



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
1 August 2024

Original: English

## Seventy-ninth session

Item 65 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**From the New Partnership for Africa's Development to Agenda 2063: progress in the implementation of sustainable development in Africa and international support: causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa**

## **Outreach programme on the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and the United Nations**

### **Report of the Secretary-General**

#### *Summary*

The present report, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution [74/273](#), presents highlights of activities of the Department of Global Communications to implement the outreach programme on the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. The report focuses on measures taken to mobilize civil society for remembrance and education in the context of the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, so as to help to prevent future acts of genocide.

The present report covers the period from 5 July 2023, the date following the reporting period of the previous report ([A/78/291](#)), to 4 July 2024, the date of the end of the annual *Kwibuka* remembrance period of the genocide.

During that period, the Department of Global Communications organized the commemoration on the International Day of Reflection, as well as outreach, educational and remembrance activities marking *Kwibuka 30*, the thirtieth anniversary of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

\* [A/79/150](#).



## I. Introduction

1. The outreach programme on the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and the United Nations is an informational and educational outreach programme led and implemented by the Department of Global Communications. The programme was established by the General Assembly on 23 December 2005 by its resolution [60/225](#), to mobilize civil society for remembrance of Rwanda genocide victims and for education to help prevent future acts of genocide. The programme's mandate was extended in December 2007 (resolution [62/96](#)), 2009 (resolution [64/226](#)), 2011 (resolution [66/228](#)) and 2013 (resolution [68/129](#)).

2. On 20 April 2020, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to modify the title of the outreach programme to "outreach programme on the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and the United Nations" and to take measures to mobilize civil society for remembrance and education in the context of the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, in order to help prevent future acts of genocide (resolution [74/273](#)).

3. In paragraph 12 of its resolution [74/273](#), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the Assembly on the implementation of the programme.

4. The present report contains a summary of the activities undertaken by the United Nations system from 5 July 2023 to 4 July 2024, covering the day following the reporting period of the previous report ([A/78/291](#)) until the end of the *Kwibuka* (remembrance) commemoration period in 2024.

## II. Background

5. The 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda has become known as one of the darkest periods in modern history, when more than 1 million people – overwhelmingly Tutsi, but also moderate Hutu, Twa and others who opposed the genocide – were systematically and brutally killed in less than three months. During that time, it is also estimated that some 250,000 women were raped, and a significant number among them became infected with HIV/AIDS. The legacy of the genocide continues to shape Rwanda as the country continues to heal and rebuild after unfathomable violence, suffering and destruction.

6. The lessons of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and its causes and consequences hold important and timely messages for the global community about the dangers and horrific outcomes of allowing hate and division to prevail, communities to be dehumanized and sexual violence to be used as a weapon of war. At a time when hate-driven narratives and movements, fuelled by misinformation and disinformation, are dividing societies and becoming transnational threats, when politically motivated efforts are under way to rewrite history and deny or distort historical truths, including through atrocity crimes, and when discrimination, racism and misogyny are on the rise, recalling what happened in 1994 is a way to prevent history from repeating itself and to reassert the international community's commitment to promoting and protecting human rights.

7. The United Nations, including through the outreach programme on the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and related mandates, is the leading global voice of the international community in advocating and upholding human rights standards, fighting hate and sexual violence and preventing genocide and other atrocity crimes. The outreach programme works to make the history of the genocide accessible to a global audience. Individual survivor testimonies, told as part of the annual

commemoration on the International Day of Reflection, captured as audiovisual resources on the programme website and featured in exhibits and educational materials, create an emotional and human connection to the otherwise incomprehensible number of more than 1 million murdered people. By drawing parallels to other instances of atrocity crimes, the outreach programme creates wider learning opportunities, expands knowledge and allows audiences to identify patterns and factors that lead societies down a destructive path. Parallels across countries and time periods also allow the audience to learn from historical precedents and identify and counter current attempts at genocide denial and distortion that have an impact on the accurate memorialization of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. Stories of individual heroism and bravery aiming to stop the genocide and save lives demonstrate that everyone has agency to stand up against hate. Practical learning resources and calls to action used in outreach programme workshops or shared with educators motivate audiences to become engaged and mobilized.

