



## Inside this Issue:



1. **#IPU145: Women are the backbone of resilience and peace – H.E President Kagame**



2. **PSF, UAE Chamber of Commerce and Industry sign an MOU at Rwanda-UAE Business Forum**



3. **MINICT, ELM sign MoU to build collaboration in government e-services delivery in the margins of GITEX**



4. **#SaudiAgriculture2022: Amb. Hategeka, Rwandan exporters engage importers and distributors**

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## #IPU145: Women are the backbone of resilience and peace – H.E President Kagame



H.E President Paul Kagame called for fair women representation for greater gender-inclusive parliaments, underscoring the role of women in building a resilient and peaceful world. He made the observation on Tuesday, October 11, while officiating at the opening of the 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and its related meetings, held in Kigali from October 11 to 15.

The assembly took place under the theme “Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world”. All over the world, Kagame said, parliaments exist to protect the interest of citizens. This objective cannot be met without the full and active participation of women in our parliaments, especially in leadership positions.

“Despite steady gains, inequality between women and men continues to be widespread. Setting quotas takes us a step closer to equal representation, but does not address the full spectrum of inequalities in parliaments and in our society at large,” he observed.

“Gender equality is better achieved when we acknowledge that it is a right for everyone everywhere. Women are the backbone of resilient and peaceful societies. We need strong legal and policy frameworks in place, with an emphasis on implementation and results,” he said.

The President told delegates that in Rwanda, women played a critical role in the liberation struggle and that they remain a fundamental part of Rwanda’s transformation journey, with many participating in peacekeeping operations across the African continent.

Still talking about tackling gender inequalities, he said that context matters, and there are no quick-fix solutions to build inclusive communities. “One thing, however, is certain. The fight against gender inequality is a shared responsibility, and men have a duty to speak up and not just be bystanders. This is particularly important to combat the negative perceptions of some men who sustain the status quo,” he observed.

The Speaker of Parliament, Donatille Mukabalisa, said that the theme of this Assembly serves as a “wake-up call to parliamentary institutions to reflect and take stock on current state of gender equality and see how we can change dynamics to advance gender mainstreaming in the political and economic spheres of our respective countries as we lose a lot due to gender inequality practices.” “In Rwanda, promoting gender equality and women in leadership is a constitutional imperative. There is a strong political commitment at the highest level and adequate measures are taken at all levels to boost gender equality and women political participation, as well as women empowerment,” she said.

According to information from IPU, many women around the world still lack basic human rights and face discrimination and gender-based violence, indicating that the world’s parliaments are no exception. With a global average of 25 percent women, most parliaments remain male-dominated, and women MPs are often under-represented on decision-making bodies, IPU said.

Meanwhile, Rwanda leads the way when it comes to gender equality in parliament. In 2008, the Rwanda Chamber of Deputies was the first elected national parliament with more women than men, IPU observed. With the proportion of MPs who are women standing at 61.25 percent today, well above the current global average, Rwanda has been at the top of the IPU’s monthly ranking of women in national parliaments for years.

**Read more on The New Times**

## UAE, KSA and Bahrain participate in #IPU145 in Kigali



The IPU assembly in Kigali attracted the participation of delegations from countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) including the UAE, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

For UAE, Dr. Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi led the UAE delegation. In his capacity as Head of the Federal National Council Parliamentary Division at the IPU, he participated in pre-assembly meetings in which he presented a report that covered the IPU's activities, political issues, including the political document submitted to the United Nations, which was prepared by the IPU's General Secretariat.

For the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a delegation of the Shura Council was headed by Assistant Speaker of Shura Council Dr. Hanan bint Abdulraheem Al-Ahmadi. The Saudi delegation also included Secretary General of the Shura Council Mohammed Al-Muteiri, and council members Ibrahim Al-Mifleh, Huda Al-Huleisi, Major General Abdulrahman Al-Harbi and Raeda Abu Nian, in addition to several officials.

