

Additional Responses to Questions in relation to the combined 7th to 9th periodic reports of Rwanda on the implementation of CEDAW

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished members of the Committee,

Thank you once again for the rich and interactive dialogue that we had on Thursday 23rd February 2017. I am pleased to provide additional information and statistics to respond to questions raised at the occasion of the consideration of the combined 7th to 9th periodic reports of Rwanda on the implementation of CEDAW.

But before I respond to the questions it is important for us to clarify some aspects of Rwandan history and cultural make up with regard to Batwa women, as their issue was raised many times.

1. Le contexte des femmes “Batwa”

- Le Rwanda précolonial était un pays dont l’activité économique dominant était l’élevage de bovins, lequel procurait le lait qui était la source d’alimentation la plus riche et la plus complète. Du fait de cette organisation économique et de ce mode de production, l’organisation sociale, reflétant l’avoir et le pouvoir qu’il confère, était articulée autour des catégories suivantes : grands éleveurs, grands propriétaires terriens, petits éleveurs/ agriculteurs, artisans (tanneurs, forgerons et potiers).
- Les appellations de Bahutu, Batutsi et Batwa reflétaient donc au départ, cette organisation socio-économique, avec au sommet les Batutsi (grands éleveurs, grands propriétaires), les Bahutu (cultivateurs usufruitiers, petits éleveurs, artisans), les Batwa (artisans surtout dans la poterie et la vannerie). Parmi ces derniers, ceux habitant aux environs des forêts développèrent comme réflexe de survie, le retour à la vie sauvage, pratiquant la chasse et la cueillette d’autant plus aisément que les politiques de protection de l’environnement étaient très faibles.
- Il est à noter qu’avant l’invasion coloniale, tous ces groupes vivaient en harmonie et avaient développé une grande capacité de régler pacifiquement les conflits inévitables dans toute société où les intérêts de groupes ou d’individus sont parfois antagonistes et où des abus de position dominante sont possibles.
- Les premiers explorateurs et plus tard les premiers colonisateurs, surpris de trouver au Rwanda un Etat organisé, centralisé, structuré et hiérarchisé, inspirés par les théories racistes et racialistes de fin du 19^{ème} siècle/début du 20^{ème} siècle ; s’empressèrent de lire le modèle de la société rwandaise sous l’angle de la thèse hamitique. Ils

transformèrent les catégories socio-économiques et professionnelles en races, aux origines différentes ayant occupé le Rwanda à des époques différentes de son histoire.

- Contre toute logique et en l'absence de la moindre preuve scientifique, les Tutsi devinrent des hamites venus d'Abyssinie, les Hutus des Bantous venus d'Afrique centrale autour du lac Tchad et les Batwa, des pygmées autochtones. C'est cette classification raciste d'abord, ethniciste ensuite, qui sera la fondation de l'idéologie génocidaire ayant abouti à la quasi-extinction des Batutsi et à la marginalisation des Batwa.
- A la fin du génocide de 1994 commis contre les Tutsi, le nouveau gouvernement déterminé à construire un Rwanda nouveau, décida de prendre à bras le corps la situation de ces marginaux vivant en dehors de la civilisation, sans habillement, sans logements, sans accès aux soins de santé, sans source de revenue, bref menacés d'extinction.
- L'encouragement à quitter la vie nomadique, la mise à disposition d'un logement pour tous (d'abord précaire puis décent), la disponibilisation de terres cultivables, l'accès gratuit aux services sociaux et programmes de protection sociale, l'encouragement à l'éducation (même si au début il y a eu de leur part une résistance au changement) sont en train de transformer graduellement le mode et le niveau de vie de ces Rwandais historiquement marginalisés.
- **C'est dans ce cadre que les femmes « Batwa » sont prises en charge au même titre que d'autres femmes rwandaises pauvres, elles bénéficient de l'assistance sociale à travers différents programmes de l'Etat (par exemple Gira inka ou une vache par famille, et sont octroyés de l'assurance maladie (mutuelle de santé) selon la catégorie de « Ubudehe » à laquelle elles appartiennent etc.**
- Il est à noter qu'au Rwanda, en dépit de grands efforts couronnés de succès dans la lutte contre la pauvreté, il subsiste aujourd'hui 40% de la population qui vit sous le seuil de pauvreté. Le gouvernement actuel est déterminé à faire en sorte qu'à l'horizon 2020, la pauvreté soit réduite à moins de 30% et l'extrême pauvreté définitivement éradiquée, sans exclusion aucune.

2. Participation of women in education

- The Government of Rwanda is determined to fight gender disparity in all sectors of education and is very committed to addressing education issues affecting both girls and boys equally. Free and compulsory primary education, introduction of Nine Year Basic Education (9YBE) first in 2007 and Twelve Year Basic Education (12YBE) in 2010 allow girls to attend six years of primary education, three years of lower secondary education and three years of upper secondary education.