### **III. Partnership with the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations**

8. Fruitful cooperation between the outreach programme and the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations has continued on activities related to the implementation of the outreach programme during the reporting period, which encompassed the thirtieth anniversary of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. The cooperation included organizing the annual solemn observance of the International Day of Reflection, including the development of the programme for the observance, the identification of speakers, and the design and dissemination of the programme and related promotional material and messages.

9. The Permanent Mission further supports the outreach programme by providing advice on contacting survivors of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, as well as on suitable speakers for panel discussions and webinars held across the year. Diplomatic staff of the Permanent Mission, with coordination from the outreach programme, briefed a school group in April 2024 through the United Nations Visitors Services in New York on the history of Rwanda, explaining the factors that led to the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, as well as talking about the genocide itself.

10. In December 2023, the Permanent Mission facilitated access within Rwanda for a visiting two-person storytelling team designated by the outreach programme, consisting of a United Nations photographer and a biographer. The visit was organized with additional cooperation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Office of the Government Spokesperson and the United Nations system in Rwanda. The aim of the 10-day visit was to gather photographs, conduct interviews and collect supporting written materials for a Department of Global Communications exhibition at United Nations Headquarters on reconciliation and countering hate speech under the *Kwibuka* theme of “Remember, unite, renew”, which was held from March to May 2024. The main locations visited were the Kigali Genocide Memorial and Mbyo Unity and Reconciliation Village, also known as Bugesera Reconciliation Village. The biographer conducted interviews with Laurence Niyonangira, a survivor of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda; Xavier Nemeye, a reformed perpetrator; Bishop Deogratias Gashagaza, founder of Prison Fellowship Rwanda; Chantal Ingabire, a senior researcher at Community Based Sociiotherapy; Christian Intwari, founder of Our Past Initiative; and Révérien Interayamahanga, a researcher of reconciliation and resilience with Interpeace.

11. An exhibition organized by the Permanent Mission entitled “Peace is Our Choice” ran alongside the “Remember, unite, renew” exhibition created by the

outreach programme. There was close cooperation between the Permanent Mission and the outreach programme when organizing the two exhibitions, allowing them to be experienced as a continuum, starting with the events that led up to 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and following on with the reconciliatory work of the Rwandan Government and people, as well as consideration of the ongoing threats from hate speech, misinformation and disinformation.

#### **IV. Educating on the lessons of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda**

12. Through its activities, the outreach programme focuses on learning the lessons of the genocide in order to help prevent similar acts in the future. It also emphasizes supporting survivors by raising awareness of the lasting impact and intergenerational trauma of the genocide, in particular on widows, orphans and victims of sexual violence, and the challenges they still face. The United Nations system implements the programme around the world, including through activities and events such as panel discussions, exhibitions and educational briefings.

13. The Department of Global Communications has created and maintains a dedicated website concerning the outreach programme and the genocide in the six official languages of the United Nations.<sup>1</sup> The website contains reference documents, learning and multimedia resources, audiovisual materials, online exhibits, outreach materials and relevant documents from the General Assembly and United Nations entities. The website is regularly updated to reflect new developments, activities and events. It serves as the portal to and repository of the work of the Organization as it relates to the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. During the reporting period, total page views of the website exceeded 261,000.

14. The activities of the outreach programme focus on the period from April to July 1994, the months during which the genocide took place. The period aligns with the two Rwandan public holidays marking the genocide. The national mourning period begins with *Kwibuka* (remembrance) on 7 April and concludes with Liberation Day on 4 July. At the United Nations, the commemoration of the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda is observed annually on 7 April. The solemn annual remembrance is co-organized by the Department of Global Communications and the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations, and traditionally takes place in the General Assembly Hall. In order to reach the widest audience possible, the outreach programme worked with the global network of United Nations information centres, the Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme, the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to disseminate information and digital materials related to the International Day of Reflection.

