

PART VII

AN INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN COUNTRY, WITH A POLICY OF PEACE, FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH ALL PEOPLES

Foreword

The Republic of Rwanda is part of this world, reacts to its variables, whether regional or global, affecting it and affected by it. It works to develop links with the international community through effective participation which supports its abilities and presence both in the regional and global environment. By doing so, Rwanda will assure the whole world that it is a peace loving state, believing in the rights of peoples of the world to peaceful co-existence, and extending the bridges of co-operation and dialogue among them in order to achieve more of development and advancement for the service of man. The **RPP - IMVURA**, while looking forward to a world in which co-operation between nations dominates as a basis for love and peace, calls for a tolerant world community embodying the meanings of human brotherhood, dominated by the spirit of solidarity, co-operation. A world community; in which relations between states are based on justice and equality of interest and respect for differences of civilisation and culture, and honouring all contracts and international treaties. Therefore, Rwanda's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity are fundamental and inalienable values of the people, the nation and the State. For centuries, there have been ties of dependence on foreign nations. In this century, Rwanda's ties of dependence on imperialism have represented powerful obstacles to a development in accordance with national interests, and are factors of involvement in foreign matters which run counter to national interests.

At the same time, the **RPP - IMVURA** supports a Common Foreign and Security Policy which, supra-nationally seeks to enshrine the East African Community and African Union's foreign policy as an entity under International Law, increasingly replacing member states in the definition and implementation of foreign, defence and security policies.

7.1 The fundamental elements of Rwandan Independence and Sovereignty State

International relations is to be given great importance in modern times, as it is no longer possible for any people to live in isolation from those around them, in a period where mutual dependence among countries has become important and a way for affecting international relations in all aspects of cultural, economic and political reality. Rwanda is also part of the African nation which is still suffering - together with other countries that have recently been liberated from colonialism - a lot of backwardness, disintegration and dependence on top of the continuing aspiration of the dominant countries to encroach on its wealth. This makes it incumbent on the African countries to commit more effort in developing true forms of co-operation and co-ordination through consolidation of political, economic, cultural and social links towards a stable development and defence of common, lawful interest. Responding; to these desires and hopes of its Rwandan peoples, and benefiting from the successful experiences being witnessed in various regions in the world.

One of the strongest demands emerging out of the changing world in which we live, is not one of costly surrenders of sovereignty or of impoverishing uniformisation and greater distance between decision-making centres and citizens, but one of vivid assertion of the richness of difference, of national identities, of

recognition of nations' right to a sovereign political power structure, of aspiring to equal rights and new forms of mutually advantageous and reciprocally enriching cooperation.

The **RPP - IMVURA** shall support East African Community (EAC) and African Union's integration and cooperation between free nations and sovereign States, and stands for building a complete East African Community (EAC) and African Union (AU) of peace, cooperation among workers, peoples and nations, for building a continent which can be a factor of security and social progress.

From this approach, the **RPP - IMVURA** affirms the importance of establishing Rwanda's foreign policy and its international relations according to the following principles:

1. Complementarily and harmony in Rwanda's internal and foreign policies so that;
2. The foreign policy adheres to the principles and objectives of the Rwandan people, foremost among which is the safeguarding of independence and sovereignty of Rwanda, its unity, protection of its security, stability and territory. Employing the foreign policy for the service of Rwanda's economic interests and support of the comprehensive development strategy.
3. Rwanda should have strong and developing ties with all the countries of the world, based on the principle of peaceful coexistence among peoples and the rejection of use of violence in solving international conflict, mutual respect, refraining from interference in internal affairs and respecting national interest and freedom of choices of people.
4. Allowing equality of opportunity to all civilisations and nations to participate in building the world order, and for its culture to participate in formulating the standards of international conduct and crystallise the international principles and norms.
5. That the formulation of policy of the Republic of Rwanda in the international arena, is according to the priorities of its civilisation belonging and geographical location.
6. The **RPP - IMVURA** will honour all Rwandan existing regional and global obligations and commitments such as of global peacekeeping. At the same times, the **RPP - IMVURA** reserve to review unfair agreements and contracts and seek to renegotiate their terms and /or repudiate all together if they are not in the interest of the nation.
7. Policy prohibiting the current Rwanda's agitations and fomenting wars and regime change of other nations. Policy of non-aggressions and non-interferences into internal affairs of other nations.
8. The **RPP - IMVURA** to use its experience in the region to facilitate a lasting peace settlement in the DR Congo, Somali and Sudan. It will not run away from Rwanda's responsibility to participate in the African Task Force (ASF) and as well as sending Rwandan Peacekeeping Forces in any nation where Rwandan troops will be needed for noble values.

