



High-Level Political Forum 2019
Voluntary National Review Session: Rwanda
Intervention delivered by Chantal Umuhoza, SPECTRA, on 17th July
2019

Thank you chair.

We welcome Rwanda's first voluntary national report and commitment to continue championing people centered development. Much progress has been achieved but more remains to be done. On principle of leaving no one behind, Rwanda needs to ensure wider inclusion and non discrimination on any ground as articulated in Rwanda's constitution. We also call on Rwanda to speed up the ratification of the AU protocol on the Human Rights for older people and the National Elderly Policy.

Further investment needs to be done in the education sector to ensure quality and lifelong learning and skills development opportunities especially for the most poor. Education should be gender responsive, contextual and should at the same time address structural and systemic barriers that hinder full realisation to right to education. This is through linking education with accessible social protection and public services, health including implementation of the comprehensive sexuality education and ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services especially by young women and girls.

Regarding SDG 8, lack of a comprehensive living wage policy to ensure decent and equal pay, burden of unpaid domestic and care work on women, lack of adequate private sector regulation and accountability to align with Human rights principles are some persisting gaps.

We also recommend that disaster Risks Reduction policies needs to be gender responsive and implemented comprehensively.

Overall, we highly recommend addressing structural and systemic root causes of deprivation and inequalities in all SDGs, using an interlinkage approach; improve multi stakeholder engagement, coordination and ensure post VNR follow up.

- 1. How does Rwanda plan to extend non conditional social protection programs and public services to most poor in urban and rural areas?**
- 2. What are the plans in place to recognise, reduce and redistribute women's unpaid care work and adopt and implement a living wage policy?**
- 3. How can Rwanda consider citizens and CSOs generated qualitative and quantitative data on SDGs in the VNR report?**