15. Noting the lethal role that hate speech coupled with misinformation and disinformation played in exacerbating ethnic tensions in Rwanda ahead of the events of 1994, the outreach programme incorporated messages countering hate speech, misinformation and disinformation in all its activities during the reporting period. In March and April 2024, the outreach programme produced and displayed an exhibition in the public lobby of the United Nations Headquarters entitled “Remember, unite, renew”, where visitors were invited to confront the realities of hate speech and the critical role each individual plays in fostering a culture of tolerance and understanding. In June 2024, the outreach programme organized a virtual discussion

---

<sup>1</sup> Available at [www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/rwanda/](http://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/rwanda/).

about lessons learned from media-led hate speech in Rwanda and their current-day applications. Speakers taking part in the discussion included the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications; the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations; media scholar Margaret Jjuuko of the University of Rwanda; and legal scholar Gregory S. Gordon, who previously served with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The resulting video and text synopsis were shared with more than 120 registered participants and posted on the outreach programme's website in all six official languages of the United Nations. Promotion of the exhibit and the panel discussion included content from the Department of Global Communication's "No to hate" multilingual digital communications campaign (#notohate).

## **V. Annual commemorations during *Kwibuka*, the 100 days of remembrance**

### **A. Commemorative meeting of the General Assembly**

16. The Department of Global Communications collaborated with the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations and the Office of the President of the General Assembly to organize the annual observance of the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. Initially designated by the Assembly in its resolution [58/234](#) as the International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda, the title of the annual observance was changed to its current name by the Assembly in its decision 72/550. In that decision, the Assembly recalled that, during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, Hutu and others who opposed it were also killed.

17. Member State representatives, survivors of the genocide, members of civil society, young people and members of the Rwandan diaspora, among others, were invited to join the commemorative meeting on 12 April 2024, which was moderated by the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications. The event was accessible worldwide, being broadcast live by United Nations WebTV, and subsequently available on demand. It included statements by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations, the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, as well as a testimonial by Claver Irakoze, a survivor of the genocide and founder of the Umurage Parenting Centre. Mr. Irakoze is the author of a book for children about his personal journey, *That Child is Me*, and he also co-authored *Transmitting Memories in Rwanda: From a Survivor Parent to the Next Generation*.

18. For the first time, the commemorative meeting included an opportunity for young people to directly engage in its programming. The event included a recitation of pledges and hopes by four Rwandan young people to symbolically confront the legacy of 1994 and to pledge that they would do their utmost to ensure that such events never happened again. The young people held lit candles during the recitation.

19. The outreach programme, which organized the commemorative meeting in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Rwanda, aimed to create a reflective atmosphere throughout the solemn event. In addition to the use of candles by the official participants, each attendee also received a candle and was asked to participate in a collective act of lighting candles in order to light up the General Assembly Hall. A piece of classical musical was performed by the United Nations Symphony Orchestra, during which participants could reflect and remember the victims of the genocide. The event also included the use of branded materials, such as banners and

pins, and the Hall was decorated with flowers typical for a solemn commemorative event.

20. The members of the public participating in the General Assembly Hall, as well as those joining online, were encouraged to share messages of solidarity on social media networks using multilingual cards developed by the outreach programme for the International Day, using the social media hashtag #kwibuka. In order to place more focus on the role of hate speech as a driver to incite violence in the lead up to and during the genocide, social media messaging for the International Day also included links to content of the Department of Global Communication's "No to hate" multilingual digital communications campaign (#notohate) and to information about the third International Day for Countering Hate Speech, which was marked on 18 June 2024.

21. The commemorative meeting and the International Day of Reflection were featured on United Nations flagship web and social media accounts, across platforms and languages, with engaging storytelling, photos, videos and digital cards. Among the related products were a news package produced by UNifeed, the Department's video news service for broadcasters, on-demand video of the commemorative meeting on United Nations Web TV, United Nations News multimedia stories and interviews in the official languages of the United Nations and in Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese, and stories on iSeek, the United Nations intranet, to better inform United Nations staff internally about the events of 1994 and the work of the outreach programme.

