

Position paper for the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The Republic of Rwanda has undeniably shown interest in Climate Change for years, by signing both the *Kyoto protocol* and the *Paris Agreement* other solutions proposed by the United Nations. The Republic of Rwanda will gladly participate in order to find solution for the following issues that will be discussed by UNFCCC such as: *The Impact Of Climate Change on Human Health, The Climate Refugees, The Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Green House Gas Emissions.*

I. The Impact Of Climate Change on Human Health

“Always remember that the ultimate purpose of these efforts is to transform the lives of real people by enhancing their well-being, safety, and access to opportunity.” (Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda) Rwanda is well off economically speaking, which allows the success of the *Rwanda Social Security Board* (RSSB); the RSSB takes care of sectors such as health insurance. In the events of a massive propagation of diseases, the government would be ready to take care of its citizens. On the other hand, the *National Agricultural Export Development Board* (NAEB) is struggling with the adaptation and mitigation of the coffee and tea crops to the climate change. A change in agricultural practice could entail negative economic consequences. The risk would be the floods entailed by Climate Change. Just this year in May, there was up to thirty social casualties and at least twenty injured citizens were reported¹. Floods left thousand victims homeless was caused by heavy rainfall which can be a side effect of Climate Change. The Republic of Rwanda made a report in 2006 entitled *National Adaptation Programmes of Action to Climate Change* (NAPA) which is used as a guide of the most urgent actions regarding Climate Change in order to reduce the impact of such natural disasters. The Republic of Rwanda suggests this to every country in order to sort priorities regarding future decisions and actions. The Republic of Rwanda is willing to follow any propositions of the UNFCCC in order to protect its citizens from a terrible fate.

II. The Climate Refugees

¹ <http://floodlist.com/africa/rwanda-floods-landslides-gakenke-muhanga>

The main consequence of the floods caused by the Climate change in the area in which Rwanda is located would be a massive migratory movement. By encouraging the equality of chances and by expressing solidarity with the victims and their families, the government of the Republic of Rwanda subverts equity and finances multiple governmental agencies such as the RSSB ensure the citizens safety.

Nevertheless, the subject is not to be taken lightly; the Republic of Burundi, located south of Rwanda, is having difficulty facing Climate Change. If the Republic of Rwanda does not have many *Climate Refugees* of its own, it will surely be receiving some from its southern neighbour. It shouldn't be a problem considering that Rwanda is the 2nd best in credit financing globally², but there should be a plan regarding how said Refugees will be welcomed calling for the establishment of a governmental branch that focuses on *Climate Refugees* adaptation.

III. The Steps to Enforce the *Paris Agreement* and Further Reduce Green House Gas Emissions

“In Rwanda, we are working hard to demonstrate what well-managed climate finance can achieve through our own Green Fund, which is creating green jobs while also building climate resilience in our communities.” (Minister Mushikiwabo on the *Paris Agreement*) The Republic of Rwanda has completed the three steps to enforce the *Paris Agreement* and is optimistic as to a future collaboration with other nations and organizations. In fact, Rwanda summited a Climate Action Plan³ before the proposition of the Paris agreement in 2015. As for the *Green Fund*, aforementioned a few lines above, it is the most viable solution that Rwanda has established; the intention behind it is the desire to address the problem from the source. By adapting the economy in order to

² http://gov.rw/news-detail/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=1629&cHash=c89be3b234a65ef02d3393ea66467435

³ <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/rwanda-submits-its-climate-action-plan-ahead-of-2015-paris-agreement/>

Delegation from
The Republic of Rwanda

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reduce emissions and environmental footprint and at the same time addressing the vulnerability to the occasional natural disaster.