



## **TUMUKUNDE Initiative**

### **A STATEMENT BY GCAP-RWANDA COALITION FROM THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY HELD ON 04TH SEPTEMBER 2023.**

#### **THE RIGHT HONORABLE PRIME MINISTER REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**

Right Honorable,

We, the Civil society organizations gathered in GCAP-RWANDA (Global Call to actions Against Poverty) represented by TUMUKUNDE Initiative as the leading organization, together with 19 sister organizations from Rwanda Civil Society Platform, Following our recent outreaches (Peoples' assemblies) on both village and national levels, we are delighted to share with you the outcomes and we do request you to take appropriate actions to address identified issues in communities and share our statement with Rwanda Delegation to 78 UNGA, so that they share it in return to the rest of the World during the sessions of the upcoming 78 UNGA.

We acknowledge with appreciation the commitment and the efforts of Rwanda in the implementation of SDGs by 2030

We further acknowledge the will and endeavors the government has demonstrated towards the implementation of social protection programs.

We recognize the will of the government to build a strong economy by alleviating extreme poverty, job creation and reducing a huge gap between the rich and the poor

Nevertheless,

All along our outreaches, we noticed a low level of awareness among local citizens and local leaders on SDGs,

We were further disappointed by a slow progress towards achieving to SDGs not later than 2030 particularly in matters regarding combatting poverty, providing quality education, using clean and affordable energy, promoting decent work and economic growth and reducing inequalities.

We urge the governments to strengthen plans and increase the pace of implementation of the AU Agenda 2063 whose goals are consistent with the SDGs. We further urge the government to prepare regular progress reports and share the same with its citizens as a measure of transparency and accountability on implementation of these goals.

Furthermore, we demand the government to put in place a mobilization strategy which will help the government to inform and educate citizens on SDGs and will drive them to take part in the implementation of those goals.

We are alarmed by a continued hike of prices of food commodities, basic services and the cost of living in general. Such situation is creating disparities and more inequalities among citizens where the rich are getting richer while the poor are becoming poorer.



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Addition to that, statistics from the Rwanda Consumer Price Index (CPI) shows us that the inflation went up to 13,9%, such situation is threatening economy. It means that the local currency is getting more devaluated. On the other hand, the country is experiencing a food crisis mainly among poor families while increasing the issue of undernourishment and stunting among children which was already one of the critical problems to health among children.

We reiterate our demand to the government of Rwanda and other African countries at large to take advantage of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which is force from 1 January 2021. The AfCFTA will increase production and value addition as well as ensure adequate quality infrastructure and food safety standards to supply and grow local and regional agri-food markets.

African countries need to take advantage of their 60 per cent global share of arable land to grow more food for domestic consumption and export to the global market. This would lower the number of people facing food and nutrition insecurity caused by external shocks.

We further urge the government of Rwanda to particularly adopt home grown solutions to ease the current crisis either by reducing taxes on food commodities and oil imports or providing incentives/subsidies to those importing such products.

We therefore, urge the government to continue to invest and expanding the design of social safety nets and social insurance to make them more adaptive and more responsive during the emergency.

We demand the government to restructure and reinforce programs and strategies in place which aim at supporting indigenous people. They have been accused to be limited and not convenient. Instead they do segregate them and prevent them to socialize with the rest of the society.

Last but not least, we note with much concern that the government debt towards external lenders keeps growing. Today it goes up to 67% of the GDP.

Knowing that failure to repayment is becoming a threat to sovereignty of countries, we demand the government to overlook its reasons of such continuous indebtedness and do consider that it is through national revenues collected from public taxes that those debts are serviced, which prevents government to invest into other sectors mostly social sector.

Done at Kigali on 04th September 2023

**On behalf of GCAP-RWANDA**

**NZABANTERURA Eugene**

Executive Director

TUMUKUNDE Initiative

