

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



Statement by

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the United Nations**

**On the 17th Commemoration of the
Rwandan Genocide against the Tutsi**

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protéger les victimes. Une vigilance constante et une action décisive sont donc nécessaires pour atteindre notre objectif commun, qui est de mettre en échec le génocide, son idéologie et sa négation, afin de préserver les générations futures.

[English]

Ladies and gentlemen,

Only the most depraved of humanity would disagree with the right to remember the victims and the responsibility to protect targeted populations from future genocide. But how do we translate sincere sentiment into a fortress against the ever present threat of extermination? Remembering and learning from the past, educating in the present, and advocating for the future will gain results that have eluded us so far.

Therefore, armed with the lessons of the past, it is now our responsibility to shatter the great conspiracy of silence and to break down the walls of indifference and inaction — to stand against hatred and divisionism so that evil will not triumph again, despite the wisdom gained after reflecting on the systems and circumstances that lead to the loss of those whose memory we honor today.

As H.E. President Paul Kagame said, “No country knows better than my own the costs of the international community failing to intervene to prevent a state killing its own people”. Rwanda therefore commends the UN Security Council for its lessons learned from Rwanda and fully supports resolutions adopted to protect civilians in Libya and Côte d’Ivoire. Indeed, as it is known, indifference and inaction are never on the side of the victim but always on the side of the oppressor.

On Libya, President Kagame clearly stated that: “Given the overriding mandate of Operation Odyssey Dawn to protect Libyan civilians from state-sponsored attacks, Rwanda can only stand in support of it. Our responsibility to protect is unquestionable — this is the right thing to do, and this view is backed with the authority of having witnessed and suffered the terrible consequences of international inaction”.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Perhaps the most important lesson from the Genocide is that remembrance includes the responsibility to educate. Learning lessons from the past is part of the common legacy of those targeted for extermination. This lesson has particular significance because the theme selected by the UN for this year’s commemoration is “Rebuilding Rwanda: Reconciliation and Education”. It is

worthwhile to explore briefly how this theme might

"We remember — and we pledge — and this must not be a matter of rhetoric but must be a commitment to action — that never again will we be indifferent to incitement and hate; that never again will we be silent in the face of evil; té8CiTP1;A696.