its Executive Director, for bringing this World Export Development Forum to Rwanda. I have no doubt that the discussions during the 2 upcoming days will be fruitful, and will lead to concrete actions plans, which, when implemented effectively, will achieve what this forum really aims for: Sustainable Export Promotion not only for Rwanda but for the whole of Africa and the rest of the developing World, which will benefit everyone, but especially Women and the Youth. You would have noticed, that I am Saying "When"

implemented, not “If” implemented, because as President Kagame reminded us during the May AfDB Annual Meetings here in Kigali, there is no shortage of strategies; what is normally in short supply is the will and capacities for their effective implementation.

In conclusion, please join me in acknowledging the consistent and strong leadership of President Kagame, which is now a model for the rest of Africa. I sincerely hope that this will also be an inspiration for the implementation of the follow-up actions on the recommendations that will emerge from this Forum because building up a robust industrial sector, in which competitive SMSEs are adequately active is serious business!

Thank You.

Murakoze Cyane