

# Application of the CEPA principles to the SDGs: Rwanda' experience and progress

**Speaker:** Mr. Anatole Mulindwa, Applied Governance Research Analyst, RGB.

Dear Participants, Good Afternoon

## Rwanda's Strategic Choices:

**One — Unity:** we chose to stay together.

**Two — Accountability.** We chose to be accountable to ourselves.

**Three — Thinking Big.** We chose to think big; politically, socially and economically.



*"Services are a right to citizens, not a favor from leaders. We should not accept corruption in exchange for services we are owed. We all have our part to play in denouncing and fighting corruption. Good governance must be at every level and be part of who we are". H.E Paul KAGAME*

## Some of the results reflecting SDGs and Africa agenda 2063:

RGB: Rwanda Governance Board

- ☞ **Promote and Monitor** compliance with good governance principles and service delivery across public and private institutions as well as CSOs.
- ☞ **Research :**
  - 1) Conduct research on governance
  - 2) Explore citizens' perception of service delivery
  - 3) Disseminate the findings to inform action and policy
- ☞ **Home Grown Solutions:** to preserve, protect and promote the use of home-grown solutions in Rwanda.
- ☞ **Register** NGOs, FBOs and PPs and monitor whether their operations comply with the law
- ☞ **Media Sector:** to promote the media sector and provide advice on its operations.
- ☞ **JADF Coordination:** to coordinate and follow up the Joint Action Development Forum activities.

For every end of the year, RGB presents the report of annual achievements and its next year's plan of action to the parliament both members of the senate and members of the lower chamber.

Twenty-seven years ago, Rwandans embarked on a rebuilding process driven by a shared Vision 2020 based on three fundamental choices: unity, ambition, and accountability. The country undertook several reforms aimed at creating an inclusive and fair society with respect of human rights and rule of law. Since 2000, Rwanda has registered inclusive economic growth, averaging 8% annually leading to millions being lifted out of poverty and good progress in all development sectors. Rwanda has integrated the Africa Agenda 2063 and the SDGs into its national development agenda through the draft Vision 2050, National Strategy for Transformation (NST1, 2017-2024) and related strategies at different levels.

According to the Rwanda's VNR report 2019 and other credible research publications, Rwanda has made remarkable progress on Goals; **4, 8, 10, 13, 16 & 17** along **five thematic areas** as follow:

**1. Human Capital Development:** In line with the SDG 4 focusing on quality of education and learning, the Education Strategic Plan is hinged on: (i) scaling up pre-primary enrolment (ii) improving learning outcomes (iii) improving relevance of curricula (v) promoting science, technology and innovation and (vi) access for all including those with special needs.

Progress on nutrition has been made especially regarding wasting and underweight, however stunting remains a challenge despite falling from 51% (2005) to 38% (2015) and 33.1% (2020). The Government has put in place a National Child Development Agency to implement ECD and child protection policies and strategies.

**2. Inclusive Economic Growth:** Economic growth has reduced both income and multidimensional poverty. With a share of 43.5% of the population in the labor force, youth is regarded as a key driver of growth, requiring the economy to accelerate job creation. NST1 is targeting to create 1.5 million decent and productive jobs by 2024 with 214,300 jobs per year under support of the National Employment Programme with focus on Made in Rwanda Policy. The poverty rate has decreased from 58.9% (2000) to 38.2% (2017).

**3. Environment and Climate Change:** Rwanda targets to become a green, climate resilient and low carbon economy by 2050. A green fund (FONERWA) was in place since 2012 to mobilise resources. The National Disaster Management Policy has been revised in line with the Sendai Framework, a shift towards more integrated and anticipatory disaster risk management system in Rwanda.

**4. Good Governance and Access to Justice:** Citizen participation and home-grown solutions such as Imihigo (performance contracts) and Umuganda (communities come together to perform activities of public interest) have been key to Rwanda's development. Innovations like the Rwanda Governance Scorecard and the Citizen Report Card have further enhanced citizens' participation and demand for accountability. Rwanda has also operationalized a decentralized civil registration system and reformed its judicial system to further enhance access to quality justice.

**5. Strengthening the Means of Implementation, Global Partnership and Data for SDGs:** More efforts have been put into domestic resource mobilization, prudent debt management and macroeconomic stability. Attracting private investments in key development sectors through Public Private Partnerships has been key to achieve some SDGs. The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics and the Data Revolution have been adopted to

strengthen statistical capacity in monitoring SDGs. Rwanda is also hosting the SDGs Center for Africa.

**Leaving No One Behind:** Women, youth and people with disabilities are represented at all levels of decision making with highest women representation in Parliament (61%) and equal number of women and men in Cabinet. The Extreme poor are supported through social protection programmes. Rwanda is also piloting the comprehensive refugees' response framework for their socio-economic inclusion.

**Lessons learned:**

1. Visionary leadership, effective governance, and accountability are critical for achievement of SDGs.
2. Home-Grown Solutions rooted in the Rwandan culture are resource-efficient and play a major role in enhancing ownership and accelerating development outcomes.
3. A full integration of SDGs in the national planning and monitoring framework is critical for effective implementation.

**Areas for support:**

1. Significant external resources are needed to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and to scale up successful interventions.
2. There is need of technical and financial support for promoting applied governance researches on the application of CEPA principles to the SDGs.

**For further information:** 2019 VNR report on Rwanda, Rwanda Governance Scorecard (RGS) 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, Fifth Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey report 2016/17, and Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey report (RDHS) 2019/2020 etc.