For the Kingdom of Bahrain, Shura Council First Deputy Chairman Jamal Mohammed Fakhro headed the participating delegation in the 145th General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). **WAM, BNA, SPA**

## Amb. Hategeka visits Saudi Arabia and meets with senior officials



On 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 while on a working visit, Emmanuel Hategeka, Rwanda's Non-resident Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia met with the new CEO of Saudi Fund for Development, H.E Sultan Al Marshad. Discussions focused on strengthening existing collaboration in areas of development financing for social and infrastructure projects.

Amb. Hategeka also had a meeting with Amb. Waleed Alhumoudi DG Africa Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Both sides exchanged on deepening bilateral cooperation between the two friendly countries.

## Amb. Hategeka, Rwandan exporters engage importers and distributors at #SaudiAgriculture2022



Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka along with Rwandan exporters engaged major importers and distributors during the 39<sup>th</sup> Saudi Agriculture Exhibition which took place in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 17-20 October 2022. This was the first time that Rwandan exporters participated in the Saudi Agriculture Exhibition, the largest B2B event for the agriculture sector in the Middle East region.

Key companies engaged by the Rwandan delegation include LuLu Hypermarket, Carrefour Hypermarket and Almarai. Discussions focused on sourcing Rwandan products for the Saudi retail market. [Read more on Taarifa](#)

## Rwanda Single Digital ID technical team attends GITEX Exhibition in Dubai

From 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Rwanda Single Digital ID technical team led by Josephine Mukesha, DG of the National Identification Agency (NIDA) together with Ambassador Emmanuel Hategeka attended GITEX2022 Exhibition in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. GITEX is a global exhibition bringing together the world's most innovative tech companies and Government entities showcasing their breakthrough innovations and digital solutions in public services delivery.

The delegation met the leadership of UAE Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs & Port Security (ICP), Abu Dhabi Digital Authority, Dubai Digital Authority and Dubai Future Foundation. The engagements provided an opportunity to share experience and forge partnerships.



## MINICT and ELM sign MoU to build collaboration in government e-services



On Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> October in the margins of GITEX2022 exhibition in Dubai, Amb. Emmanuel Hategeka signed an MOU on behalf of Rwanda Ministry of ICT and Innovation with Dr. Abdulrahman Al Jadhai, CEO of Elm, a public IT Services Company based in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The memorandum of understanding will allow the two parties to build collaboration and share experience in government e-services delivery.

[Read more SPA](#)

## PSF, UAE Chamber of Commerce and Industry sign an MOU in the margins of Rwanda-UAE Business Forum



On 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Rwanda Private Sector Federation (PSF) signed an MOU with the Federation of UAE Chamber of Commerce and Industry to promote trade and investment among both business Communities. The MOU was signing during The Rwanda – UAE Business Forum in Kigali. Stephen Ruzibiza and H.E. Humaid Mohamed Ben Salem, secretary General of UAE Chamber of Commerce and Industry signed the agreement. The signing ceremony was also witnessed by H.E Emmanuel Hategeka, Ambassador of Rwanda to the UAE and UAE Ambassador to Rwanda H.E Ambassador Hazza Alqahtani.

As for the Business Forum, it offered an opportunity to connect Rwanda and UAE business communities. Speaking during the opening session of the forum, H.E. Humaid Mohamed Ben Salem stressed to Rwanda the importance of holding the forum in the capital, Kigali, stressing the need to strengthen the growing bilateral relations between the business communities of both friendly countries. He observed that the organization of the trade mission is one of the fruits of the distinguished and solid bilateral relations between the two countries.

On his part, Robert Bapfukurera, President of the Rwanda Private Sector Federation, stressed that the UAE is an important trade partner, and that Rwanda is a strategic gateway to Africa. He noted that businesses benefit from Rwanda's well developed infrastructure, secure business environment, leading market for consumer goods, as well multi-skilled human resources. [Read more on WAM](#)

## Amb. Hategeka participates in the 24<sup>th</sup> IRENA Council Meeting



From 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October, H.E. Amb. Emmanuel Hategeka participated in the 24<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in Abu Dhabi, UAE. More than 400 delegates from 108 countries discussed ways of accelerating the deployment of renewable energy as a multiplier solution to issues of energy security, climate change and sustainable development.