## **B. Commemorative exhibition at the United Nations Headquarters in New York**

22. Owing to the significance of the thirtieth anniversary of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, the Department of Global Communications produced a commemorative exhibition at the United Nations Headquarters about the power of post-genocide reconciliation, the potentially deadly impact of hate speech, and what visitors could do to say no to hate, in line with the ongoing United Nations campaign against hate speech, misinformation and disinformation. Entitled "Remember, unite, renew", which was also the theme for the commemorative event in 2024, the exhibition was publicly accessible from 27 March to 2 May 2024.

23. At the heart of the exhibition was the story of Ms. Niyonangira, a widowed mother who fled the killings in her community that were being orchestrated by her former neighbours. Through personal narratives and imagery, the exhibition shed light on the horrors of genocide and the enduring legacy of its trauma, as well as the healing power of reconciliation. Ms. Niyonangira had forgiven the killer of her mother and sisters and the two of them became neighbours in Mbyo Unity and Reconciliation Village. Visitors to the exhibition were invited to confront the realities of hate speech and the critical role each individual plays in fostering a culture of tolerance and understanding. Also featured were the voices of Rwandan community members, who provided insights on trauma and the challenges to reconciliation in post-genocide societies. Reference was made to the Holocaust, genocide and related atrocities in Cambodia, and the 1995 genocide in Srebrenica.

24. The exhibition was organized in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda, the United Nations system in Rwanda, the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Prison Fellowship Rwanda and the Aegis Trust.

25. In addition to the physical exhibition, virtual exhibitions were made available online in English and French.<sup>2</sup> The online versions, as well as digital content related to the exhibition and press releases in English and French, were shared with United Nations information centres and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in late March 2024 for dissemination at the national and local level. The exhibition has also been shared with Rwandan embassies around the world through the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations, along with the Government's exhibition "Peace is our choice".

26. The exhibition was officially opened on 4 April 2024, with a walkthrough by the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, the President of the General Assembly and the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations. The walkthrough consisted of a guided tour of the exhibition by the Department of Global Communications and the accompanying exhibition by the Permanent Mission of Rwanda. The event was recorded by UNifeed and a news video package was produced for broadcasters. According to Teletrax, the package was aired by Alhurra (an Arabic-language satellite television channel), Channels Television (Nigeria), Duna World (Hungary), Gabon 24 (Gabon) and Newsmax (United States of America).

## VI. Activities of the United Nations information centres

27. The network of United Nations information centres amplifies, translates and targets the materials and messaging package prepared by the outreach programme to their regional and local networks and audiences.

28. The United Nations Information Centre in Abuja collaborated with the Rwanda High Commission in Nigeria to organize the thirtieth commemoration of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, which was held on 7 April 2024 in Abuja. Participants included representatives of the Government of Nigeria and members of the international community. In addition, a public lecture on the theme of "Remember, unite, renew" was delivered at Covenant University in Ota, Nigeria, on 9 May 2024, by Ibrahim Gambari, a former Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa, and the founder of the Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development. The United Nations Information Centre further facilitated engagement with young people by organizing a discussion on 26 April 2024 between pupils from two secondary schools, Premiere Academy Lugbe, in Abuja, and Lycée de Kigali, about the consequences of hate speech. All three events proved very popular on social media channels. Digital content from the outreach programme's "No to hate" campaign was also used.

29. In Geneva, the International Day of Reflection was commemorated on 15 April 2024 at the Palais des Nations, with a solemn event organized by the United Nations Office at Geneva in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. The United Nations Information Service in Geneva provided a live webcast that was aired on United Nations Web TV. The event, chaired by the Director of the United Nations Information Service in Geneva, started with the lighting of candles and the observance of a minute of silence in honour of the victims of the genocide. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, read a message from the Secretary-General and delivered her own personal remarks. United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Nada Al-Nashif, read a statement from the United

<sup>2</sup> Available at [www.un.org/en/exhibits/exhibit/rwanda-remember-unite-renew](http://www.un.org/en/exhibits/exhibit/rwanda-remember-unite-renew) (in English) and [www.un.org/fr/exhibits/exhibit/rwanda2024](http://www.un.org/fr/exhibits/exhibit/rwanda2024) (in French).

Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk. A film entitled “*Kwibuka 30: Rwanda from despair to hope*” was then screened. Speakers at the ceremony included a representative of the association of genocide survivors Ibuka – Mémoire et justice (section Suisse) and Clarisse Naila Petrus, a genocide survivor who gave her moving testimony of the events she lived through in 1994. The event also featured a poetry recital by Angèle-Marie Habiyakare, member of the Geneva Parliament, and songs performed by Rwandan singer Jean-Pierre Ntwari Mucumbitsi. The ceremony concluded with remarks by the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva, James Ngango. Ahead of the event, the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva and the association of genocide survivors Ibuka – Mémoire et justice (section Suisse) organized a commemoration ceremony at the memorial stele in the Place des Nations, Geneva, and a conference at the Palais des Nations.

30. The United Nations Office at Nairobi, in collaboration with the Rwanda High Commission in Kenya, organized a commemorative event with more than 750 participants, including representatives of the Government of Kenya, members of the diplomatic corps and representatives from United Nations agencies. The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi read a statement from the Secretary-General. A minute of silence was observed before lighting candles in honour of those who died, which was followed by remarks from the Ambassador of Rwanda to Kenya and the Principal Secretary of Foreign Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of Kenya. A short film on the reconciliation efforts of Rwanda was screened. The United Nations Information Service in Nairobi livestreamed the event on United Nations Web TV<sup>3</sup> and facilitated media coverage by local and international press. The event was promoted on the social media channels and the website of the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

31. The United Nations Information Centre in New Delhi collaborated with the Rwanda High Commission to organize a day-long commemoration with students from 26 schools from across New Delhi. After receiving a briefing on the events of 1994, students drew pictures, sang songs that they had composed, and wrote and performed a play at a public event attended by teachers and other students. An official candle-lit vigil was also held, with speakers including the Rwanda High Commissioner, the Resident Coordinator in India, a representative from the Ministry of External Affairs of India and other members of the diplomatic corps.

32. The Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations at Vienna, in cooperation with the United Nations Office at Vienna and the United Nations Information Service in Vienna, organized a commemorative event on 19 April 2024 at the United Nations Office at Vienna. The event was livestreamed on United Nations Web TV and promoted on the social media channels of the United Nations Information Service in Vienna.

## VII. United Nations News and United Nations media

33. The Department of Global Communications provided television and streaming coverage, photo documentation, and news and social media coverage of the outreach programme activities and related news throughout the reporting period on the United Nations multimedia platforms in the six official languages, as well as in Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese, when possible. Events and activities were promoted through United Nations accounts on Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter),

<sup>3</sup> Available at <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k13/k13ov1v7nl>.



YouTube and Instagram. Coverage during the reporting period focused on the commemorative meeting and the International Day of Reflection, as well as on the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime, marked on 9 December.

## A. News and Media Division

34. A news package<sup>4</sup> was prepared on UNifeed for broadcast media around the world on the observance of the International Day of Reflection at United Nations Headquarters that included a video and a suggested text for distribution. The news video package was aired by broadcasters based in Czechia, Gabon, Latvia, Morocco, Norway, Oman, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Spain, Türkiye and the United States of America. The broadcasters that used the video footage included Canal 24 horas (Spain), CNN (United States of America), LTV1 (Latvia), TRT World (Türkiye) and Rossiya-1 (Russian Federation).

35. The Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit participated in the coordination of media coverage of the International Day of Reflection and distributed press releases from the outreach programme and the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect.

36. The Meetings Coverage Section issued a total of seven press releases in English and French relating to the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, including coverage of General Assembly and Security Council public meetings, and messages and remarks by the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General.

