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**Rwanda National Statement**

*Delivered by* Robert Kayinamura,

Deputy Permanent Representative of Rwanda  
to the United Nations

***UN General Assembly Hall  
New York, 7th April 2025***

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- Your Excellency, Mr. António Guterres; Secretary-General of the United Nations,
  - Your Excellency, Mr. Philemon Yang; President of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,
  - Your Excellency, Ambassador Fatima Mohammed, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations.
  - Ms. Germaine Tuyisenge, Survivor of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.
  - Excellencies, Distinguished guests, Fellow Rwandans,

1. Thank you for joining us on this solemn occasion.
2. I also take this opportunity to thank the UN Department of Public Information/Department of Global Communications for its invaluable partnership with the Mission of Rwanda in the organization of this event.

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3. Thirty-one years ago, Rwanda experienced one of the deadliest genocides of the 20th century. In just 100 days, over one million victims were murdered due to a state-sponsored campaign of hatred. The Genocide against the Tutsi was not a spontaneous eruption of violence, but a premeditated plan, fueled by decades of dehumanization, hate propaganda, and a divisive ideology that sought to erase an entire people.
  4. As we gather each year in this General Assembly Hall to honor the victims lost during the 100 days of massacres, we also convene to re-evaluate and reaffirm our resolve to *Remember, Unite, Renew*.
  5. ***Remember – Unite – Renew*** is not a phrase we choose lightly, nor one we take for granted. It represents our deepest convictions:
    - that memory has power,
    - that unity is the bedrock for development,
    - and that renewal is not simply hoped for but built continuously.
  6. In the face of all this, there are those whose strength humbles us beyond words. **Today, we stand with the survivors.**
  7. I thank Ms. **Germaine Tuyisenge** for her courageous testimony today. Survivors are living witnesses to the cruelty of genocide and

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the quiet heroes of Rwanda's rebirth. In 1994, the very idea of a governable state seemed unimaginable.

8. On July 19th, 1994, the Government of National Unity was established with National Unity, reconciliation, and resilience as the pillars of Rwanda's reconstruction. The philosophy of ***Ndi Umunyarwanda***, translating to "*I am Rwandan*," became the cornerstone of our collective identity and recovery.
9. Today, we recognize that the survivors' resilience is the very foundation on which Rwanda rebuilt itself. Unfortunately, this 31st commemoration reminds us that the genocide's echoes are not confined to the past.
10. Now, as denial and revisionism persist, the same dehumanizing language of "**snakes**," "**serpents**," "**poison**" once used to incite genocide, continues to reappear to ignite hate and revive primitive divisive ideologies.
11. Rwanda welcomes the efforts of the United Nations in genocide prevention and looks forward to continued collaboration in the work that remains. However, the phrase "Never Again" must go beyond symbolism. It must guide our policies, actions, and the litmus test of our shared morality.

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12. The Genocide against the Tutsi was both preventable and warned. Yet the world hesitated. And in the final moments, it looked away, when solidarity was needed most. Given the vast scale of participation in the atrocities of 1994, justice was neither easy nor swift, but it was necessary and remains necessary still.

**Excellencies,**

13. More than 1,000 indictments remain unresolved. Each is a reminder of the lingering threat and the responsibility of the international community to pursue justice.

14. **Rwanda** has shown the world that reconciliation is possible, but justice cannot be optional. Those who committed genocide must be brought to justice, and countries have both a legal and moral duty to extradite or prosecute fugitives. We cannot afford to look away.

**Lastly, to Rwanda's youth, the inheritors of this history,**

15. You were born into a country shaped by trauma but also transformed by resilience. As we look ahead, you must protect gains and reject any genocide denial. The philosophy of ***Ndi Umunyarwanda*** is not just about identity but about responsibility.

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**In conclusion,**

16. As we mark Kwibuka31, let us remember that the Genocide against the Tutsi was not Rwanda's tragedy alone but a haunting reminder of what happens when we fail to act.

17. Genocide prevention is a shared responsibility. Because combating genocide ideology cannot be the burden of survivors or affected nations only, it stays, in the end, our collective imperative. Therefore, let us remember not just in memory of the past, but in defense of our shared future.

**Thank you.**