The 24<sup>th</sup> IRENA Council Meeting is a build up to the 13<sup>th</sup> IRENA General Assembly which will take place in early January 2023. The Assembly is expected to approve Rwanda's membership to IRENA Council for the 2023-2024 term, representing the Africa group along with Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

## Amb. Hategeka attends ADIPEC 2022



On 31<sup>st</sup> October, Amb. Hategeka Emmanuel along with Second Counsellor Inès Mutoni attended the opening ceremony of the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference #ADIPEC2022, the world's preeminent energy platform that convenes global leaders and industry executives. The Ambassador engaged with industry leaders among 2200 exhibitors.

## Second Counsellor Mutoni receives Ms. Hanina of EU Delegation in UAE



On 21<sup>st</sup> October, Second Counsellor Inès Mutoni received Ms. Hanina Ben Bernou, Regional Adviser in charge of Horn of Africa, Red Sea and the Gulf region at the EU Delegation in the UAE in a courtesy visit to the embassy. Discussions focused on the work of both missions in the UAE and areas of mutual interests.

## Rwandan students in Dubai for internships



On 18<sup>th</sup> October, Following an MoU signed between Dubai College of Tourism with University of Tourism, Technology and Business Studies (UTB) 10 students arrived in Dubai to begin their international placement at Marriott and Dubai Palm Jumeirah. More to follow thanks to good partnerships and institutional collaboration!

## Rwanda scoops two awards for tourism sustainability

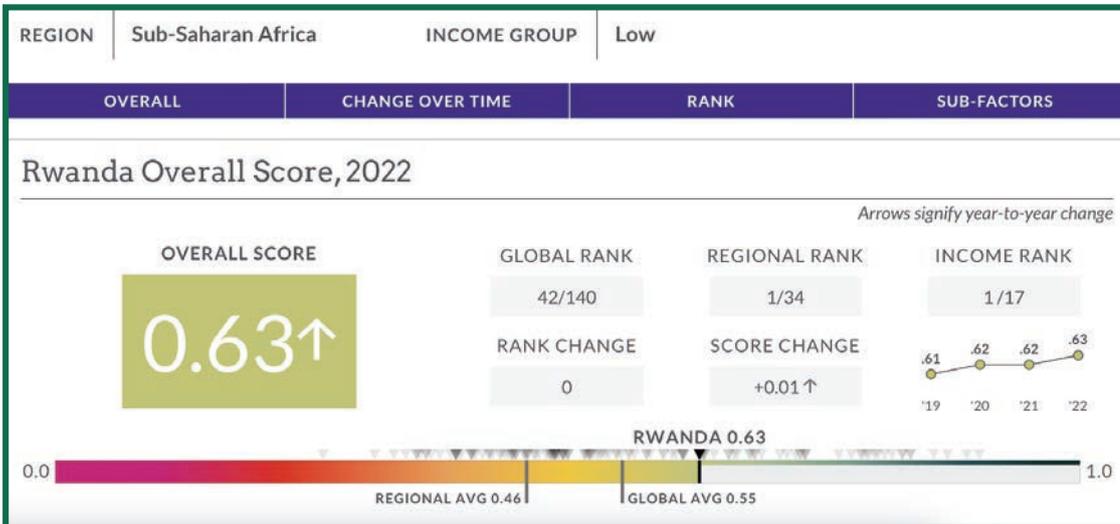


Rwanda has received two Africa Travel and Tourism Leadership Awards for championing tourism sustainability and innovation in business tourism in Africa. The country scooped the 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up for Championing Tourism Sustainability Award and the 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up for the Most Innovative and Sustainable Business Tourism and Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Events and Exhibitions (MICE) destination in Africa Award.