The **RPP - IMVURA** is to work effortlessly to secure a meaningful and peaceful resolutions aimed at securing a lasting peace and settlement to the people of Eastern part of the DR Congo

7.2 Rwanda's Independence, Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity

The **RPP - IMVURA** will continue to guide its work, both within the institutions and outside them, by the defence of national interests, by limiting the negative aspects and strengthening the positive prospects that can make it possible to:

1. Harmoniously and speedily develop the nation within the framework of building a East African Community (EAC) and African Union (AU)'s integrations of solidarity, open to the world, with priority for the social dimension and for a true convergence of economies;
2. Ensure a more advantageous specialisation of production for our country and an intensification of economic cooperation;
3. Actually closing the gap between the various countries' level of development, which implies that the principle of "economic and social cohesion" is to be considered as one of the East African Community (EAC) and African Union (AU) fundamental goals, and not as a demagogic formula devoid of any real content;
4. Preserve Rwanda cultural identity and forms of cultural, technical and artistic exchange that respect the national language and values;
5. Ensure an independent and positive role for the East African Community (EAC) and African Union (AU) on major international issues, particularly in favour of disarmament, of collective security and peace in Africa and the world, countering the goal of turning it into an imperialist political-military bloc for interfering in the internal affairs of other States, and promoting cooperation, human, cultural and other exchanges between the peoples and States of all Africa;
6. Externally, considers the context of the changes at a world level (namely in terms of the international trade) takes into account the need to counter and cushion the harmful consequences and the obstacles to our economic development which created by Rwanda's importation of foreign goods and services without due regards local goods and services as possible opportunities to benefit the community;

In the political-military sphere, considering the developments in the international situation, Rwanda's participation in global peacekeeping must be reconsidered, of maintain peace and neutrality as a condition for respecting national independence and sovereignty of a particular country.

Rwanda should involve itself actively in institutionalising the global Conference on Security and Cooperation in as the true system of collective security and cooperation globally, countering attempts to hegemonies and use it as a tool to keep peace globally.

In a complex and unstable international framework, it is even more necessary for Rwanda to adopt a political view of guaranteeing the national territory's integrity, political-military decision-making autonomy, national sovereignty and security for the Rwandan people and Rwanda, making its own specific contribution toward positive developments in international relations, eliminating the nuclear threat and safeguarding world peace.

The following are fundamental elements of Rwandan independence and sovereignty:

- **Economic independence ensuring** - within a framework of international interdependence and cooperation, and specifically with the current East African Community (EAC) and African Union (AU) memberships - national ownership of strategic resources and economic sectors, a reduction of the foreign deficit in sectors leading to greater vulnerability, an increase in production, a reduction

of the foreign debt, participation in the international division of labour in a non-subordinate way which - with control over the production process - will render foreign diktats unfeasible.

- **A national definition of defence policy**, guaranteeing autonomy in the adoption of fundamental strategic concepts, independence of the Rwandese Armed Forces from any external control or interference, their non-integration and non-involvement in multinational forces and aggressive interventions, prior decision and national control over the use by foreign forces of the country's territory, air space and maritime zones - banning their use for aggressive operations and outer space militarization projects, or as bases for the installation, deployment or transit of any kind of nuclear weapons;
- **Establishment of domestic security policies and measures**, not permitting foreign command of national forces or security services nor the activity of foreign or supranational security services or forces on Rwanda soil, while safeguarding the necessary international cooperation in fighting crime;
- **Autonomy of decisions and diplomatic relations**, without any subordination to external orders or demands, guaranteeing that they are conducted in accordance with the aims of upholding national interests, cooperation, friendship and solidarity with all peoples, peace and security;
- **The safeguard and development of Rwandese culture** ensuring - within the framework of a necessary increase in interchange with other peoples and cultures and of a growing internationalisation of the mass media - the preservation of the Rwandan people's cultural identity and the enhancement of its international assertion;
- **National development of science and technology** securing, within the network of international cooperation and interchange, a science and technology policy geared toward the specific problems of Rwanda's integrated development, equitable terms in the processes of exchanging knowledge and a balanced technological exchange with other countries under conditions of equality and reciprocity.

