

**Stakeholders meeting on UPR  
Lemigo Hotel, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016**

**Speech by Minister of Justice/Attorney General at the UPR progress review meeting.**

- Your Excellency, ONE UN Resident Coordinator
- Excellencies, Ambassadors and Heads of Diplomatic missions in Rwanda
- Fellow Representatives of the Government of Rwanda
- Excellencies Development Partners
- *Ladies and Gentlemen;*

I am glad to be here again to engage with all our stakeholders in the UPR process. The last time we were here we reaffirmed our commitment to make Rwanda's UPR cycle a success and I would like to thank you all for your continued engagement in this process.

You may recall that in November, 2015, Rwanda appeared before the UPR Working Group for the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. Rwanda accepted to implement 50 recommendations. Those recommendations include commitments to improve the Civil and Political as well as the Economic, Social and Cultural rights situation in Rwanda.

After the review in Geneva, we all gathered here on 17<sup>th</sup> December in the Post-UPR High Level Stakeholders meeting to give an overview of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rwanda's UPR cycle.

We presented to you the 50 accepted recommendations and we shared together the way forward to ensure successful implementation.

Rwanda takes the UPR as an intrastate innovative dialogue and cooperation as well as a good opportunity for self-assessment in our

holistic quest to continuously improve as a country. That's why we regularly engage every institution concerned so that we are always on the same page.

Today, we are here to share the road map for the implementation of the 50 accepted recommendations. This road map was developed by the National Treaty Body Reporting Task force which brings together Government and Civil Society Organizations to jointly consider implementation of Rwanda's human rights obligations. I want to call on every institution concerned to own this roadmap and make sure that each recommendation is implemented.

In December last year we were saying that we have four years to implement the 50 recommendations. Today, we have three and a half years. I want us to challenge ourselves to implement them within the shortest time possible. Let's view these recommendations not as obligations from the Human Rights Council, but rights to be enjoyed by our people. Therefore, the sooner we implement them, the better for Rwandans. Let us also constantly search for innovative ways to improve the lives of our people.

We have called for and encouraged more active Civil Society participation in the implementation of this second phase of the UPR. I want to repeat our open call to all civil society organizations working on human rights issues in Rwanda to partner with us in the implementation of these recommendations.

That said, I welcome all your inputs with regard to the roadmap and actions which you think should be taken for the implementation of these recommendations. Let's have an open and precise conversation. Let's come up with concrete steps to achieve our objectives.

I thank you