37. A United Nations photographer travelled to Rwanda for special coverage of the thirtieth anniversary of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. Images from the mission were included in the exhibit “Remember, unite, renew”. A total of 46 photographs taken in Rwanda and 121 images from the International Day of Reflection commemorative meeting at United Nations Headquarters were processed, posted and archived by the United Nations Photo Library.

38. United Nations News extensively covered topics during the reporting period related to the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, focusing on survivors, justice and ongoing challenges, such as hate speech. The materials received over 40,000 views from 28,500 users. Among the key events covered by United Nations News were the annual commemorative meeting and the International Day of Reflection and coverage was made available in the six official languages of the United Nations, as well as in Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese.

39. In collaboration with the United Nations system in Rwanda, the Kiswahili language unit of the Department of Global Communications produced a multimedia programme for *Kwibuka 30*, featuring survivors’ voices and highlighting the progress made by Rwanda. United Nations News also produced a video podcast, in both English and French versions, on Eric Eugène Murangwa, a famous footballer and a survivor of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. He underscored the importance of tolerance and the powerful role of sport in promoting peace, which form the basis of the Ishami Foundation, of which he is the founder. The interviews were facilitated by the outreach programme.

40. United Nations News provided an explainer piece in English on the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and the material was then adapted by the various language units of the Department. The Kiswahili language unit produced a multimedia story based on an exclusive interview with the Special

<sup>4</sup> Available at <https://media.un.org/unifeed/en/asset/d319/d3196471>.

Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, who explained how hate speech contributes to conflict, in particular in the context of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

41. United Nations News also reported on the Security Council meeting on 11 June 2024 regarding the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals as part of its ongoing coverage of the support provided by the United Nations in seeking justice for the victims of the 1994 genocide. United Nations Photo provided images for the report.

42. The UN Video Section, guided by the work of the outreach programme, produced a number of films to give voice to the victims and educate the public about the factors that led to the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. The products included social media-optimized videos featuring key aspects of the annual commemorative meeting and of the exhibition displayed at Headquarters. The videos were subsequently shared on United Nations News social media channels and the United Nations YouTube platform. The Section also conducted an extensive interview with Mr. Irakoze, one of the speakers at the commemorative meeting. Clips of the interview were made available on social media and the full-length interview was released in English, French and Kiswahili for 4 July 2024, the end of *Kwibuka 30*.

43. The Web Services Section continued to maintain the dedicated website that it had created for the outreach programme on the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda in the six official languages of the United Nations. The website contains reference documents, learning and multimedia resources, audiovisual materials, online exhibits, outreach materials and relevant documents from the General Assembly and United Nations entities. During the reporting period, the site was updated with event information, messages and multimedia related to the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

## **B. Social media**

44. The social media team promoted education and outreach about the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda across the flagship United Nations accounts in the six official languages and in Hindi and Portuguese. During the reporting period, there were social media posts providing links to United Nations web pages commemorating the International Day of Reflection, with survivor testimonies and statements by the Secretary-General and other senior officials, and information about commemorative events taking place around the world. Digital content was produced for and shared on all major platforms to help reach diverse global audiences. The social media team also shared content showcasing the special commemorative exhibition created by the outreach programme. Posts reached more than 420,000 people and generated almost 45,000 engagements.

## **C. United Nations publications**

45. *Africa Renewal*, the United Nations flagship digital magazine on Africa that focuses on critical economic, political and social issues on the continent, produced a series of multimedia products in English and French coinciding with *Kwibuka 30*, namely, an opinion piece by the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide about safeguarding the future against genocide; an interview with the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations; an interview with Mr. Irakoze, the keynote speaker at the annual commemoration; an interview with Mr. Murangwa, a footballer and survivor of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda; and a photo

story based on the images obtained from the visit to Kigali in December 2023 organized the outreach programme. *Africa Renewal* also provided coverage of the visit to Kigali by the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide.