In the framework of these general guidelines, Rwanda will develop, in the democracy for the future of Rwanda of tomorrow which the **RPP - IMVURA** submits to the Rwandan people, **a many-faceted foreign policy of peace, friendship and cooperation with all peoples**, having as its fundamental tenets:

1. **Extraordinary relations of friendship and cooperation with Uganda** based on valuing exceptional historical heritages, unique cultural factors, and active cooperation bonded by a shared blood of sacrifices made by the people.
2. **Relations of friendship and cooperation with the East African Community (EAC) and African Union (AU) member states** based on the essential principles of mutually advantageous cooperation, safeguard of national interests, culture and sovereignty, development of balanced and non-discriminatory relations among its member states and with all countries and peoples;
3. **Relations with all countries of Europe especially, Belgium, UK, Germany, France, Russia, Sweden, Norway, as well as with the USA, Canada and Japan**, based on the principles of equality, reciprocity of advantages, mutual respect and non-interference in internal matters;
4. **Relations of friendship with Libya, DR Congo, South Africa, Burundi, Tanzania, Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Zimbabwe, Egypt, Angola and Somalia** realising their true potential for mutually advantageous cooperation;

5. **Relations with the countries of Latin America, and Asia**, valuing historical, and active cooperation toward solving the serious problems that afflict the Third-World and all of Humankind;
6. **Relations with the Arabs and Persian Gulf countries**, particularly in the Persian Gulf, Maghreb and Eastern Mediterranean, geared toward turning the regions into areas of peace and cooperation;
7. **Work with the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC)** member states to adopt the socio-economic transformation strategy of our states as a common goal through the use of intellectual labour and sharing of political, social and economic support (that include movement of trade, technology and sciences) to prevent underdeveloped states from being dominated by the already developed ones.
8. **Active solidarity with all peoples who are fighting** for their freedom, for national independence and social progress, against imperialism, colonialism, fascism, racism, and apartheid, assuming full responsibility before the people of Palestine, in terms of ensuring their self-determination of an independent Palestinian state sitting side-by-side with a Jewish state and jointly sharing the historical city of Jerusalem as their city joint capital.
9. **Active participation in all international forums** in which Rwanda participates, particularly the UN and its agencies, in order to help solve Humanity's global problems - specifically, the defence of peace, the struggle against hunger, poverty and underdevelopment, disease and drug addiction, the protection and conservation of the environment, the creation of a new international information order; stressing the UN's role, fighting for its democratisation and opposing its instrumentalisation by the great powers which seek to interfere in the internal affairs of peoples;
10. **Active participation and co-operation with the Commonwealth member states, Francophone, Non-aligned Movement, Arab League, Asia and Pacific organisation, Central and Latin American blocks** – valuing our social-political entity to which we pledge our undivided loyalty and allegiance irrespective of ethnicity, religion, gender and social cultural
11. **Engagement in the creation of a new international economic order** directed to overcoming unequal terms of trade, over-exploitation of resources, the huge imbalances and discriminations and the devastating effects of the foreign debt which hang over many third world countries. This new international economic order will, by putting an end to neo-colonialism, secure well-being for all peoples, guarantee sustained development, fulfil present needs without jeopardising the future of coming generations;
12. **Actively contributing to the creation of an Africa of peace, progress, friendship and cooperation** among sovereign peoples and nations with equal rights, advancing the disarmament process, support and participation in collective security alliances that respects and guarantees the sovereignty of States and freedom of choice for peoples, realising the **African Standby Force (ASF)**, **UN Peacekeeping Mission/Commission (UNPC)** and Common Foreign Security Policy's potential, protecting them from attempts to deface and manipulate them. We will also seek for honourable close ties with **Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE)**