The awards given during the Africa Tourism Leadership Forum (ATLF) on October 27<sup>th</sup>, aim at recognizing game-changing individuals or groups' initiatives being pursued across the sector.

[Read more on The New Times](#)

## Rwanda tops Africa in rule of law – report



Rwanda ranked first in Africa and 42<sup>nd</sup> globally in adherence to rule of law, according to the World Justice Project (WJP)'s Rule of Law Index 2022. The WJP is an international civil society organisation with a stated mission of "working to advance the rule of law around the world."

Its Rule of Law Index is a quantitative assessment tool designed to offer a detailed and comprehensive picture of the extent to which countries adhere to the rule of law in practice.

What is behind Rwanda's performance? Rwanda performed well in a number of dimensions that are considered vital for the rule of law. For example, in regard to the "absence of corruption" dimension, the country was ranked 34<sup>th</sup> out of the 140 countries that featured. The country was ranked 27<sup>th</sup> (out of the 140 countries) in regard to the "civil justice" indicator, which measures whether ordinary people can resolve their grievances peacefully and effectively through the civil justice system. For the "Order and Security" dimension, Rwanda again came out 27<sup>th</sup> out of the 140 countries. The dimension measures how well a society ensures the security of persons and property.

Other top performers in Africa are: Mauritius (45<sup>th</sup> globally), Namibia (46<sup>th</sup> globally), Botswana (51<sup>st</sup> globally), and South Africa (54<sup>th</sup> globally). The country scores and rankings presented in the report were built from more than 500 variables drawn from the assessments of over 154,000 households and 3,600 legal practitioners and experts in 140 countries and jurisdictions. [Read more on The New Times](#)

# JURISDICTION CORNER

## UAE Visit Visa for Rwandans



Republic of Rwanda  
Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in UAE

### UAE VISIT VISA FOR RWANDANS 26 October 2022 | Abu Dhabi

The Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in The United Arab Emirates informs the public that recent media reports of UAE visa ban on Rwandans are false and misleading. Citizens of Rwanda continue to enjoy all categories of UAE visas including visit visa.

The Embassy seizes this occasion to advise Rwandans on UAE's new visa reforms officially launched on 03 October 2022.

Under the new reforms, like other nationalities, Rwandans applying for visit visa are requested to comply with the following ;

- Provide proof of hotel booking for the duration of stay
- Valid return/onward ticket
- In case of home stay, an invitation letter from the host along with the address, phone number and copy of ID/passport of the host in UAE
- Sufficient funds (minimum AED 5000 or its equivalent) preferably in cash or on card.

Details on UAE visas and entry permits can be found on the website of the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs & Port Security: [www.icp.gov.ae](http://www.icp.gov.ae)

END

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## KSA: Departure is mandatory for extension of multiple entry visit visa

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, the General Directorate of Passports (Jawazat) denied rumors regarding the extension of multiple entry family visit visas without leaving the Kingdom.

The Jawazat reiterated that the instructions for extending the multiple entry family visit visa require compliance with the visa and departure regulations before the period of expiry of the visa, including the departure from the Kingdom after a period of three months.

In the event of a delay in the departure, fines will be imposed on the violator three days after its expiry date. **Read more on Saudi Gazette**



## Bahrain ready for IPU's 146<sup>th</sup> assembly in March 2023

While in Kigali for IPU 145<sup>th</sup> assembly in October, Bahrain Shura Council First Deputy Chairman and Head delegation Jamal Mohammed Fakhro met the IPU president Duarte Pacheco to brief him with Bahrain's preparation to host the 146<sup>th</sup> assembly in March 2023. Fakhro presented the efforts of the national committee to organize the meeting of the 146<sup>th</sup> assembly and its keenness to succeed in hosting the biggest IPU meeting.

Fakhro said that Bahrain's hosting of the IPU Assembly on March 11-15 will highlight the principles and values of coexistence, tolerance and dialogue, and support the foundations of the IPU. **Read more on BNA**



# Photo Gallery: Rwandan exporters participate in Saudi Agriculture Exhibition 2022