- Regarding inclusive education, it is important to note that education for all includes students with disabilities. In 2015, and according to the gender report, 8,378 female students were attending Primary school, 2,172 in secondary school, 325 in TVET and 46 in Tertiary education.
- With regard to the question related to the number of women in education, according to the National gender report of the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, in 2015, the number of women teachers in primary school were 21,227 against 18,226 of men (53.8% female), in Secondary schools women teachers were 29.9% against 70.1% men, women teacher in Vocational and Professional schools 20.9%, and in tertiary education, public and private institutions, 35.4% of academic staff were Female in 2014.

During the dialogue, members of the Committee wanted to know the number of girls and type of courses they were likely to enroll in at the Technical Vocational and Professional Schools, which are as follows:

- The Government of Rwanda has launched an ambitious demand-driven Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) program that aims to close the skills gap and increase youth employment. Currently, Female enrollment rate in TVET is at 41.8% compared to 21% in 2007. Nine vocational training centers in four (4) Districts have been established, renovated and equipped, to recruit & train more women and girls.
- In order to stimulate and encourage girls to take other courses rather than the domesticating courses, a national campaign termed as “TVET Girl Mu Myuga Turashoboye” (loosely translated as TVET girls are able) was launched as a means to sensitize Girls, Parents, Teachers and communities about the reality of Girls making it in TVET. This campaign is spearheaded by TVET mentors such as female Pilots, Architects, Engineers, Surveyors among others.
- So far, 394 schools are offering TVET courses; 199 Technical Secondary Schools (TSS), 179 Vocational Training Centers (VTC), 16 Integrated Polytechnic Regional Centers (IPRCs) offering Diploma or Advanced diplomas. The total number of students in TVET is 97,898. Among those students, 71.8% of them are enrolled in TSS; 18.98% are enrolled in VTCs and 9.18% are enrolled in IPRCs or polytechnics for Diploma or advanced diploma level. The total number of staff in TVET is 7,334 with 5,003 Trainers and 2,331 administrative staff.
- The number of students enrolled in TVET schools has increased by from 51,773 in 2010 to 93,158 in 2016. Specifically, female enrollment rate in TVET has reached 41.8% in 2016 from 21% in 2007.

The table below summarizes the intake and type of courses taken.

Vocational Training Centers

Trades	Number of Trainees			Percentage by sex		Percentage by Trade		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Motor Vehicle Engine Mechanics	2325	128	2453	95%	5%	21.5%	1.6%	13.2%
Masonry	1951	249	2200	89%	11%	18.1%	3.2%	11.8%
Culinary arts	839	1194	2033	41%	59%	7.8%	15.3%	10.9%
Dressmaking	257	1490	1747	15%	85%	2.4%	19.1%	9.4%
Carpentry	1018	338	1356	75%	25%	9.4%	4.3%	7.3%
Welding	849	217	1066	80%	20%	7.9%	2.8%	5.7%
Hairdressing- Aesthetics	262	750	1012	26%	74%	2.4%	9.6%	5.4%
Food processing	347	561	908	38%	62%	3.2%	7.2%	4.9%
Domestic Electricity	524	155	679	77%	23%	4.9%	2.0%	3.7%
Plumbing	599	70	669	90%	10%	5.5%	0.9%	3.6%
Crochet Embroidery	210	455	665	32%	68%	1.9%	5.8%	3.6%
Food and Beverage	200	408	608	33%	67%	1.9%	5.2%	3.3%
Knitting	158	318	476	33%	67%	1.5%	4.1%	2.6%
Leather Craft	218	162	380	57%	43%	2.0%	2.1%	2.0%
Painting	73	261	334	22%	78%	0.7%	3.4%	1.8%
House Keeping	114	208	322	35%	65%	1.1%	2.7%	1.7%

Front Office	111	122	233	48%	52%	1.0%	1.6%	1.3%
Panel beating	140	88	228	61%	39%	1.3%	1.1%	1.2%
Field Crop	12	192	204	6%	94%	0.1%	2.5%	1.1%
Crop production	22	159	181	12%	88%	0.2%	2.0%	1.0%
Film making	108	68	176	61%	39%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%
ICT	81	86	167	49%	51%	0.7%	1.1%	0.9%
Screen Printing	112	12	124	90%	10%	1.0%	0.2%	0.7%
Veterinary (Technicians)	101	20	121	83%	17%	0.9%	0.3%	0.7%
Sport and Medical Massage	87	18	105	83%	17%	0.8%	0.2%	0.6%
Pottery	49	31	80	61%	39%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%
Beauty Therapy	22	12	34	65%	35%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Forestry (For technicians)	12	12	24	50%	50%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Total	1,0801	7,784	18,585	58%	42%	100.0 %	100.0%	100.0%

Table 7: VTC enrolment by trade

The highest percentage of students in VTCs is enrolled in Motor Vehicle Engine Mechanics with 13.2%, followed by Masonry with 11.8%; other trades in VTCs have enrollment below 10 % of the total enrollment in VTCs. There are some trades which have a very small number of students like pottery, Forestry, etc.