## VIII. Activities of other United Nations entities

### A. United Nations offices in Rwanda

46. The United Nations system in Rwanda, spearheaded by the Resident Coordinator, joins the Government of Rwanda and members of the diplomatic corps in commemorative events every year. On 29 April 2024, the Office of the Resident Coordinator, in collaboration with the Federation of United Nations Staff Associations, organized a commemoration event for the United Nations staff killed during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. The names of those who died are engraved on the monument within the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) compound in Kigali. For the commemoration, the Office of the Resident Coordinator produced a video<sup>5</sup> that included the names of all the colleagues that were killed. The event, which took place at the compound, brought together more than 500 participants, including members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of the Government of Rwanda. The event was live-streamed<sup>6</sup> and hundreds of people followed it online. The event was covered by various media outlets, including Rwanda TV and *The New Times*.

47. The ceremony at the UNDP compound followed a week of commemorative activities, which included visits by representatives of the United Nations system in Rwanda and the diplomatic corps in Rwanda to the Ntarama Genocide Memorial, as well as a visit to Impinganzima Village to pay tribute to the resilience of the survivors and interact with members of the community.

48. The importance of the thirtieth anniversary of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda led to three high-level visits to Kigali. On 8 April 2024, the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the Chief Prosecutor of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals paid tribute to United Nations staff killed by visiting the memorial within the UNDP compound in Kigali. On 15 May 2024, the Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact laid wreaths at the monument. On 12 June 2024, the Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement paid her respects at the Kigali Genocide Memorial.

49. On 31 May 2024, the heads of United Nations agencies in Rwanda, government officials from Rwanda and Senegal, diplomats and United Nations staff gathered for the third commemoration of Captain Mbaye Diagne Day. Yacine Mar Diop, the widow of Captain Diagne, also attended. A video message was played from the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. The event was organized by the Embassy of Senegal to Rwanda, the Office of the Resident Coordinator and the Ministry of National Unity and Civic Engagement of Rwanda. The day was designated to commemorate the death of Captain Diagne, a Senegalese military officer who served in Rwanda as a United Nations military observer in 1993 and 1994 under the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda. He was killed after saving hundreds, perhaps even a thousand, Rwandans from death during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. The commemoration event was covered by various media outlets.

<sup>5</sup> Available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=o04gKiBfv1o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o04gKiBfv1o).

<sup>6</sup> Available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVCiBTT\\_lyI&t=56s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVCiBTT_lyI&t=56s).

50. In order to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the 1994 genocide, UNDP in Rwanda produced a film entitled “United to heal: reconciliation after the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda”,<sup>7</sup> which was broadcast on Rwanda TV in the first and second weeks of *Kwibuka*. The UNDP Resident Representative paid her respects to the United Nations staff killed during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda on her first day in the country on 13 May 2024, and visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial after presenting her credentials.

51. On 2 April 2024, the Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration in Rwanda visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial to honour the memory of the victims and pay tribute to the resilience of the survivors.

52. On 17 April 2024, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) staff and surviving family members of staff whose lives were taken during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda came together for a sombre commemoration event at UNICEF premises in Kigali. Staff then visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial on 7 June 2024 to deepen their understanding of the historical context and to pay respect to the victims.

53. On 23 April 2024, the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Rwanda hosted a commemoration event for the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda at the UNHCR office in Kigali, honouring and remembering UNHCR colleagues who lost their lives during the genocide. The event was attended by surviving family members. UNHCR Rwanda also held a series of activities, including a tour of the Kigali Genocide Memorial, laying of wreaths on the mass grave and a panel discussion.

54. The World Health Organization Representative to Rwanda joined the Ministry of Health and other partners to commemorate the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda at the University Teaching Hospital of Butare in Huye District, Southern Province.

55. Staff of the offices in Rwanda of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial, where they paid tribute to the victims of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and undertook a guided tour to learn more about the causes and consequences of the events.