VTC Graduates by Course duration from 2014 to 2015

Course duration	2014			2015		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Short training	5,083	2,466	7,549	5,130	4,526	9,656
One year	3,647	3,045	6,692	5,872	3,827	9,699

Two years	1,171	484	1,655	576	360	936
Three years	201	253	454	117	72	189
TOTAL	10,102	6,248	16,350	11,695	8,785	20,480
Percentage	61.80%	38.20%	100.00%	57.10%	42.90%	100%

Gender Based Violence

As mentioned during the dialogue, a part from the legislation in place, the Gender Based Violence desks were established in different institutions which deal on daily basis with the issue of GBV, and there is a Unit at the National Public Prosecution Authority which has in charge the investigation and prosecution of gender based violence crimes.

The table below shows the trends on how this crime has been handled by the prosecution since 2013.

GBV CASES FROM 2013/2014-2015-2016

Case	2013-2014			
	Received cases	Pronounced	Won case	Conviction rate
Child defilement	1819	1118	876	78,3%
Rape	307	202	177	87,6%
Harassment of Spouse	711	243	226	93%
Total	2837	1563	1279	

2014-2015				2015-2016			
Received cases	pronounced	won case	Conviction rate	Received cases	pronounced	won case	Conviction rate
1879	814	632	77,6%	1917	840	647	77,02%
331	129	102	79,7%	287	93	74	79,5%
608	253	227	89,7%	607	257	249	96,8%
2818	1196	961		2811	1190	970	

3. Women and employment

According to Rwanda Pilot Labour Force Survey conducted in 2016, the labour force for persons aged 16+ by sex in Rwanda was in 2015, female 87.5% and male 87.2%.

The employment rate was for female 85.5% while for men it was 85.8%. Among them, women managers' rate was 0.2% and men 0.6%, and professional female rate was at 1.9% while for men it was 3%.

Women working in public sector were 39.4% and man 60.6%, and in private sector it was 53.9% for women.

There is an increase of women self-employed in agriculture and in informal sector, as in agriculture, the report shows that women in agriculture are 66.4%.

The number of women CEO and Director General of private companies is increasing too, as in 2015, women CEO and DG were 37.2%.

4. Women and Trade, business and industries

MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE WOMEN TO INVEST IN BUSINESS INCLUDING CROSS BORDER TRADE.

Rwanda through its Vision 2020 development goals aims at transforming itself into a middle-income country with a knowledge-based economy where job creation is a corner stone to achieve this goal. On the other hand, the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS II) recognizes the important role of employment in order to achieve economic development and poverty reduction.

The National Employment Program (NEP) is articulated under EDPRS II as a tool to strengthen the coordination of Employment programs through the establishment of a framework for better planning, implementation and coordination of employment programs from different stakeholders engaged in job creation and employment promotion, and to take a lead in facilitating the creation of the 200,000 off-farm jobs and ensuring equitable benefits for Women and Youth.

The NEP is designed to serve the following main objectives;

- 1. Creating sufficient jobs that are adequately remunerative and sustainable across the economy;**
- 2. Equipping the workforce with vital skills and attitude for increased productivity that are needed for the private sector growth;**
- 3. Provide a National framework for coordinating all Employment and related initiatives and activities in the public, private sector and civil society.**

The program targets the following categories of people

1. Unemployed Youth and Women;
2. Youth and Women with no employable skills;
3. People with disabilities (PwDs)-Youth& Women;
4. Cooperatives and MSMEs that need technology and skills upgrading

On the other hand, partners such as Trade Mark East Africa together with the Women Civil Society Organizations Umbrella Pro – Femmes Twese Hamwe have been implementing the **Women in Cross Border Trade Project** since 2012. The said project aims at:

1. Capacity building for Women Cross Border Traders;
2. Support with Tax education, book keeping and Human rights
3. Support to form Cooperatives to maximize efforts and minimize resources;
4. Sensitization about taking on opportunities within the Region;
5. Access to Markets – support to participate in regional trade fares;
6. Access to finance;
7. Advocacy for Women initiatives in trade

The number of women in export business in informal Cross borders trade was **571,984** while men were **305,775** in 2015.

Women owners of companies were 38,017 against 101,665 for men, and for micro enterprises, women owners were 36,169 against 96,937 for men.

About 15 Trade Unions of a total number of 178,275 members, women represent **42%** of members.

END