## **B. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

56. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to build peace through international cooperation and promotes genocide education and prevention through its programme on global citizenship education. The programme is aimed at remembering and educating people about the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

57. In order to mark the International Day of Reflection, UNESCO organized a commemorative ceremony at its headquarters in Paris on 7 April 2024 and displayed, in cooperation with the Aegis Trust, a photo exhibition of the memorial sites of Bisesero, Gisozi, Murambi and Nyamata, which became world heritage sites in September 2023. UNESCO is also financially supporting the conservation and management of the sites. The Director-General of UNESCO attended the official commemoration in Kigali and visited the Murambi Genocide Memorial Centre. Furthermore, UNESCO, in cooperation with the Ministry of National Unity and Civic Engagement, among others, organized a policy dialogue on 23 and 24 May 2024 in

---

<sup>7</sup> Available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=5s6mlJ8s9-4&t=20s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5s6mlJ8s9-4&t=20s).

Nyamata on the role of memorials in genocide remembrance, education and community outreach, and intergenerational dialogue.

58. In order to support genocide education in the wider region, UNESCO published a guide for teachers in Africa on teaching students about atrocity crimes, and an accompanying policy brief, in July 2023. The guide and policy brief present the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda as an important regional case study. Related online training sessions were held in January and February 2024 in cooperation with the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes regional working group in Africa.

### **C. Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide**

59. The Nuremberg Forum 2023 on the topic “Legally undeniable: criminalizing genocide denial” took place from 19 to 21 October 2023 and was co-organized by the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the Nuremberg Academy. The conference took place in courtroom 600 of the Nuremberg Palace of Justice, the site of the historical trial of leaders of the Nazi regime by the International Military Tribunal from November 1945 to October 1946. The event was informed by the consideration that genocide denial is more prevalent than ever and continues to pose severe challenges to accountability and reconciliation efforts, in particular in societies that have experienced the crime. The event was attended by representatives of societies that have experienced genocide, including representatives of judicial institutions and civil society groups focused on memorialization from Rwanda, including the Director of the Kigali Genocide Memorial.

60. The Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide travelled to Kigali to participate in a series of commemoration events on 7 April 2024. She paid tribute to the victims of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and emphasized the importance of strengthening global commitment to prevention of the crime of genocide.

61. The Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide co-organized, with the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations, an international academic conference on the occasion of the thirtieth commemoration of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, held at United Nations Headquarters. The conference included academic panel discussions entitled “Preventing genocide: international perspectives and collaborative strategies” and “Remembering and honouring genocide victims: lessons from the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda”. The event highlighted positive practices in the field of memorialization and prevention, and contributed to renewing the global commitment for prevention.

62. On 18 June 2024, the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations co-organized an event for the third International Day for Countering Hate Speech that focused on the importance of engagement with youth leaders, and the need for and value of investing in young people’s voices and efforts to counter hate speech. The event was opened with messages from the Secretary-General, the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, the President of the General Assembly and the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations. A subsequent panel discussion included the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, and representatives from UNICEF, UNDP, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, as well as youth coordinators from the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and the United Religions Initiative.

## IX. Going forward

63. Collaboration across the Department of Global Communications brought together the expertise and skills of different teams to develop and carry out a respectful and dignified commemoration to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the genocide. Looking ahead to the thirty-first anniversary of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda (*Kwibuka 31*), which will be marked in April 2025, the outreach programme, in close collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Rwanda, will develop a suitable commemoration to honour the victims and survivors. Efforts will continue to be made to include young people in a speaking role in the annual commemorative events, and to include the voices of Rwandan young people in digital materials. The outreach programme will also endeavour to highlight the voices of widows and civil society in that context, as mandated by the General Assembly resolutions.

64. The outreach programme will continue its close collaborative partnerships within the Department and with United Nations programmes and offices that share the mandate to educate people about violence in the past and prevent future acts of genocide, enhancing the focus on genocide denial and distortion and hate speech as a driver of genocide. In that context, the outreach programme will continue to include references to Rwanda in the “No to hate” campaign aimed at countering hate speech, misinformation and disinformation (#notohate). The 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda has shown the unimaginable consequences of allowing misinformation and disinformation, manipulation, hate and division to prevail. The outreach programme has an important mission to accurately memorialize and educate people about the events of the past and present, and to engage with people in order to empower them to recognize genocide denial and distortion, and stand up for truth and human rights.

---